

Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization
for the Gainesville Urbanized Area
Gainesville Urbanized Area Transportation Study



2045 Gainesville Metropolitan Area
Long-Range Transportation Plan
Public Participation Plan

Prepared by:
THE CORRADINO GROUP
Amended August 24, 2020

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction.....	2
What is the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization for the Gainesville Urbanized Area?.....	2
What is a Long-Range Transportation Plan?.....	2
Public Participation Plan.....	3
Public Participation Requirements.....	3
Goals, Objectives, and Strategies.....	4
<i>Public Participation Goals.....</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Public Participation Objectives and Strategies.....</i>	<i>5</i>
Consistency through Integration.....	5
Public Participation Strategy, Tools, and Techniques.....	6
Meetings and Events.....	7
Public Meetings.....	8
Key Decision Events.....	9
Public Participation Plan Public Notice.....	9
Disposition of Public Comments.....	10
Notification Requirements.....	10
Stakeholders.....	11
Underserved/Under-involved Communities.....	12
Limited English Proficiency Populations.....	12
Public Participation Schedule.....	13
Final Report.....	13

Introduction

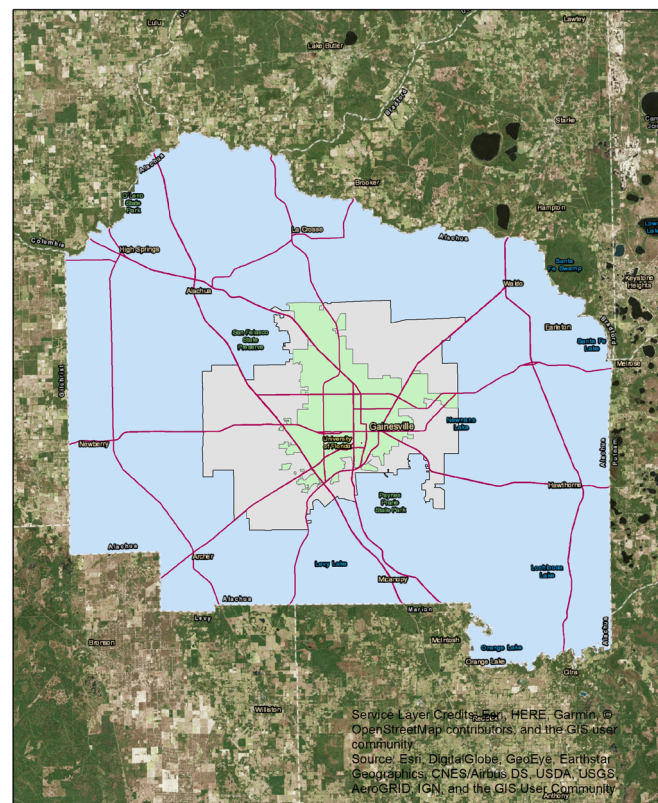
What is the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization for the Gainesville Urbanized Area?

The Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization for the Gainesville Urbanized Area is responsible for the continuing, comprehensive, and cooperative urban transportation planning program for the Gainesville Metropolitan Area. The Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization serves as the designated metropolitan planning organization for the Gainesville Metropolitan Area. Metropolitan planning organizations are government organizations mandated by the Federal Highway Act of 1973, to provide a cooperative, comprehensive, and continuing transportation planning and decision-making process. Metropolitan planning organizations act as liaisons among local governments, communities, residents, and state and federal Departments of Transportation. Metropolitan planning organizations currently operate under the federal Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act and Chapter 339.175, Florida Statutes. The Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization is comprised of the five Alachua County Commissioners, the Mayor and six City of Gainesville Commissioners as voting members. Representatives of the University of Florida, the Florida Department of Transportation and a Rural Advisor serve as non-voting members.

What is a Long Range Transportation Plan?

The Long-Range Transportation Plan is a federal requirement to address future transportation needs within the Gainesville Urbanized Area for a minimum of 20 years. Currently, the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization plans for 25-year horizon. The purpose is to plan a transportation system that safely and effectively connects communities, airport and port facilities within the Gainesville Metropolitan Area to other regions, other states, and the global economy. The Long-Range Transportation Plan is updated every five years to ensure consistency with new developments, trends and objectives, and to encourage and promote a safe and efficient transportation system to serve future year transportation demands.

