

# PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN

Lincoln Metropolitan Planning Organization

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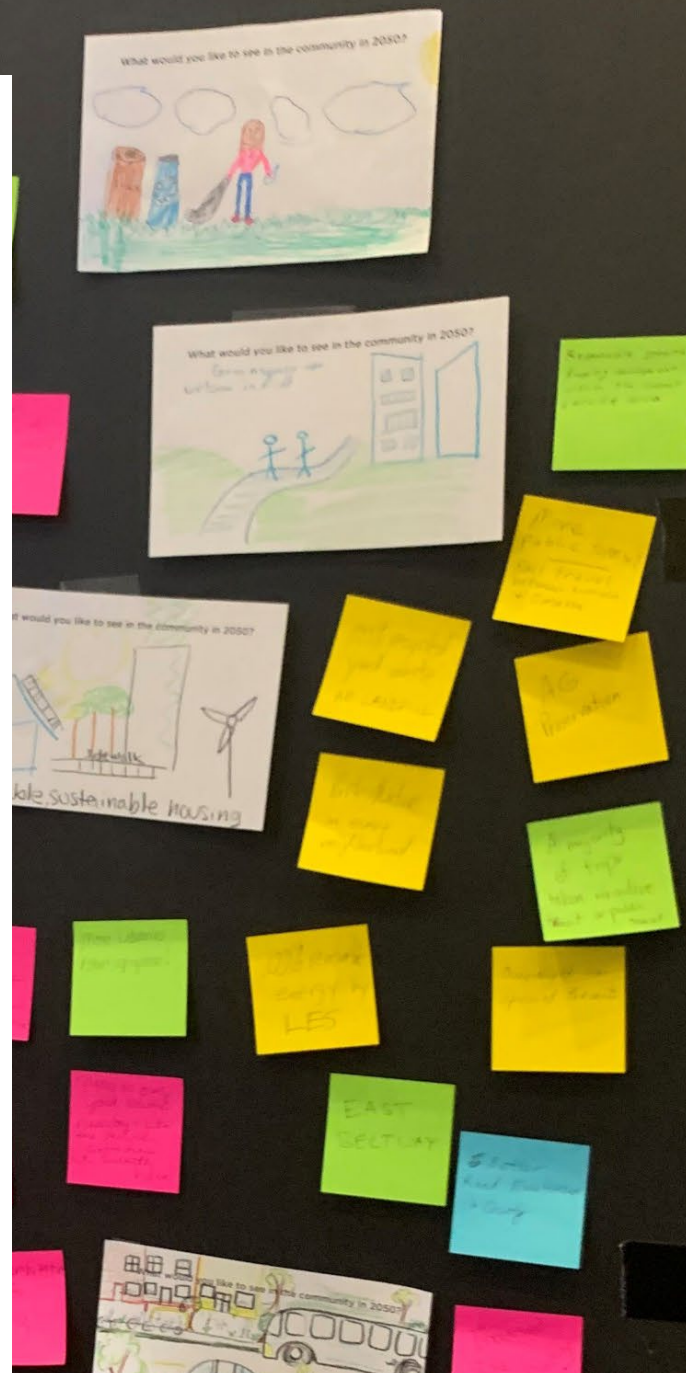
October 10, 2023

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ADOPTED [DATE]

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In Cooperation with the Federal Transit Administration and Federal Highway Administration





U.S. Department of Transportation  
**Federal Highway Administration**

**Required Credit / Disclaimer Statement**

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*Prepared by the*  
**Lincoln Metropolitan Planning Organization**

555 South 10<sup>th</sup> Street  
Lincoln, Nebraska 68508

**Lincoln MPO Members**

- City of Lincoln
- Lancaster County
- State of Nebraska
- Lincoln Airport Authority
- Railroad Transportation Safety District
- Lincoln Transportation and Utilities-StarTran
- FTA
- FHWA

# Public Participation Plan and its Purpose

The Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Lincoln-Lancaster County planning area (the Lincoln MPO) supports and encourages early and continuous public participation related to transportation systems and facilities.

The **Lincoln MPO Public Participation Plan (PPP)** describes the MPO's public participation procedures, strategies, and desired outcomes. The PPP is designed to provide reasonable opportunities for the public to be involved in the "3-C" metropolitan transportation planning process.

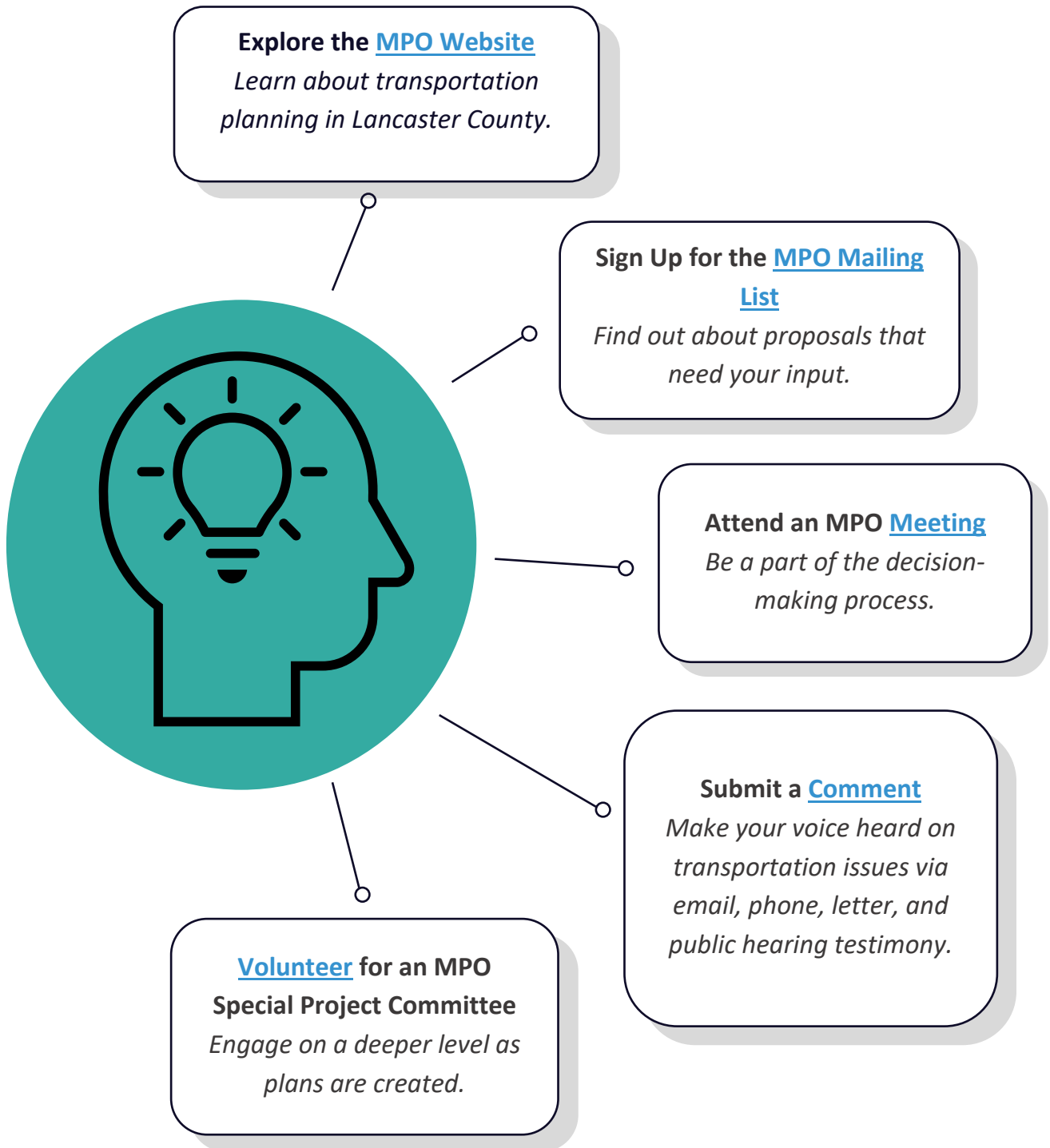
***The "3C" metropolitan transportation planning process is designed to be continuing, comprehensive, and cooperative in engagement with the public and stakeholders to establish a shared vision for the community.***

The public includes anyone who resides in, has an interest in, or does business in the Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA) of Lancaster County and is potentially affected by transportation decisions. This includes individuals, affected public agencies, representatives of public transportation employees, freight shippers, providers of freight transportation services, private providers of transportation, representatives of users of public transportation, representatives of users of pedestrian walkways and bicycle transportation, facilities, representatives of the disabled, housing and affordable housing officials, and other interested parties.

The MPO adheres to the principles of Environmental Justice and Title VI of the Civil Rights Act. A critical element for the development, approval and adoption of this plan is that it be based on compliance with the federal transportation regulations in 23 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 450.316.

## Quick Guide:

### *How Can I Get Involved in Transportation Planning?*



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**Appendix A:** Public Participation Plan Outreach List

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## List of Acronyms

<b>ADA</b>	Americans with Disabilities Act
<b>CFR</b>	Code of Federal Regulations
<b>EJ</b>	Environmental Justice
<b>FHWA</b>	Federal Highway Administration
<b>FTA</b>	Federal Transit Administration
<b>IAP2</b>	International Association of Public Participation
<b>LAA</b>	Lincoln Airport Authority
<b>LEP</b>	Limited English Proficiency
<b>L RTP</b>	Long Range Transportation Plan
<b>LTU</b>	Lincoln Transportation and Utilities
<b>MPO</b>	Metropolitan Planning Organization
<b>MPA</b>	Metropolitan Planning Area
<b>NEPA</b>	National Environmental Policy Act
<b>NDOT</b>	Nebraska Department of Transportation
<b>NRD</b>	Natural Resources District
<b>PPP</b>	Public Participation Plan
<b>RTSD</b>	Lincoln and Lancaster County Railroad Transportation Safety District
<b>STIP</b>	Statewide Transportation Improvement Program
<b>TIP</b>	Transportation Improvement Program
<b>UPWP</b>	Unified Planning Work Program
<b>USDA</b>	U.S. Department of Agriculture
<b>USDI</b>	U.S. Department of the Interior
<b>USDOT</b>	U.S. Department of Transportation



# Introduction

## About the Lincoln MPO

A Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is a transportation policy making body made up of representatives from local government and transportation agencies with authority and responsibilities in the Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA). The MPO reviews transportation issues and develops transportation plans and programs for the metropolitan area.

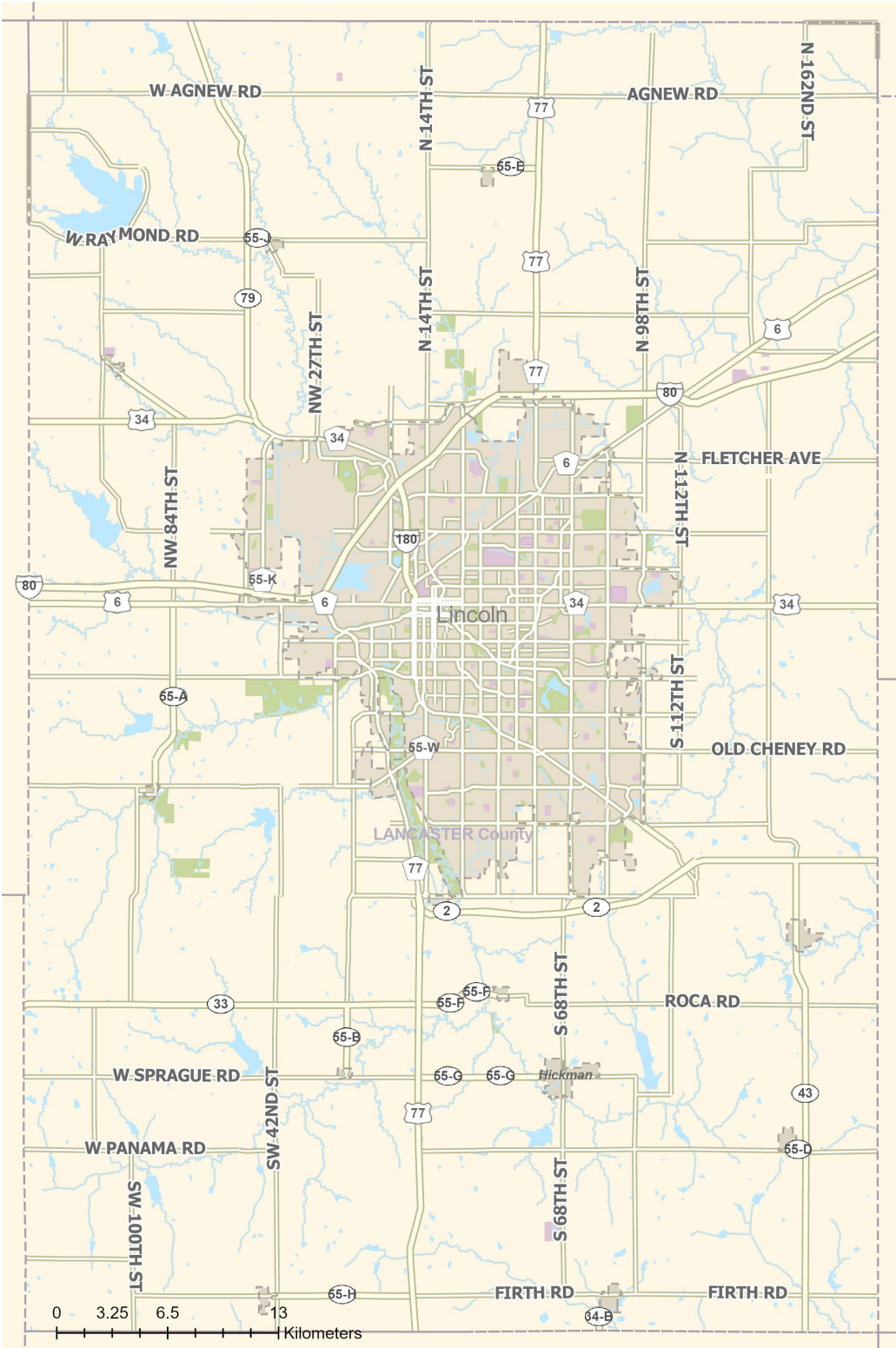
The City of Lincoln was designated as the MPO for the Lincoln Metropolitan Planning Area, which includes all of Lancaster County, by the Governor of the State of Nebraska and is the recipient of federal transportation planning funds. The Lincoln MPO was established on March 22, 1974 and is staffed by the Lincoln-Lancaster County Planning Department. The MPO coordinates the planning activities of all transportation-related agencies and adopts long range plans to guide transportation investment decisions. Examples of agencies who coordinate with the MPO include the State of Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT), various departments under the City of Lincoln, Lancaster County, Lincoln Airport Authority, Lincoln-Lancaster County Railroad Transportation Safety District (RTSD), and Lower Platte South Natural Resources District (NRD).

The primary role of the MPO includes developing a Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), a shorter range Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), a Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), an MPO Management Plan, and this Public Participation Plan (PPP). The LRTP extends out over a minimum 20-year horizon and acts as the official guide for the expenditure of federal and state transportation funds. The MPO also generates other planning documents and reports and engages in activities such as transportation data collection and reporting.

MPOs must develop and use a documented public participation plan that provides stakeholders and the public with reasonable opportunities to be involved in the metropolitan transportation planning process. The PPP is assessed periodically to evaluate the effectiveness of public participation techniques used by the MPO, incorporate new techniques, and reflect changes in local, state, and federal legislation.

This PPP serves as both a 'Policy Document' and an 'Action Plan' to guide the MPO on effective public participation. It includes goals to direct the overall public participation approach, outlines various levels of public participation that are possible, identifies public participation strategies to meet the goals, and ways that the MPO will monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the PPP.

# Lincoln Metropolitan Planning Area (Lancaster County)



## Five Core Functions of an MPO

- 1** Establish and manage a **fair and impartial setting** for effective regional decision-making in the metropolitan area.
- 2** Use data and planning methods to generate and evaluate **transportation improvement alternatives**.
- 3** Develop and update the LRTP for the metropolitan area covering a **planning horizon of at least twenty years** that fosters mobility and access for people and goods, efficient system performance and preservation, good quality of life, and contains a fiscally constrained listing of projects and strategies based upon the MPO project selection process.
- 4** Develop a short- range, four-year, fiscally constrained **program of transportation improvements** based on the LRTP; the TIP is designed to achieve the area's goals using regulation, operating, management, and financial tools.
- 5** **Involve the general public and other affected constituencies** in the essential functions listed above.

## Public Participation Plan: Assessment & Adoption Process

As the planning process for the update to the PPP was initiated, an assessment was made on the types of public participation techniques available, especially new public input techniques, to evaluate any changes deemed necessary.

The MPO contacted approximately 170 organizations and numerous individuals requesting initial feedback during a 30-day period via a survey. Appendix 'A' includes a listing of organizations who were contacted. Appendix 'B' provides a copy of the Stakeholder Notice and Public Participation Notice soliciting input in the development of this PPP. Appendix 'C' provides the survey questions and results. Appendix 'D' contains comments received and responses to them. Following the 30-day initial solicitation of input, focused discussion and outreach was conducted with the Cultural Centers of Lincoln and the public survey period was extended for an additional approximately 30 days.

In addition, the MPO Administration Committee comprised of staff from the Lincoln-Lancaster County Planning Department, Lincoln Transportation Utilities, StarTran, Lancaster County Engineering, and NDOT met at key points in the process to provide input and make a recommendation on the draft plan.

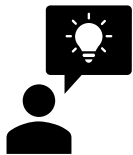
The draft PPP was made available on the MPO's website for a 45-day public comment period. Following the 45-day comment period, additional comments received will be incorporated and the final draft will be published for further comment prior to action by the MPO Technical and Officials Committees.



## Goals for this Plan

In 2021, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) conducted a four-year review of the MPO that resulted in recommendations to include the MPO's monitoring activities as part of an updated PPP to assess the effectiveness of its public participation strategies. It was also recommended to engage the topic of equity in developing the PPP. These recommendations serve as key focus areas for the PPP.

The PPP is intended to provide direction for public participation activities to be conducted by the Lincoln MPO. In all its public participation processes, the MPO will strive to meet the following goals. Each goal corresponds to a set of strategies described later in this document. In addition, metrics will describe how progress towards meeting the goals and strategies will be assessed. The goals are interconnected and are intended to support one another.



**Education.** Residents can easily understand the role of the MPO and how they can become involved.



**Information.** The MPO is responsive to community needs and provides timely, efficient, and reliable notice and information to the public.



**Engagement.** Opportunities for public participation are available at multiple levels, timeframes, and in formats that make use of evolving technology.



