Welcome!

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Poll Question

What type of organization do you represent?

- State DOT
- Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
- Regional Transit Agency
- Local Public Agency (e.g., city, county)
- U.S. DOT
- Other
What is “Every Day Counts” (EDC)?

State-based model to identify and rapidly deploy proven but underutilized innovations to:

- shorten the project delivery process
- enhance roadway safety
- reduce congestion
- improve environmental sustainability

- EDC Rounds: two year cycles
- Initiating 5th Round (2019-2020) - 10 innovations
- To date: 4 Rounds, over 40 innovations

For more information: [https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/innovation/](https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/innovation/)

FAST Act, Sec.1444
Virtual Public Involvement (VPI)

**Agenda:**

- Public involvement challenges
- What is VPI?
- Benefits
- Tools, techniques, and examples
- Next steps
- Questions and discussion
We know public involvement is critical
Sometimes it is a struggle to be effective
Why change traditional approaches?

- Low or inconsistent participation early on
- Lack of diverse viewpoints among participants
- Language and cultural barriers
- Work, family, and social schedules
- Expensive and time-consuming for agencies
- Changing expectations of 21st Century population

But, this doesn’t mean the public isn’t interested in participating!
Technology Can Expand Our Reach

Virtual Public Involvement is the use of digital technology to engage individuals or to visualize projects and plans.
Benefits of Virtual Public Involvement

- Participation
- Convenience
- Transparency
- Access

Costs
- Staff time
- Project delays
Poll Question

What do you think are the biggest needs and opportunities to improve public involvement?

[Short Answer]
- Type your thoughts in the poll pod
- Jot down notes and questions for later
VPI Draft Implementation Plan

Ideas for what FHWA can do to help:

- Peer Exchange Workshops
- Hands-On Technical Assistance
- Database of Policies, Contracts, and more…
- State-of-Practice Resources w/ Case Studies, Video Demonstrations, and more
VPI Tools and Techniques
Virtual Public Involvement Tools

1. Mobile Applications
2. Project Visualizations
3. Do-It-Yourself Videos
4. Crowdsourcing Tools
5. Virtual Town Halls
6. Mapping Tools
7. All-in-One Tools
8. Digital Tools to Enhance In-Person Events
Virtual Public Involvement Tools

What are the 8 different types of VPI tools and techniques?

Why would an agency use these tools?

Where is VPI in the field?
Mobile Apps

- Often used for sharing information about projects
- Crowdsourcing and all-in-one tools sometimes provide app options
- Can gather location-based information from commenters automatically
- Provide additional platform to get project-level input
Mobile Apps

- Suitable for larger or on-going efforts
- Reduces barriers to engagement as individuals may participate from anywhere
- Users can submit comments, photos as they experience transportation system
- Built in location technology allows for easy geotagging of comments
Mobile Apps

Download the DelDOT App

Recently Added Features:
- EV Charge Stations
  See What's New!
- Report an Issue
  See What's New!
- DMV Home Screen
  See What's New!

Popular Features:
- Travel Map
- DART
- Projects

Image used with permission. Courtesy of Delaware Department of Transportation
Mobile Apps

Images Used with Permission from MetroQuest
Project Visualizations

- Illustrate and visualize proposed projects
- May include still or video renderings, 3D visualizations, virtual and augmented reality
- Effectively communicate project development and design to stakeholders
**Project Visualizations**

- Easily spread through a variety of media channels
- Increases and enhances engagement during live meetings
- Improves the climate for conversation at in-person events
- Can explain a project to anyone regardless of background or prior knowledge
Project Visualizations

Image ProvidedCourtesy of WSDOT - Visual Engineering Resource Group (VERG)
Project Visualizations

Courtesy of Federal Highway Administration, Eastern Federal Lands Highway Division
Poll Questions

What is your level of interest in using mobile applications or project visualizations in planning or project development?

• Very High – we are already using
• High
• Medium
• Low
• Not at all interested
Do-It-Yourself Videos

- Brief videos to inform the public or gather input
- Low-budget production – often self-produced on mobile phones
- Effectively communicate content to diverse audiences
- Can incorporate visualizations or other digital content about proposed projects
Do-It-Yourself Videos

- Easily disseminated through a variety of media channels
- Help to reach a broader audience
- Videos often get more engagement and interest than static materials
Instructions to Prepare For Video

- **Mute Phones and Microphones**

- **Turn Computer Speakers On - in Web Room and PC**

- **Adjust Volume and Prepare Headphones**
VPI Tools and Techniques (cont.)
Poll Questions

What kind of support does your agency need to expand the use of videos for public involvement?