The 2045 Long-Range Transportation Plan covers the Gainesville Metropolitan Area located in the center of Alachua County, Florida, and includes the entire the City of Gainesville and a portion of the City of Alachua, as well as the surrounding urban and transitioning areas. Gainesville is inhabited by approximately 128,610 residents and accounts for approximately 50 percent of the total population of Alachua County.



Legend

- Major Roads
- City of Gainesville
- Gainesville Metropolitan Area Boundary
- Alachua County

7.5 3.75 0 7.5 Miles



Gainesville Metropolitan Area

Public Participation Plan

Public participation is a critical component in developing and implementing the 2045 Long-Range Transportation Plan. The Public Participation Plan spells out the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization's process for the general public and stakeholders to be involved in the regional transportation planning process. A successful Long-Range Transportation Plan considers socio-cultural, economic, public health and environmental impacts of the Gainesville transportation system on the region and beyond. The following Public Participation Plan offers goals, objectives, strategies and tools to maintain public input throughout the Long-Range Transportation Plan process from public officials, citizens and stakeholders. The Public Participation Plan was developed to keep the public informed and engaged by various means in providing feedback throughout the process of developing the 2045 Long-Range Transportation Plan.

Public Participation Requirements

Metropolitan planning organizations have many federal and state requirements for facilitating inclusive public participation. The Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act, Public Law 114-94, enacted in 2015, and prior legislation (Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act, Public Law 112-141) outline requirements for metropolitan planning organizations to provide a forum for public participation in the transportation planning processes.

In accordance with Federal and State guidelines and requirements, this Public Participation Plan achieves the following targets:

- Defines a process for providing individuals, affected public agencies, representatives of public transportation employees, public ports, freight shippers, providers of freight transportation services, private providers of transportation (e.g. intercity bus operators, employer-based commuting programs, transit benefit programs, and telework programs), representatives of users of public transportation, pedestrian walkways and bicycle transportation facilities, the disabled, and other interested parties, with reasonable opportunities to be involved in developing the 2045 Long-Range Transportation Plan;
- Provides adequate public notice of public participation activities and time for public review and comment at key decision points, including a reasonable opportunity to comment on the proposed Long-Range Transportation Plan;
- Provides timely notice and reasonable access to information about transportation issues and processes;
- Employs visualization techniques to describe the proposed Long-Range Transportation Plan in public workshops, public hearings and meetings;
- Makes public information (technical information and meeting notices) available in electronically accessible formats and means, such as the Internet and through social media;
- Holds public meetings at convenient and Title VI-compliant accessible locations and times;
- Demonstrates explicit consideration and response to public input received in developing the Long-Range Transportation Plan;

- Seeks and considers the needs of those traditionally underserved and under-represented by existing transportation systems, such as persons of low-income and in minority households, who may face challenges accessing employment and other services;
- Consults with the statewide transportation planning public involvement and consultation processes; and periodically reviews the effectiveness of the public involvement procedures and strategies contained in the Public Participation Plan to ensure a full and open participation process; and
- Provides an additional opportunity for public comment, if the final Long-Range Transportation Plan differs significantly from the version that was made available for public comment by the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization and raises new material issues that interested parties could not reasonably have foreseen from the public involvement efforts.

Goals, Objectives, and Strategies

This Public Participation Plan was developed to ensure transparency and continuing participation by the Gainesville community in the 2045 Long-Range Transportation Plan development process. The purpose of the Plan is to implement inclusive participation by outlining opportunities for the public to participate in developing of the 2045 Long-Range Transportation Plan. The following goals, objectives and strategies will be employed to achieve this purpose of this Plan. This Public Participation Plan is consistent with the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization public Involvement Plan.