**Equity.** The MPO recognizes the need for an equitable civic process and community buy-in during the planning and decision-making process. Input is sought from across the community regardless of race, color, ethnicity, gender, national origin, religion, age, gender, disability, economic status, sexual orientation, language spoken, or zip code, particularly from those who are under-served by the transportation system.



**Accommodation.** The MPO takes steps to reasonably accommodate the disabled, seniors, and persons with limited English proficiency to ensure that their needs are represented in the transportation planning process.

# MPO Plans and Programs

The MPO is involved with projects that are reviewed regularly and some that are reviewed less frequently. The MPO may also be involved in special projects in conjunction with the City of Lincoln and Lancaster County. The following tables describe the efforts managed by the MPO, how often they are updated, and the public process schedules for each.

## Frequency of Plan/Program Updates

MPO PLAN/ PROGRAM	DESCRIPTION	UPDATED ANNUALLY	UPDATED REGULARLY	UPDATED WHEN NECESSARY
<b>Comprehensive Plan</b>	Lincoln and Lancaster County's shared vision for the next 20+ years. Updates are done every 5 years, adoption of a new plan every 10 years, and amendments as needed.		X	X
<b>Long-Range Transportation Plan Update (LRTP)</b>	Provides the blueprint for Lincoln and Lancaster County's transportation system out to 2050. The LRTP undergoes a major update every 5 years and is amended as needed.		X	X
<b>Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)</b>	Program of Federal, State, and local transportation project expenditures over the next four years. The TIP is amended as needed.	X		X
<b>Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)</b>	Annual budget and anticipated planning activities of the MPO and LTU-StarTran. The UPWP is amended as needed.	X		X
<b>MPO Management Plan</b>	Outlines the MPO organizational structure, responsibilities, and makeup of MPO committees.			X
<b>Public Participation Plan (PPP)</b>	Proactive process for public involvement in the MPO transportation planning process. The PPP is reviewed and updated periodically.		X	X
<b>Congestion Management Process</b>	Process to assess and improve transportation system performance.		X	X
<b>Annual Listing of Obligated Projects</b>	Listing of transportation projects for which federal funds were obligated in the preceding year.	X		
<b>Self-Certification of the MPO Process</b>	Self-review and evaluation of MPO compliance with federal metropolitan planning regulations.	X		
<b>FHWA/FTA Four-Year Certification</b>	Federal review of the MPO's transportation planning process and compliance with federal regulations that takes place every four years.		X	
<b>Annual Transportation System Report</b>	Evaluates progress of the transportation system towards meeting the goals of the LRTP.	X		
<b>Other Reports and Special Efforts</b>	Examples: Downtown Master Plan, Lincoln Bike Plan, Bicycle and Pedestrian Capital Plan, and additional alternative/active transportation efforts			X

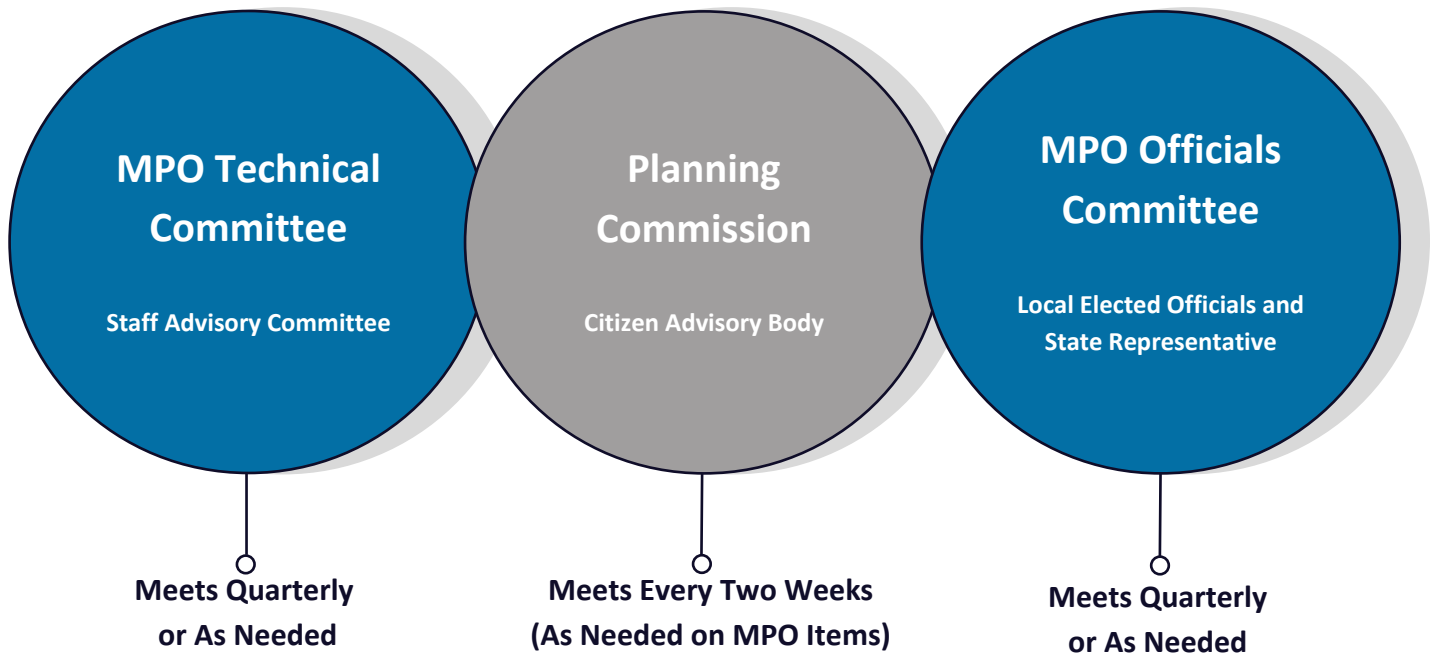


## Public Participation Processes and Schedules

MPO PLAN/ PROGRAM	REVIEWING BODIES*	PUBLIC NOTICES, EMAILS & ADVERTISEMENTS POSTED	PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD	AVAILABILITY OF MEETING AGENDAS AND MINUTES
<b>Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and Amendments</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Technical Committee</li> <li>▶ Planning Commission</li> <li>▶ Officials Committee</li> </ul>	Sent to <a href="#">MPO email list</a> , posted online and outside City Clerk’s office during the comment period and prior to public meetings; Planning Commission legal ads posted per published filing deadlines	At least 7 days prior to Technical Committee and 30 days prior to Officials Committee	Agenda available at least 7 days prior to meetings; Draft documents available at least 7 days prior to Technical Committee and continue through Officials Committee
<b>Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Technical Committee</li> <li>▶ Planning Commission</li> <li>▶ Officials Committee</li> <li>▶ Final approval by NDOT, FHWA and FTA</li> </ul>	Sent to <a href="#">MPO email list</a> , posted online and outside City Clerk’s office during the comment period and prior to public meetings; Planning Commission legal ad posted per the published filing deadlines	At least 7 days prior to Technical Committee and 30 days prior to Officials Committee	Same as above
<b>TIP Amendments</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Technical Committee</li> <li>▶ Officials Committee</li> <li>▶ Final approval by NDOT, FHWA and FTA</li> </ul>	Sent to <a href="#">MPO email list</a> , posted online and outside City Clerk’s office 7 days prior to Technical Committee	At least 7 days prior to Technical Committee and 15 days prior to Officials Committee	Same as above
<b>Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) and Amendments</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Technical Committee</li> <li>▶ Officials Committee</li> <li>▶ Final approval by NDOT, FHWA and FTA</li> </ul>	Sent to <a href="#">MPO email list</a> , posted online and outside City Clerk’s office during the comment period and prior to public meetings	At least 7 days prior to Technical Committee and 15 days prior to Officials Committee	Same as above
<b>Public Participation Plan (PPP)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Technical Committee</li> <li>▶ Officials Committee</li> <li>▶ Final approval by NDOT, FHWA and FTA</li> </ul>	Sent to <a href="#">MPO email list</a> , posted online and outside City Clerk’s office during the comment period and prior to public meetings	At least 7 days prior to Technical Committee and 45 days prior to Officials Committee adoption	Same as above
<b>Other Reports and Programs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Technical Committee</li> <li>▶ Officials Committee</li> <li>▶ Final approval by NDOT, FHWA and FTA depending on subject matter</li> </ul>	Sent to <a href="#">MPO email list</a> , posted online and outside City Clerk’s office during the comment period and prior to public meetings	At least 7 days prior to Technical Committee and 15 days prior to Officials Committee	Same as above

\* All committee meetings are governed by the Nebraska Open Meetings Act.

# Public Participation Procedures



## MPO COMMITTEES

Transportation plans and programs of the MPO go through a formal public hearing and adoption process. The process includes hearing and vote by the MPO Technical Committee, Lincoln-Lancaster County Planning Commission, and/or MPO Officials Committee depending upon the item. These committees are open to the public and follow the Nebraska Open Meetings Act. Public notices, legal ads, meeting agendas, and other materials are made available according to the deadlines in the **table on Page 6, Public Participation Processes and Schedules**. The MPO email list is notified when upcoming meeting agendas are available for the Technical and Officials Committees.

## NEBRASKA OPEN MEETINGS ACT

The [Nebraska Open Meetings Act](#) (Neb. Rev. Stat. 84-1407 to 84-1414) guarantees that every meeting of a public body shall be open to the public in order that citizens may exercise their democratic privilege of attending and speaking. Meetings of the MPO Technical and Officials Committees and the Planning Commission follow the Open Meetings Act.



## Technical Committee

The MPO Technical Committee reviews the effects of transportation plans and programs on social, economic, and environmental factors in conformance with appropriate federal regulations. The Technical Committee is comprised of representatives of professional transportation and related disciplines. The committee makes recommendations to the MPO Officials Committees on proposed programs, studies and documents. Meetings are open to the public and include time for public comment on items not on the agenda.



### **How can citizens provide input?**

- ▶ *Submit comments via email at [mpo@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:mpo@lincoln.ne.gov) or regular mail, by phone at (402) 441-7491, or in person at the meeting.*

### **What kinds of input are appropriate for this committee?**

- ▶ *Comments on regional/local transportation planning issues, priorities for transportation projects within Lancaster County, and allocation of transportation funds (major LRTP updates, LRTP and TIP amendments).*
- ▶ *Comments on measuring success for the transportation system (adoption of Federal performance measures, annual Transportation System Performance Report, and major updates to LRTP).*
- ▶ *Comments on MPO budgeting priorities and transportation planning focus areas (UPWP and amendments).*

### **When does input need to be provided?**

- ▶ *Before and/or during the Technical Committee meeting or the associated Officials Committee meeting.*

## Officials Committee

The MPO Officials Committee functions as the policy making arm of the MPO. Voting members consist of the City of Lincoln Mayor and representatives from the Lincoln City Council, Lancaster County Board, and NDOT. Voting members review and act on transportation programs and studies recommended by the Technical Committee. Non-voting members provide guidance to the Committee and represent the federal transportation agencies for the region (the FHWA and FTA) and Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee. Meetings are open to the public and include time for public comment on items not on the agenda.



### **How can citizens provide input?**

- ▶ *Submit comments via email at [mpo@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:mpo@lincoln.ne.gov) or regular mail, by phone at (402) 441-7491, or in person at the meeting.*

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- ▶ *Comments on regional/local transportation planning issues, priorities for transportation projects within Lancaster County, and allocation of transportation funds (major LRTP updates, LRTP and TIP amendments).*
- ▶ *Comments on measuring success for the transportation system (adoption of Federal performance measures, annual Transportation System Performance Report, and major updates to LRTP).*
- ▶ *Comments on MPO budgeting priorities and transportation planning focus areas (UPWP and amendments).*

### **When does input need to be provided?**

- ▶ *Before and/or during the Officials Committee meeting.*

## Planning Commission

The Lincoln/Lancaster County Planning Commission plays an important role in the MPO process. Public hearings before the Planning Commission are part of the formal adoption of the Comprehensive Plan, LRTP, and LRTP amendments. In addition, the Planning Commission reviews the annual TIP for conformance with the LRTP. After public hearings are held, the Planning Commission forwards their recommendations to the Officials Committee for approval. Planning Commission members are appointed and include representation from the urban and rural areas of the county. All hearings of the Planning Commission are televised live on the local cable television system, streamed on [LNKTV](#), and all meetings are open to the public.



### **How can citizens provide input?**

- ▶ Submit comments using the [Planning Commission comment form](#), via email at [mpo@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:mpo@lincoln.ne.gov) or regular mail, by phone at (402) 441-7491, or in person at the meeting.

### **What kinds of input are appropriate for this committee and its typical action items?**

- ▶ Comments on regional/local transportation planning issues, priorities for transportation projects within Lancaster County, and allocation of transportation funds (major LRTP updates, LRTP amendments, and annual TIP).

### **When does input to need to be provided?**

- ▶ Before and/or during the Planning Commission meeting. Written and phone comments should be submitted to staff in the Planning Department no later than 10 am on the day of the meeting in order to be received and forwarded to the Commission prior to the meeting.

## Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act

### *What is Title VI?*

Title VI refers to requirements of the federal Civil Rights Act of 1964 and other legislation that direct the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people - regardless of race, color, national origin, disability, age, gender, or income status - in programs and activities receiving federal funding, including for transportation issues. The City of Lincoln has a nondiscrimination policy and procedures, referred to as the [City of Lincoln Title VI Civil Rights Plan](#), which addresses how the MPO is integrating nondiscriminatory practices in its transportation planning, public participation, and decision-making.

### *How Does the MPO Comply?*

The MPO Accommodations Policy is to comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 and related federal and state laws and regulations which forbid discrimination against those who have disabilities. This policy will ensure all persons will have access to and the ability to participate in public meetings. Accommodations are made to Serve Persons with Disabilities in Compliance with the ADA/504. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504), the ADA, and related federal and state laws and regulations forbid discrimination against those who have disabilities. These laws require federal aid recipients and other government entities to take affirmative steps to reasonably accommodate the disabled and ensure that their needs are equitably represented in the transportation planning process.

The Lincoln MPO endeavors to ensure that its facilities, programs, services, and activities are available to those with disabilities in accordance with the ADA. The MPO also actively seeks out disabled communities and service groups to ensure their input into the MPO's programs, services, and activities. The MPO will make every effort to ensure that its facilities, programs, services, and activities are accessible to those with

## Accommodation Notice

*The City of Lincoln complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 guidelines. Ensuring the public's access to and participation in public meetings is a priority for the City of Lincoln. In the event you are in need of a reasonable accommodation in order to attend or participate in a public meeting conducted by the City of Lincoln, please contact the Lincoln Commission on Human Rights at (402) 441-7624 or the Ombudsman at (402) 441-8281 as soon as possible before the scheduled meeting date in order to make your request.*

disabilities. The MPO encourages the public to report any facility, program, service, or activity within the planning area that appears inaccessible to the disabled. Furthermore, the MPO will provide reasonable accommodation to disabled individuals who wish to participate in meetings, public participation activities, or other events or programs of the MPO, or who require special assistance to access MPO facilities, programs, services, or activities. Because providing reasonable accommodation may require outside assistance, organization, or resources, the MPO asks that requests be made as soon as possible prior to the need for accommodation.

### *City of Lincoln Title VI Documents*

- [Resolution A-85839](#): Adopting the City of Lincoln Title VI Civil Rights Plan to satisfy Federal compliance requirements related to qualification for the receipt of Federal Aid Transportation Project Funds. - Public Hearing w/action 05/10/10; Adopted as Amended, 7-0.
- [Resolution A-86115](#): Designating a replacement Title VI Coordinator for the City's Title VI Civil Rights Plan. - 11/15/10 - Adopted, 7-0.
- [Resolution A-86748](#): Designating Kimberly Taylor-Riley, Director, Commission on Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Officer as the City's Title VI Coordinator for Purposes of the City's Title VI Civil Rights Plan. 04/02/12 - Adopted, 7-0. **(Note: A replacement for Kimberly Taylor-Riley is pending. In the interim, the designee is the Human Resource director).**

***Questions, concerns, comments, or requests for accommodation should be made to the Lincoln Commission on Human Rights or the Title VI/ADA Official:***

***Lincoln Commission on Human Rights  
555 South 10th Street, Suite 304  
Lincoln, NE 68508  
Phone: (402) 441-8691  
Fax: (402) 441-7624  
[lchr@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:lchr@lincoln.ne.gov)***

***Lin Quenzer  
Ombudsman, Office of the Mayor  
Title VI / ADA Official  
555 South 10th Street, Suite 304  
Lincoln, NE 68508  
(402) 441-8281  
[lquenzer@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:lquenzer@lincoln.ne.gov)***

## Limited English Proficiency

Per Presidential Executive Order 13166, all recipients of Federal-aid are required to take reasonable steps to ensure meaningful access to their programs and activities by persons with Limited English Proficiency (LEP). Individuals who do not speak English as their primary language and who have a limited ability to read, speak, write, or understand English are to be included in the MPO transportation planning process. It is the policy of the City of Lincoln and MPO to take reasonable steps to ensure meaningful access to all programs and activities by LEP persons.

The LEP Plan for the MPO was coordinated with the City of Lincoln. The MPO is located in the City of Lincoln local government structure and the MPO determined it would be best to have a common LEP policy and procedures to ensure adequate outreach to all Lincoln residents. The [City of Lincoln Title VI Limited English Proficiency Program Plan](#) (Resolution A-87687) was adopted on December 9, 2013.

While designed to be a flexible and fact-dependent standard, the starting point of the LEP Plan is an individualized assessment that balances the following four factors:

- 1) The number or proportion of LEP persons eligible to be served or likely to be encountered by the MPO's programs, services or activities;**
- 2) The frequency with which LEP individuals come in contact with these programs, services or activities;**
- 3) The nature and importance of the program, service, or activity to people's lives; and**
- 4) The resources available to assist LEP persons.**

It is the MPO's policy that persons not proficient in English will be able to obtain executive summaries of public engagement pieces on key planning activities, such as brochures or newsletters, in frequently used languages. The MPO takes reasonable steps to ensure meaningful access to all programs and activities by LEP persons. During the long range transportation planning process and other processes as resources allow, information is provided in languages other than English when feasible to reach the affected public or interested parties. Translators, including sign language, are also considered and made available at select locations and times. The MPO does not intend that the LEP Plan exclude anyone requiring language assistance and will attempt to accommodate all requests.

## Environmental Justice

Efforts are made to address Presidential Executive Order 12898, which directs every federal agency to make Environmental Justice (EJ) part of their mission by identifying and addressing disproportionately high and adverse effects of Federal projects on the health or environment of minority and low-income populations. In 2012, FHWA issued Order 6640.23 establishing policies and procedures for FHWA to use in complying with Executive Order 12898.

