

# 2022 Public Involvement Annual Report

# MARTIN METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT – 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

## **Narrative:**

Each year, the Martin Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) assesses the effectiveness of its public outreach techniques and strategies to ensure that funds and time are invested efficiently and only after consultation with the public on a regular and as-needed basis. The MPO measures its overall performance by conducting a Public Involvement Annual Report. In doing so, the MPO evaluates the Objectives and Strategies detailed in the MPO's Public Participation Plan (PPP), adopted on February 21, 2022.

The Martin MPO PPP contains the following six Objectives:

**Objective 1: Hold regular public meetings with MPO advisory committees to obtain feedback on all documents, projects, and funding determinations prior to consideration by the MPO Board.**

**Objective 2: Provide equitable access to information regarding transportation decision making.**

**Objective 3: Engage the public early, often, and with clarity so that opportunities exist for public feedback in the transportation decision-making process.**

**Objective 4: Use a variety of methods to involve and engage the public.**

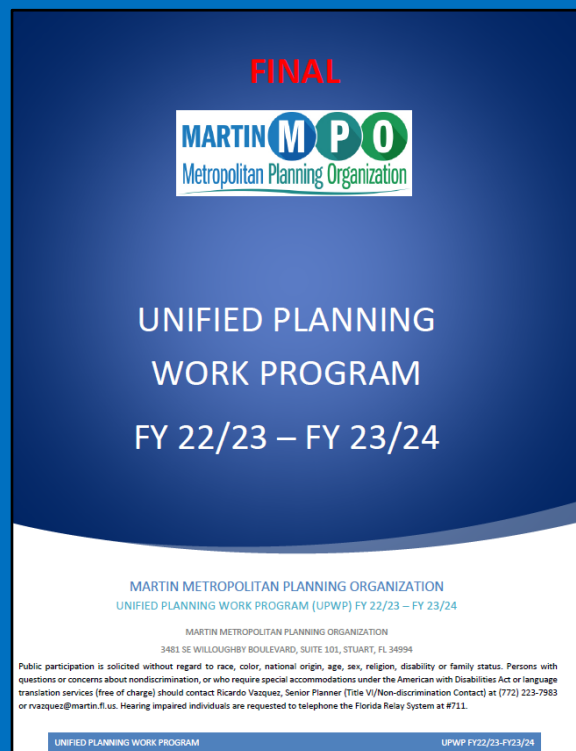
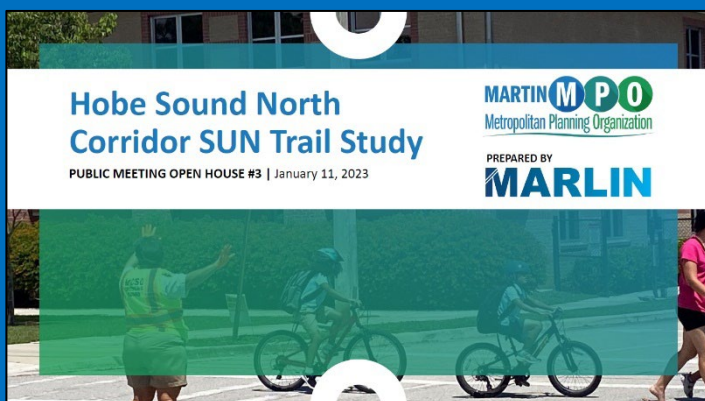
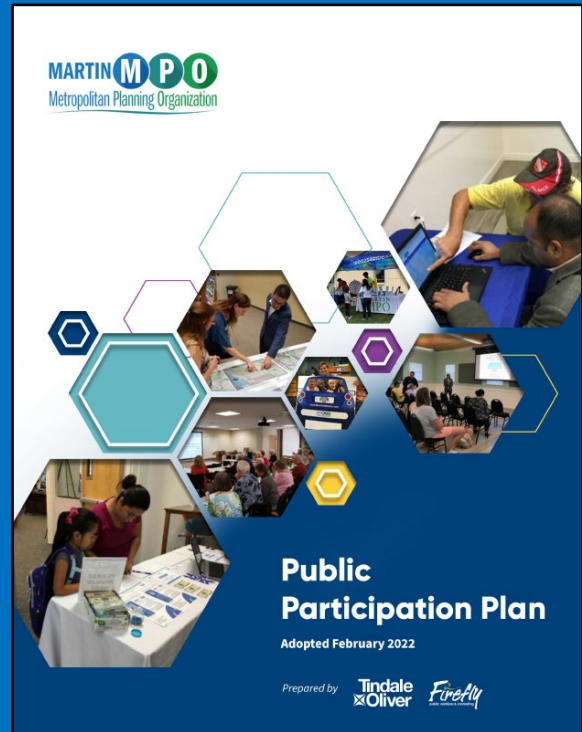
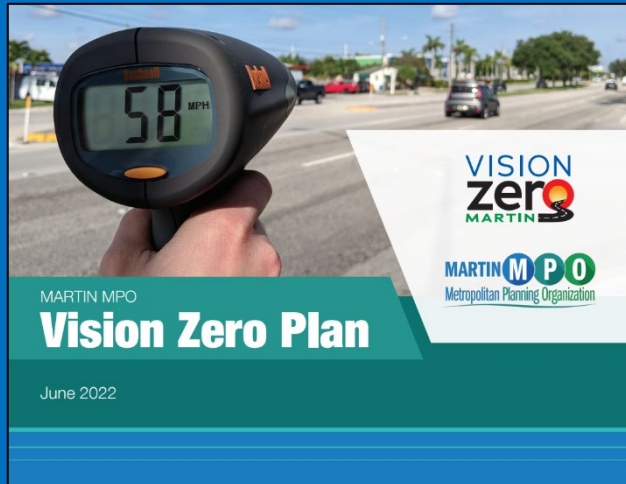
**Objective 5: Gather public feedback on the Program of Projects for Martin County Public Transit.**