Public Participation Goals

- 1. Inform and educate:** The Public Participation Plan shall offer reasonable access and opportunities to inform and educate the public of transportation issues and processes.
- 2. Promote transparency:** The Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization shall uphold transparency throughout the planning process to instill public trust to engage in shaping policy and informing decisions.
- 3. Encourage broad and diverse participation:** Public participation shall include the greatest number of people possible from the region surrounding and including the Gainesville Metropolitan Area and reflect the Gainesville Metropolitan Area's diverse population, regardless of individuals' language, personal mobility or ability to attend a meeting, subject to available budget and resources.
- 4. Value feedback:** The feedback received through this Public Participation Plan shall be reviewed and given to policy makers in a timely manner to inform their decisions. Interested participants should be informed of actions by the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization at key milestones throughout the planning process.

Stakeholder involvement will proceed on the basis of these goals with four (4) major objectives:

1. Survey public opinion
2. Coordinate with local boards and main institutions
3. Discuss and confirm proposed policies
4. Provide recommendations

Gainesville Metropolitan Area Public Participation Plan

Public Participation Objectives and Strategies

This section lists objectives and strategies to achieve the goals listed above.

Objective 1: Outreach and Engagement Options	Employ timely outreach opportunities through a variety of means, such as public workshops, informal meetings and surveys to inform, educate, create dialogue and elicit input from the public for the Gainesville Metropolitan Area 2045 Long-Range Transportation Plan.
Objective 2: Diversity and Inclusivity	Include a diverse range of stakeholders and perspectives to gain an accurate reflection of views and inputs. While maintaining open channels for all parties to participate, engage groups in the process who may be impacted the most. Inclusivity shall emphasize listening and mutual respect and shall include a safe space to share ideas, creating equal opportunities for input without fear of intimidation or ridicule.
Objective 3: Accessibility	The public shall be provided equal and ample opportunities to participate in the planning process. This shall include scheduling sessions at various days and times throughout the day and selecting of venues/locations with ample access to public transportation, safe biking, and proximity to those with the greatest mobility challenges is offered.

Consistency through Integration

The 2045 Long-Range Transportation Plan will be aligned with plans and studies that are periodically updated. The following list includes documents that can be aligned with the Long-Range Transportation Plan for clarity and consistency.

Alachua County	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alachua County Comprehensive Plan (2011-2030) - Future Land Use • Alachua County Mobility Plan • Alachua County Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan
City of Gainesville/ Regional Transit System Projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City of Gainesville Comprehensive Plan • City of Gainesville Master Plan • Community Redevelopment Agency Projects • Premium Transit Service Project • Ten-Year Transit Development Plan and updates
City of Alachua	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City of Alachua Comprehensive Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Future Land Use
Florida Department of Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Florida's Strategic Intermodal System Strategic Plan • Future Corridors Initiative • Florida Highway Safety Plan • Florida Transportation Plan
North Central Florida Regional Planning Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North Central Florida Strategic Regional Policy Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 2018 Evaluation and Appraisal Report amendments • North Central Florida Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (2018-2022)
University of Florida	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • University of Florida Campus Master Plan • University of Florida Transportation and Parking Strategic Plan

Public Participation Strategies, Tools, and Techniques

Interactive tools/techniques will be employed to facilitate participation of an under-represented group who may not participate through traditional channels.

Electronic Newsletters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization mailing list to send electronic newsletters. • Newsletters will include notifications and information for participation opportunities
Community Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend and participate in existing community events. • Host a table at community events such as pop-ups, markets, festivals and other gatherings.
Flyers and Mailers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with community organizations to post flyers in heavy foot-traffic areas. • Work with community organizations to include public participation information in mailers of these organizations. • Distribute flyers/postcards at events.
Community Networks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leverage community partners to advertise meeting notices, participation opportunities, and contact information. A list of partners and stakeholders are identified in this Plan. • Leverage Alachua County Public Library system to advertise and host events, as well as provide resources to increase community participation in the Long-Range Transportation Plan update.
Online Surveys	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online surveys are an effective tool for collecting input. Public remarks and survey responses will be recorded and results included in the final report.
Contact Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact information of public participation team will be posted on all materials and channels.
Media Plan	<p>The media plan will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key messaging and talking points; • Press releases and public service announcements; • A comprehensive media list, including non-mainstream media; and, • Alerting agency and program management staff immediately upon media requests and working with staff on responses. <p>The following newspapers shall be used for advertising public events and opportunities to participate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Independent Florida Alligator; • The Gainesville Sun; and • The Gainesville Guardian.
Websites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain and frequently update a website with information and content related to public participation for the 2045 Long-Range Transportation Plan. • Link participation website with online materials to the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization website.

