

CCMPO Citizen Participation Committee – Meeting Notes
Thursday, November 20, 2003 – 2:00–4:00 PM, CCMPO Offices

Present: Kevin Biglin, Kim Colville, Christine Ford, Jane Marvin, Diane Meyerhoff (facilitator), Polly McMurtrie, Tiffany Ward, Lynn Whalen, Martha “Marti” Woodman.

History of MPOs

After introductions, Diane discussed the history of the Chittenden County Metropolitan Planning Organization (CCMPO) and Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO) in general. In 1962, the Federal Aid Highway Act, that began the Interstate Highway System, created a “continuing, comprehensive, and cooperative” (3Cs) transportation planning process in urban areas over 50,000 in population. By 1965, 224 MPOs were in existence, although they went by a variety of different names.

In 1973, the federal government required that Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO) be created in urban areas with over 50,000 in population and, importantly, provided a funding set-aside through state highway trust funds.

In the 1980s, the federal government required that MPOs undertake, at a minimum, three activities: 1) Preparation of a Long Range Transportation Plan (also known as the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)); 2) creation of a Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP); and 3) production of a Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). These documents are the foundation for all the work of the MPO.

The Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) is a long-range, twenty year plan for transportation in the County. It is updated every five years. Currently, the MTP is being revised (<http://www.ccmppo.org/activities/MTP/MTP.html>)

The Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) is an annual description of work to be accomplished by the CCMPO staff and consultants (http://www.ccmppo.org/LibraryFiles/pdf/ccmpo_fy04_upwp.pdf)

The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is a listing of transportation projects to be undertaken in a three year period. This document must list all federally-funded projects in the County and must be in compliance with the MTP (<http://www.ccmppo.org/TIP/tip.html>)

In 1983, the Chittenden County Metropolitan Planning Organization (CCMPO) was formed with membership from the “urban” communities in the County. In 1998, the CCMPO was expanded to all eighteen communities.

In 1991, the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) was enacted. This landmark legislation gave MPOs increased funding, expanded authority, required new initiatives, and forged new relationships between states and MPOs. This law also substantially increased public participation requirements. Reauthorizations of ISTEA include the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21) in 1998, and a current reauthorization dubbed, tentatively, Safe, Accountable, Flexible, and Efficient Transportation Equity Act of 2003 (SAFETEA, <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/reauthorization/>)

The CCMPO

Chittenden County is home to almost 150,000 people, representing 24 percent of the State's population. The CCMPO is the only entity of its type in the State of Vermont. It is made up of appointed members from all 18 communities and a representative from the Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans). There are six ex-officio (nonvoting) members: Chittenden County Transportation Authority (CCTA), Burlington International Airport, Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC), the Railroad Industry, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA).

The CCMPO has a \$1 million per year budget, including funds that are granted to municipalities. The CCMPO does not implement projects, rather it plans them.

Moving Forward

Committee members expressed an interest in having an acronym list available at meetings. Diane will see to that. A list is also available at: <http://www.ccmppo.org/gettingstarted/glossary.html>

The purpose of this meeting is an overview of the CCMPO for those new to the organization. Our next meeting, **December 10th from 9-11AM**, will be our organizational meeting. We will discuss the purpose of the Citizen Participation Committee and talk about procedures. We will also learn about the work of the CCMPO in the upcoming year. The January meeting is scheduled for **January 21st, 9-11AM**.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30PM.