

Discussion Questions and Background for the Public Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting

U.S. DOT Certification Review of the Hampton Roads Metropolitan Area's Transportation Planning Process

Federal Team Meeting with the 2020 Community Advisory Committee (CAC) to the Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization (HRTPO)

Time: 5:15 P.M. – 7:15 P.M.

Date: September 23, 2020

Format: Public Involvement online/virtual meeting by the Federal Review Team (hosted by HRTPO)

Purpose: Members of the Federal Review Team will participate in a meeting with the CAC to hear about the regional planning and program development process.

The discussion will address how successfully the CAC and public are able to participate in the transportation planning and program development process in the metropolitan area.

- What methods and procedures are available to the public to participate?
- How successful are these methods?
- To what extent does the CAC and the public contribute to: the transportation planning process, development of policies, and regional decision-making?

Format: The Federal review team will distribute discussion questions in advance to the CAC. The Federal Team will introduce each question and lead an informal discussion with CAC members.

Note: the focus is on the planning, prioritization, and decision-making process and not on the merits of specific projects or decisions.

Background: Every four years, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) are legally required conduct a Certification Review of the Hampton Roads Transportation Management Area (TMA). The Certification formalizes continuing oversight and evaluation of the planning process to ensure that the planning requirements of 23 U.S.C. 134 and 49 U.S.C. 5303 to 5305 are being satisfactorily implemented.

The Certification provides an opportunity to provide advice and guidance to enhance the planning process and improve the quality of transportation decisions. Although FHWA and FTA routinely interact with the metropolitan planning organization and its partner agencies in reviewing and approving planning products and providing technical assistance, this formal external review can be a catalyst to improve the effectiveness of the planning process and its ability to address major issues facing the metropolitan area.

The Federal team will use the following questions to guide the discussion. At the meeting, please be prepared to identify yourself and, if applicable, what organization you represent.

QUESTIONS

1. As a CAC member, how do you serve as a conduit between your community and the HRTPO on matters related to regional transportation (including mobility and accessibility)?
2. How does public involvement and the CAC assist the region to reach consensus on difficult and controversial issues related to transportation?
3. How effective is public involvement conducted by the Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization?
4. What methods to encourage public involvement are working and what are not? Please provide examples and explanations.
5. How can public views successfully be communicated to decision-makers in an area as large and complex as this? What is the role of CAC in this process?
6. Please describe situations where public involvement has had an impact on the planning process and decisions reached and where it has not. For example, consider how involvement contributes to developing strategies in the long-range plan, selecting investments in the TIP, or any other activities.
7. How might the HRTPO improve public involvement? For example, consider changes to the structure of advisory groups, use of media, use of facilitators, or efforts to reach a broad range of groups, including minority and low-income communities.