<p>Social Media</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilize Facebook page to engage the public, advertise information, and make announcements related to the 2045 Long-Range Transportation Plan. • Consider hosting events on Facebook Live, opening these events to the public who may not be able to attend in person. • Utilize and encourage Hashtags to expand and track communications.
<p>Visualization Techniques</p>	<p>Incorporate and share the following visual elements with the public, when appropriate, to describe various aspects of the long-range transportation plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maps, charts, illustrations and photographs; • Table-top displays and models; • Interactive surveys and polls; • Slideshows; and • Videos.
<p>Documentation</p>	<p>A written record of participation activities with photography/ images, as applicable, will be maintained.</p>

Meetings and Events

Public workshops and public hearings provide an opportunity to learn about the 2045 Long-Range Transportation Plan process, receive updates on developments, share the latest information, and provide comments on the 2045 Long-Range Transportation Plan elements. Meetings will be used as a platform to inform the public of the Plan and any updates or developments related to it.

Meeting attendees will have the option to submit feedback via comment forms after all meetings. There will also be an opportunity to provide comments through the 2045 Long-Range Transportation Plan website for greater accessibility. Comment forms will be available at community presentations and other events. The public will be encouraged to share ideas, suggestions, issues and concerns about future transportation plans. A portion of each meeting shall be devoted to questions and answers and the public shall be asked to identify and provide information about transportation problem areas. A report will be prepared detailing public comments and responses.



All meetings will universally accommodate attendees by considering the following guidelines:

- Hosting at locations where the community regularly congregates;
- Scheduling at various times and dates;
- Hosting at locations in compliance with American with Disabilities Act requirements;
- Hosting at locations accessible by public transportation; and
- Posting proper signage along routes leading to meeting locations.

The community will be notified in advance of public meetings through:

- Legal advertisements and display advertisements in accordance with Public Involvement Plan criteria;
- News releases sent to the media list;
- Postings on the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization website;
- Posters and/or flier distributions at businesses, community focal points, places of worship, Regional Transit Service buses, information kiosks, paratransit vans; and,
- Notices emailed to the stakeholder database.

All public meetings, public workshops and public hearings will be held in Americans with Disabilities Act-compliant facilities. Persons requiring special accommodations such as translation service, large print text, document reading and American Sign Language service are to contact Michael Escalante, Title VI Coordinator, at (352) 955-2200, ext. 114, or send an email to escalante@ncfrpc.org at least seven (7) business days prior to the event. In addition, any discrimination concerns should be forwarded to Michael Escalante, Title VI Coordinator, at (352) 955-2200, ext. 114, or send an email to escalante@ncfrpc.org.

Public Meetings

There will be three (3) public workshops and two (2) public hearings conducted as a part of the Public Participation Plan. The first public workshop shall inform the public of the Long-Range Transportation Plan process and occur early in the project to outline the study scope, goals and timing. A portion of each meeting shall be devoted to questions and answers and the public shall be asked to identify and provide information about transportation problem issues. The Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization shall conduct a minimum of two public hearings, one to solicit public comment on the proposed Year 2045 Long-Range Transportation Plan **Needs Plan** and one to solicit public comment on the proposed Year 2045 Long-Range Transportation Plan **Cost Feasible Plan**. These meetings are listed below in chronological order.

I. Public Workshop #1 Presentation Topics:

- Implementation of Year 2040 Long-Range Transportation Plan projects;
- Overview of scope of the study and schedule of the 2045, Long-Range Transportation Plan;
- Adopted Vision Statement, Principles and Strategies; and
- Public input.

II. Public Workshop #2 Presentation Topics:

- Review the results of testing and evaluating alternative transportation networks; and
- Public input on proposed alternative modifications that may be used to develop the third alternative.

III. Public Hearing #1 Presentation Topics:

- Draft Year 2045 Long-Range Transportation Plan **Needs Plan** development process;
- Draft Year 2045 Long-Range Transportation Plan **Needs Plan** projects; and
- Public input.

