

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** January 26, 2007

**TO:** Transportation Enhancement Subcommittee

**FROM:** Mary Frye, Transportation Planner

**SUBJECT:** 2008 through 2035 Regional Transportation Plan Development:  
Formation of Public Participation Working Group

***ACTION REQUESTED: Select Participants for Public Participation Working Group***

### **SUMMARY:**

Federal law requires that Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO) provide for early, continuous, pro-active public involvement when developing transportation plans and transportation improvement programs. PPACG will develop the 2008 through 2035 Regional Transportation Plan over the course of the next 10 to 12 months. A consultant team, led by Catalyst Consulting, will help to implement the public participation activities to develop the 2008 through 2035 Regional Transportation Plan. On December 1, PPACG staff members met with the consultant team to initiate the project, identify early tasks, iron out a schedule, and chart roles and responsibilities.

In order to enhance community involvement and information dissemination, the consultant proposed assembling the Public Participation Working Group to supplement on-going committee input and technical assistance for the 2008 through 2035 Regional Transportation Plan. All recommendations on policy, projects, and process will continue to utilize the current advisory committee structure. The Public Participation Working Group will be disbanded at the completion of the 2008 through 2035 Regional Transportation Plan.

The PPACG Board approved the formation of the Working Group in January. Therefore, we are requesting volunteers from TES for the Public Participation Working Group. We are also requesting that TES members suggest others that they feel should be involved in the Public Participation Working Group. The first meeting of the Public Participation Working Group is anticipated to be in mid-February.

### **BACKGROUND:**

The Public Participation Working Group will be composed of representatives from existing agency and community transportation organizations such as Colorado Springs Citizens Transportation Advisory Board and El Paso County's Highway Advisory Commission. The Working Group's main purpose would be to facilitate two-way communication with key transportation stakeholders in the region. The Working Group's responsibilities would be to assist in the development of public involvement methods and products that will be designed to:

- Facilitate public outreach and communication;
- Obtain representative viewpoints of the region's citizens;
- Provide factual information on transportation planning topics; and
- Generate interest in the 2008 through 2035 Regional Transportation Plan development process.

The Working Group would provide an integrated approach to public participation and serve as an informal Working Group that supplements the current advisory committee structure. Participants in the Working Group will be recruited from the following advisory committees, commissions, and boards who have interest in transportation planning:

- PPACG Advisory Committees;
  - Community Advisory Committee (CAC)
  - Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)
  - Transportation Enhancement Subcommittee (TES)
  - Specialized Transportation Advisory Subcommittee (STAS)
  - Air Quality Technical Committee (AQTC)
  - PPAAA Regional Advisory Council (RAC)
- City of Colorado Springs Citizen's Transportation Advisory Board (CTAB); and
- El Paso County's Highway Advisory Commission (HAC).

TES members are asked to identify any other groups they think may be appropriate to include from their respective communities.

**RECOMMENDATION:** None

**ATTACHMENTS:** None