

Appendix F: *Connections 2040* Public Outreach

Public Engagement

Public engagement efforts and activities for *Connections 2040* were undertaken in accordance with MRMPO's *Public Participation Procedures* adopted by the Metropolitan Transportation Board in 2018 and were guided by MRMPO's *Connections 2040 Public Participation Plan*.

MRMPO's overarching goal for public participation is to provide effective outreach to engage as many members of the public and stakeholders as possible, with particular focus on reaching out to populations underrepresented in the planning process such as low-income, minority populations, and young adults. The objectives of MRMPO's public participation goal are to increase engagement through new methods, to increase efforts to reach underrepresented groups, and to put more effort on going where people are, as opposed to having them come to where we are.

In its outreach efforts, MRMPO's focus has shifted from **presenting** information to **gathering** information and ideas from the public, agency members, and stakeholders through a variety of methods. As this information is gathered staff integrates that feedback where possible.

Outreach strategies used for *Connections 2040 MTP* include the following:

- Paper and online Questionnaires in English and Spanish
- Public meetings and open houses, including new methods and techniques to engage participants at those meetings
- Information about MTP and feedback opportunities made available at community events
- Social media, electronic newsletters, and email blasts
- Interactive maps to gather information
- Presentations to groups and organizations
- Videos that explain the MTP processes

Specific to the development of this MTP, there were three main outreach phases during the course of the plan's development.

PHASE 1 - Goals, Existing Conditions, and Needs (May 2018-January 2019):

The upcoming MTP development process was presented and feedback was solicited on potential goals and regional challenges in public meetings. New elements to the MTP were introduced and a

questionnaire was undertaken to gather people’s views on transportation in the AMPA. An MTP Facebook page was also developed and launched.

PHASE 2 - Evaluation of Strategies and Project Selection (February 2019-September 2019):

In this phase of outreach, feedback on regional challenges was summarized and presented, results of the questionnaire were reported, and feedback on the conceptual growth scenarios were sought. MRMPO staff attended community events to help promote participation in the MTP process and introduce the plan to new audiences. MRMPO also hosted open houses in an attempt to appeal to new participants. This medium proved more interactive and enabled MRMPO staff to discuss issues with attendees in an in-depth manner. Feedback was also solicited on the conceptual scenarios in this phase.

PHASE 3 - Draft Development, Review, and Approval (October 2019-April/May 2020):

Comments were solicited on the draft MTP in December and January, and comments were solicited on the final draft in March. Public meetings were held in January to present the draft MTP and to gather feedback on the document, particularly on the plan’s findings. This document was posted online and its availability for review was promoted on the MRCOG website, partner websites, and social media pages. Email blasts and short announcements were also incorporated on MRCOG and MRMPO social media sites and MRMPO’s newsletter, as well as other methods.

Comments and feedback received from the all three phases of public participation were used to inform the development of the MTP. Comments were categorized and distilled to identify gaps in the transportation system. These are highlighted as part of the MTP to bring focus to areas of concern to, over the long term, develop a more connected transportation system. Also, findings from the Connections 2040 Questionnaire were integrated into chapters of the MTP. Results from a spending exercise are included in the plan to let policy makers know how the respondents would like to see transportation funds spent. Also, from the questionnaire, demographics that responded in low numbers were targeted in subsequent outreach efforts. For example, younger adults responded in lower numbers in the questionnaire; MRMPO was able to plan an outreach event at the University of New Mexico in response.

A list of all public presentations given and forums where the MTP materials and/or feedback was solicited were promoted is included below:

Event Name	Location	Date
ABQ Age-Friendly Solutions Forum	ABQ	9/28/2017
MTP 2018 Survey	Online	2018
Downtown ABQ Growers' Market	ABQ	8/25/2018
Los Lunas Farmers Market	Los Lunas	9/11/2018
Rail Yards Market	ABQ	9/16/2018
South Valley Market	Bernalillo County	9/22/2018
Bernalillo County Public Kick Off Meeting	Bernalillo County	10/18/2018
ABQ CiQlovia	ABQ	10/21/2018
Sandoval County Public Kick Off Meeting	Rio Rancho	10/25/2018
Valencia County Public Kick Off Meeting	Los Lunas	10/30/2018
Los Ranchos Farmers Market	Los Ranchos	9/15/2018
NM ITS Conference	ABQ	10/30/2018
GIS Day at UNM	ABQ	11/4/2018
MTP Agency Kick Off Meeting	ABQ	11/14/2018
Optimist Club of ABQ	ABQ	1/23/2019
Albuquerque/Bern. Co. Government Commission	ABQ	1/24/2019
Evening Optimist Club of ABQ	ABQ	2/21/2019
ITE Luncheon Presentation	ABQ	4/4/2019
UNM Sustainability EXPO	ABQ	4/18/2019
Online Interactive Gaps Map	Online	2019
Healthy Here Lead Group	ABQ	5/24/2019
International District Healthy Communities Coalition	ABQ	6/27/2019
Raynolds Addition Neighborhood Association	ABQ	9/5/2019
Rail Yards Market	ABQ	9/22/2019
ABQ CiQlovia	ABQ	10/20/2019
NM ITS Conference	ABQ	10/29/2019
MTP Tribal Meeting/Workshop	ABQ	10/30/2019
GABAC Presentation	ABQ	1/13/2020
LUTI presentation	ABQ	1/15/2020
Public Draft MTP Meeting-Sandoval County Meeting	Town of Bernalillo	1/15/2020
Public Draft MTP Meeting-Valencia County Meeting	Los Lunas	1/22/2020
Public Draft MTP Meeting-Bernalillo County Meeting	ABQ	1/30/2020
Virtual Open House (held via Facebook Live during the COVID-19 outbreak)	Online	3/25/2020

Outreach for the Socioeconomic Forecast

The socioeconomic forecasting process also included an extensive level of input both from member agencies, planners, and the private development community. MRMPO staff conduct interviews to ask about historical growth patterns and influences, near term developments, and potential for long range development out to the horizon year of 2040. This data collection process is ongoing, MRMPO staff are continuously conducting meetings that inform the regional forecast. Below is an incomplete list of the entities that were consulted in the development of the 2040 Socioeconomic Forecast:

- Local land use planners
- Albuquerque Public Schools
- Rio Rancho Public Schools
- Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority
- Garrett Development Corporation
- Westland Area Land Holdings
- SC3 International, Mesa del Sol
- Bohannon Huston Inc.
- New Mexico Home Builders Association
- Consensus Planning
- Titan Development
- University of New Mexico
- Central New Mexico Community College
- University of New Mexico Hospital
- NM Apartment Association
- West Wood Realty
- AMREP Corporation

MRMPO also uses the following key databases and resources in order to identify near term developments for the regional socioeconomic forecast:

- Metrostudy Residential Database (single family housing developments with 4 or more units)
- CoStar Commercial Real Estate Database (multi-family, retail, commercial, office and industrial properties)
- Local Development Review
- New Mexico Business First
- Albuquerque Journal

Lastly, MRMPO staff collect all zoning regulations and approved local land use plans, sector development plans, area plans, comprehensive plans and master plans which combine to inform the long range forecast.