IV. Public Workshop #3 Presentation Topics:

- Review of the adopted Year 2045 Long Range Transportation **Needs Plan**; and
- Public input on projects to be considered for the draft Year 2045 Long-Range Transportation Plan **Cost Feasible Plan**.

V. Public Hearing #2 Presentation Topics:

- Draft Year 2045 Long-Range Transportation Plan **Cost Feasible Plan** development process;
- Draft Year 2045 Long-Range Transportation Plan **Cost Feasible Plan** projects; and
- Public input.

Key Decision Events

Public Hearing Items Prior to Adoption	Additional Information
2045 Long-Range Transportation Needs Plan	The Needs Plan public hearing will be preceded by a presentation on the various proposed projects included in the draft Needs Plan. The Needs Plan will include projects that will enable the Gainesville Metropolitan Area transportation system to operate at levels of service that meet the mobility criteria specified in the City of Gainesville and Alachua County comprehensive plans.
2045 Cost Feasible Plan	The Cost Feasible Plan public hearing will be preceded by a presentation on the various proposed projects included in the draft Cost Feasible Plan. The Cost Feasible Plan will include projects that are anticipated to be funded based on 2045 transportation revenue forecasts.

Public Participation Plan Public Notice

Public notice for the Year 2045 Long-Range Transportation Plan update is to be implemented according to the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization Public Involvement Plan Exhibit E-1 Public Involvement Notice Matrix. Display advertisements for public hearings and workshops will be published in the Gainesville Sun and Gainesville Guardian two Thursdays prior to the event. Legal advertisements for Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization meetings will be published in The Gainesville Sun and Gainesville Guardian two Thursdays prior to the meeting. Legal advertisement for the Metropolitan Transportation



Planning Organization Year 2045 Long-Range Transportation Plan Public Participation Plan will be published in The Gainesville Sun and Gainesville Guardian at least 45 days prior to approval. Display advertisements for public hearings and workshops will be published in The Independent Florida Alligator two Wednesdays/Thursdays prior to the event. Legal advertisements for Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization meetings will be published in The Independent Florida Alligator two Wednesdays/Thursdays prior to the meeting. Legal advertisement for the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization Year 2045 Long-Range Transportation Plan Public Participation Plan will be published in The Independent Florida Alligator at least 45 days prior to approval.

Disposition of Public Comments

When significant written and oral comments are received on the draft Long-Range Transportation Plan and/or the Financial Plan, a summary, analysis and report will be prepared on the disposition of public comments. This material will be part of the adopted Year 2045 Long-Range Transportation Cost Feasible Plan Final Report.

Notification Requirements

The Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization is dedicated to appropriately notifying the community about the Public Participation Plan, as required by federal and state laws. Specifically, this includes:

- Posting the draft Public Participation Plan on <http://ncfrpc.org/mtpo/LRTP.html> and on <http://ncfrpc.org/mtpo/index.html> for a 45-day comment period prior to adoption by the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization;
- Presenting the Draft Public Participation Plan to the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization advisory committees for review and recommendation;
- Providing notice about public outreach activities such as newsletters, social media and on the <http://ncfrpc.org/mtpo/index.html> website;
- Using diverse media outlets to publicize public participation activities;
- Advertising public hearings in local newspapers in accordance with the Public Involvement Plan criteria; and,
- Sending notification via email to interested parties.

Workshop notices and hearing notices, flyers and/or posters will be provided for placement on community service bulletin boards and information kiosks in community centers, recreation facilities and other public buildings at the following locations:

- Alachua County Administration Building;
- Alachua County Public Health Department;
- Alachua County Sheriff's Office;
- Alachua County/Gainesville Senior Recreation Center;
- Gainesville City Hall;
- Gainesville Housing Authority;
- Gainesville Police Department;
- Gainesville Regional Utilities;
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Center;
- Rosa Williams Center; and
- Wilhemina Johnson Center.

Stakeholders

The Public Participation Plan includes collecting a comprehensive community inventory to develop a stakeholder database. A variety of resources will be used to compile the database, including updating existing agency stakeholder lists. The Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization will receive regular updates on community feedback. The stakeholder database will be updated throughout the public participation process.