The MPO will strive to accomplish this by involving the potentially affected public through its public outreach. This outreach consists of developing partnerships with and enhancing the participation by groups and individuals of traditionally underserved communities. Efforts will be made to identify and include the communities who may be considered underserved. These communities include minorities, transit dependent citizens, low-income persons, the elderly, and persons with disabilities.

Proposed projects in the LRTP are screened to determine if they have the potential to disproportionately affect minority or low-income populations. This review is based on the location and nature of the projects and potential beneficial or adverse effects to inform prioritization of projects in the LRTP. An EJ analysis would be completed for projects using federal funds as part of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review process. Additional public outreach and mitigation would also be identified during the environmental review process for that project (refer to later section titled, **Public Involvement During Project Engineering, Design and Construction**).

## State Coordination

The MPO works closely with the State of Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) to ensure that City-County projects are coordinated with State processes and projects. The Lincoln MPO meets regularly with NDOT for their input in the TIP, LRTP and other projects. Major projects that use federal funds must be reviewed and accepted by the NDOT Local Projects Division Project Coordinator.

NDOT representatives are members of both the MPO Officials Committee and Technical Committee. NDOT has two voting members on the Technical Committee. The NDOT director is also a voting member of the Officials Committee. NDOT serves on the following MPO subcommittees: Multi-Modal Committee, System Management and Operations Committee, Administration Committee, and Programming and Funding Committee.

Development and maintenance of the LRTP includes state involvement and affected state projects. The State has a vital role in developing Lincoln MPO's vision for the future, which includes improving regional and state roadways throughout the metropolitan area. The TIP includes both local and State projects.

The Lincoln TIP is referenced in the Statewide TIP (STIP) and adopted after a series of State public involvement activities. The NDOT Public Involvement Program includes a public participation process that allows the public an opportunity to speak to transportation issues at open meetings held throughout the state. The current Public Involvement Program is located on the [NDOT website](#). The draft STIP is posted on the NDOT website and made available at the eight district offices no later than mid-August each year for a minimum of 15 days. All public comments and responses are documented. At the end of the comment period, approximately September 1<sup>st</sup>, the STIP is submitted to FHWA and FTA for approval.

## **Indian Tribal Lands**

The MPO will involve the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska in the development of plans and programs as their tribal headquarters are in Lincoln. The Lincoln Indian Center is identified as a primary stakeholder and the Center's leadership is involved in the MPO planning process.

## **Federal Lands**

The MPO will appropriately involve the Federal land management agencies in the development of the LRTP and TIP documents. Land management agencies on the MPO's stakeholder list include Federal entities such as the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service, the U.S. Department of the Interior (USDI) Bureau of Reclamation, the USDI National Park Service, and the USDI Fish and Wildlife Service, as well as State and local entities responsible for parks, forests, and other public lands. Federal land management agencies often delegate decisions to their regional and local divisions. NDOT is involved in the Lincoln MPO's planning process and through this relationship can assist with federal coordination.



# Public Involvement During Project Engineering, Design and Construction

In addition to outreach at the transportation planning level, outreach at the project level is conducted by the agency responsible for managing the project. The nature of the outreach and timing will depend upon the project needs and funding source. Involvement and level of public participation will be dependent upon the complexity and business or neighborhood sensitivity of a particular project. Project-level outreach may take place before or after a project is included in an MPO document, or both. The public benefits from early notification and opportunity to provide input, particularly those residents and users most directly affected by a project.

In general, advance notice of project construction will be given to adjacent and abutting property owners by the managing agency. The notice will include approximate construction period, any major changes in the facility design, and dates, time, and location of any public meetings to be held.

Public outreach typically involves hosting public meetings and open houses where the project scope and the details of the design can be viewed. These are held at times and locations convenient for the public and in locations in or near the project area. Information is usually presented on tables or exhibits. This provides an opportunity for involvement through the exhibits as well as attendance by the MPO and other interested departments and agencies to hear discussion on the merits of the project. Comments and concerns can be provided by the public using comment sheets, verbally, or other means.

For large projects, a website is often maintained to provide detailed information through visualization and interactive techniques to enhance understanding of transportation issues and decisions. Interactive web sites and e-mail links provide an opportunity for formal comments. Project newsletters and draft documents under review also provide an opportunity for the public to see projects progress over time. Projects involving a major investment of transportation resources may offer additional opportunities for public involvement through such techniques as partnering, value-engineering workshops or mediation.

Projects may need to be programmed into the managing agency's capital improvements program with associated public hearings and approval by elected or appointed bodies, in addition to the public processes for the MPO's LRTP and TIP. Information is provided on the next page for how to connect with specific transportation organizations in Lincoln and Lancaster County to stay informed about their upcoming projects and public meetings.



## Connect with Transportation Agencies in Lancaster County



- ▶ [LTU Projects](#)
- ▶ Social Media: [Facebook @LTULincoln](#) ; [“X” @LTULNK](#) ; [Instagram](#)
- ▶ [StarTran Advisory Board Meetings](#)
- ▶ Download the RideLNK app to get live updates in real time on the location of your bus.
- ▶ [Advisory Committee on Transportation](#)



- ▶ [Lancaster County Homepage and Upcoming Events](#)
- ▶ [County Engineer Homepage](#)
- ▶ Social Media: [Facebook](#) ; [“X” @LanCoEng](#)
- ▶ [Notify Me](#) (includes option for One & Six-Year Road & Bridge Improvement Program meetings)

### Lincoln Complete Streets

- ▶ [Complete Streets Homepage](#)



- ▶ [Parks and Recreation Homepage](#)
- ▶ [Calendar](#)
- ▶ Social Media: [Facebook](#) ; [Instagram](#) ; [“X” @LnkParksRec](#)
- ▶ [Trails and Trail Projects](#)
- ▶ [Report An Issue](#)



- ▶ [RTSD Homepage](#)
- ▶ [RTSD Board Meetings](#)



- ▶ [NDOT Homepage](#)
- ▶ NDOT Social Media: [Facebook](#) ; [“X” @NebraskaDOT](#) ; [Instagram](#) ; [Linkedin](#)
- ▶ [News, Media, and Upcoming Events](#)
- ▶ [Sign Up for Email Updates](#)
- ▶ [Current and Future Projects](#)
- ▶ [NDOT Transit and Social Media](#)




- ▶ [LAA Homepage](#)
- ▶ Social Media: [Facebook](#) ; [“X” @LNKairport](#) ; [Instagram](#) ; [Linkedin](#)
- ▶ [Events](#)
- ▶ [In the News](#)
- ▶ [Airport Improvements Homepage](#)

# Public Participation Strategies

## Spectrum of Public Participation

Public participation can happen in a variety of ways that allow for different roles and levels of contribution within a public process. The International Association of Public Participation (IAP2) Spectrum of Public Participation is an internationally recognized model that describes these roles as follows: Inform, Consult, Involve, Collaborate, and Empower. They range from simply providing objective information to empowering communities to take charge of decisions that affect them. The level of impact that can be made on a decision by the public increases as a project moves through the spectrum.

INCREASING IMPACT ON THE DECISION 					
	<b>INFORM</b>	<b>CONSULT</b>	<b>INVOLVE</b>	<b>COLLABORATE</b>	<b>EMPOWER</b>
<b>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION GOAL</b>	To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions.	To obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decisions.	To work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered.	To partner with the public in each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution.	To place final decision making in the hands of the public.
<b>PROMISE TO THE PUBLIC</b>	We will keep you informed.	We will keep you informed, listen to and acknowledge concerns and aspirations, and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will work with you to ensure that your concerns and aspirations are directly reflected in the alternatives developed and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will look to you for advice and innovation in formulating solutions and incorporate your advice and recommendations into the decisions to the maximum extent possible.	We will implement what you decide.

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The MPO will strive to incorporate higher-level public participation processes whenever possible. This will result in products that are more meaningful to the public and other transportation stakeholders. The public participation strategies described in the next section correspond to various levels on the spectrum.

## Public Participation Strategies

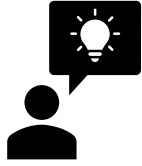
This section contains a list of strategies adopted by the MPO for effective public participation, organized by the five goals (Education, Information, Engagement, Equity, and Accommodation). These strategies include those that assist in making participation easy and convenient for the public through a variety of ways to participate and provide input.

Public participation strategies will vary depending upon the type of activity, plan or program. These strategies will be reviewed and modified as needed and additional strategies that best increase outreach, information, education, and involvement will continue to be used. In addition, evolving technologies on aspects such as virtual public involvement can be incorporated as they become available. The use of public participation strategies should be intentional, meaning that it serves a clear purpose for both the public and the MPO.

Monitoring the effectiveness of the PPP is a focus of this plan. For many of the strategies, a means of measurement (metric) and target, where applicable, has been identified. The **Evaluation and Monitoring** section at the end of the plan contains a detailed description of monitoring activities that the MPO will conduct. Monitoring efforts tie into new biennial reporting based on the proposed metrics and targets.



**The ease and convenience of participation will increase the quality and amount of public involvement.**



## *Education Goal*

For a proactive participation process and valuable input to occur, educating the public about the MPO and transportation planning process is of utmost importance. The strategies listed under this section are meant to ensure that the public is educated about MPO processes and aware of critical transportation topics. The Education goal will support all other goals and strategies. At key points in the process, it is beneficial to combine education with outreach to achieve the best results.

### **Strategies:**

- ▶ **Incorporate educational information about the MPO and how the public can become involved as part of published materials and presentations.**
- ▶ **Attend events such as Streets Alive, Lincoln Unites! and the My City Academy to increase the MPO's profile and educate the public about its role.**
- ▶ **Include digestible information on transportation topics affecting the community in the MPO newsletter (see strategy under the Information Goal).**
- ▶ **Prominently display information about transportation projects completed during the previous year. This information is contained in the TIP but could be highlighted in the MPO Newsletter or Annual Transportation System Performance Report. Projects completed using MPO funds could also be noted.**
- ▶ **Advertise that staff are available to speak with community groups. Proactively reach out to key groups that may have an interest such as the Chamber of Commerce and homebuilder, realty, and development groups.**
- ▶ **Explore the possibility of re-naming the MPO to better convey its function to the public.**



## *Information Goal*

Information is the key to decision-making. This includes information about the decision-making process, how public input can be provided, the kinds of input appropriate to each forum, and timing of when input must be provided. Information is available about the various programs, plans, and

studies undertaken by the MPO for the public. Availability of information, which must also be complete, timely and understandable, is critical in the transportation planning process.

The MPO utilizes a variety of tools to inform the public about its mission and programs. Information on current and ongoing projects and upcoming meeting agendas can be found on the MPO website and is distributed to various community locations such as libraries and to the MPO email list. Published information incorporates images, photos, graphics, and other means of visually describing transportation issues and alternatives to promote public understanding. These approaches are consistent with the federal requirement to incorporate visualization of transportation material into public involvement.

### **Strategies:**

- ▶ **Maintain the MPO website with information on MPO activities, meetings (including notices, agendas, and minutes), plans and programs, and draft documents under review.**
- ▶ **Avoid jargon and legalese as much as possible.**
- ▶ **Publish legal ads for public hearing items as required by law.**
- ▶ **Make available to the public the record of hearings and other public meetings at the earliest opportunity, no later than prior to the next meeting for the Technical and Officials Committees.**
- ▶ **Provide adequate public notice of public participation activities and allow time for public review and comment at key decision points, including reasonable opportunity to comment on the proposed LRTP and TIP.**
- ▶ **Make use of media outreach such as newspaper ads, press releases and social media for MPO work items such as major updates to the LRTP, PPP, special studies and plans.**
- ▶ **Use project-specific websites for special MPO work items.**
- ▶ **Incorporate substantive comments into the draft plan or program whenever possible.**
- ▶ **Include a summary, analysis, and report on the disposition of comments in the final document.**
- ▶ **Maintain an email list of interested stakeholders. The email list is used to notify recipients of upcoming meeting agendas, events, and work efforts.**
- ▶ **Publish the Annual Transportation System Performance Report, which assesses progress towards meeting the performance measures in the LRTP.**
- ▶ **Display survey results on the MPO website and include in the final document.**

- ▶ **Use visual aids such as posters, handouts, and brochures. Make these materials available at public meetings, on the MPO website, at the Lincoln/Lancaster County Planning Department, City libraries, and other City offices and locations as available.**
- ▶ **Publish a report every two years with results of monitoring activities for the PPP.**
- ▶ **Publish a twice-yearly newsletter with information on upcoming MPO and City/County transportation-related events, educational content, and the PPP monitoring report.**
- ▶ **Explore partnerships with City, County and State organizations to share information about their transportation efforts and vice versa.**



### *Engagement Goal*

Providing for meaningful public input is an important procedure and a requirement under the federal regulations. The public has the option of recording their opinions, whether in support or opposition, in various ways and at various times of the planning process. All Officials and Technical Committee meetings are governed by the Open Meetings Act, are open to the public and will be held at times and places generally convenient to the committee membership and the public. Open houses, workshops, and special information meetings are held at various times and locations to meet the needs of the public. MPO staff are responsible for scheduling and coordinating meetings and other engagement tools and disseminating information about engagement opportunities.

#### **Strategies:**

- ▶ **Include an initial listening and learning phase with major plan updates to allow for early input before a plan is drafted, including major updates to the PPP.**
- ▶ **Reserve time for public comments prior to the close of a hearing and at the end of MPO Technical and Officials Committee meetings on matters not on the agenda.**
- ▶ **If the final draft of any transportation plan differs significantly from the one available for public comment, provide additional opportunity for public comment.**
- ▶ **Request feedback on the public participation process and materials at the same time as feedback on a plan or proposal. Use the feedback to identify improvements to the PPP.**
- ▶ **Hold meetings at convenient and accessible locations and times that are reasonably served by public transportation, paying particular attention to where targeted populations congregate and live.**

- ▶ Use a hybrid virtual/in-person approach to public outreach to provide multiple and convenient ways to provide input. Examples of virtual outreach include live and recorded virtual meetings, open houses and presentations, and online tools such as surveys and interactive commenting.
- ▶ Use a variety of meeting formats customized to project needs such as open houses, focus groups, and workshops.
- ▶ Use visualization tools to create more informative content in meeting displays, surveys, and other materials. This can include photos, storymaps, mapping overlays, charts and graphs, renderings, and illustrations.
- ▶ Use social media to reach broad audiences. This will likely involve use of the City of Lincoln account and other departments' accounts depending on the topic.
- ▶ Explore the ability to notify the public via text message.
- ▶ When possible, hold meetings as joint endeavors in collaboration with other public agencies and non-governmental organizations to assist with the sharing of costs and to achieve better promotion and attendance.
- ▶ Internally review the PPP no less than every 5 years in coordination with the Long Range Transportation Plan if possible. Update the plan as needed based on the evaluation and monitoring activities described herein.



### *Equity Goal*

A goal of the MPO's outreach activities is to provide all citizens an equal opportunity to participate. Using the strategies below, the MPO will seek out and consider the needs of those traditionally underserved by existing transportation systems such as low income and minority households who may face unique challenges accessing employment and other services. In addition, seniors and New Americans are key groups needing support through transportation.

#### **Strategies:**

- ▶ **Apply an 'equity lens' to consider questions such as:**
  - *What is the policy, plan, or proposal being analyzed, and what does it seek to accomplish?*
  - *What does the available data tell us about this issue?*
  - *What data or persons (individuals or groups) are missing from the analysis?*
  - *What are potential unintended consequences (social, economic, health, mobility, environmental, or other)?*



- *Who (individuals or groups) could be impacted (benefit or burdened) by the issues related to the policy, plan, or proposal?*
- *Are there disproportionate impacts to identities that have been and/or are currently marginalized?*
- *What will/did we do to address disproportionate burdens?*

- ▶ **Use a mix of public participation strategies to maximize the diversity of participation.**
- ▶ **Track and report on the location of commenters and other standardized demographic information collected on a voluntary basis to identify gaps where more outreach is needed. Use these questions whenever possible.**
- ▶ **Use intention when conducting focused outreach to disadvantaged and underrepresented communities. Ensure that their time is used effectively based on their topics of concern and tailor outreach accordingly.**
- ▶ **Hold focused community involvement opportunities to reach key populations located in those communities based on demographic mapping. This could include in-person meetings, interviews, and advertisements.**
- ▶ **Use equity-related map layers for alternatives analysis and decision-making (opportunity mapping) such as the LRTP Underserved and Overburdened analysis, federal EJ Screen, Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool, and/or U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) Transportation Disadvantaged census tracts.**
- ▶ **Based on the mapping described above, create and maintain an inventory of community groups working with or representing underserved populations.**
- ▶ **Explore ongoing partnerships with entities that represent diverse populations. This may include identifying leaders of these groups who can extend MPO outreach to obtain greater input from their constituents.**
- ▶ **Create an equity dashboard of transportation-related datasets disaggregated by race, age and senior residents, and other socioeconomic indicators. This could include documentation of past transportation harms and current inequities.**
- ▶ **Work through human service providers, program managers and One Lincoln to distribute multi-lingual transportation information and reach stakeholders.**
- ▶ **Explore the ability to provide compensation to focus groups to acknowledge their time and expertise providing feedback. According to FHWA, the MPO would need to consider the following to establish that compensation is necessary if looking to use the MPO's federal planning grant for compensation:**
  - *Has there been a history of needing incentives to involve/engage the public?*
  - *What is the overall budget for the task? The total used on the incentives should be a small*



*subset of the overall task budget. Factors such as cost of living and amount of time needed should also be considered in determining a reasonable incentive amount.*

- *Provide examples where others have used such incentives as a reference point.*



### *Accommodation Goal*

As discussed previously, the MPO takes reasonable steps to ensure meaningful access to programs and activities by all persons. The MPO makes reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities and limited English proficiency. To this end, the MPO will put into practice a number of strategies.

#### **Strategies:**

- ▶ **Cultivate a list of vendors for interpretation and translation needs.**
- ▶ **Provide materials in languages other than English as resources allow. Accommodate reasonable requests for language assistance. At a minimum, when conducting major plan updates, provide an offer for translation services in the outreach materials translated into the top LEP languages of the community. When feasible, provide translated vital documents and/or executive summaries.**
- ▶ **Explore the ability to provide surveys in languages other than English and accommodations for the visually or hearing impaired.**
- ▶ **Create an accommodation checklist for in-person meeting locations and virtual events.**
- ▶ **Review the MPO website for potential web accessibility improvements.**
- ▶ **Make materials available in hardcopy form, as requested.**

# Evaluation and Monitoring

It is critical to the success of this public participation plan to assess its effectiveness on an ongoing basis. To determine the effectiveness of the public involvement tools, evaluation and comparison to established performance targets is proposed.