[Short Answer]
- Type your thoughts in the poll pod
- Jot down notes and questions for later
Crowdsourcing Tools

- Gather and accumulate qualitative information from stakeholders
- Stakeholders can interact with one another’s ideas and submissions with voting or rating systems
Crowdsourcing Tools

- Allows for a larger volume of input over time
- Reduces labor burden of transcribing meetings or reviewing written submissions
- Internet users already familiar with information-sharing forums
- Staff have an opportunity to respond to or interact with ideas as they are submitted
- Creates a climate for conversation
Crowdsourcing Tools

Statewide Vision

What is your vision to improve transportation in Connecticut?

Imagine getting around in Connecticut in 10 or 20 years. What do you think should change over the course of time to make it easier to get from here to there?

Where applicable, please feel free to use the map to pinpoint the location of your ideas.

546 Ideas  605 Comments  4 Reviewed Ideas

See the Ideas

Image used with permission. Courtesy of the Connecticut DOT
Poll Questions

What is your level of interest in using Do-It-Yourself Video or crowdsourcing tools?

• Very High – we are already using
• High
• Medium
• Low
• Not at all interested
Virtual Town Halls

- Allow stakeholders to participate online or by telephone
- Allow stakeholders to engage in live polling and other dynamic information sharing at a live public meeting
- Conferencing staff can manage and monitor technical aspects
Virtual Town Halls

- Accessible to stakeholders unable to participate in person
- Increases engagement during live meetings
- Low-tech alternative, does not require internet access
- Can reach LEP and other populations with simulcasts
Virtual Town Halls

Welcome to our online public meeting!

¡Bienvenidos!

Help us prioritize transportation projects for the region.

Welcome to our online public meeting. If you found your way here, that means you know we need your feedback on 40 transportation projects competing for federal funding. You can participate in person at one of four public meetings, or online using the links below.

On this page, you will find everything you need to participate in the development of our 2019-2022 transportation improvement program, or short-range plan, that includes providing feedback on projects hoping to receive Surface Transportation Program-Metropolitan Mobility funding, or NPO discretionary funding.

The 40 projects total over $400 million and our Transportation Policy Board will be making a funding decision in March 2018 to program approximately $100-170 million worth of projects.

Help our board make these difficult decisions by:

1. Watching the presentation given at the in-person meetings.
2. Reviewing an interactive story map that highlights information about each of the projects as well as the applications submitted.
3. Evaluating the technical scores assigned to each of the projects.
4. Participating by completing an online comment form to voice your support and concerns about any of the projects.

Questions? Get in touch with Linda Alvarado-Vela at Alvarado-vela@alamoarea.txdot.org.

1 WATCH
   - *View* Presentation Video (.mp4)

2 REVIEW
   - Learn about each of the submitted projects by using this handy map application!

3 EVALUATE
   - *View* STP-MM Submitted Projects Scoring Sheet (.xlsx)

4 PARTICIPATE
   - *View* Comment Card

Other Resource Information:

- DRAFT FY2019-2022 TP Roadway Project Listing (.pdf)
- DRAFT FY2019-2022 TP Transit Project Listing (.pdf)
- DRAFT FY2019-2022 TP Transit Project Detail (.pdf)

Image Courtesy of AAMPO
Online Mapping Tools

- Web-based platforms
- Display information in familiar map format
- Stakeholders provide comments and input on digital maps, marking up suggested changes or areas of concern
Online Mapping Tools

Projects Competing for MPO Funding

As part of the MPO’s urban transportation planning process, the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) addresses federal regulations administered by the United States Department of Transportation. The TIP is a four-year financially constrained list of transportation projects that are approved for federal and state funding by the MPO Transportation Policy Board.

The long-range transportation plan (MTP) forecasts transportation needs for the next 25 years. The long-range plan list the goals, visions and projected transportation projects for the region.

