

# Public Participation Plan

## Evaluation Report

Pinellas County  
Metropolitan Planning Organization



May 28, 2015

# Public Participation Plan (PPP)

- ▣ MAP 21 Compliance
- ▣ Provide opportunities for citizens to identify priorities and provide input
- ▣ Inform and educate
- ▣ Allow for citizens to be active participants in development of MPO plans and programs



# PPP Evaluation

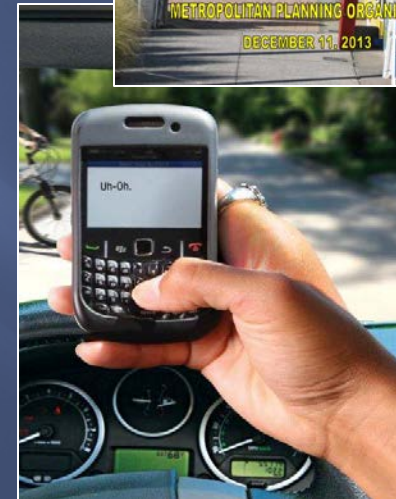
- ▣ Committee activities
- ▣ Website and social media
- ▣ Outreach materials
- ▣ Media
- ▣ Focus groups, stakeholder meetings and charrettes
- ▣ Community events
- ▣ Surveys
- ▣ Partnerships, key contacts and MPO/CAC orientation





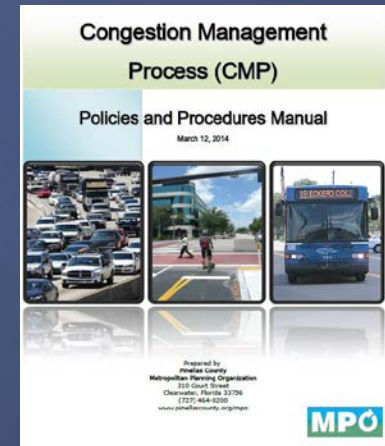
# Committee Activities

- ▣ Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC)
  - Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan
  - Review of road safety audits and issues affecting bike/ped. safety
  - Pedestrian Safety Awareness Day
  - Trail user survey
- ▣ Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC)
  - Advocated for texting while driving legislation
  - Participated in development of LRTP and TIP
  - Raised awareness of pedestrian safety issues
  - Members participated on Transportation Mobility Management Advisory Committee (TMMAC) and regional CACs



# Committee Activities

- ▣ Transportation Mobility Management Advisory Committee (TMMAC)
  - Monitored implementation of Congestion Management Process
  - Participated in review of CMP Policy and Procedures Manual
  - Monitored implementation of intelligent transportation system (ITS) projects
- ▣ School Transportation Safety Com. (STSC)
  - Reviewed County study on school access in Seminole
  - Addressed safety concerns regarding SR 580 crossing at San Jose Elementary School
  - Addressed issue of managing traffic associated with charter schools through local site plan review



# Website

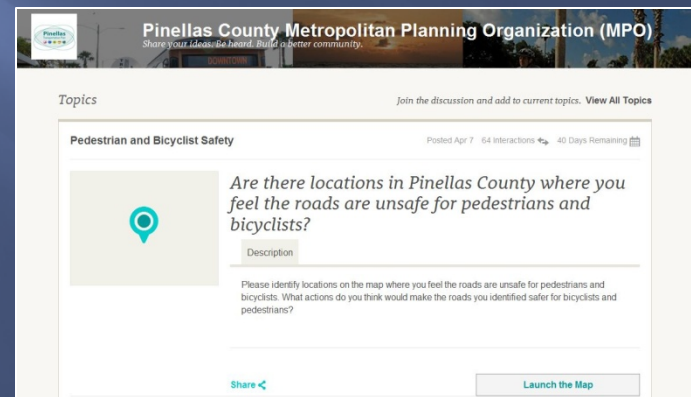
- ▣ Web Pages (2014)
  - 13 thousand hits on main page
- ▣ Web Files (2014)
  - Nearly 14 thousand hits on Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan facilities map
  - 25 thousand total hits on Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan and Progress Energy documents and maps





# Social Media

- ▣ Facebook
  - 488 likes
  - Most viewed posts (2014)
    - Gandy Blvd project open house - 377
    - 2040 LRTP - 346
- ▣ Twitter
- ▣ Tell Us Pinellas (2012 – 2014)
  - Over 24 thousand views
  - Over 3,600 visitors
  - 985 comment submittals



# Outreach Materials

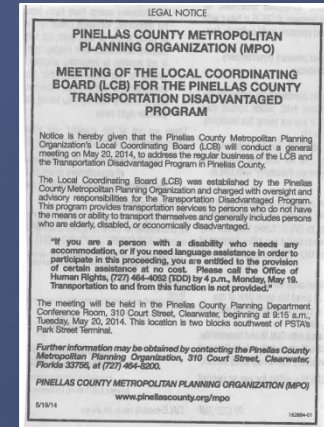
- ❑ Newsletter
- ❑ Traffic Count maps
- ❑ Ped/Bicycle Safety Brochure
- ❑ Trail and Bicycle Lanes Guide
- ❑ LRTP fact sheets
- ❑ LRTP brochure
- ❑ LRTP Summary Report
- ❑ Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) Program brochure





# Media

- ▣ Newspaper ads
- ▣ Pinellas County TV
  - MPO meeting telecasts
  - 8,800 hits on video stream
- ▣ Etown Hall Meetings
  - Four Etown Halls, 2011-2013
  - Nearly 9,400 participants in 2013



# Focus Groups, Stakeholder Meetings and Charrettes

- ▣ Focus groups
  - Oct. & Nov., 2012
  - Eight groups/meetings
  - 120 participants
- ▣ Stakeholder meetings
  - Jan. – Aug., 2013
  - 21 meetings
  - 158 participants
- ▣ Charrettes
  - Apr. – May, 2013
  - Seven charrettes
  - 150 participants



# Community Events

- ❑ Public/MPO workshops
- ❑ Heritage Village events
- ❑ Neighborhood meetings
- ❑ Events serving disadvantaged communities
- ❑ Chamber of commerce meetings
- ❑ Realtor's Association meetings
- ❑ USF Harborwalk
- ❑ Stetson University Health Fairs
- ❑ Great American Teach-in





# Surveys

- ▣ LRTP
  - Input on transportation concerns
  - 157 respondents
- ▣ Public awareness
  - Gauge familiarity with MPO programs
  - Most associate MPO with road planning
- ▣ Trail users
  - User characteristics and travel patterns
  - 2,513 completed surveys
- ▣ Transportation disadvantaged needs
  - Joint effort with Hillsborough and Pasco MPOs
  - 116 surveys completed



# Key Contacts, Partnerships and BCC/CAC Orientation

- ▣ Key Contacts
  - 12 mailing lists, 1900 contacts
  - Advisory committees, homeowner and condominium associations, newsletter
- ▣ Partnerships
  - Annual Work Program hearings
  - Stakeholder meetings
  - Charrettes
  - ETown Halls
  - Regional needs study
- ▣ MPO/CAC Orientation
  - Orientation Manual
  - One-on-one meetings with Board members
  - CAC orientation sessions



# Conclusions and Follow-up Actions

- ▣ Increase distribution of and participation in public awareness surveys
- ▣ Clarify discussion in PPP regarding opportunities for citizens to participate in MPO process
- ▣ Enhance and expand measures of effectiveness as necessary
- ▣ Revise MPO Orientation Manual to better serve incoming Board members
- ▣ Consolidate MPO/PPC websites and newsletters
- ▣ Expand use of social media