The strategies described above, taken together, define a successful program for the Lincoln MPO. Monitoring and analysis informs progress towards meeting the goals of the plan. Federal regulation also requires that MPOs periodically evaluate the effectiveness of the PPP and processes. Monitoring and continuous evaluation ultimately allows the MPO to revisit its strategies, highlight improvements needed, and modify its methods accordingly.

Monitoring activities will be done on a biennial basis and more often as feasible based upon the indicators, metrics, and targets below. Reporting will be done on a biennial basis, potentially to be distributed with the MPO newsletter. Results will be used to inform future revisions to the PPP and MPO processes in general.

## Key Tracking Indicators and Metrics

### Education

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- ▶ Publish MPO newsletter twice annually and post on the MPO website; include transportation-related educational content in all newsletters.
- ▶ Number of public events attended during the year.

### Information

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- ▶ Number of MPO publications during the year.
- ▶ Post draft MPO committee meeting minutes with the agenda of the following meeting.
- ▶ Post legal advertisements as required by law.
- ▶ Maintain the MPO email list and make immediate corrections when items are undeliverable or staff is notified of change; aim for a 2% increase in members per year.
- ▶ Include a summary report of substantive comments received in all adopted MPO plans and programs.

### Engagement

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- ▶ Request feedback on public participation methods at all opportunities.
- ▶ Publish a PPP monitoring report every 2 years and post on the MPO website.

- ▶ Review and/or update the PPP in conjunction with each LRTP update; update and incorporate improvement strategies from public participation evaluations/status report.
- ▶ At least 60% of meeting attendees or contacted persons complete a comment/feedback form/survey.
- ▶ Number of social media postings, followers, likes and comments.
- ▶ Number of participants and verbal comments received at open forum discussions, public hearings and at any other opportunities for public interaction.
- ▶ Track the types of tools and technologies employed at public outreach events and meetings.
- ▶ Track the meeting formats used.
- ▶ Create a project-specific website for all special MPO work efforts; aim for an increase in website hits project over project.
- ▶ Keep a written and visual record of all advertisements, legal notices, newspaper notices, press conferences, press releases, website publications, brochures, and visual aids for any MPO project.
- ▶ Document all MPO public outreach events and meetings, date, location, number of participants, publications and brochures, and number of copies distributed.

## **Equity**

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- ▶ Log whether a meeting was held in an area identified in the LRTP as having a High or Moderate to High proportion of underserved and overburdened communities.
- ▶ Proactively include low-income and minority representation in focus groups.
- ▶ Collect standardized demographic information at opportunities such as public meetings and through surveys. Aim for representation that reflects the demographics of the MPA, community or neighborhood as a whole, depending upon the geographic application of the plan or program.
- ▶ Create and maintain a list of organizations representing minority and underrepresented communities.
- ▶ Create an equity dashboard and enhance it with data over time.
- ▶ Include additional equity layer(s) on the TIP map.

## **Accommodation**

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- ▶ Create and maintain a translation vendor list.
- ▶ For all major plan update efforts, at a minimum, provide an offer for translation services in the outreach materials translated into the top LEP languages of the community.
- ▶ Create and use an accessibility checklist for all workshops, open houses, and other public outreach events, both virtual and in-person.
- ▶ Track improvements to the MPO website that make content more accessible.
- ▶ Make materials available in hardcopy form, as requested.



Metropolitan Planning Organization  
555 S. 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 213  
Lincoln, NE 68508  
(402) 441-7491  
[planning.lincoln.ne.gov/mpo](http://planning.lincoln.ne.gov/mpo)

# Appendix A: Public Participation Plan Outreach List

## Academic Institutions

Lincoln Public Schools  
Other Public School Districts  
University of Nebraska-Lincoln  
Innovation Campus  
Nebraska Wesleyan University  
Union College  
Southeast Community College

## Alternative Transportation & Transit

Nebraska Department of Transportation –  
Transit Programs  
Pedestrian/Bicycle Advisory Committee  
Bike/Walk Nebraska  
Great Plains Trail Network  
Bicyclincoln  
Great Plains Cycling Club  
Trails Have Our Respect  
Lincoln Bike Kitchen  
Lincoln Track Club  
Citizens for Improved Transit

## Community Centers

Clyde Malone Community Center  
Indian Center, Inc.  
Asian Community and Cultural Center  
El Centro de las Américas  
Good Neighbor Community Center

## Developers & Business Groups

Lincoln Chamber of Commerce  
Lincoln Partnership for Economic Development  
Southeast Nebraska Development District  
Lincoln Haymarket Development Corporation  
Lincoln Independent Business Association  
Downtown Lincoln Association  
Realtors Association of Lincoln

Lincoln Convention and Visitors Bureau  
Planning Dept. Interested Persons List

## Environmental Organizations

Resilient Lincoln  
Friends of Wilderness Park  
Nebraska Association of Resource Districts  
Nebraska Environmental Trust  
Lincoln Green by Design  
Prairie Pines

## Freight Services & Shippers

Nebraska Trucking Association  
B&R Stores  
BNSF Railway  
Crete Carrier Corp  
Sysco Lincoln  
Lincoln Industries  
Distribution Inc.  
Universal Pure  
Lincoln Trucking  
Gana Trucking & Excavating Inc.  
U.S. Xpress  
NEBCO

## Government Agencies & Boards

Lincoln City Council  
Lancaster County Board  
Lincoln-Lancaster County Planning Commission  
Lincoln Aging Partners  
Lincoln-Lancaster County Planning Department  
Urban Development Department  
Lincoln Transportation and Utilities Department  
StarTran Advisory Board  
Lincoln-Lancaster County Railroad  
Transportation Safety District  
Lancaster County Engineering  
Lincoln Parks and Recreation Department

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board  
Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department  
Lincoln Airport Authority  
Lower Platte South Natural Resource District  
Lincoln Electric System  
Lancaster County Cities and Villages  
Lincoln Aging Partners & Senior Centers  
One Lincoln  
Mayor's Multicultural Advisory Committee  
Urban Design Committee  
Nebraska Capitol Environs Commission  
Historic Preservation Commission  
Ponca Tribe of Nebraska  
Nebraska Department of Transportation  
Nebraska Department of Economic  
Development  
Nebraska Game and Parks Commission  
Federal Highway Administration  
Federal Transit Administration  
Nebraska Forest Service  
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation  
U.S. Forest Service  
National Park Service  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Welcoming Community Advisory Group

### **Healthy Living**

Mosaic  
Region V Systems  
Lancaster County Medical Society  
BryanLGH Health System  
St. Elizabeth Regional Medical Center  
Tabitha  
Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital  
Partnership for a Healthy Lincoln

### **Housing & Neighborhood Interests**

Mayor's Neighborhood Roundtable  
Neighborhood Organizations and Homeowners  
Associations

Home Builders Association of Lincoln  
Lincoln Housing Authority  
NeighborWorks of Lincoln  
Family Service Association of Lincoln  
Nebraska Housing Resource  
Habitat for Humanity  
Community Development Resource

### **Nonprofits & Advocacy Groups**

Lincoln Citizens Transportation Coalition  
Disability Rights Nebraska  
The Bay  
The HUB  
Preservation Association of Lincoln  
Catholic Social Services  
Center for People in Need  
Nebraska Commission for the Blind and Visually  
Impaired  
League of Human Dignity  
League of Women Voters  
Lincoln Commission on Human Rights  
Lincoln Seniors Foundation  
Human Services Federation  
Lincoln Commission on Women and Gender  
Islamic Foundation of Lincoln  
Lincoln Action Program  
Lincoln Literacy  
Nebraska Appleseed  
YMCA  
YWCA  
New Americans Task Force  
Lutheran Family Services  
People's City Mission  
CenterPointe  
Matt Talbot Kitchen  
Fresh Start  
Latino American Commission  
Stronger Safer Neighborhoods

# Appendix B: Outreach Materials

## Solicitation of Input – Brochure



The City of Lincoln is the federally recognized Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Lincoln Metropolitan Area serving Lincoln and Lancaster County to carry out transportation planning and decision-making. **The MPO coordinates the planning activities of transportation-related agencies and adopts long range plans to guide transportation investment decisions.**

The MPO Public Participation Plan (PPP) is a proactive process which seeks to provide complete information, timely public notice, and public access to key decisions and include the early and continuous involvement of the public in the development of transportation plans and programs. The current adopted PPP was last updated in 2014.

An update is proposed in order to revisit the public participation strategies used by the MPO in its planning, decision-making, and policy development processes. The update would reflect current practices and better incorporate the use of tools such as virtual public involvement, visualization techniques, and monitoring. **The PPP will utilize an equitable civic process to establish community-buy in and seek public input regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, country of origin, religion, age, economic status, or zip code.**

### WHY DEVELOP AN UPDATED PLAN?



MPOs must develop and use a documented public participation plan that provides stakeholders and the public with reasonable opportunities to be involved in the metropolitan transportation planning process. The PPP is assessed periodically to evaluate the effectiveness of public participation techniques used by the MPO, incorporate new techniques, and reflect changes in local, state, and federal legislation.



### HOW TO GET INVOLVED

The MPO is holding a 30-day solicitation period to ask for input on how the PPP could be improved. Visit the project website to:

- Share your comments on ways the MPO can be more responsive to the community.
- Share your input through a short survey.
- Provide your contact information to receive future updates on this and other MPO efforts.

Please visit us at: [planning.lincoln.ne.gov/mpo/public-participation-plan-update](http://planning.lincoln.ne.gov/mpo/public-participation-plan-update)





## Solicitation of Input – Press Release

Home / **Residents Invited to Comment on Public Participation Plan**

# Residents Invited to Comment on Public Participation Plan

Published on June 30, 2023

Residents are invited to comment on Public Participation Plan updates being considered by the Lincoln Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). The deadline to comment is July 31. To complete the survey and comment form, visit [planning.lincoln.ne.gov/mpo/public-participation-plan-update](https://planning.lincoln.ne.gov/mpo/public-participation-plan-update). The webpage includes details on the anticipated process and schedule for the update.

The MPO is updating its participation plan to re-evaluate the effectiveness of its public participation techniques and consider new methods of public involvement. The MPO is responsible for carrying out transportation planning and decision-making in Lincoln and Lancaster County.

For more information, contact Rachel Christopher, Lincoln MPO, at [rchristopher@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:rchristopher@lincoln.ne.gov) or 402-441-7603. For more information about the MPO, visit [planning.lincoln.ne.gov/mpo](https://planning.lincoln.ne.gov/mpo).

Tagged as:

**Planning**

## Solicitation of Input – Social Media Posts

### Facebook (July 6, 2023)

The screenshot shows the Facebook profile of the City of Lincoln Government. The post, made 45 minutes ago, invites residents to comment on Public Participation Plan updates. It explains that the MPO is updating its participation plan to re-evaluate public participation techniques and considers new methods of public involvement. The deadline for comments is July 31. A link to lincoln.ne.gov is provided for the 'Public Participation Plan Update'.

**City of Lincoln Government** 45m · 🌐

Residents are invited to comment on Public Participation Plan updates being considered by the Lincoln Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO).

The MPO is updating its participation plan to re-evaluate the effectiveness of its public participation techniques and consider new methods of public involvement. The MPO is responsible for carrying out transportation planning and decision-making in Lincoln and Lancaster County.

The deadline to comment is July 31.

[lincoln.ne.gov](https://www.lincoln.ne.gov)  
**Public Participation Plan Update**

### Twitter (July 6, 2023)

The screenshot shows a Twitter thread from the City of Lincoln, Nebraska (@CityOfLin...). The main tweet, posted 16 hours ago, invites residents to comment on Public Participation Plan updates. It states the deadline is July 31 and includes a link to lincoln.ne.gov for the 'Public Participation Plan Update'. The tweet has 4 replies and 2 retweets. A reply from the same account further explains the MPO's goal to re-evaluate participation techniques and mentions the MPO's role in transportation planning in Lincoln and Lancaster County.

**City of Lincoln, Nebraska** 10.7K Tweets **Following**

**City of Lincoln, Nebr...** @CityOfLin... · 16h ...

Residents are invited to comment on Public Participation Plan updates being considered by the Lincoln Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO).

The deadline to comment is July 31.

[lincoln.ne.gov](https://www.lincoln.ne.gov)  
**Public Participation Plan Update**

4 replies 2 retweets

**City of Lincoln, Nebr...** @CityOfLin... · 16h ...

Replying to @CityOfLincoln

The MPO is updating its participation plan to re-evaluate the effectiveness of its public participation techniques and consider new methods of public involvement.

The MPO is responsible for carrying out transportation planning and decision-making in Lincoln and Lancaster County.

**Who to follow** City of Lincoln, Nebraska follows

## Solicitation of Input – Survey Questions

***We appreciate your time taking this survey. Completion should only take around 5 minutes.***

### **ABOUT THE LINCOLN MPO**

*The City of Lincoln is the federally recognized Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Lincoln Metropolitan Area serving Lincoln and Lancaster County to carry out transportation planning and decision-making. The [Lincoln MPO](#) coordinates the planning activities of all transportation-related agencies and adopts long range plans to guide transportation investment decisions.*

### **WHAT IS THE MPO PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN?**

*The [Lincoln MPO Public Participation Plan \(PPP\)](#) is a proactive process which seeks to provide complete information, timely public notice, and public access to key decisions and include the early and continuous involvement of the public in the development of transportation plans and programs.*

*A significant update to the PPP is proposed to revisit the public participation strategies used by the MPO in its planning, decision-making, and policy development processes. The update would reflect current practices and better incorporate the use of tools such as virtual public involvement opportunities, visualization techniques, and monitoring the effectiveness of the MPO's public participation strategies.*

**Are you familiar with the roles and responsibilities of the Lincoln MPO? (yes/no)**

If yes, describe how you've interacted with the MPO. – text box

**Rate your level of interest in planning for transportation needs within Lincoln and Lancaster County.**

(Very Interested/ Somewhat Interested/ Neutral/ Somewhat Uninterested/ Not Interested)

**Please rank the proposed goals for the updated PPP in order of most important to least important to you, with "1" being the most important.**

Proposed Goals:

Education. Residents can easily understand the role of the MPO and how they can become involved.

Information. The MPO is responsive to community needs and provide timely, efficient, and reliable information to the public.

Engagement. Opportunities for public participation are available at multiple levels, timeframes, and in formats that make use of evolving technology.

Equity. The MPO recognizes the need for an equitable civic process and community buy-in during the planning and decision-making processes. Input is sought from across the community, particularly from those who are under-served by the transportation system and regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, country of origin, religion, age, economic status, or zip code.

Accommodation. The MPO takes steps to reasonably accommodate the disabled and persons with limited English proficiency to ensure that their needs are represented in the transportation planning process.

Please add any comments about the proposed goals. (Text box)

Suggestions for other goals that should be considered. (Text box)

**What is your level of interest in virtual public involvement (such as online meetings or open houses, surveys, or other interactive tools) versus in-person activities.**

(Very Interested/ Somewhat Interested/ Neutral/ Somewhat Uninterested/ Not Interested)

**Please rank the following methods of communication based on how you most prefer to get information regarding transportation planning in Lincoln and Lancaster County.**

Email  
Website updates  
Public open houses or presentations  
Press releases  
Newspaper  
Brochure  
Social media  
Television  
Other (please specify) (Text box)

**Please rank the following based on how you most prefer to provide input about transportation planning in Lincoln and Lancaster County, with “1” being the most preferred.**

Online Survey  
Interactive web tool  
Comment form  
Email  
Public meeting / hearing  
Telephone / text message  
Regular mail  
Other (please specify) (Text box)

*The following demographic and location information is optional and will only be used for purposes of determining the diversity of input received.*

**Please share your zip code.** (Text box)

**Which of the following best describes your affiliation with Lincoln and Lancaster County? (you may select more than one):**

Resident  
Business owner  
Visitor for parks, recreational and/or entertainment purposes  
Visitor for shopping and/or dining options  
Visitor for medical appointments and services  
Student  
Other (please specify) (Text box)

---

**What is your age?**

Younger than 18  
18 to 24  
25 to 34  
35 to 44  
45 to 54  
55 to 64  
65 to 74  
75 or older

