



Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission

03/15/17

Agenda Item 10: Action Item

Public Participation Plan Amendment for Public Hearing Comment Period

Issues: In 2014 CCPRC updated the Public Participation Plan. This update explored traditional and innovative outreach methods to meet the needs of our growing and increasingly diverse community. The plan also added consistency to CCRPC's outreach efforts for our Regional Plan, Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). State law requires a 30-day comment period for regional plans. However, State and Federal law have no specific comment period requirements for the MTP, the UPWP or the TIP. Rather, Federal law requires that "the MPO shall provide all interested parties with a reasonable opportunity to comment." MPOs must develop a Public Participation Plan and must follow outreach procedures documented in the plan.

Prior to the 2014 Public Participation Plan notice requirements for the MTP, UPWP and TIP were contained in the Bylaws and were 15 days.

The practical impact of increasing the notice period from 15 to 30 days is that there is not enough time for the Board to warn a public hearing one month and hold the public hearing the following month. Staff have addressed this issue by having the Board warn a public hearing two meetings before the hearing date, but frequently there is not complete information on the topic of the public hearing for the Board to make an informed recommendation.

This proposed change reinstates the 15-day public notice requirement for the UPWP and the TIP so the Board can hold the public hearing in the month following the warning.

**Executive Committee
Recommendation:**

Recommend that the 2014 Public Participation Plan be revised as attached.

**For more information
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