

SAFETEA-LU Section 6001 Compliance

New consultations in the planning process (bold type indicates section/page of PPP for reference)

Representatives of users of pedestrian walkways, bicycle transportation facilities, and the disabled are specifically added as parties to be provided with the opportunity to participate in the planning process.

The Council's **Advisory Bodies, pages 8-9**, provide consultation with the specified users and people with disabilities. Metropolitan Council Transportation plans, policies and programs are developed in consultation with its Transportation Accessibility Advisory Committee, to evaluate impacts for people with disabilities, and with its Council's Transportation Advisory Board, which includes a representative of the bicycling and pedestrian community. In addition, Council transportation staff currently serves on the Minnesota Bicycle Advisory Committee, and consults with that organization on a regular basis; should the membership of that committee change, Council staff will continue to regularly attend the Committee's meetings and consult with its members regarding regional pedestrian and bicycle facilities.

Other "interested parties" to be consulted with on the development of the Transportation Plan include affected public agencies, representatives of transportation agency employees, private providers of transportation, providers of freight transportation services.

The Council recognizes the importance of involving stakeholders in the transportation planning process (**pages 3-4**). It provides consultation with the specified parties through its **Advisory Bodies, pages 8-9, and through Local Government Participation, pages 9-10.**

Participation Plan Development

- I. Develop in consultation with all interested parties
- II. Provide specific opportunity for public comment on the PPP prior to approval
- III. PPP adopted prior to Transportation Plans and Transportation Improvement Programs (TIPs) addressing SAFETEA-LU provisions.

The PPP was developed in consultation with a representative workgroup of the Transportation Technical Advisory Committee, as well as the Transportation Accessibility Advisory Committee to identify issues affecting people with disabilities, the Transit Providers Advisory Committee, and the Transportation Advisory Board, which includes representatives of users of bicycle and pedestrian facilities and freight facilities. The Council invited an extensive list of stakeholders with specific opportunities for public comment as identified in the Communications Plan for the PPP (attached). The PPP is scheduled for adoption after consideration of public comment on December 27, 2006 or January 10, 2007, prior to 2008-2011 TIP adoption and the 2007 Solicitation for Federal Transportation Project Funding.

- IV. Participation opportunities extended to governmental and nonprofit organizations that receive Federal assistance from a source other than the DOT to provide non-emergency transportation services and recipients of assistance under section 204 of Title 23, U.S.C.

The Metropolitan Council operates the regional transportation service provider for people with disabilities, **Metro Mobility**, in cooperation with private transportation providers and some county providers, including for-profit and non-profit enterprises. The Council consulted with these groups through its **Advisory Bodies (pages 8-9)**, including the Transportation Accessibility Advisory Committee, Technical Advisory Committee, and Transit Providers Advisory Committee.

Visualization Techniques in Plans and Metropolitan TIP Development

The Council's standard practice includes the use of mapping and other visualization techniques (**pages 11-12**) to demonstrate project alternatives and impacts. An interactive map is currently under development for the Council website, www.metrocouncil.org, and will be available prior to the 2007 TIP.

All Council official activities are published on its ADA-compliant website www.metrocouncil.org and public involvement opportunities are advertised on the website. (**pages 12-13**)

Coordinated Public Transit – Human Services Transportation Plan

The Council and its Transportation Accessibility Advisory Committee are currently working with local and state agencies responsible for health and human services to update the "United to Ride" coordinated public transit and human services transportation plan, previously developed by the Minnesota Department of Transportation. Participation in developing the coordinated plan will comply with the PPP.