

Region V Public Participation Process 2019

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INTRODUCTION

This is the Public Participation Plan for MIDAS Council of Governments (MIDAS) and the MIDAS Regional Planning Authority (MIDAS RTA). This plan provides a mechanism to involve the public in decision-making and increase public awareness of the region's transportation system.

The plan outlines how public involvement will be incorporated in the region's various transportation activities.

The Region V Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC) consists of a representative from each of the six counties, and a representative from the two cities in the region with a population over 5,000 which are Fort Dodge, and Webster City. Representatives from the Iowa Department of Transportation, the Federal Highway Administration, and the Federal Transit Administration are also invited to TAC meetings as non-voting members. The Region V TAC meets as needed but at least two times per year. The TAC makes recommendations to the MIDAS Executive Committee.

NAME	TITLE	AGENCY
Zac Andersen	County Engineer	Calhoun County
(Alternate)	<i>No one appointed</i>	Calhoun County
Nicole Stinn	County Engineer	Hamilton County
Open (Alternate)	Assistant Engineer	Hamilton County
Ben Loots	County Engineer	Humboldt County
(Alternate)	<i>No one appointed</i>	
Jack Moellering	County Engineer	Pocahontas County
(Alternate)	<i>No one appointed</i>	
Jamie Johll	County Engineer	Webster County
(Alternate)	Assistant Engineer	Webster County
Adam Clemons - Chair	County Engineer	Wright County
Jeremy Abbas (Alternate)	Assistant Engineer	Wright County
Chad Schaeffer – Vice Chair	City Engineer	City of Fort Dodge
Tony Trotter	Project Manager	City of Fort Dodge
Kent Harfst	Asst. City Manager	City of Webster City
Matt Alcazar	Public Works	City of Webster City
Andy Loonan (non-voting)	District Planner	IDOT

The Region V Policy Board is the MIDAS Executive Committee. There are 18 voting members and various alternates on the board whose membership is made of three members from each county. These three members represent the county, cities in the county and economic development interests in the county. The MIDAS Executive Board meets monthly. The MIDAS Board has final say in the PPP before it is forwarded to the IDOT

NAME	TITLE	Agency	Subcommittee
Carl Legore	County Supervisor	Calhoun County	Transit
John Hepp	City Council	City of Rockwell City	Planning
Jill Heisterkamp	Executive Director	Calhoun Co Economic Dev	Budget and Finance
Dan Campidilli	County Supervisor	Hamilton County	Budget and Finance
Kenric Weinschenk	Executive Director	Hamilton Co Social Services	Transit
Amanda Westrum	City Administrator	City of Stratford	Planning
Logan Welch (Alt)	City Council	City of Webster City	Transit
Lindsey Henderson (Alt)	Community Vitality Dir	City of Webster City	Budget and Finance
David Lee	County Supervisor	Humboldt County	Planning

Travis Goedken-Treasurer	City Administrator	City of Humboldt	Transit
Alissa O'Connor-Chair	Executive Director	Humboldt Economic Dev	Planning
Brent Aden	County Supervisor	Pocahontas County	Budget and Finance
Eric List	City Administrator	City of Pocahontas	Transit
Tom Grau	Executive Director	Pocahontas Co Economic Dev	Planning
Niki Conrad	County Supervisor	Webster County	Budget and Finance
Vickie Reeck-Vice Chair	Community Dev. Mgr.	City of Fort Dodge	Transit
Kris Patrick	Main Street Director	City of Fort Dodge	Planning
Dean Kluss	County Supervisor	Wright County	Budget and Finance
Darrel Steven Carlyle	City Administrator	City of Belmond	Planning
Cindy Litwiller	Executive Director	Wright Co Economic Dev	Transit
Andy Loonan – Non-voting, ex-officio	District 1 Planner	Iowa Department of Transportation	Planning

REGIONAL PLANNING AFFILIATION PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The RPA public process is outlined by each document required of the RPAs as shown below.

Regional Transportation Improvement Plan (RTIP)

The RTIP is a document developed annually that identifies all planned transportation projects in the region which are being funded with federal funds over the next four years. Identifying projects to be included in the RTIP is done through an application process. Prior to the start of the application process the RPA will hold a regional public input meeting to provide information on the regional transportation funding available and provide information on the region's transportation system. Attendees will be encouraged to provide comments/concerns on the region's transportation system.

The Region V Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC) with assistance from the Highway, Transit and Transportation Advisory subcommittees identify projects to be funded. Once the draft RTIP has been developed and prior to the MIDAS Board approving the RTIP a public hearing to accept comments on the document will be held.

There are four types of revisions that may be made to the RTIP, an STBG/TAP Flex amendment, STBG/TAP Flex administrative modification, SWAP amendment, and SWAP administrative modification. A STBG/TAP Flex amendment is a revision to the RTIP that involves a major change to a federally funded project included in the RTIP or the creation of a new project which will require the same public participation process as developing a new RTIP. A STBG/TAP Flex administrative modification is a revision making a minor change to a project already in the RTIP and does not increase federal funding such an amendment will not require public review. A SWAP amendment is a revision to the RTIP that involves increase SWAP funding to a SWAP funded project included in the RTIP or the creation of a new SWAP funded project which will require approval by region's Transportation Advisory Committee and the MIDAS Board. A SWAP administrative modification is any change that is not consider an amendment. Administrative modifications do not require public review and comment, board approval or conformity determination.

Draft RTIPs are due annually to the Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) June 15th with final RTIPs due July 15th.

Transportation Planning Work Program (TPWP)

The Transportation Planning Work Program (TPWP) is a management tool to be used as a guide when identifying, developing and directing the different planning activities, budget and time schedules of the RPA.

