



Florida Department of Transportation

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SECRETARY

POLICY

Effective: July 17, 2026
Office: Policy Planning
Topic No.: 000-525-050-k

Reference: 23 USC Section 109 (h);
23 USC Section 128; 23 USC
Section 135; 23 CFR Section
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. 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 safety, quality of life and economic competitiveness.

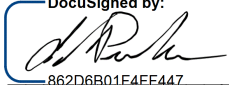
It is the policy of the Department to use every possible opportunity to engage with and involve the public that thereby leads to community-based decisions when planning, designing, constructing, and maintaining transportation facilities and services to meet the State's transportation needs. The participation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

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

The Department will promote community 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 community engagement early and continuously in each plan or project phase;
- Emphasize a community centric approach that incorporates the views and local preferences for key decisions;
- Rely on procedures as outlined in the [Metropolitan Planning Organization \(MPO\) Program Management Handbook](#); [FDOT Public Involvement Handbook](#); [Project Development and Environment Manual, Part 1, Chapter 11](#); and the [FDOT Design Manual, Chapter 104](#);
- Promote effective communication and enhance relationships with all transportation partners, including affected residents and businesses, state agencies, statewide organizations, community leaders, and other stakeholders;
- Utilize a wide range of methods to engage and collaborate with the community;
- Use plain language to effectively communicate and ensure community understanding.
- Work with the transportation industry to ensure the community is meaningfully involved 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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