**How would you describe yourself?**

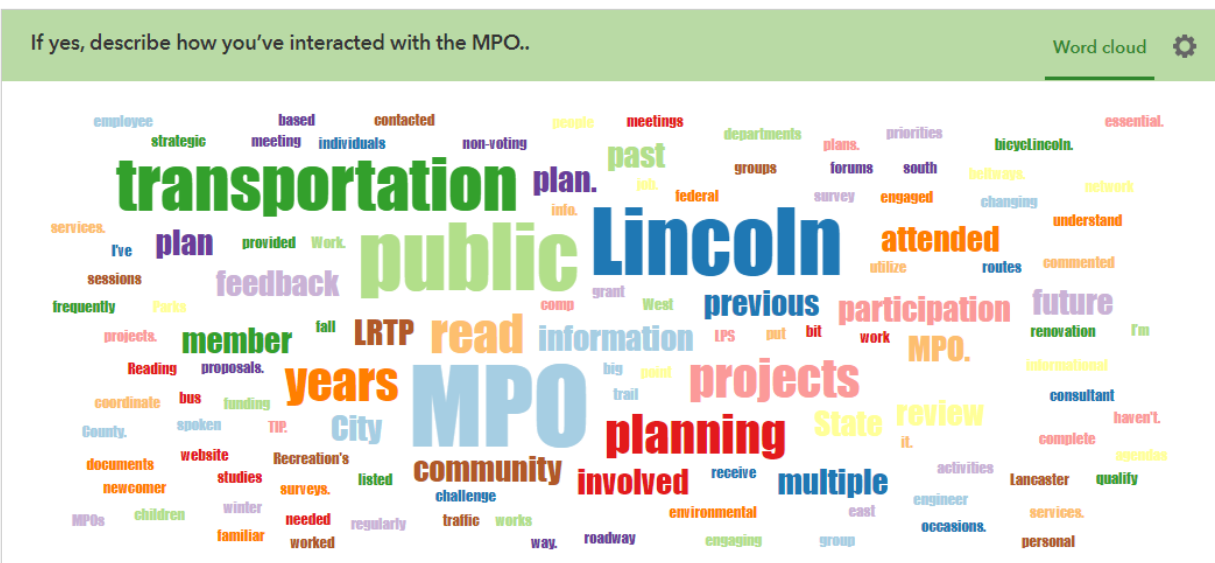
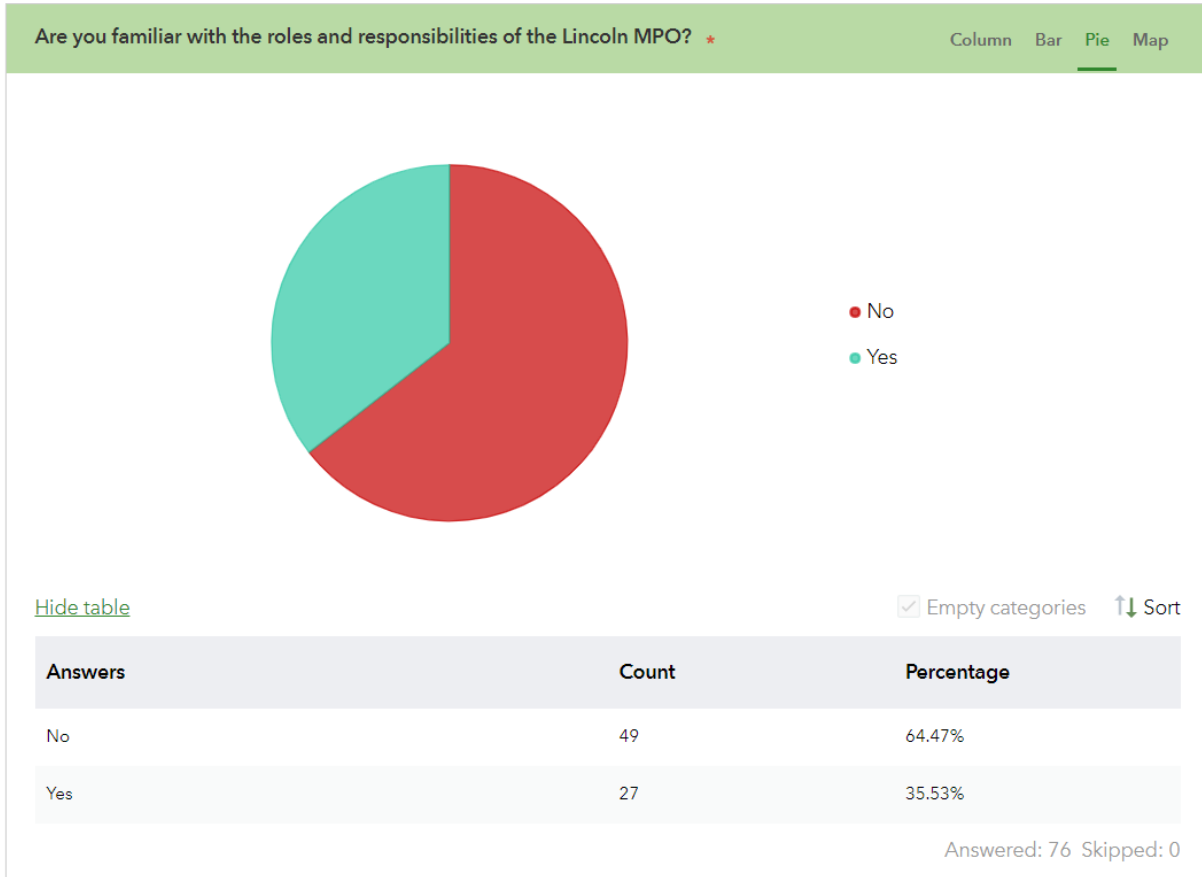
American Indian and Alaska Native  
Asian  
Black or African American  
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander  
White or Caucasian  
Hispanic, Latino, Spanish  
Other (please specify) (Text box)

**What is your annual household income?**

Under \$15,000  
Between \$15,000 and \$29,999  
Between \$30,000 and \$49,999  
Between \$50,000 and \$74,999  
Between \$75,000 and \$99,999  
Between \$100,000 and \$150,000  
Over \$150,000

**Please provide any other suggestions about the PPP update you would like the project team to know.** (Text box)

# Appendix C: Survey Results

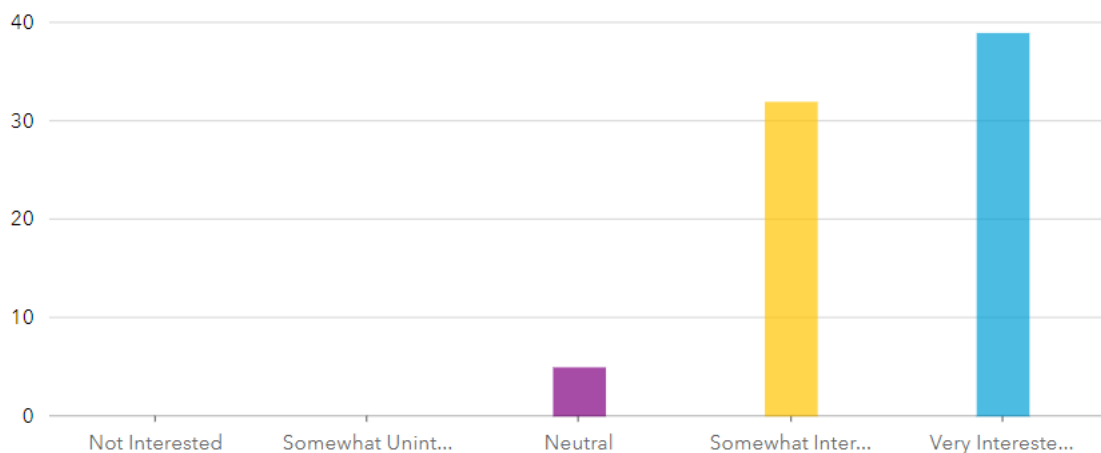


Response	Count
Work.	1
We have provided feedback on the transportation plan.	1
thru the comp plan.	1
Through my work, I utilize it for federal and state grant proposals.	1
Some of Lincoln Parks and Recreation's trail projects receive funding through the MPO and projects are listed in the LRTP and TIP.	1
Reading the information they put out	1
Previous surveys.	1
Past planning and survey information	1
non-voting member at one point, participation in LRTP groups	1
I've spoken with individuals involved in departments that fall under MPO, and followed the course of a few projects.	1

Answered: 21 Skipped: 55

Rate your level of interest in planning for transportation needs within Lincoln and Lancaster...

Column Bar Pie Map



[Hide table](#)

Empty categories [Sort](#)

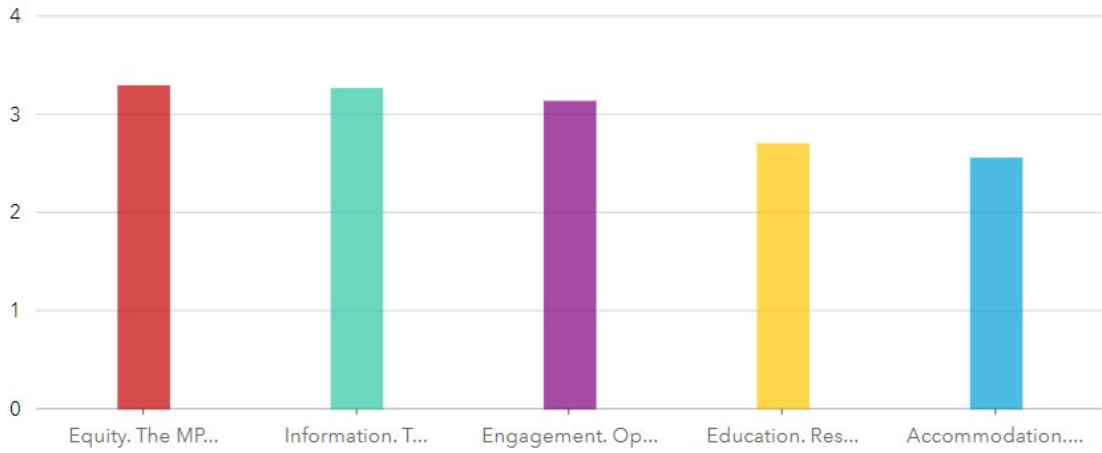
Answers	Count	Percentage
Not Interested	0	0%
Somewhat Uninterested	0	0%
Neutral	5	6.58%
Somewhat Interested	32	42.11%
Very Interested	39	51.32%

Answered: 76 Skipped: 0



Please rank the proposed goals for the updated PPP in order of most important to least importa...


★ ? Column Bar ⚙️

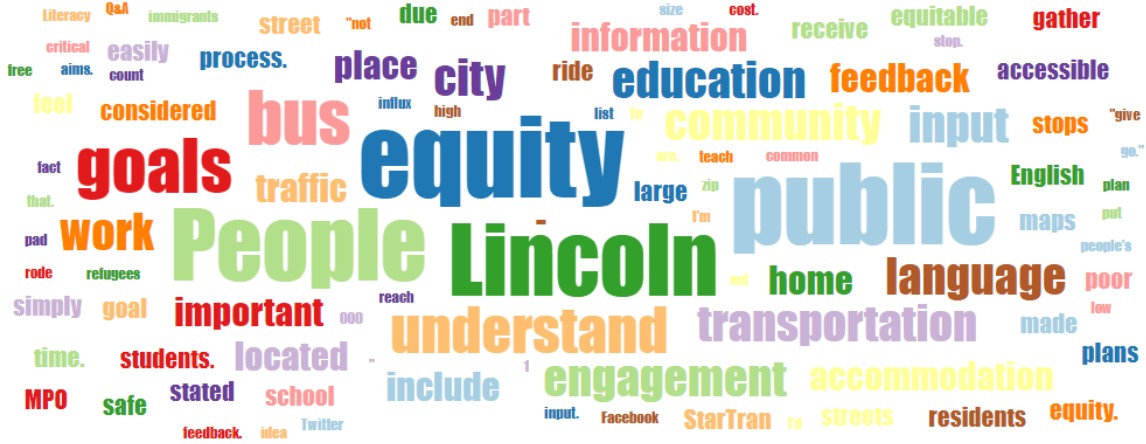


Rank	Answers	1	2	3	4	5	Average score
1	Equity. The MPO recognizes the need for an equitable civic process and community buy-in during the planning and decision-making processes. Input is sought from across the community, particularly from those who are under-served by the transportation system and regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, country of origin, religion, age, economic	32.89% 25	17.11% 13	14.47% 11	18.42% 14	17.11% 13	3.30


Answered: 76 Skipped: 0

Please add any comments about the proposed goals.

Word cloud 



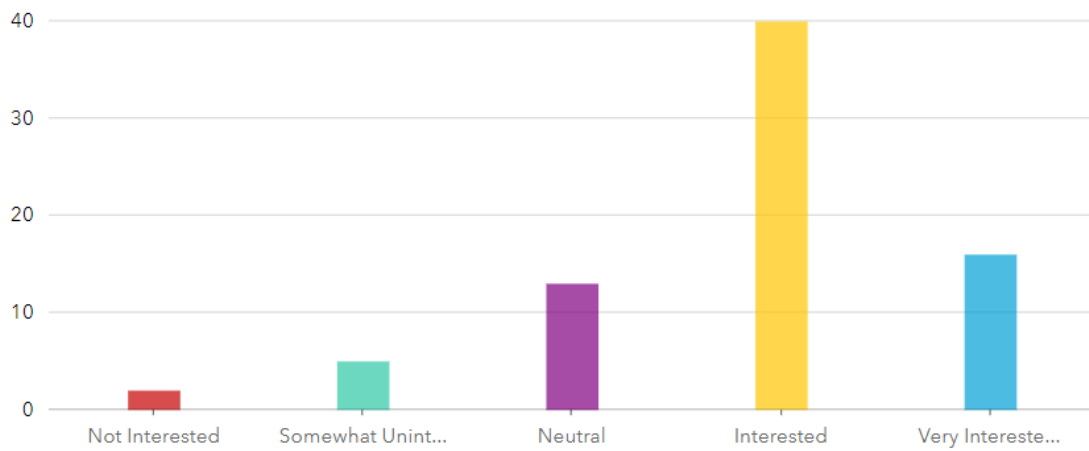
Suggestions for other goals that should be considered.

Word cloud 



What is your level of interest in virtual public involvement (such as online meetings or open...

Column Bar Pie Map



[Hide table](#)

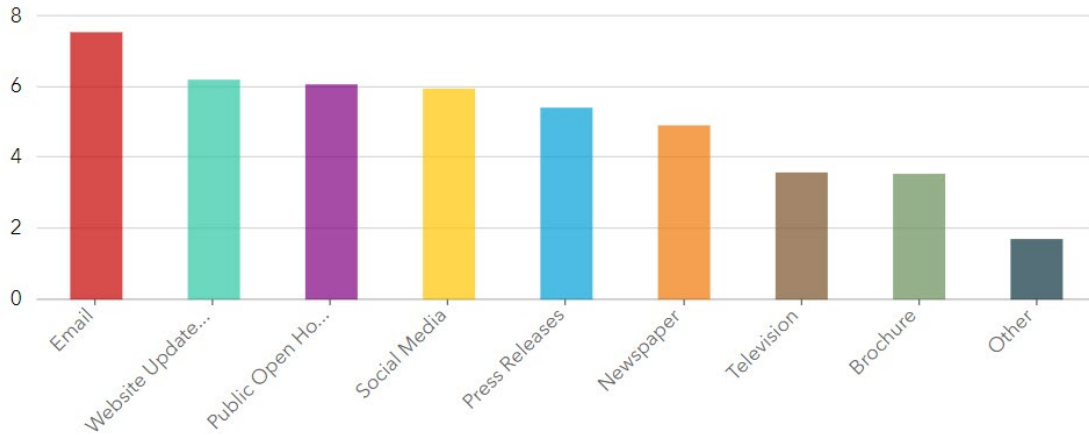
Empty categories [Sort](#)

Answers	Count	Percentage
Not Interested	2	2.63%
Somewhat Uninterested	5	6.58%
Neutral	13	17.11%
Interested	40	52.63%
Very Interested	16	21.05%

Answered: 76 Skipped: 0

Please rank the following methods of communication based on how you most prefer to get...

\* ? Column Bar 

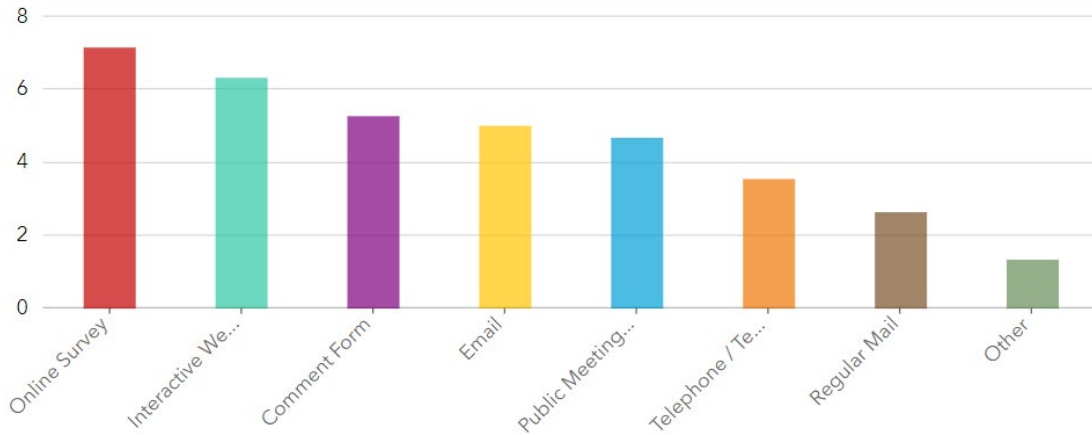


Rank	Answers	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Average score
1	Email	48.68% 37	18.42% 14	9.21% 7	7.89% 6	7.89% 6	2.63% 2	1.32% 1	7.55
2	Website Updates	11.84% 9	14.47% 11	23.68% 18	15.79% 12	15.79% 12	7.89% 6	7.89% 6	6.21
3	Public Open Houses or Presentations	5.26% 4	23.68% 18	11.84% 9	18.42% 14	21.05% 16	13.16% 10	6.58% 5	6.08
4	Social Media	21.05% 16	18.42% 14	11.84% 9	7.89% 6	6.58% 5	7.89% 6	13.16% 10	5.96
5	Press Releases	3.95% 3	7.89% 6	15.79% 12	23.68% 18	18.42% 14	14.47% 11	9.21% 7	5.42
6	Newspaper	3.95% 3	10.53% 8	10.53% 8	14.47% 11	13.16% 10	18.42% 14	15.79% 12	4.92

Answered: 76 Skipped: 0

Please rank the following based on how you most prefer to provide input about transportation...

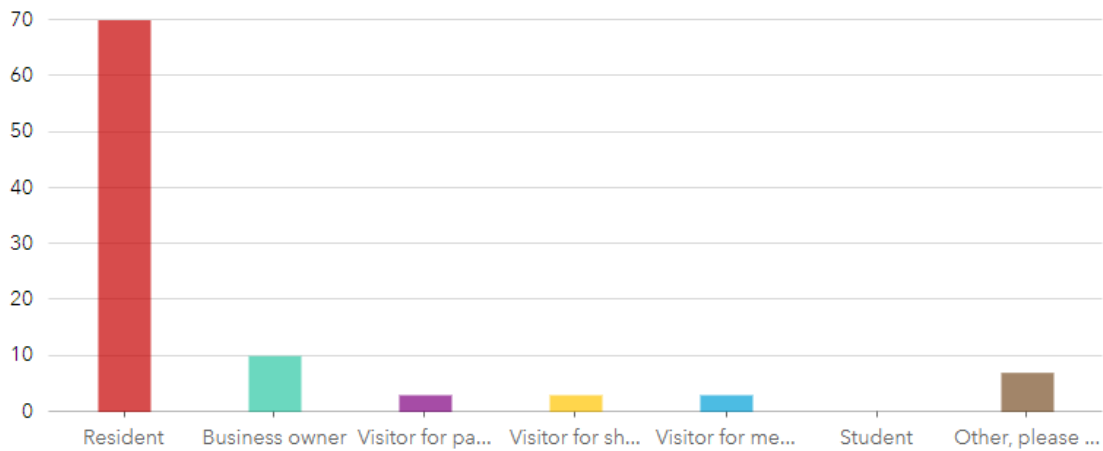
\* ? Column Bar



Rank	Answers	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Average score
1	Online Survey	55.26% 42	25% 19	9.21% 7	3.95% 3	3.95% 3	2.63% 2	0% 0	7.16
2	Interactive Web Tool	15.79% 12	40.79% 31	21.05% 16	10.53% 8	9.21% 7	0% 0	2.63% 2	6.33
3	Comment Form	1.32% 1	9.21% 7	40.79% 31	30.26% 23	7.89% 6	5.26% 4	3.95% 3	5.28
4	Email	11.84% 9	6.58% 5	7.89% 6	34.21% 26	30.26% 23	5.26% 4	1.32% 1	5.01
5	Public Meeting / Hearing	11.84% 9	7.89% 6	11.84% 9	10.53% 8	32.89% 25	15.79% 12	6.58% 5	4.68
6	Telephone / Text Message	2.63% 2	6.58% 5	2.63% 2	7.89% 6	11.84% 9	51.32% 39	14.47% 11	3.55

Answered: 76 Skipped: 0

● Which of the following best describes your affiliation with Lincoln and Lancaster County? (you may sele... Column Bar



[Hide table](#)

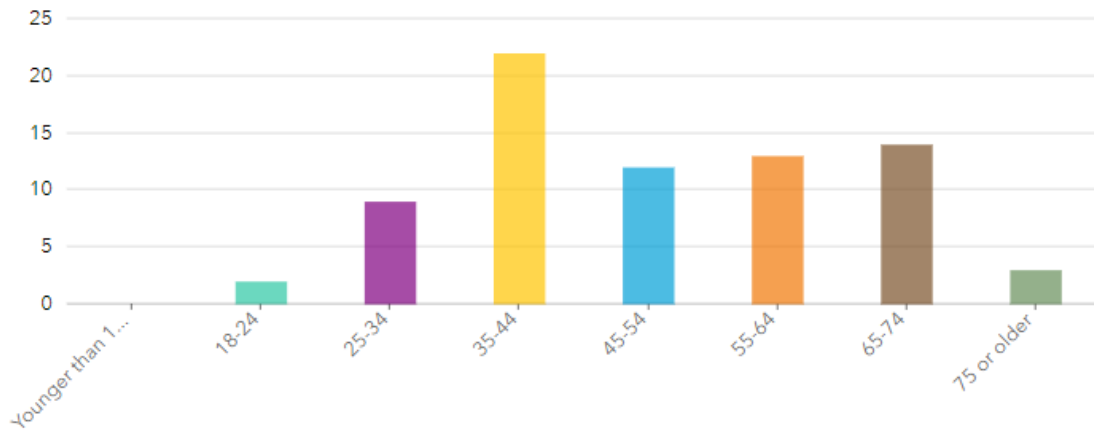
Other response  Empty categories

Answers	Count	Percentage
Resident	70	92.11%
Business owner	10	13.16%
Visitor for parks, recreational and/or entertainment purposes	3	3.95%
Visitor for shopping and/or dining options	3	3.95%
Visitor for medical appointments and services	3	3.95%
Student	0	0%
Other, please specify	7	9.21%

Answered: 75 Skipped: 1

● What is your age?

