

Stakeholder Collaboration

Reference Links

- Public Involvement/Public Participation(Direct to: http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/planning/public_involvement/)
- A Guide to Transportation Decision Making(Direct to: http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/planning/publications/transportation_decision_making/)

Example from Practice

Minnesota DOT used selected key decisions to work collaboratively with stakeholders and successfully design a Complete Streets Plan for the City of Grand Rapids.

Learn more about how PlanWorks helped.

Transportation decisions often exhibit breakthroughs when decision makers engage collaboratively with those outside the process who are interested in and affected by the outcome. Those cases that are most successful are often proactive in working with all stakeholders, including potential opponents, early in the process. Close collaboration with the community to meet an array of needs beyond transportation improvements is another key to successful outcomes. The inclusion of multi-modal options, additional enhancement features, or innovative solutions often results in broad acceptance by all those involved.

How can stakeholder collaboration help identify risks and avoid delays?

If stakeholders are not involved collaboratively in transportation decision making, there is an increased risk that the best decision will not be made, and ultimately the improvement will be slowed or stopped. Much of the success described in specific case study examples can be attributed to the identification and management of key risks. Specific approaches used to effectively manage risks include:

- Anticipating environmental and social issues - The involvement of stakeholders in the planning and project development stages makes it possible to mitigate risks by finding a "fatal flaw" early in the process.
- Anticipating public concerns - A goal of any risk management plan is to minimize surprises. This is especially true when it comes to communicating with the public.

How can PlanWorks help with stakeholder collaboration?

The Stakeholder Collaboration application identifies the points in the decision making process where there should be a flow of information between decision makers and stakeholders. The Decision Guide also provides questions decision makers should ask to gather information from stakeholders and questions to incorporate their interests.

The Decision Guide image below highlights the decision points where collaboration should occur with stakeholders. Specific questions have been developed for each of these decision points to generally determine:

- What feedback did we get from stakeholders?
- What stakeholder feedback are we missing?
- Are there conflicts among the stakeholder feedback or between the stakeholder feedback and our technical data?
- Should we change our decision based on the feedback? Why or why not?

In a collaborative relationship, once a decision has been made, stakeholders need to be given feedback surrounding the "what, when, why, how and who" of the decision. The Decision Guide reinforces this type of relationship in the questions that decision makers consider.

Long Range Transportation Planning

- LRP-1 - Approve Scope of LRTP Process
This key decision is not associated with application.
- LRP-2 - Approve Vision and Goals
Stakeholders provide perspective on vision and goals for the community and for the transportation system.
- LRP-3 - Approve Evaluation Criteria, Methods and Measures
Stakeholder interests are incorporated into the evaluation criteria and methodology that will be used to evaluate the individual scenarios.
- LRP-4 - Approve Transportation Deficiencies
Stakeholder perspective on transportation deficiencies and needs is collected.

- LRP-5 - Approve Financial Assumptions
This key decision is not associated with application.
- LRP-6 - Approve Strategies
Strategies recommended by stakeholders are gathered and considered.
- LRP-7 - Approve Plan Scenarios
Stakeholders recommend scenarios and consider those presented to them by partners. Stakeholder perspective on unacceptable scenarios as well as those that best meet the vision and goals is gathered.
- LRP-8 - Adopt Preferred Plan Scenario
Stakeholder evaluation of the scenarios is considered prior to adoption of the preferred. Stakeholders may prioritize scenarios or identify those that are unacceptable.
- LRP-9 - Make Conformity Determination by MPO
This key decision is not associated with application.
- LRP-10 - Adopt LRTP by MPO
This key decision is not associated with application.
- LRP-11 - Make Conformity Determination
This key decision is not associated with application.

