

## 3 Public Participation Plan

### **CURRENT POLICY**

In accordance with the Texas Department of Transportation guidelines, the MPO organizational structure provides for a Policy Committee and a Technical Advisory Committee for the purpose of continuing the transportation planning program. The Policy Committee provides the policy direction necessary for continuing the transportation planning process in a coordinated and cooperative manner as outlined in the agreement with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT). The responsibilities of the committee include an annual review of the adopted transportation plan and improvement programs, appropriate action on recommendations of the Technical Advisory Committee, meeting as necessary to perform its functions, and holding a public meeting at least once a year to discuss the status of transportation planning in the Tyler metropolitan area. The Tyler Area MPO Policy Committee is currently comprised of eleven (11) voting members as defined by the MPO Policy Committee By-laws.

Metropolitan Planning Organizations are required to provide a proactive public involvement process. The Tyler MPO has an adopted public involvement process which was followed for the development of this plan. The process requires that the MPO provide for citizen input at least six months prior to the adoption of a Metropolitan Transportation Plan. It also requires two public hearings, one of which must be conducted 30 days prior to the adoption of the plan. Finally, a public review and comment period of 10 days must be provided.

### **PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT**

Public involvement was an important component of the Plan and included several activities to involve public agencies and stakeholders throughout the plan development process. Public involvement activities centered on obtaining meaningful input from key stakeholders on transportation issues in the area. The MPO Technical Committee guided the overall plan development and provided technical expertise throughout the process.

### **WELFARE TO WORK/JARC**

The Federal Transit Administration, under the Job Access and Reverse Commute Program (JARC), provides funding for former welfare recipients and other low-income residents get to job locations. The program became available in 1998 to support the operations and capital expenses associated with these services. The funds can also be used to promote employer-provided transportation, on-traditional transit and transit voucher programs. The Tyler Area MPO supports the program and has had multiple recipients of the grant over the past decade.

### **NEW FREEDOM**

The New Freedom Program encourages services and facility improvements to address the transportation needs of people with disabilities and is administered by the Federal Transit

Administration. The program began with the authorization of the Safe Accountable Flexible and Efficient Transportation Equity Act, a Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) and funding began in Fiscal Year 2006. This is a formula grant program for capital and operating costs and is designed to support services beyond those required by the Americans with Disabilities Act.

## **COMMUNITY IMPACT ASSESSMENTS**