Column Bar Pie Map



[Hide table](#)

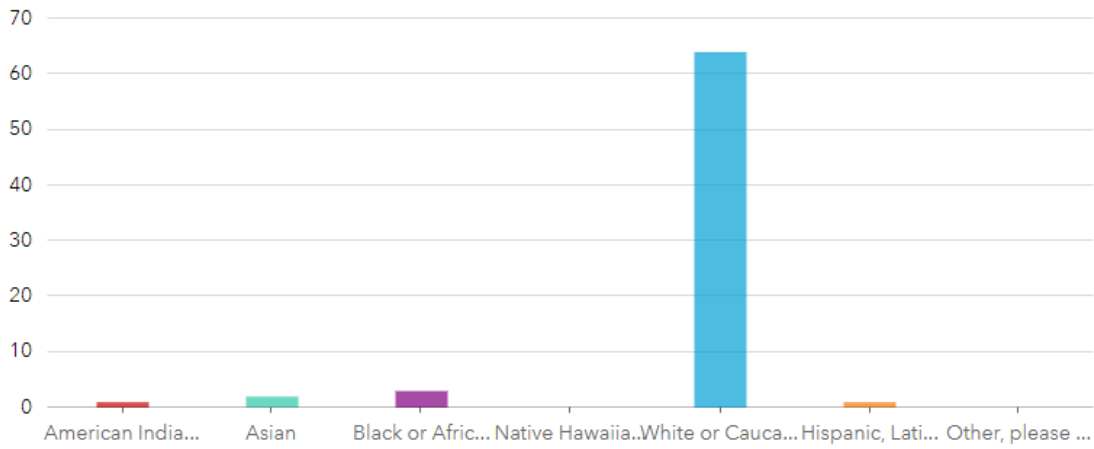
Empty categories [Sort](#)

Answers	Count	Percentage
Younger than 18	0	0%
18-24	2	2.63%
25-34	9	11.84%
35-44	22	28.95%
45-54	12	15.79%
55-64	13	17.11%
65-74	14	18.42%
75 or older	3	3.95%

Answered: 75 Skipped: 1

● How would you describe yourself?

Column Bar Pie Map



[Hide table](#)

Other response  Empty categories

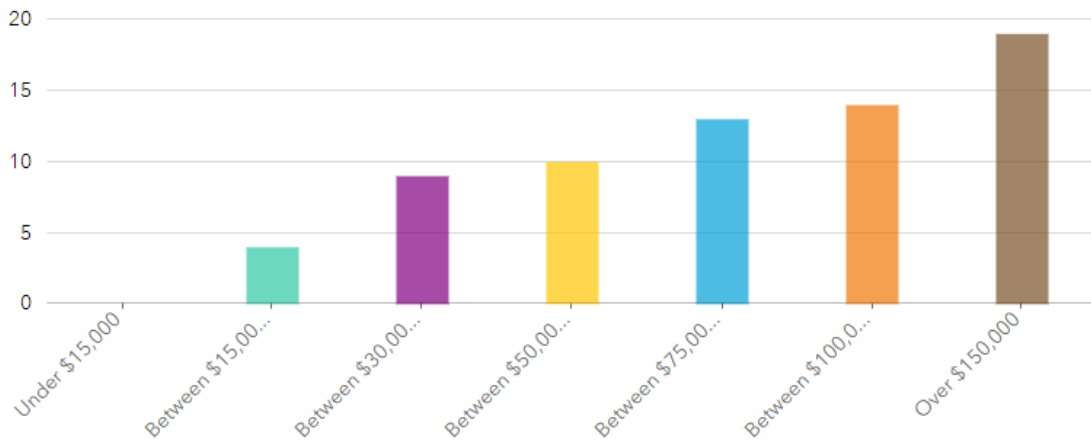
Answers	Count	Percentage
American Indian and Alaska Native	1	1.32%
Asian	2	2.63%
Black or African American	3	3.95%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0	0%
White or Caucasian	64	84.21%
Hispanic, Latino, Spanish	1	1.32%
Other, please specify	0	0%

Answered: 71 Skipped: 5



● What is your annual household income?

Column Bar Pie Map



[Hide table](#)

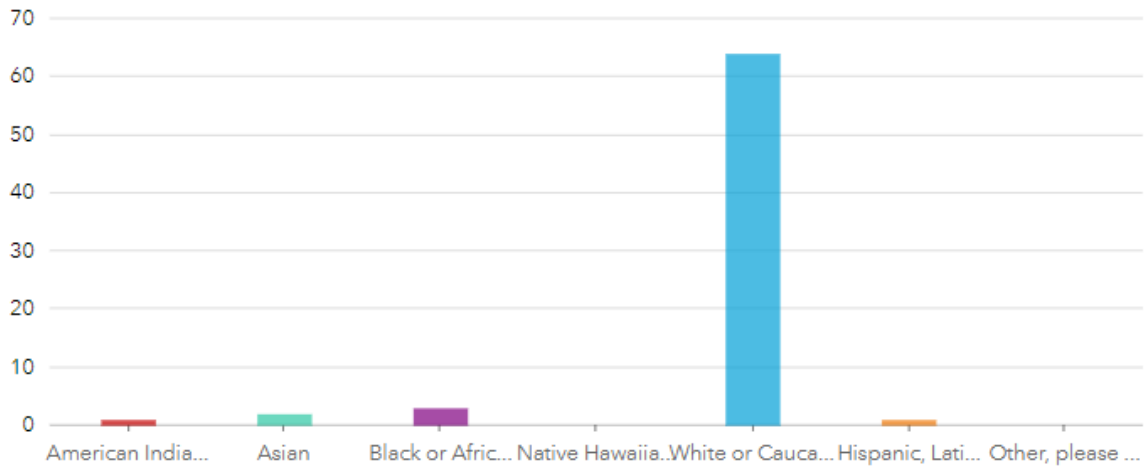
Empty categories [Sort](#)

Answers	Count	Percentage
Under \$15,000	0	0%
Between \$15,000 and \$29,999	4	5.26%
Between \$30,000 and \$49,999	9	11.84%
Between \$50,000 and \$74,999	10	13.16%
Between \$75,000 and \$99,999	13	17.11%
Between \$100,000 and \$150,000	14	18.42%
Over \$150,000	19	25%

Answered: 69 Skipped: 7

● How would you describe yourself?

Column Bar Pie Map



[Hide table](#)

Other response  Empty categories

Answers	Count	Percentage
American Indian and Alaska Native	1	1.32%
Asian	2	2.63%
Black or African American	3	3.95%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0	0%
White or Caucasian	64	84.21%
Hispanic, Latino, Spanish	1	1.32%
Other, please specify	0	0%

Answered: 71 Skipped: 5

## Appendix D: Public Comments and Responses

Source	Question Related to Comment	Comment	Response
Survey Response	Please add any comments about the proposed goals.	Transportation changes need to consider not only residential but business and industry.	Transportation funding and project priorities are considered as part of the <a href="#">Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)</a> process. The current LRTP was adopted in 2021 and undergoes major updates every 5 years. In addition, the City's <a href="#">Capital Improvement Program (CIP)</a> compiles all City projects to be budgeted in the next two years or planned for over the next six years including transportation. Finally, the <a href="#">Lancaster County One and Six Year Road and Bridge Construction Program</a> is a program and budget for improvements to the county road system that is adopted every year. All of these documents include opportunity for public hearing and comment on the prioritization of projects, timing and funding.
Survey Response	Please add any comments about the proposed goals.	It seems that public input sometimes happens after all the planning has been done. New solutions are likely not going to be considered at this time. Also, I think that the best solution to a problem may be one that both traffic planners and the public need to be educated about. Here I'm talking about active transportation infrastructure in other countries, and what creates safe streets.	Early involvement in the planning process is important for building a sense of community ownership. For that reason, this PPP updated include a 30-day initial solicitation of public input prior to publishing a draft for review. The following Engagement strategy relates to this comment: "Include an initial listening and learning phase with major plan updates to allow for early input before a plan is drafted, including major updates to the PPP."
Survey Response	Please add any comments about the proposed goals.	Engagement - Provide an interactive map (like the Waze app) for drivers to report congested roads, badly-timed traffic lights, poor street surfaces. People are much more likely to use online, interactive tools to communicate their needs than to attend a meeting. (People love the pothole report website!)	Lincoln Transportation and Utilities provides an interactive way to report non-emergency issues online through <a href="#">UPLNK</a> .  A <a href="#">map of LTU projects</a> is available on their website. They also publish a <a href="#">Street Closures Map</a> and a <a href="#">Street and Pedestrian Closures List</a> . LTU encourages the

		<p>Information/Education - Create maps over time using this data. Or use drones and time-lapse video to track traffic patterns. Publish this data to increase public support for street projects, such as widening existing streets or building new roads.</p> <p>Equity - Identify more participants for surveys like this one. Register new emails at a variety of public gatherings (civic meetings, school gatherings, sports games, cycle shops, health fairs, music or art events, cultural celebrations, parades, community centers for the elderly or handicapped.)</p>	<p>traveling public to find alternative routes and use the <a href="#">WAZE</a> app for assistance.</p> <p>In addition, the MPO has <a href="#">web page</a> on the 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Travel Demand Model that summarizes predicted congestion over time as well as an interactive map with projected traffic counts.</p> <p>Your comments regarding mapping of reported issues and traffic patterns have been forwarded to LTU.</p> <p>The following Education and Equity strategies relate to your comments on Equity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Attend events such as Streets Alive, Lincoln Unites! and the My City Academy to increase the MPO's profile and educate the public about its role.</li> <li>- Hold meetings at convenient and accessible locations and times that are reasonably served by public transportation, paying particular attention to where targeted populations congregate and live.</li> </ul>
Survey Response	Please add any comments about the proposed goals.	Those goals seem broad. Accordingly, I think that anything that the City of Lincoln does could be argued as fulfilling those aims. I don't like that.	The goals are intended to be high-level with enough detail to convey what the goal is trying to achieve. The strategies listed under each goal provide detailed activities that the MPO will undertake to achieve each goal. In addition, metrics for evaluation of the strategies have been provided to track how well the MPO is meeting the goals over time.
Survey Response	Please add any comments about the proposed goals.	I couldn't get the form to respond to move so between Equity and Education, I'd place Accommodation.	Thank you for your comment.
Survey Response	Please add any comments about the proposed goals.	Accommodation should have been incorporated into the goal of equity. To disassociate accommodation for ability/disability in conflict with ADA and disingenuous to not understand or include language skill within equity. This is a failure that can be easily remedied by expanding the list of equity to read, "Input is sought from...economic status,	The two goals of Equity and Accommodation and the populations they include have a great deal of overlap. For purposes of this plan, Accommodation was listed as a separate goal primarily to highlight how the MPO will address Title VI, ADA requirements, and the City's Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Program Plan. The

		disability, language, or zip code." The same holds true for Engagement and Education. Any sincere engagement activities would include education for residents, so they would understand why they should be engaged in the process. It seems like the MPO leadership team is using this exercise to prioritize budget items for the process, which feels weak.	intention was to organize the plan in a logical manner but not to silo people in any way. The Equity goal includes mention of seeking input regardless of disability or language spoken. Strategies were also included under the Education goal for attempting to reach a broad range of community members with different circumstances.
Survey Response	Please add any comments about the proposed goals.	You need to reach people where they are. At work, on Facebook or Twitter	The following Education, Information, and Equity strategies relate to this comment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Attend events such as Streets Alive, Lincoln Unites! and the My City Academy to increase the MPO's profile and educate the public about its role.</li> <li>- Hold focused community involvement opportunities to reach key populations, located in those communities based on demographic mapping. This could include in-person meetings, interviews, and advertisements.</li> <li>- Use social media to reach broad audiences. This will likely involve use of the City of Lincoln account and other departments' accounts depending on the topic.</li> </ul>
Survey Response	Please add any comments about the proposed goals.	Be sure to include those living in homeless shelters and subsidized housing. Get input from major employers and their needs.	Several major employers were included in the outreach for this PPP Update (see Appendix A). Please let MPO staff know of any major employers not on the list who you feel should be included in the future.
Survey Response	Please add any comments about the proposed goals.	All goals seem equally important and possibly over-explained and confusing to some.	Thank you for your comments. The goals are intended to be high-level with enough detail to convey what the goal is trying to achieve.
Survey Response	Please add any comments about the proposed goals.	There must be some options for people that are free and low cost. Please don't make this inaccessible.	Under the Equity goal, there is mention of paying particular attention to those people who may be under-served by the transportation system. Transportation disadvantaged communities are defined as those who spend more and take longer to get where they're going. This includes areas with limited transportation options and underinvestment. The concept of providing multiple affordable options is an important topic in transportation planning. The

			<a href="#">Lincoln Travel Options Strategy</a> considered the affordability and efficiency of travel options in our area. In addition, providers such as StarTran are continually evaluating the cost of fares.
Survey Response	Please add any comments about the proposed goals.	Equity and accessibility are really key. I used to work in the mayor's office and the methods city departments use to gather public input are not always equitable or accessible. We need to meet people where they're at, in person where people gather instead of asking them to come to us. Including translated materials and interpreters.	<p>This plan includes input from One Lincoln, which is a group under the Mayor's Office that works to advance equity, diversity, and inclusion, as well as from the City/County Welcoming Communities Coordinator. The following Equity and Accommodation strategies are intended to address these comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Hold focused community involvement opportunities to reach key populations, located in those communities based on demographic mapping. This could include in-person meetings, interviews, and advertisements.</li> <li>- Provide materials in languages other than English as resources allow. Accommodate reasonable requests for language assistance. At a minimum, when conducting major plan updates, provide an offer for translation services in the outreach materials translated into the top LEP languages of the community. When feasible, provide translated vital documents and/or executive summaries.</li> <li>- Explore the ability to provide surveys in languages other than English and accommodations for the visually or hearing impaired.</li> </ul>
Survey Response	Please add any comments about the proposed goals.	I think the goals should be to demonstrate incorporating citizen feedback into proposed plans.	<p>Citizen feedback is key to the public process and is important to reflect in adopted plans. Related to this comment, the following Information strategies were included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Incorporate substantive comments into the draft plan or program whenever possible.</li> <li>- Include a summary, analysis, and report on the disposition of comments in the final document.</li> </ul>

Survey Response	Please add any comments about the proposed goals.	How were these goals identified? What performance metrics will be in place to ensure that equitable meaningful engagement is successfully achieved?	The draft goals were identified based on focus areas identified by staff for the Updated PPP, peer review of other MPOs' PPPs, and consistency with the <a href="#">2050 Lincoln-Lancaster County Comprehensive Plan (Plan Forward)</a> .
Survey Response	Please add any comments about the proposed goals.	Equity is extremely important since many aspects of Lancaster County have been consolidated into Lincoln and thereby only Lincoln is served and not the rest of the county.	Equity is an important focus of this updated plan as evidenced by the Equity goal and strategies. The MPO Area includes all of Lancaster County. Therefore, Lancaster County is the geographic application for MPO plans and other documents. Transportation agencies such as Lincoln Transportation and Utilities, Lincoln Parks and Recreation, Lancaster County Engineering, etc. are associated with specific jurisdictions, which may limit their service area and where funding can be used.
Survey Response	Please add any comments about the proposed goals.	It's hard to rank these goals as they all seem appropriate and important in the public participation process.	Thank you for your comment.
Survey Response	Please add any comments about the proposed goals.	With a large influx of immigrants and refugees, it is critical to receive their feedback. I am the Director of Lincoln Literacy where we teach English to over 1,000 new Lincoln residents. Many count on StarTran for transportation to work and home as well as for their high school Students. Perhaps there could be a goal to receive a certain number of New American people's input. We would be happy to put together a focus group of students.	<p>This plan includes input from the City/County Welcoming Communities Coordinator and the outreach list included several community and cultural centers who can serve as contact points to reach the people they serve. Welcoming Communities focuses on ensuring every resident has a sense of belonging and an opportunity to contribute. Thank you for the offer to assist with putting together focus groups. The MPO plans to do so whenever we find that representative input is not being obtained. Focus groups would tailored to the specific subject matter of the plan and/or affected population(s).</p> <p>The following Education and Accommodation strategies relate to these comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Attend events such as Streets Alive, Lincoln Unites! and the My City Academy to increase the MPO's profile and educate the public about its role.</li> <li>- Cultivate a list of vendors for interpretation and translation needs.</li> </ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provide materials in languages other than English as resources allow. Accommodate reasonable requests for language assistance. At a minimum, when conducting major plan updates, provide an offer for translation services in the outreach materials translated into the top LEP languages of the community. When feasible, provide translated vital documents and/or executive summaries.</li> <li>- Explore the ability to provide surveys in languages other than English and accommodations for the visually or hearing impaired.</li> </ul>
Survey Response	Please add any comments about the proposed goals.	In my opinion, The MPO is/has not been responsible to community needs otherwise StarTran bus stops would be in easily accessible areas where users are located and have sidewalk access and/or a covered bus stop. MANY StarTran stops aren't even located near streets and don't even have a concrete pad to stand on....in the middle of NOWHERE.	The location of bus stops is informed by public input processes conducted by StarTran for their <a href="#">Transit Development Plan (TDP)</a> . The TDP is updated every 5 years. The current version was adopted in 2022. Your comments have been forwarded to Lincoln Transportation and Utilities-StarTran.
Survey Response	Please add any comments about the proposed goals.	To the extent that the transportation plan concerns public transport, the matter of equity may need to be considered in a way that diverges from what is likely the common understanding of the principle. When I customarily rode the bus to and from work, ridership was always problematic. Simply stated, many who could've ridden the bus didn't, for the perceived inconvenience of doing so, and an amorphous discomfort with the idea, perhaps best stated as, "not meant for people like me," when in fact practically anyone, of any socioeconomic set or subset, could feel at home doing so, probably surprisingly so to many. Equity in this instance may mean inviting those who rarely if ever ride a city bus to "give it a go." Even if only a small proportion of such non-riders were to become riders, it would serve to deepen the sense of community that Lincoln needs to nourish, creating new bonds among those who ride together.	It is important to strive for accessible and convenient use of transit for everyone. The bus system is periodically re-assessed by StarTran through their <a href="#">Transit Development Plan (TDP)</a> process. The TDP is updated every 5 years. The current version was adopted in 2022. Your comments have been forwarded to Lincoln Transportation and Utilities-StarTran.
Survey Response	Please add any comments about the proposed goals.	Information needs to be presented in a way that does not require hours to review in order to be able to understand	This PPP Update focuses on making content more digestible and understandable through the Education,



