



Chittenden County
Metropolitan Planning
Organization

Sharing the Journey to Our Transportation Future

In 1991, the Federal government introduced transportation funding legislation that emphasized the need for public involvement in the planning process. This landmark legislation, the Intermodal Surface Transportation and Efficiency Act (ISTEA), raised awareness among transportation planning agencies of the need to fully engage citizens in determining their transportation future.

Since the enactment of ISTEA, the CCMPO has developed an increasingly wide range of educational and public involvement opportunities. These include publications such as newsletters and reports; public meetings, hearings, and workshops; and an interactive Web site.



The Public Participation Committee

In early 2003, the CCMPO's ongoing effort to better inform and solicit input from the public resulted in the formation of a Public Participation Committee. This group of diverse volunteers — among them citizens, Board members, public transportation officials, bicycle advocates, and a member of the CCMPO staff — met over a three month period to set goals, discuss, and formulate recommendations for a public involvement plan. The Committee members also joined with other stakeholders in considering ways to more fully engage the public in transportation planning.

New Ways to Get Involved

The Committee's most promising ideas were presented to the CCMPO Board in a written report, the Public Involvement Plan (PIP). Recommendations included in the PIP are described here. While actual implementation of each recommendation is still to be determined, the descriptions shown here illustrate the types of initiatives that the CCMPO is considering.

As you read the descriptions, we invite you to think about the questions that accompany them. Share your answers and other ideas with us by writing to PIPIdeas@ccmpo.org

Clearly, much remains to be discussed, and — as always — we welcome your comments and encourage your participation. You'll help ensure that our public outreach efforts are effective, inclusive, and informative.





For each transportation planning project, CCMPO develops a customized Public Involvement Plan. After implementation, a committee of Chittenden County citizens evaluates the results of public involvement and advises the Board on improvements for future projects. The Committee also recommends revisions to the overall PIP on an annual basis.

What do YOU think?

- *How should committee members be selected?
Who should select them?*
- *How many members should the committee include?
Too many could make it cumbersome. Too few could prevent it from being truly representative.*
- *What criteria should the committee use in evaluating results?*
- *Consider the committee process: How should the committee decide which recommendations will be given to CCMPO staff?*

Send your comments to PIPIdeas@ccmpo.org



A central repository makes documents, publications, reports, and full Board packages available for public use. This resource could be housed in a convenient location and include printed materials and electronic media.

What do YOU think?

- *With 18 CCMPO member municipalities throughout Chittenden County, where would you locate the information center? Should the location favor communities with the largest populations?*
- *Would the center need to be staffed? If so, who would do this? Volunteers? Paid personnel?*
- *When should the information center be open? Business hours? Evenings and weekends? All the time?*

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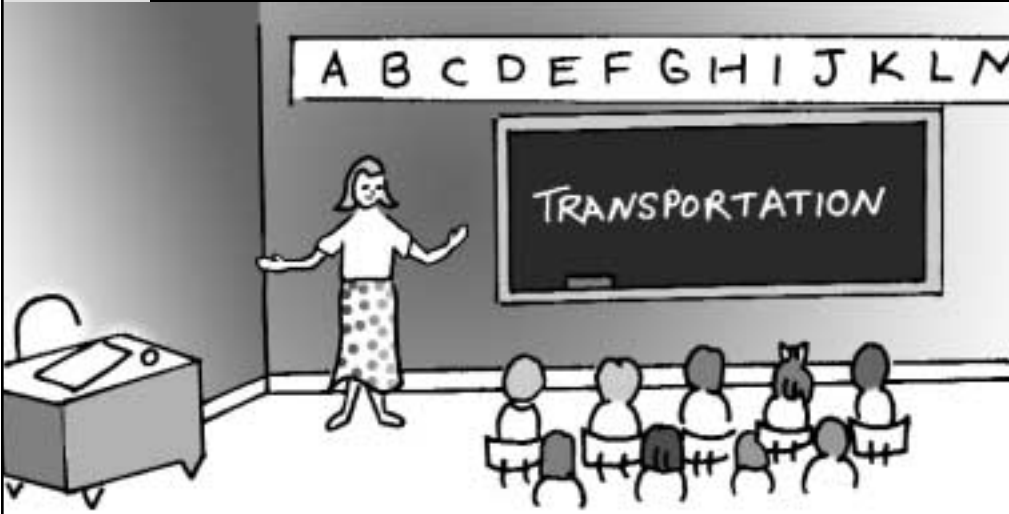


Through local newspapers, newsletters, radio, and television, feature stories highlight transportation planning activities and encourage citizen involvement. Advocates who have successfully impacted transportation projects write articles and appear on radio and television programs.