Programming

- PRO-1 - Approve Revenue Sources
This key decision is not associated with application.
- PRO-2 - Approve Methodology for Identifying Project Costs and Criteria for Allocating Revenue
This key decision is not associated with application.
- PRO-3 - Approve Project List Drawn from Adopted Plan Scenario or Solution Set
This key decision is not associated with application.
- PRO-4 - Approve Project Prioritization
Stakeholders provide input of prioritization of projects from the adopted LRTP scenario
- PRO-5 - Reach Consensus on Draft TIP
This key decision is not associated with application.
- PRO-6 - Adopt TIP by MPO
Stakeholders provide comments on Draft TIP prior to adoption by the partners.
- PRO-7 - Approve TIP by Governor and Incorporate into Draft STIP
This key decision is not associated with application.
- PRO-8 - Reach Consensus on Draft STIP
This key decision is not associated with application.
- PRO-9 - Approve STIP with respect to Fiscal Constraint
Stakeholders provide comments on the Draft STIP prior to adoption by the state.

Corridor Planning

- COR-1 - Approve Scope of Corridor Planning Process
This key decision is not associated with application.
- COR-2 - Approve Problem Statements and Opportunities
Stakeholders identify problems in the corridor, how and where they travel, and what is important to them in the corridor for consideration in the approved problems and opportunities.
- COR-3 - Approve Goals for the Corridor
Stakeholder perspective on the goals for the corridor is gathered and considered by the partners.
- COR-4 - Reach Consensus on Scope of Environmental Review and Analysis
This key decision is not associated with application.
- COR-5 - Approve Evaluation Criteria, Methods and Measures
Stakeholder interests are incorporated into the evaluation criteria and methodology in order to compare solution sets.
- COR-6 - Approve Range of Solution Sets
Stakeholders provide potential solutions and feedback on those solutions recommended by the partners.
- COR-7 - Adopt Preferred Solution Set
Stakeholders identify preferred solutions, those they consider unacceptable, and issues that are not addressed by the solutions offered.
- COR-8 - Approve Evaluation Criteria, Methods and Measures for Prioritization of Projects
This key decision is not associated with application.
- COR-9 - Adopt Priorities for Implementation
Stakeholders provide input on their preferred priorities and any information they have to support specific solutions.

Environmental Review/NEPA Merged with Permitting

- ENV-1 - Reach Consensus on Scope of Environmental Review
Stakeholders provide information to inform project scoping as well as appropriate public involvement including: what they care about in the project area, what are their concerns, what are appropriate boundaries for the area of concern, who should be involved, and how should they be engaged.
- ENV-2 - Approve Notice of Intent
This key decision is not associated with application.
- ENV-3 - Approve Purpose and Need/Reach Consensus on Project Purpose
Collecting stakeholder interests and comments on the need for the project and what it should accomplish.

- ENV-4 - Reach Consensus on Study Area
Stakeholders provide input on the proposed study area: what they value in the area, what is outside the area that should be considered, any recommendations on changes to the study area.
- ENV-5 - Approve Evaluation Criteria, Methods and Measures
Stakeholder perspective on characteristics that will demonstrate improvement and consistency with their interests when the project is complete to inform the evaluation criteria.
- ENV-6 - Approve Full Range of Alternatives
Stakeholders share ideas on solving the problems in the project area, submit potential solutions, and comment on alternatives that have been proposed or eliminated.
- ENV-7 - Approve Alternatives to be Carried Forward
This key decision is not associated with application.
- ENV-8 - Approve Draft EIS with Conceptual Mitigation
Stakeholder comments on alternatives are considered before the draft EIS is issued.
- ENV-9 - Approve Resource Agency Public Notice
This key decision is not associated with application.
- ENV-10 - Approve Preferred Alternative / LEDPA
Stakeholder perspective and comment on each alternative is considered prior to adoption of the preferred alternatives. Feedback to stakeholders is prepared to support the decision reached.
- ENV-11 - Approve Final Jurisdictional Determination
This key decision is not associated with application.
- ENV-12 - Reach Consensus on Avoidance and Minimization for the LEDPA
This key decision is not associated with application.
- ENV-13 - Approve Final EIS
This key decision is not associated with application.
- ENV-14 - Approve the Record of Decision
This key decision is not associated with application.
- ENV-15 - Render Permit Decision and Approve Avoidance and Minimization
This key decision is not associated with application.