MIDAS staff develop the TPWP annually with input from the TAC, MIDAS Board and IDOT. A draft TPWP is sent to Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT), Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) for review and comment. The final version is adopted by the MIDAS Board.

Revisions to the TPWP will be handled in the same manner as development of the original TPWP.

Draft TPWPs are due annually to the Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) April 1st with final TPWPs due June 1st.

Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)

A Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) assesses the region's current transportation network and identifies the needs of the network for the next 20 year, thus the LRTP is a tool to guide the future of the region's transportation system. The LRTP is updated every five years. The task of developing the Regional LRTP falls upon MIDAS Council of Governments staff in coordination with the region's (RTAC), IDOT and the MIDAS Board.

Information from surveys and various plans are used when developing the LRTP many of these plans have gone through their own public participation process. As sections of the draft LRTP are developed they are posted on the MIDAS website available for review. Information gathered at the regional transportation public meeting held annually will be used when development of this plan. Public meetings will be held in each of the six counties which make up the MIDAS region prior to approval of the LRTP by the MIDAS Board.

Revisions to the LRTP will required one public hearing held prior to approval of the MIDAS Board approving the revision.

LRTP are to be updated every five years.

Passenger Transportation Plan (PTP)

The Passenger Transportation Planning process is designed to promote passenger transportation planning programs that further the development of the state's public transportation systems. PTPs cover a minimum five (5) year period and provide a discussion of transportation needs including recommended projects. The task of developing the PTP falls upon MIDAS Council of Governments staff in coordination with the region's human service providers, transit providers, IDOT and the MIDAS Board.

Information gathered from surveys and at county human service provider meetings (usually meeting 3-4 times per year) is used when developing the PTP. The draft PTP is distributed at the county human service providers meetings to provide input and a public meeting will be held prior to approval of the PTP by the MIDAS Board.

Revisions to the PTP will handled in the same manner as development of the original PTP.

PTP are to be updated every five years.

Public Participation Process (PPP)

The public participation process identifies opportunity for the public to become involved in development of the region's major transportation planning documents and transit documents and transit service determination. The task of developing the PTP falls upon MIDAS Council of Governments staff in coordination with the IDOT, RTAC and MIDAS Board.

The draft PPP will be sent to the IDOT for review and comment. The draft PPP will be available for review and comment at least 45 days prior to adoption by the MIDAS Board. Notice of the available draft plan will be sent out the same as a public meeting notice.

Revisions to the PPP will be handled in the same manner as development of the original PPP.

The PPP is reviewed annually

Public Notices

Notices for public meetings for the documents listed above are to be sent by e-mail to every city, county, economic development group, and human service provider in the region and the Iowa Department of Transportation. Also notices are to be sent to any interested individual/group who has requested such information be provided to them. Everyone receiving a notice will be asked to post the notice provided and to pass along the information to their clients and anyone else either by word of mouth or sharing the notice. Public notices of the meetings will be published in each MIDAS County official designated newspapers no less than 4 days before the date of the meeting. Meeting information was also placed on the MIDAS website and Facebook page.

****All Region V TAC, Region V Subcommittees and MIDAS Board meetings are open to the public.**

Public meetings will be held in buildings or facilities that are accessible to persons with disabilities. Any special accommodations requests must be made 48 hours in advance of the public meeting.

TRANSIT PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The MIDAS Regional Transportation Authority (MIDAS RTA) and DART public participation process is outlined below.

Transit Consolidated Application

Iowa's Consolidated Transit Funding Application is an annual application used by all transit agencies to apply for STA funds and federal 5310, 5311 and 5339 funds. Prior to submitting the application to the Iowa Department of Transportation the MIDAS RTA will hold a public meeting to solicit public comment. Notice will be given 30 days prior to the public meeting.

Service Change

Prior to implementing a new service or a “major reduction” in service the MIDAS RTA and DART will hold a public meeting to solicit public comment. Information on proposed new services or “major reduction” in service will be posted on the transit system’s buses and shared with county human service providers prior to the public meeting and they will be asked to share this information with their clients. Any comments received will be reviewed and taken into consideration prior to making changes. When presenting service changes to the MIDAS Policy Board or the Fort Dodge City Council for approval the board will be informed of all comments received and the results of those comments.

Major reduction in service includes: a permanent change to routes, operational hour service changes of more than one hour, and reduction of service area by more than 2 miles.

Fare Increases

Prior to implementing any fare increase the MIDAS RTA and DART will hold a public meeting to solicit public comment. Information on fare increases will be posted on the transit system’s buses and shared with county human service providers prior to the public meeting and they will be asked to share this information with their clients. Any comments received will be reviewed and taken into consideration prior to making changes. When presenting fare increases to the MIDAS Policy Board or the Fort Dodge City Council for approval the board will be informed of all comments received and the results of those comments.

DART Route Maps

Dart Route Maps will be available in Fort Dodge at: MIDAS Council of Governments, DART, Beacon of Hope Shelter, Citizens Central, Elderbridge, Fort Dodge City Hall, Fort Dodge Public Library, Iowa Central Community College, Iowa Workforce, Lifeworks, United Way, Vocational Rehab, Webster County Community Services, Webster County Social Services, YWCA, and any human service provider locations which wishes to make them available and at the Fort Dodge Public Library.

Public Notices

Public notices of the meetings will be published in The Messenger newspaper no less than 4 days before the date of the meeting (unless otherwise stated above). Meeting information was also placed on the MIDAS website and Facebook page.

Public meetings will be held in buildings or facilities that are accessible to persons with disabilities. Any special accommodations requests must be made 48 hours in advance of the public meeting.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For more information on the region's transportation or to get on the transportation information contact list contact:

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