Advisory Committees
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Alachua County Traffic Safety Team• Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Board• Citizens Advisory Committee• Technical Advisory Committee• Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board
Government/Agencies
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Alachua County Growth Management• Alachua County Public Works• Alachua County Environmental Protection• Alachua County School Board• City of Gainesville Planning & Development Services• City of Gainesville Public Works• City of Gainesville Regional Transit System• Florida Department of Environmental Protection• Florida Department of Transportation• Gainesville Regional Utilities• Gainesville Regional Airport• North Central Florida Regional Planning Council• St. Johns River Water Management District• University of Florida Facilities Planning & Construction• University of Florida Parking Services Administration• Alachua County• City of Alachua• City of Archer• City of Gainesville• City of Hawthorne• City of High Springs• City of Newberry• City of Waldo• Town of La Crosse• Town of Micanopy• Gainesville Area Chamber of Commerce• Santa Fe College
Organizations
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Alachua County League of Cities• Builders Association of North Central Florida• Gainesville Citizens for Active Transportation• Greater Gainesville Chamber of Commerce• Latina Women's League• League of Women Voters• Sierra Club

Underserved/Under-involved Communities

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 provides that: “no person in the United States shall, on the grounds of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance. (42 U.S.C. 2000d-1).” Title VI provides the following protection and activities relative to public involvement:

- Encourages the participation of minorities as members of planning or advisory bodies for programs receiving Federal funds;
- Requires information and services to be provided in languages other than English when significant numbers of potential beneficiaries have limited English-speaking ability; and
- Requires entities to notify the entire eligible population about programs.

The Long-Range Transportation Plan update will include outreach to the elderly, persons with disabilities, minorities and those of low-income. Outreach will also include “environmental justice” populations, such as the transportation disadvantaged, transit-dependents, and other groups traditionally under-represented in the planning process. Outreach will be facilitated by posting flyers and/or posters for display on Regional Transit System buses, information kiosks and paratransit vehicles. Strategies to solicit input from the business, environmental and other communities of local significance, shall also be implemented.

Flyers and/or posters will be placed on bulletin boards and information kiosks at the following locations:

- Center for Independent Living
- Division of Blind Services
- Eldercare of Alachua County

Limited English Proficiency Populations

Federal Executive Order 13166, *Improving Access to Services for Persons with Limited English Proficiency*, requires agencies to develop plans to accommodate people for whom English is not their native language, or who have a limited ability to read, speak, write, or understand English. To comply, metropolitan planning organizations must develop and post a written Limited English Proficiency Plan that includes analysis of four factors:

- Demography: Number and/or proportion of persons with Limited English Proficiency served and languages spoken in service area;
- Frequency: Rate of contact with service or program;
- Importance: Nature and importance of program/service to people’s lives; and
- Resources: Available resources, including language assistance services.

The Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization Public Involvement Plan includes information and procedures to address Limited English Proficiency requirements. The Public Involvement Plan is on the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization website at the following location: <http://ncfrpc.org/mtpo/publications/PIP/PIPLAN19a.pdf>

Public Participation Schedule

February 2020 - Board Meeting	Public Workshop 1 materials to the MPO (show the LRTP goals/objectives/principles, identify roadway congestion spots, prepare the flyers, identify what is funded from the 2040 LRTP, bike & pedestrian issues)
March 2020 - Public Workshop 1	Funded projects from the previous LRTP, Current LRTP update overview, identification of the network deficiencies, planning process, bike/ped issues.
April 2020 - Board Meeting	Needs Plan Draft to the MTPO
May 2020 - Public Workshop 2	Workshop on the Needs Plan
June 2020 - Board Meeting	Adoption of the Needs Plan by the MPO Board. Provide draft Cost Feasible Projects materials to the Board.
July 2020 - Public Workshop 3	Workshop on the Cost Feasible Plan
August 2020 - Public Hearing	Adoption of the Cost Feasible Plan

Final Report

The Public Participation Plan will be documented in a technical report and as part of the final report. Technical Report 1 shall include the materials and subjects discussed, and recurrent issues or themes and results of the process. All meeting minutes, emails, comments from the public and related information concerning the draft Long-Range Transportation Plan shall be included in Technical Report 1.

