



Florida Department of Transportation

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SECRETARY

POLICY

Effective: December 9, 2022
Office: Policy Planning
Topic No.: 000-525-050-j

Reference: 23 USC Section 109 (h);
23 USC Section 128; 23 USC
Section 135; 23 CFR §450.210; 23
CFR Section 771.111 (a)(1); 23
CFR 771.111 (h); Sections 120.525,
286.011, 335.02 (1), 339.135 (4)(d),
339.135 (4)(g)(1), 339.155 (5),
Florida Statutes

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Florida Department of Transportation (Department) recognizes the value of continuous and effective community engagement. Project development and delivery life span many years, and conditions and constituencies change. Effective community engagement that spans the project life cycle reduces the likelihood of costly revisions to projects, ensures that all voices are heard, and builds trust that the Department is responsive to the needs of the community, including quality of life and economic prosperity.

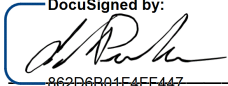
It is the policy of the Department to use every possible opportunity to engage with and involve the public that thereby leads to community-based decisions when planning, designing, constructing, and maintaining transportation facilities and services to meet the State's transportation needs. The participation of the public and community is an integral part of the transportation process and results in

- Early and continuous opportunities for public input
- Consideration of public needs and preferences
- Informed decisions through collaborative efforts
- Mutual understanding and trust between the Department and its partners

The Department will promote community involvement, engagement opportunities and information exchange activities in all functional areas using various techniques adapted to the audience, local area conditions, and project requirements.

In carrying out this policy, the Department will:

- Develop and promote effective and efficient opportunities for public engagement early and continuously in each plan or project phase;
- Emphasize a community centric approach to public engagement that incorporates the views and local preferences for key decisions;
- Rely on procedures as outlined in the [Metropolitan Planning Organization \(MPO\) Program Management Handbook, Chapter 6](#); [FDOT Public Involvement Handbook](#); [Project Development and Environment Manual, Part 1, Chapter 11](#); and the [FDOT Design Manual, Chapter 104](#);
- Promote effective communications and enhance relationships with all transportation partners, including affected residents and businesses, state agencies, statewide organizations, community leaders, and other stakeholders;
- Utilize a diverse mix of methods to engage and collaborate with the public and stakeholders;
- Use plain language to effectively communicate and ensure community understanding.
- Engage the transportation industry to ensure the inclusion of the public in transportation decision making; and
- Strengthen partnerships with all of those who are involved in the transportation process in a proactive and collaborative manner.

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