STP-MM 2019/2022 Proposed Projects
- Added Capacity
- Bicycle/Pedestrian
- Operational

Short Range Plan TIP

Long Range Plan MTP

Image courtesy of Alamo Area MPO
Online Mapping Tools

- Provides geographic context
- Project information is less abstract
- Can be paired with narratives, videos, and other digital information
- Saves staff time and labor collecting public input on hard copy maps
Online Mapping Tools

I-80 Corridor Story Map

Image courtesy of Utah DOT
Online Mapping Tools

I-80 Corridor Story Map

Image courtesy of Utah DOT
Poll Questions

What is your level of interest in using virtual town halls or online mapping tools?

- Very High – we are already using
- High
- Medium
- Low
- Not at all interested
All-in-One Tools

- Combination of crowdsourcing, mapping and survey functions
- Allows staff to inform the public about a project and engage stakeholders through polls, surveys, etc.
- Can offer both desktop and mobile apps in same platform
All-in-One Tools

- Easy for staff to manage project-based public involvement on a single platform
- Can increase public participation by removing barriers to involvement
All-in-One Tools

Your Input is Important to Us!
NCDOT has resumed the engineering and environmental studies for the Kinston Bypass Project. To complete these efforts, the Project Team asks for your input and feedback.

In 2007, the Kinston Bypass was listed in the City of Kinston Comprehensive Transportation Plan which was updated in early 2011.
All-in-One Tools

Kinston Bypass

Resource Impacts

1. Natural Resources
2. Economic Resources
3. Community Resources

Displacing Businesses
Effects to local businesses due to increased travel time or displacement.

Distance to Downtown
Travel distance

Disrupted Agriculture
Effects to farmlands, agricultural operations, and distribution of goods.

Distance to Employment
Access or changed routes to jobs.

Rate your concern for potential impacts to the following resources. 1 = Not Important; 5 = Very Important.

More about this

Comment

Comment

Comment

Next Category

Suggest another

Image Courtesy of NC DOT
Digital Tools to Enhance In-Person Events

- Virtual tools and techniques add value to traditional public engagement
- Live-polling and tech-equipped street teams can solicit live feedback and input
- Agencies bring project plans directly into communities to create a physical presence
Digital Tools to Enhance In-Person Events

- Significantly improve the quality of engagement
- Bridge the digital divide and help reach underserved populations
- Establish a balance between virtual tools and physical interaction
Digital Tools to Enhance In-Person Events

Image Courtesy Alamo Area MPO
Poll Questions

What is your level of interest in All-In-One tools or VPI tools to enhance in-person engagement?

- Very High – we are already using
- High
- Medium
- Low
- Not at all interested
How can FHWA help you with Virtual Public Involvement?
EDC-5 Funding Opportunities:

- **State Transportation Innovation Council (STIC) Incentive**
  - Up to $100,000 per STIC per year to standardize an innovation
  - [https://www fhwa dot gov/innovation/stic/](https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/innovation/stic/)

- **Accelerated Innovation Deployment (AID) Demonstration**
  - Up to $1 million available per year to deploy an innovation not routinely used
  - [https://www fhwa dot gov/innovation/grants/](https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/innovation/grants/)
VPI Draft Implementation Plan

Ideas for what FHWA can do to help:

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Questions/ Discussion
Discussion Topics

1. Your Experiences with VPI

2. Barriers to Using VPI?

3. FHWA Implementation Assistance

4. General Q&A
Your Experiences with VPI

Please tell us about your successes or challenges integrating VPI into planning and project development

• What has really worked well?
• Where have you struggled the most?
Barriers to Using VPI?

If you aren’t already using VPI tools or you would like to be using them more...

- Is there something holding you back from trying VPI?
- What are the technical barriers?
- Are there institutional or organization challenges you need help with?
FHWA Implementation Assistance

What kinds of assistance would be most beneficial to your agency?

• Peer Exchanges
• Technical Assistance
• Database of Policies and Contracts
• State of Practice Research/Case Studies
• Other Ideas?
Poll Questions

Which implementation assistance ideas are you most interested in?

- Peer Exchanges
- Technical Assistance
- Database of Policies and Contracts
- State of Practice Research/Case Studies
- Other (tell us your idea in short answer pod)
General Q&A

Any general questions?

Anything else you would like us to know about?
Wrap Up
Inovation Deployment News

Weekly newsletter

Bi-monthly magazine

To Subscribe:
Email: https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/innovation/

Text: Send “FHWA Innovation” to 468311
Thank You!

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