		(e.g. large reports, or plans). Having effective input requires summarizing and presenting key information to get relevant feedback at the appropriate time. Having part presentation, part Q&A, then an opportunity to submit comments for topics where public feedback is requested is a good format.	Information, and Engagement goals and strategies. The following Information and Engagement strategies are intended to address these comments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Avoid jargon and legalese as much as possible.</li> <li>- Use a variety of meeting formats customized to project needs such as open houses, focus groups, and workshops.</li> <li>- Use visualization tools whenever possible to create more informative content in meeting displays, surveys, and other materials. This can include photos, storymaps, mapping overlays, charts and graphs, renderings, and illustrations.</li> </ul>
Survey Response	Please add any comments about the proposed goals.	Equity and accommodation are paramount goals if Lincoln plans to be a city for all. I grew up and live in a family household with varying physical and language capabilities. I saw how being unable to drive or speak English can alienate and harm people. I have seen disabled community members end up severely injured due to poor sidewalks and insufficient public transit. Lincoln is the right size where people of all abilities should feel at home and safe commuting with everyone. It is disheartening to see communities segregated and isolated from one another simply due to differences in ability, income, language-barriers.	The Equity and Accommodation goals and strategies in this PPP Update are intended to call attention to these key groups who are affected by transportation decision-making and planning. It also provides specific action steps (strategies) the MPO can take to seek out their input.
Survey Response	Please add any comments about the proposed goals.	I think education and equity go hand in hand. If education is provided and accessible to all, then residents will understand how decisions are made, what future plans are being made, what laws or restrictions are in place, and how to share their perspective, opinions and ideas.	Thank you for your comment. Language was added noting that the proposed goals of the plan are intended to be interconnected and support one another.
Survey Response	Please add any comments about the proposed goals.	Need clear maps and directions on how to use the bus in the community's language for people who come from third world to understand this information to use it	Thank you for your comment. It has been forwarded to Lincoln Transportation and Utilities-StarTran.
Survey Response	Suggestions for other goals that should be considered.	Work transportation in morning and evening.	Thank you for your comment. It has been forwarded to Lincoln Transportation and Utilities.
Survey Response	Suggestions for other goals that should be considered.	How about moving to a more climate-centric goal?	The <a href="#">Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)</a> includes a set of goals described in Chapter 2. The "Environmental Sustainability" goal contains performance measures related to climate topics for

			<p>transportation. In addition, Chapter 8 of the LRTP includes Action Steps under the section titled, "Transportation and the Environment". The LRTP promotes the use of active transportation to reduce vehicle emissions.</p> <p>The Lincoln <a href="#">Climate Action Plan</a> includes an Action Area titled, "Build a Decarbonized and Efficient Transportation System" with Key Initiatives.</p> <p>MPO, City and County staff are actively working on implementing the LRTP Action Steps and Climate Action Plan Key Initiatives. Both documents are/will be periodically updated and include a public input process. The LRTP undergoes a major update every 5 years. The current LRTP was adopted in 2021.</p>
Survey Response	Suggestions for other goals that should be considered.	Follow-up on the success of the South Bypass. Prove how much traffic was relieved from Lincoln streets. Use this success to promote the East Beltway.	More information on the East Beltway project can be found <a href="#">here</a> . It appears in the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) list of <a href="#">Illustrative (Unfunded) Urban Roadway Capital Projects, Table 7.10</a> . The East Beltway is listed as a future project with funding not yet identified but has broad support from Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT), the City, and County.
Survey Response	Suggestions for other goals that should be considered.	graphs that compare different modes of transportation between two points we recognize--cost, efficiency now and in five years? etc.	The <a href="#">Lincoln Travel Options Strategy</a> considered the affordability and efficiency of travel options in our area. Providers such as StarTran continually evaluate the cost of fares. In addition, the MPO publishes an <a href="#">Annual Transportation System Report</a> that includes several measures of efficiency for different modes of transportation.
Survey Response	Suggestions for other goals that should be considered.	Annual county wide mailers containing the city-county planning commission's meeting calendar.	Staff will explore this option for the MPO calendar of meetings. A calendar of upcoming meetings was recently added to the <a href="#">MPO website</a> .
Survey Response	Suggestions for other goals that should be considered.	The mix of short-term/long-term projects, mix of City and County projects.	Transportation funding and project priorities for the short- and long-term are considered every 5 years as part of the <a href="#">Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)</a> update process. The current LRTP was adopted in

			<p>2021. As projects are funded, they are reflected in the <a href="#">Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)</a>.</p> <p>In addition, the <a href="#">Capital Improvement Program (CIP)</a> compiles all City projects to be budgeted in the next two years or planned for over the next six years including transportation. Finally, the <a href="#">Lancaster County One and Six Year Road and Bridge Construction Program</a> is a program and budget for improvements to the county road system. All these documents include opportunity for public hearing and comment.</p>
Survey Response	Suggestions for other goals that should be considered.	Opportunities for public transportation to both expand and realize cost savings through local cooperation. For instance Sioux Falls, SD has its public transportation system serve both the community at large and K-12 students getting to their schools and homes.	The bus system is periodically re-assessed by StarTran through their <a href="#">Transit Development Plan (TDP)</a> process. The TDP is updated every 5 years. Your comments have been forwarded to Lincoln Transportation and Utilities-StarTran.
Survey Response	Suggestions for other goals that should be considered.	Most importantly the public should be informed by all means necessary to ensure equal access to needs and opinions. Too many individuals no longer read the newspaper or purposely seek out community news.	<p>In addition to traditional notification methods like newspaper ads and press releases, the following strategies are proposed in this plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Use social media to reach broad audiences. This will likely involve use of the City of Lincoln account and other departments' accounts depending on the topic.</li> <li>- Explore the ability to notify the public via text message.</li> </ul>
Survey Response	Suggestions for other goals that should be considered.	anticipating the future growth areas of the city	Future growth areas were considered in the <a href="#">Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)</a> as part of the Future Needs Assessment in Chapter 4.
Survey Response	Suggestions for other goals that should be considered.	Demonstration of incorporating citizen feed back into plans.	<p>Citizen feedback is key to the public process and is important to document and reflect in adopted plans. Related to this comment, the following Information strategies were included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Incorporate substantive comments into the draft plan or program whenever possible.</li> <li>- Include a summary, analysis, and report on the disposition of comments in the final document.</li> </ul>
Survey Response	Suggestions for other goals that should be considered.	Transportation to be offered longer time frames throughout the day and on the weekends. Transportation	The bus system is periodically re-assessed by StarTran through their <a href="#">Transit Development Plan (TDP)</a>

		to assist in making it easier for those struggling with mental health and have days where there is a person to assist in learning the routes.	process. The TDP is updated every 5 years. These comments have been forwarded to Lincoln Transportation and Utilities-StarTran.
Survey Response	Suggestions for other goals that should be considered.	Have goals that address both urban and rural needs. Don't disregard the rural needs.	<p>Transportation funding and project priorities are considered every 5 years as part of the <a href="#">Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)</a> update process. The current LRTP was adopted in 2021. The MPO strives for fairness in prioritization between rural and urban when administering the transportation funding it manages.</p> <p>In addition, the City's <a href="#">Capital Improvement Program (CIP)</a> compiles all City projects to be budgeted in the next two years or planned for over the next six years including transportation. Finally, the <a href="#">Lancaster County One and Six Year Road and Bridge Construction Program</a> is a program and budget for improvements to the county road system. All these documents include opportunity for public hearing and comment.</p>
Survey Response	Suggestions for other goals that should be considered.	It could fit already into Education but, "Follow Through" could be another goal to update the public on projects that have been completed and what has been accomplished through the MPO. A small example is the signs I see on the road in Lincoln along the "Lincoln On the Move" projects showing that this project was constructed with "LOTM" dollars. It's a great way to see the results of what the "LOTM" program accomplished.	The MPO's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) includes a list at the end of most sections noting projects that were completed as of the previous year. However, it makes sense to display these accomplishments in a more prominent, approachable way. The following strategy under the Education goal was added to address this comment: "Prominently display information about transportation projects completed during the previous year. This information is contained in the TIP but could be highlighted in the MPO Newsletter or Annual Transportation System Performance Report. Projects completed using MPO funds could also be noted."
Survey Response	Suggestions for other goals that should be considered.	FUNDING. How do we fill the large gaps in funding we need to build out infrastructure in our community. We are reaching a size and population base that deserves better. We can't be building a new high school at 70th & Saltillo Road and have no plans to have more than a rural section with only one lane in each direction from Pine Lake to	Transportation funding and project priorities are considered every 5 years as part of the <a href="#">Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)</a> update process. The current LRTP was adopted in 2021.

		Saltillo Road. We can't depend on private-public partnerships to be the answer to building out our County.	<p>In addition, the City's <a href="#">Capital Improvement Program (CIP)</a> compiles all City projects to be budgeted in the next two years or planned for over the next six years including transportation. Finally, the <a href="#">Lancaster County One and Six Year Road and Bridge Construction Program</a> is a program and budget for improvements to the county road system. All these documents include opportunity for public hearing and comment.</p> <p>Coordination is ongoing between the City and County on potential projects that are located on the divide between rural and urban, how those projects should be timed and funded, and seeking new ways to meet funding needs.</p>
Survey Response	Suggestions for other goals that should be considered.	I think these are great goals	Thank you for your comment.
Survey Response	Suggestions for other goals that should be considered.	Environmental Impact should be considered with every decision.	<p>The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review process is required as part of transportation project using federal funds. A number of projects in Lincoln and Lancaster County receive federal funds. Additional outreach and review are conducted by the individual agency/department who is implementing a project. This often includes discussion of social and environmental impacts and potential mitigation.</p>
Survey Response	Suggestions for other goals that should be considered.	<p>City needs to determine how to access riders for any and all programs either through shared community resources, state resources etc. One prospective riders are identified, steps need to be made to discover their needs...not necessarily the wants/needs of various city departments. In response to question below, IF I were an immigrant (or low income for that matter) and needed transportation because I don't have a vehicle, how am I going to discover, let alone utilize any of the methods you mention below? You're making these steps easy for the city without helping those who need your services because they have no other options for transportation. It's also unlikely many of these low-income users would have access (or limited access), if any, to "on-line" anything...you need to find these people where</p>	<p>The bus system is periodically re-assessed by StarTran through their <a href="#">Transit Development Plan (TDP)</a> process. The TDP is updated every 5 years. The current version was adopted in 2022. Your comments have been forwarded to Lincoln Transportation and Utilities-StarTran.</p>

		they are...this might be in medical offices, schools, organizations who help low-income and homeless et al...	
Survey Response	Suggestions for other goals that should be considered.	Participation: all community members should not only feel engaged but know how to get involved and contribute to the MPO.	At the front of this PPP, a “Quick Guide” for how citizens can get involved with transportation planning is provided for an at-a-glance understanding.  Guidance on the following questions is also provided for each of the public bodies that the MPO most commonly utilizes (the MPO Technical and Officials Committees and Lincoln-Lancaster County Planning Commission): - How can citizens provide input? - What kinds of input are appropriate for this committee? - When does input need to be provided?
Survey Response	Suggestions for other goals that should be considered.	Having bus tours (interpreters who speak the community language) for the people in communities who need that services such from where they live to the hospital, grocery stores, schools, and more	Thank you for your comment. It has been forwarded to Lincoln Transportation and Utilities-StarTran.
Survey Response	Other – Preferred methods of communication regarding transportation planning in Lincoln and Lancaster County.	Radio, Out of Home	The following Equity strategy relates to this comment: “Hold focused community involvement opportunities to reach key populations, located in those communities based on demographic mapping. This could include in-person meetings, interviews, and advertisements.”
Survey Response	Other – Preferred methods of communication regarding transportation planning in Lincoln and Lancaster County.	Radio broad casts or podcasts	The following Equity strategy relates to this comment: “Hold focused community involvement opportunities to reach key populations, located in those communities based on demographic mapping. This could include in-person meetings, interviews, and advertisements.”
Survey Response	Other – Preferred methods of communication regarding transportation planning in Lincoln and Lancaster County.	Unsure about how notification of a website update happens. I rank it first only if the update is advertised by one of the other means.	Major updates of the <a href="#">MPO website</a> are usually made when meeting agendas are published or a major planning effort is undertaken. The MPO Email List would be notified of these items, at a minimum. A good way to stay informed is by signing up for the MPO Email List <a href="#">here</a> .

Survey Response	Other – Preferred methods of communication regarding transportation planning in Lincoln and Lancaster County.	Send email alerts for your press releases. They aren't always picked up by newspapers.	Press releases are done through the City's media page and follow the City's media notification process. The MPO maintains an Email List of interested persons who receive updates about upcoming MPO meetings. <a href="#">Public notices</a> associated with meeting agenda items are published on the MPO web site. The Email List is also used for other MPO efforts. The public can sign up <a href="#">here</a> for the MPO Email List.
Survey Response	Other – Preferred methods of communication regarding transportation planning in Lincoln and Lancaster County.	Use targeted ads on Facebook	The following Information strategy relates to this comment: "Use social media to reach broad audiences. This will likely involve use of the City of Lincoln account and other departments' accounts depending on the topic."
Survey Response	Other – Preferred methods of communication regarding transportation planning in Lincoln and Lancaster County.	Include communication through subsidized housing and homeless shelter providers, and high and middle school students/parents who use to transit for getting to and from school.	This comment relates to the following Equity strategy: "Explore ongoing partnerships with entities that represent diverse populations. This may include identifying leaders of these groups who can extend MPO outreach to obtain greater input from their constituents."
Survey Response	Other – Preferred methods of communication regarding transportation planning in Lincoln and Lancaster County.	Sharing info with trusted community orgs - cultural centers, social service agencies, schools	This comment relates to the following Equity strategy: "Explore ongoing partnerships with entities that represent diverse populations. This may include identifying leaders of these groups who can extend MPO outreach to obtain greater input from their constituents."
Survey Response	Other – Preferred methods of communication regarding transportation planning in Lincoln and Lancaster County.	Text message	This comment has been addressed with the following Engagement strategy: "Explore the ability to notify the public via text message."
Survey Response	Other – Preferred methods of communication regarding transportation planning in Lincoln and Lancaster County.	actual demonstrations and engagement on the street, as people are moving about to gauge their opinions	Demonstrations and on-site meetings or interviews are a great way to visualize transportation ideas and get feedback from busy travelers. This suggestion will be kept in mind and would fit under the following Equity strategy: "Hold focused community involvement opportunities to reach key populations, located in those communities based on demographic mapping. This could include in-person meetings, interviews, and advertisements."

