

CHAPTER 8: PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Plans are only good if they are implemented. Plans that do not adequately address the needs of the community are either never implemented or are reversed shortly after implementation, resulting in a waste of time and effort. Involving interested members of the community is an important step in ensuring that any plan is reflective of the interests and needs of the community. This chapter details the measures undertaken by the MPO staff to involve interested citizens within the Waco Metropolitan Area and to develop a Metropolitan Transportation Plan that is reflective of the community goals for the Waco Metropolitan Area.

8.1 DEVELOPMENT OF THE MTP

Prior to developing the MTP, the MPO staff met with representatives of the major transportation stakeholders within the Metropolitan Area. In most cases the representative was the MPO Policy Board representative, but for smaller towns the representative was either the Mayor or City Manager. For the City of Waco, the staff discussed the primary transportation issues with the city's transportation committee, a committee composed of community leaders. In each case, the MPO staff received information on the most important transportation priorities facing each respective stakeholder. Many of the candidate projects evaluated for inclusion into the MTP were suggested during these meetings.

TABLE 8.1 – STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS

Stakeholder	Person or Group	Meeting Date
McLennan County	County Engineer & County Commissioner	8/22/2003
City of Hewitt	City Manager & Assistant City Manager	8/27/2003
City of Lacy-Lakeview	City Manager	8/29/2003
City of Robinson	City Manager	9/3/2003
McLennan County	County Judge	9/5/2003
City of Woodway	City Manager & Assistant City Manager	9/16/2003
City of McGregor	City Manager	9/23/2003
City of Bellmead	Mayor	9/23/2003
City of Beverly Hills	Mayor & City Secretary	9/30/2003
City of Lorena	City Manager	10/07/2003
City of Riesel	Mayor & City Administrator	10/14/2003
TxDOT – Waco District	District Engineer & TP&D Director	10/27/2003
City of Waco	Transportation Committee	10/28/2003
Waco Transit	General Manager	1/23/2004
Waco Regional Airport	Airport Manager	4/6/2004
McGregor Executive Airport	Airport Manager	4/7/2004

In addition, the MPO staff conducted a public outreach meeting on November 13, 2003 to receive comments on the most important transportation priorities for the Metropolitan Area. This meeting was conducted in the Waco Convention Center and received much publicity via television and the Waco Tribune-Herald. Although lightly attended, the staff received many useful comments from this meeting. The comments are listed in table 8.2.

TABLE 8.2 COMMENTS FROM 11/13/03 PUBLIC OUTREACH MEETING

Location	Concern	Planning Emphasis Area
Lake Shore Dr – Park Lake Dr to Valley Mills Dr	Speeding	Highway Safety
US 84 (Waco Dr) at N 38 th St	Red Signal Violations	Highway Safety
Wooded Acres Dr at Lake Shore Dr	Red Signal Violations	Highway Safety
Lyle Ave at N 18 th St	Red Signal Violations	Highway Safety
Entire Metropolitan Area	Traffic signals not timed for maximum efficiency	Highway Operations
Lake Shore Drive – Entire Road	Too many blind driveways	Highway Safety / Access Mgmt
Entire Metropolitan Area	Red Signal Violations	Highway Safety
Walnut St in Lacy-Lakeview	Poor road condition – work taking too long to begin	Highway structural condition / Highway maintenance
China Spring to Ross Corridor	No access across Brazos River – Takes too long to travel	Regional Mobility
Commercial Aviation Service	Poor access at Waco Regional Airport and environmental concerns over potential crashes into Lake Waco Should move service to TSTC Airport	Aviation
Trans-Texas Corridor	Proposed corridor too far from Waco	Statewide Mobility
Interstate 35	Too many head-on collisions – install median barriers	Highway Safety
Lake Shore Dr at Wood Lake Dr	Dangerous intersection – especially left turns from Wood Lake	Highway Safety
Dallas to San Antonio Corridor	IH-35 only transportation choice – implement High Speed Rail	Statewide Mobility
Entire Metropolitan Area	Transit Service Area too limited – expand service to areas not currently served	Public Transportation
Waco Transit Fixed Route Service	Service ends too early – extend hours of operation	Public Transportation
Mars Dr at Texas Central Pkwy	Left turns dangerous – install traffic signal	Highway Safety
Imperial Dr at Old Hewitt Rd	Dangerous intersection	Highway Safety
Rosenthal to Riesel Corridor	No access across Brazos River – Takes too long to travel	Regional Mobility

8.2 ADOPTION OF THE MTP

Upon completion, the MPO Staff presented the draft MTP to the Technical Committee in two meetings on September 14, 2004 and September 30, 2004 and then to the MPO Policy Board on October 1, 2004. Once appropriate feedback had been incorporated into the MTP, the MPO staff opened a public comment period on October 11, 2004 to run through December 3rd, 2004. This comment period was advertised via the Waco Tribune-Herald, announced through a press release and announced on the City of Waco cable access channel which is broadcasted via Time-Warner Cable throughout the Waco Metropolitan Area.

TABLE 8.3 MCLENNAN COUNTY MEDIA / PRESS RELEASE RECIPIENTS

Station / Company	Media Format	City
KCEN Channel 6 (NBC)	Television	Waco / Temple
KWTX Channel 10 (CBS)	Television	Waco
KXXV Channel 25 (ABC)	Television	Waco
KWBU 103.3 FM (NPR)	Radio	Waco
KBGO "Oldies" 95 FM	Radio	Waco
KBRQ 102.5 FM "The Bear"	Radio	Waco
KWTX 1230 AM "News / Talk"	Radio	Waco
KWTX 97.5 FM	Radio	Waco
WACO 100 FM	Radio	Waco
Baylor Lariat	Newspaper	Baylor University
El Tiempo	Spanish Language Newspaper	Waco
Waco Citizen	Newspaper	Waco
Waco Tribune-Herald	Newspaper	Waco

During the public comment period, the MPO staff conducted a series of public hearings in which the public was invited to view the MTP, question staff and provide comments to be forwarded to the MPO Policy Board. These hearings were also advertised within the Waco-Tribune Herald, announced through a press release and announced on the City of Waco cable access channel. Table 8.4 lists the times and locations of the public hearings.

TABLE 8.4 PUBLIC HEARINGS

Date	Time	Location
10/28/2004	12:00 PM	Waco City Hall
10/28/2004	7:00 PM	Waco Convention Center
11/1/2004	7:00 PM	Hewitt Community Center
11/8/2004	7:00 PM	McGregor Council Chambers
11/15/2004	7:00 PM	Riesel Council Chambers
11/18/2004	7:00 PM	Lacy-Lakeview Community Center

A final public hearing was conducted during the MPO Policy Board meeting on December 6, 2004 in which interested persons were permitted to address the Policy Board prior to any decision on adoption of the MTP. Notification of this meeting followed the same process as for the other public hearings. The official public involvement procedures can be found within Appendix D.