

Overcoming Barriers

Strengthening Connections



Ensuring Opportunities

Planning One Community

MPO Staff Report

MPO Technical Advisory Committee: March 11, 2020

MPO Executive Board: March 18, 2020

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Matter of Approving the Public Participation Plan documents.

Matter of Approval of the Public Participation Plan documents.

Background: The Forks MPO has a Public Participation Plan (PPP). This Plan is comprised of several documents that individually address specific populations yet collectively work together as the entire PPP. The documents are:

- Public Participation Plan
- Environmental Justice Manual (EJ)
- Limited English Proficiency (LEP)
- Private Sector Participation Plan
- Civil Rights (Title VI)
- American with Disabilities Act (ADA)

The local transit operators also rely on the Forks MPO PPP as their respective public participation plans.

Throughout the later months of 2019, the MPO promulgated updates of the family of documents. Beginning in January, 2020, the MPO formally announced the 45 day period to review and comment upon the updates. The closing date was February 18th.

NDDOT requested an appendix be done to document the public engagement activities towards this 45 day comment period. Attached is the appendix that was created. Only MnDOT provided formal comments. Most were editorial in nature and were readily incorporated. Two specific comments needed additional response. First, MnDOT asked how the recent FHWA-MN TIP public engagement review was incorporated into the PPP. The response is that it is specific to the TIP and is being reflected into the TIP Procedural Manual. Second, the draft PPP reference just the ND side when documenting open records information. The response, after exchanging ideas with state dots, was to drop the specific reference on ND. This was done since the open records laws are mainly consistent between the two states. So neither state needed to be specified.

ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS OF FACT:

- State/Federal Partners did encourage us to update our Public Participation Plan documents.
- The FY2019-2020 Work Program identified a work activity to complete the update.

- As noted, there are several documents that comprise the overall Public Participation Plan.
- American Community Survey data is being updated from 2008-2012 to 2013-2017.
- MPO gave preliminary approval of documents individually.
- NDDOT has audited the Forks MPO Title VI and ADA recently, so not as much work is necessary on those documents. However, NDDOT recently updated their Title VI which has resulted in the need to update ours.
- The formal 45 day public comment period began Jan 35d and ended Feb 18th.

SUPPORT MATERIALS:

- Draft Appendix A documenting the public engagement.
- <https://theforksmpo.com/public-participation-plan-ppp-family-of-documents-2/>