What do YOU think?

- *What should be the goals of the media features? Inform people about the issues, persuade them to take action, or both?*
- *Which audiences would you target through the various media?*

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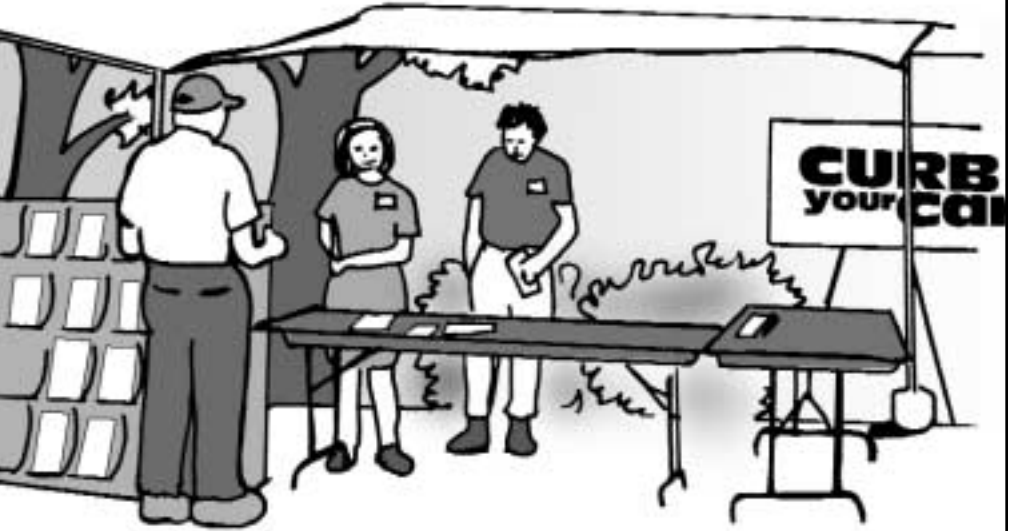


Math, science, and design teachers at the primary, secondary, and college level are assisted in integrating transportation issues into their curricula.

What do YOU think?

- *What types of assistance would the teachers receive? Training seminars? Classroom materials? Lesson plans?*
- *Who would prepare the materials or provide the training?*
- *How would you convince the teachers and school administrators to incorporate transportation into their curricula?*

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The CCMPO participates in transportation-related events such as Curb Your Car Day and the UVM Alternative Fuels Conference. A portable display makes CCMPO publications available to the public.

What do YOU think?

- *Should the CCMPO select events that attract a wide range of people (for example, the Champlain Valley Fair), events that attract people already interested in transportation issues, or both?*
- *How should the CCMPO prepare for and handle discussion of controversial issues?*

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Fostering involvement by all sectors of the community

The CCMPO is considering several strategies recommended by the Public Participation Committee to engage minority and low-income communities in transportation decision making. Among them:

- Targeted outreach through articles in Old North End (Burlington) publications, flyers in community facilities, meetings and events in low-income communities, and outreach targeted to subsidized housing.
- Partnerships with minority and low-income groups. Federal legislation allows organizations like the CCMPO to make funds available to increase the participation of these groups in the planning process.
- Adaptive and innovative approaches that overcome linguistic, institutional, cultural, economic, historical, and other barriers to effective participation.
- A database or mailing list that is periodically updated to initiate and maintain contact with community leaders and others in underserved populations.
- Outreach to schools in low-income neighborhoods.
- Publicity for events and activities through community/neighborhood groups.

Join with us

As we finalize the PIP and plan new ways to engage the public, we invite you to take advantage of existing opportunities to learn about transportation planning issues and get involved:

Learn more by visiting our Web site (www.ccmpto.org), where you will find resources such as project updates, current and archived publications, and a staff directory. You may also call the CCMPO to join our mailing list and receive printed announcements, invitations, and publications.

Get involved by expressing your views through our Web site and discussing the issues at our public meetings and hearings. When you join with us in finding solutions, you will help ensure a successful journey to our transportation future.



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This publication is available in alternative media formats.

Communities working together to meet Chittenden County's transportation needs