COVID-19 Pandemic Addendum Public Participation Continuity of Operations

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a State of Emergency declaration by the Governor has impacted public participation for the Year 2045 Long-Range Transportation Plan update process. The Governor issued an executive order that provided an exemption to in-person public meetings thereby authorizing metropolitan planning organizations to conduct virtual public meetings via communications media technology. To address disruption of normal operations, the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization for the Gainesville Urbanized Area (Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization) activated its Continuity of Operations Plan. Soon after activation of the plan, on April 20, 2020, the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization conducted a virtual public meeting and adopted three resolutions to facilitate administrative and public participation continuity of operations.

In order to address Title VI of the Civil Rights Act and Americans with Disabilities Act compliance, Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization staff will assist in the accommodation of requests by persons with disabilities for alternative formats of and/or assistance with public meeting notices, public meeting packets, planning documents and flyers. Please contact the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization at 352.955.2200 for assistance.

Virtual Staffing, Public Hearing, Public Meeting, Public Workshop and Public Charrette Platforms

Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization Staff - Staff shall use audio conferencing, web-based webinar and web-based video communications media technology platforms as needed to perform transportation planning activities.

Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization - Whenever possible, virtual public meetings, including public hearings, shall use web-based video communications media technology. In addition, the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization shall broadcast its public meetings on public access television Channel 12 and shall be supplemented by telephone call-in access. Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization members shall have appropriate access to the web-based video communications media technology. If web-based video communications media technology is unavailable, alternative virtual communications media technology may be used, but its use must be documented.

Public Workshops and Public Charrettes - Whenever possible, virtual public workshops and public charrettes shall use audio conferencing and web-based webinar communications media technology that is accessible to the public. If available, web-based video communications media technology may be used.

Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization Subcommittees and Advisory Committees - Whenever possible, Audit Committee, ad hoc appointed subcommittees, steering committees and working groups, Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Board, Citizens Advisory Committee and Technical Advisory Committee virtual public meetings, shall use audio conferencing and web-based webinar communications media technology that is accessible to the public. If available, web-based video communications media technology may be used.

Public Notice

Meeting Agendas - Public meeting agendas may be viewed on the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization website at www.ncfrpc.org (click on **Metropolitan Transportation Planning**). Public meeting agendas are available for download in portable data file extension format. If, under activation of the Continuity of Operations Plan, the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization office is closed to the public, public meeting agendas will be posted on the front office door at 2009 NW 67th Place, Gainesville, FL.

Meeting Notices - If, under activation of the Continuity of Operations Plan, the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization office is closed to the public, public meeting agendas will be posted on the front office door at 2009 NW 67th Place, Gainesville, FL. In addition, public meeting notices will be posted on the Alachua County Administration Building exterior bulletin board adjacent to South Main Street. Public meeting notices will also be provided to Alachua County staff for inclusion in its weekly Meetings List notification. Public meeting notices shall be printed in local newspapers in accordance with the Public Involvement Matrix in Appendix F of the Public Involvement Plan. Public meeting notice may also be posted to local newspaper websites.

Meeting Packets - Public meeting packets are electronically posted on the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization website.

Draft Planning Documents and Flyers - If, under activation of the Continuity of Operations Plan, the Alachua County Library District Downtown Gainesville, Millhopper and Tower Road branch libraries are closed or not publically accessible, then normal distribution of draft planning documents for public review shall not be required. If, under activation of the Continuity of Operations Plan, any public building identified for distribution of flyers is closed to the public, then flyers shall not be distributed to those closed public buildings.

Year 2045 Long-Range Transportation Plan Update Planning Team

Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization for the Gainesville Urbanized Area

Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director

Michael Escalante, Senior Planner

Lauren Yeatter, AICP, Senior Planner

Tara Tucker, Executive Assistant

The Corradino Group, Inc.

Kenneth Kaltenbach, PE, Senior Vice President

Edward Ng, AICP, Technical Vice President, Planning (Project Manager)

Srin Varanasi, Vice President, Transportation System Planning



Use the QR Reader App on your
smart phone to visit our website

**Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization
for the Gainesville Urbanized Area**

2009 NW 67th Place
Gainesville, FL 32653-1603
352.955.2200

www.ncfrpc.org/mtpo