Survey Response	Other – Preferred methods of communication regarding transportation planning in Lincoln and Lancaster County.	We could share with students via printed handouts	This comment relates to the following Information strategy: “Use visual aids such as posters, handouts, and brochures for special MPO work items. Make these materials available at public meetings, on the MPO website, at the Lincoln/Lancaster County Planning Department, City libraries, and other City offices and locations as available.”
Survey Response	Other – Preferred methods of communication regarding transportation planning in Lincoln and Lancaster County.	It'd be nice if there was a text option	This comment has been addressed with the following Engagement strategy: “Explore the ability to notify the public via text message.”
Survey Response	Other – Preferred methods of communication regarding transportation planning in Lincoln and Lancaster County.	Friends and acquaintances who have/utilize similar or like services	Talking with others who are connected with the City is a good way to get information. In addition, feel free to <a href="#">sign up</a> for the MPO Email List to get direct updates on MPO activities to your email inbox.
Survey Response	Other – Preferred methods of communication regarding transportation planning in Lincoln and Lancaster County.	Updates at City Committees (Pedestrian Bicycle Advisory Committee) or to City Department heads/staff when appropriate.	One of the Information strategies is to “Explore partnerships with other City, County and State organizations to share information about their transportation efforts with the MPO and vice versa.” PBAC members were included in the outreach for this PPP Update via Lincoln Parks and Recreation. They are a very good stakeholder group suggestion. Department heads and staff with roles related to transportation are members of the MPO Technical Committee and its subcommittees. In this way, State, City and County staff fill an advisory role and the MPO can regularly update them on its activities.
Survey Response	Other – Preferred methods of communication regarding transportation planning in Lincoln and Lancaster County.	mobile open house / presentation that moves to different communities every day for 1-2 weeks	Thank you for the good suggestion. It will be considered for the future and fits under the following Information and Engagement strategies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Use a variety of meeting formats customized to project needs such as open houses, focus groups, and workshops.</li> <li>- Hold meetings at convenient and accessible locations and times that are reasonably served by public transportation, paying particular attention to where targeted populations congregate and live.</li> </ul>



Survey Response	Other – Preferred methods of communication regarding transportation planning in Lincoln and Lancaster County.	Flyers and posters on display around city	The following Education strategy relates to this comment: “Use visual aids such as posters, handouts, and brochures. Make these materials available at public meetings, on the MPO website, at the Lincoln/Lancaster County Planning Department, City libraries, and other City offices and locations as available.”
Survey Response	Other – Preferred methods of communication regarding transportation planning in Lincoln and Lancaster County.	Brochure has to be in the communities' languages.	<p>The following Accommodation strategy relates to this comment: “Provide materials in languages other than English as resources allow. Accommodate reasonable requests for language assistance. At a minimum, when conducting major plan updates, provide an offer for translation services in the outreach materials translated into the top LEP languages of the community. When feasible, provide translated vital documents and/or executive summaries.”</p> <p>The following Equity strategy also relates to this comment: “Work through human service providers, program managers and One Lincoln to distribute multi-lingual transportation information and reach stakeholders.”</p> <p>In addition, StarTran provides a <a href="#">Riders Guide</a> in several languages and follows Title VI policy regarding translated materials.</p>
Survey Response	Other – Preferred ways to provide input about transportation planning in Lincoln and Lancaster County.	I don't use social media, but other people do. Post and allow comments.	The following Engagement strategy relates to this comment: “Use social media to reach broad audiences. This will likely involve use of the City of Lincoln account and other departments’ accounts depending on the topic.” Posting of comments and responses by staff is dependent upon City of Lincoln social media policies and staff availability for responding to posted comments and questions.
Survey Response	Other – Preferred ways to provide input about transportation planning in Lincoln and Lancaster County.	Social media	The following Engagement strategy relates to this comment: “Use social media to reach broad audiences. This will likely involve use of the City of

			Lincoln account and other departments' accounts depending on the topic."
Survey Response	Other – Preferred ways to provide input about transportation planning in Lincoln and Lancaster County.	Hold some public meetings in subsidized housing and homeless shelters and high school student councils.	The following Engagement and Equity strategies relate to this comment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Use a hybrid virtual/in-person approach to public outreach to provide multiple and convenient ways to provide input.</li> <li>- Hold focused community involvement opportunities to reach key populations, located in those communities based on demographic mapping. This could include in-person meetings, interviews, and advertisements.</li> </ul>
Survey Response	Other – Preferred ways to provide input about transportation planning in Lincoln and Lancaster County.	Again, we need to meet people where they're at. The TDP does a great job of this by surveying bus riders while they're on the bus. How can we reach people where they already gather without holding a public meeting that no one hears about?	The following Education and Equity strategies relate to these comments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Attend events such as Streets Alive, Lincoln Unites! and the My City Academy to increase the MPO's profile and educate the public about its role.</li> <li>- Hold focused community involvement opportunities to reach key populations, located in those communities based on demographic mapping. This could include in-person meetings, interviews, and advertisements.</li> </ul>
Survey Response	Other – Preferred ways to provide input about transportation planning in Lincoln and Lancaster County.	Seeing demonstration project or engagement in the area or neighborhood where planned, and note preferences	Project-level engagement is typically done by the agency/department implementing that project (such as Nebraska Department of Transportation, Lincoln Transportation and Utilities or Lincoln Parks and Recreation) with MPO support as appropriate. Demonstrations and on-site meetings are a great way to visualize transportation ideas. Your comment has been forwarded to the transportation agencies in Lancaster County.
Survey Response	Other – Preferred ways to provide input about transportation planning in Lincoln and Lancaster County.	Friends and acquaintances who are connected with city	Thank you for your comment.
Survey Response	Other – Preferred ways to provide input about transportation planning in Lincoln and Lancaster County.	Having information presented at stakeholder groups for comment. E.g. Pedestrian Bicycle Advisory Committee.	One of the Information strategies is to "Explore partnerships with other City, County and State organizations to share information about their

			transportation efforts with the MPO and vice versa.” PBAC members were included in the outreach for this PPP Update via Lincoln Parks and Recreation and they are a great stakeholder group suggestion.
Survey Response	Other – Preferred ways to provide input about transportation planning in Lincoln and Lancaster County.	public meeting at Lincoln agencies people use to go to such as Asian Center	The following Equity strategies relate to this comment: “Hold focused community involvement opportunities to reach key populations located in those communities based on demographic mapping. This could include in-person meetings, interviews, and advertisements” and “Explore ongoing partnerships with entities that represent diverse populations. This may include identifying leaders of these groups who can extend MPO outreach to obtain greater input from their constituents.”
Survey Response	Please provide any other suggestions about the PPP update you would like the project team to know.	I would like active transportation and climate to take larger roles in planning. I recognize this takes buy-in, so the education needs to wrap around workplace and student health, and the walkable 15 minute city.	The <a href="#">Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)</a> includes a set of goals in Chapter 2. The “Environmental Sustainability” goal contains performance measures related to climate topics for transportation. In addition, Chapter 8 includes Action Steps under the section titled, “Transportation and the Environment”. The LRTP promotes the use of active transportation to reduce vehicle emissions.  The Lincoln <a href="#">Climate Action Plan</a> includes an Action Area titled, “Build a Decarbonized and Efficient Transportation System” with Key Initiatives.  MPO, City and County staff are actively working on implementing the LRTP Action Steps and Climate Action Plan Key Initiatives. Both documents are periodically updated and include a public input process.
Survey Response	Please provide any other suggestions about the PPP update you would like the project team to know.	I really appreciate being asked to provide my opinion. Thank you for the inclusion.	Thank you for your comment.
Survey Response	Please provide any other suggestions about the PPP update you would like the project team to know.	Involve people of diverse thought. City and County Government seems to not care about input from anyone who "doesn't agree with them." It is imperative to hear	The Equity goal and strategies are intended to provide representation from people with different opinions and backgrounds. In addition, the Education goal and

		from all sides of issues to make decisions. Local Government processes seem to have the decision baked into them without any thought or care how people respond. This cannot help our city grow if government doesn't care what people think.	strategies will be important to building a foundation of trust and rapport with the community.
Survey Response	Please provide any other suggestions about the PPP update you would like the project team to know.	There is such a huge disconnect between government and residents. Local news tv and print is no longer viable. You need to reach people where physically they are and where they go. Billboards. Social media. Grocery stores.	The following Education, Information, and Equity strategies relate to this comment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Attend events such as Streets Alive, Lincoln Unites! and the My City Academy to increase the MPO's profile and educate the public about its role.</li> <li>- Hold focused community involvement opportunities to reach key populations, located in those communities based on demographic mapping. This could include in-person meetings, interviews, and advertisements.</li> <li>- Use social media to reach broad audiences. This will likely involve use of the City of Lincoln account and other departments' accounts depending on the topic.</li> </ul>
Survey Response	Please provide any other suggestions about the PPP update you would like the project team to know.	Personal use car exhaust is a major contributor to diminished air quality and traffic congestion. Yet, the tax base as currently formed cannot afford to have Lincoln Public Schools provide bus service to all students. Lincoln has an under-utilized transit system. To get people into the habit of using public transit, to help working families get children to school on time and safely, to improve air quality and reduce traffic congestion, it would be a good idea to explore opportunities such as expand dedicated transit bus lines at peak times for K-12 students to use to get to and from school. To minimize problems, LPS would need to continue providing bus service to students with disabilities or whose families are recent immigrants.	The bus system is periodically re-assessed by StarTran through their <a href="#">Transit Development Plan (TDP)</a> process. The TDP is updated every 5 years. The current version was adopted in 2022. Your comments have been forwarded to Lincoln Transportation and Utilities-StarTran.
Survey Response	Please provide any other suggestions about the PPP update you would like the project team to know.	Availability of public transportation to our residents including ease of understanding and fair pricing is very important. I lived in Denver, CO 14 yrs. Their transportation was outstanding. I used "Park & Ride" exclusively. Lincoln must study successful systems in other cities to learn how	The bus system is periodically re-assessed by StarTran through their <a href="#">Transit Development Plan (TDP)</a> process. The TDP is updated every 5 years. The current version was adopted in 2022. Your comments

		they have achieved success. I prefer bus (or other) public transportation rather than my car but when I tried to use the current system, it would take 1.30 by bus vs 17 min. by car.	have been forwarded to Lincoln Transportation and Utilities-StarTran.
Survey Response	Please provide any other suggestions about the PPP update you would like the project team to know.	Please reach out to Lisa Guill, the city's welcoming communities coordinator on getting more diverse feedback :)	MPO staff met with Lisa at the One Lincoln meeting on August 10, 2023 to discuss the Welcoming Communities effort and PPP Update. We discussed overlap and common goals between the two as well as additional resources for reaching underrepresented communities and building understanding about the MPO. These resources included coordination with several Cultural Centers representatives as well as exploring Planning Department/MPO representation at the MyCity Academy, Lincoln Unites!, and providing compensation for input from key stakeholder groups.
Survey Response	Please provide any other suggestions about the PPP update you would like the project team to know.	the single most important future transportation project is the east beltway, now that the South beltway is complete and we see the reduction in truck traffic from old highway 2, we need to pivot and provide the same facility on the East side of Lincoln. The local use of old hwy 2 is much more convenient now. So if we could provide the same reduction on truck traffic from 84th the citizenry would be much benefited. This will provide a higher level of service for the community.	More information on the East Beltway project can be found <a href="#">here</a> . It appears in the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) list of <a href="#">Illustrative (Unfunded) Urban Roadway Capital Projects, Table 7.10</a> . The East Beltway is listed as a future project with funding not yet identified but has broad support from the Nebraska Department of Transportation, City, and County.
Survey Response	Please provide any other suggestions about the PPP update you would like the project team to know.	I don't feel the group takes any citizen input into account - especially those residents that live in affected areas. If they do, they should clear state why decisions ignored resident input.	<p>Citizen feedback is key to the public process and is important to reflect in adopted plans. Related to this comment, the following Information strategies were included for MPO plans and documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Incorporate substantive comments into the draft plan or program whenever possible.</li> <li>- Include a summary, analysis, and report on the disposition of comments in the final document.</li> </ul> <p>Project-level outreach is typically done by the agency/department implementing that project (such as Lincoln Transportation and Utilities, Lincoln Parks and Recreation, etc.)</p>

Survey Response	Please provide any other suggestions about the PPP update you would like the project team to know.	Ensure that this is shared with community members that may not have access to this link or have proficiency in English. Performance metrics for the identified goals will be crucial.	<p>Persons with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) are supported through several strategies under the Accommodation goal. In addition, the following performance metrics were included related to LEP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Create and maintain a translation vendor list.</li> <li>- For all major plan update efforts, at a minimum, provide an offer for translation services in the outreach materials translated into the top LEP languages of the community. When feasible, provide translated vital documents and/or executive summaries.</li> </ul> <p>Additional translation services will be made available as resources allow. As part of this PPP Update, an offer for translation services appeared in the outreach email and was translated into the top non-English languages of the community.</p>
Survey Response	Please provide any other suggestions about the PPP update you would like the project team to know.	Consider other forums and regular neighborhood gatherings as opportunities to engage with the public on plans. Setting up open houses and expecting people to come out for them seems like a stretch for many in the community to actively participate. Online may work for some, but not all	<p>The following Engagement and Equity strategies are intended to address these comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Use a hybrid virtual/in-person approach to public outreach to provide multiple and convenient ways to provide input.</li> <li>- Use a mix of public participation strategies to maximize the diversity of participation.</li> <li>- Hold focused community involvement opportunities to reach key populations, located in those communities based on demographic mapping. This could include in-person meetings, interviews, and advertisements.</li> </ul>
Survey Response	Please provide any other suggestions about the PPP update you would like the project team to know.	Just to get feedback from residents that English is not their first language but use the transportation system. We can help!	<p>Persons with limited English proficiency are supported through the following Accommodation strategies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cultivate a list of vendors for interpretation and translation needs.</li> <li>- Provide materials in languages other than English as resources allow. Accommodate reasonable requests for language assistance. At a minimum, when conducting major plan updates, provide an</li> </ul>

			<p>offer for translation services in the outreach materials translated into the top LEP languages of the community as identified using Census data and other resources. When feasible, provide translated vital documents and/or executive summaries.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Explore the ability to provide surveys in languages other than English and accommodations for the visually or hearing impaired.</li> </ul>
Survey Response	Please provide any other suggestions about the PPP update you would like the project team to know.	I support a high-speed train between Lincoln and Omaha	A Lincoln-Omaha connector has been considered and studied at various levels and by various organizations over the years. Funding for its construction and operation have been some of the most pressing aspects. The MPO has historically been a participant in these conversations and will continue to do so in the future.
Survey Response	Please provide any other suggestions about the PPP update you would like the project team to know.	Have NO idea who is responsible for determining placement of StarTran bus stop locations. When I rode StarTran for 5 years in the early 1990's, bus stops were located in convenient residential and business areas, near streets and sidewalks. I WOULD NOT RIDE STARTRAN today based on where your bus stops are located....they are in the middle of nowhere, are not convenient to your riders and haven't even gotten to pick-up and drop-off times yet. IF I WERE IN CHARGE OF BUS STOP LOCATIONS, would FIRE whoever came up with your current ones ...they are inconvenient and force people to cross major thoroughfares against traffic in both directions to get to a pick up point with no concrete pad, cover, seat nor walkway to the stop...it's pathetic and I feel sorry for anyone who has had to tolerate someone's idea of an "ideal bus stop location"! Please be more cognizant of your riders wants/needs/conveniences in the future...they'll be most appreciative.	The location of bus stops is informed by public input processes conducted by StarTran for their <a href="#">Transit Development Plan (TDP)</a> . The TDP is updated every 5 years. The current version was adopted in 2022. Your comments have been forwarded to Lincoln Transportation and Utilities-StarTran.
Survey Response	Please provide any other suggestions about the PPP update you would like the project team to know.	Not sure if this has been done in the past but having an annual meeting describing the MPO, its role, its goals/vision for the near and long-term, and describing ways the City	Making the MPO's role more visible and understandable to the public is critical. The Education goal and strategies identify ways that the MPO can engage with the community so that people have a

		(and other jurisdictions) can be engaged and participating effectively together would be an idea to consider.	<p>better foundation when MPO efforts come forward. The following strategies relate to this comment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Incorporate educational information about the MPO and how the public can become involved as part of published materials and presentations.</li> <li>- Attend events such as Streets Alive, Lincoln Unites! and the My City Academy to increase the MPO's profile and educate the public about its role.</li> <li>- Advertise that staff are available to speak with community groups. Proactively reach out to key groups that may have an interest such as the Chamber of Commerce and homebuilder, realty, and development groups.</li> <li>- Explore partnerships with other City, County and State organizations to share information about their transportation efforts with the MPO and vice versa.</li> </ul>
Survey Response	Please provide any other suggestions about the PPP update you would like the project team to know.	I hope the PPP update can focus on the needs include the entire community regardless of age, ability, and income. Youth, elderly, and low-income people are often shut out of enjoying all that Lincoln has to offer either because they cannot drive or bus service ends far too early.	<p>The Equity and Accommodation goals and strategies are intended to address the needs of all community members for MPO public processes. While the MPO does not itself operate transportation services, these groups and funding for transportation through agencies that serve their needs can be considered and prioritized as part of the <a href="#">Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)</a> update process. The LRTP is updated every 5 years and there is opportunity for public input and review. The current LRTP was adopted in 2021.</p> <p>The MPO received other comments specific to considering the needs of the elderly for this PPP Update and ensured that seniors were highlighted as a key group.</p>
Survey Response	Please provide any other suggestions about the PPP update you would like the project team to know.	PPP services is very important to many people special for minorities and refugees and immigrants or people who are new to Lincoln, but the information has to be more	Thank you for your comments. The following Equity and Accommodation strategies relate to this comment: "Explore ongoing partnerships with entities that represent diverse populations. This may include



		<p>accessible to them (many barriers in their ways, the biggest is languages and familiars with areas)</p>	<p>identifying leaders of these groups who can extend MPO outreach to obtain greater input from their constituents” and “Provide materials in languages other than English as resources allow. Accommodate reasonable requests for language assistance. At a minimum, when conducting major plan updates, provide an offer for translation services in the outreach materials translated into the top LEP languages of the community. When feasible, provide translated vital documents and/or executive summaries.”</p> <p>In addition, reference has been made for New Americans as a key group needing support with outreach and transportation.</p>
<p>Comment Form (30-Day Solicitation of Input)</p>	N/A	<p>The current PPP was “last amended in 2014 and a major update of the PPP is now proposed.” Where can one review the “major update” that is proposed? Also does the pdf in the announcement reflect the latest amendments from 2014?</p>	<p>Thank you for the questions about the MPO Public Participation Plan. The updated plan has not been drafted yet. This outreach is requesting initial public input during the month of July as to how the current plan could be improved and what the public might want to see in a new version of the plan. Comments received during this initial period will inform the draft plan, which we hope to publish for review and comment this Fall (see schedule found on the website). On the second question, yes, the current adopted Public Participation Plan PDF linked in the brochure includes the modifications that were made in 2014. The end result of this new effort will be a complete update of that 2014 plan.</p>
<p>Comment Form (30-Day Solicitation of Input)</p>	N/A	<p>From Jessica Tapp with Nebraska Game and Parks Commission: I am responding on behalf of Nebraska Game and Parks Commission. If LMPO is requesting public input (ex. scoping comments, scoping meetings) on a proposed project, we suggest notifying NGPC via this email - ngpc.envreview@nebraska.gov. This inbox is monitored by our Environmental Review Team and we will advise LMPO on any important natural resources that may be within the plan's action area, including state-listed threatened and</p>	<p>Thanks for providing the best email address to use for NGPC. We will be sure to to use it for MPO public outreach going forward.</p>

		<p>endangered species. There are many important natural resources, such as saline wetlands and bat habitat, that are in and surrounding the city of Lincoln and appreciate early and often coordination to help protect or enhance any of these resources. Thank you for your consideration!</p>	
<p>Comment Form (30-Day Solicitation of Input)</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>From Allison Speicher with Lincoln Parks and Recreation: Pedestrian Bicycle Advisory Committee and the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board serve as good conduits to the public for information and feedback and should continue to be Stakeholder groups for the MPO. City of Lincoln Parks and Recreation Department should be listed under Government Agencies. Studying ways to increase Alternative/Active Transportation through a more robust network of trails and bicycle infrastructure should be considered as a Special Effort by the MPO. Consider adding Bike Walk NE and Bicyclincoln to the Alternative Transport stakeholder group list.</p>	<p>Thanks so much for these comments. In response, mention of alternative/active transportation efforts has been added to the special efforts description in the plan. Bike Walk NE and Bicyclincoln were included on the outreach for this PPP Update and appear in the stakeholder list Alternative Transportation section.</p>