**Objective 6: Strive to continuously improve the public participation process.**

The purpose of this Annual Report is to review the Objectives listed above and strategies identified in the adopted PPP in order to assess if/when they were met during the 2022 calendar year. To access the previously approved 2021 Public Involvement Annual Report, visit [www.martinmpo.com](http://www.martinmpo.com).



# Objective 1: Hold regular public meetings with MPO advisory committees to obtain feedback on all documents, projects, and funding determinations prior to consideration by the MPO Board.



## **Objective 1 Strategies:**

**Strategy 1A:** Advisory Committee positions are filled.

- Technical Advisory Committee: 100% positions filled
- Citizen's Advisory Committee: 83% positions filled
- Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee: 81% positions filled
- Freight Transportation Advisory Committee: 100% positions filled
- Local Coordinating Board for the Transportation Disadvantaged: 82% positions filled.
- Overall 90% average of all Committee positions filled in 2022.

**Evaluation: Strategy achieved.** (Satisfaction 90%; Measure 80%)

**Strategy 1B:** Advisory Committees receive meeting notices, agenda items and information at least 5 days prior to meetings.

- One hundred percent (100%) of Advisory Committee meeting notices and information were sent at least 5 days prior to the meeting.

**Evaluation: Strategy achieved.** (Satisfaction 100%; Measure: 80%)

**Strategy 1C:** Advisory Committee recommendations/actions are presented to the MPO Board.

- Advisory Committee recommendations and actions are presented to the MPO Board. In 2022, committee members had opportunities to provide comments and recommendations to the MPO Board for planning studies and products such as the Transportation Network Resiliency Study, FY23 - FY27 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), FY24 - FY28 List of Project Priorities, Development Review Interactive Map, Hobe Sound Shared-Use Nonmotorized (SUN) Trail Feasibility Study, FY23 – FY24 Unified Planning Work Program, Vision Zero Plan, and the Public Participation Plan (PPP).

**Evaluation: Strategy achieved.** (Satisfaction 100%; Measure: 100%)

## Objective 2: Provide equitable access to information regarding transportation decision making.



**Citrus Grove Elementary Safety  
Event 2/8/21**



**Hobe Sound Chow Down  
10/14/22**



**Hobe Sound North Corridor SUN Trail  
Study Public Meeting 3/9/2022**



**Vision Zero Virtual Open House  
4/13/22**

## **Objective 2 Strategies:**

**Strategy 2A:** Meetings and events are held at convenient times and locations.

- In 2022, the MPO held over 25 public meetings which were held at various times of the day as well as different locations in Martin County, such as the County Administrative Center and the Hobe Sound Civic Center. MPO staff also conducted a Pedestrian Safety Campaign at Citrus Grove Elementary School and a Bike to Work Day in Downtown Stuart.

**Evaluation: Strategy achieved.**

**Strategy 2B:** Persons with disabilities are provided access to information and participation opportunities.

- All meetings are held in ADA accessible locations and project related information is made accessible to vision-impaired persons by using the “Searchable” feature of Adobe Acrobat Pro.
- In addition, Persons with Disabilities are represented on the Local Coordinating Board for the Transportation Disadvantaged, Citizens Advisory Committee, and the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee to provide input.
- The public is also notified on how to access accommodations as needed. All meeting notices, agendas and staff e-mails contain information regarding nondiscrimination or who to contact if special accommodations or language translation services are required.

**Evaluation: Strategy achieved.** One-hundred percent (100%) of meetings and project-related information are accessible to persons with disabilities. (Satisfaction 100%; Measure: 100%)

**Strategy 2C:** Public involvement activities are geographically dispersed throughout the MPO area.

- Draft documents of the TIP and the PPP were made available for public review and comment in every branch of the Martin County Library System, as well as the Martin County Administration Building.
- MPO staff held a Hobe Sound SUN Trail Feasibility Study Public Meeting on March 9, 2022 at the Hobe Sound Civic Center.

**Evaluation: Strategy achieved.** (Satisfaction 100%)

**Strategy 2D:** Public involvement activities and events target a diverse group of participants.

- A Vision Zero interactive map was launched to receive feedback from the public to inform the Vision Zero Plan recommendations related to the Safe Streets key focus area, and to be able to make generalized statements about what is popular with the public.
- MPO staff in coordination with our Vision Zero subconsultant continued the Vision Zero Social Media Campaign with key components for Bicycle and

Pedestrian Safety, Nighttime Visibility Safety Awareness and Mid-Block Safety Awareness.

- On March 9, 2022, MPO staff held a Hobe Sound Corridor SUN Trail Feasibility Study Open House at the Hobe Sound Civic Center.

**Evaluation: Strategy achieved.** (Satisfaction 100%; Measure: Public involvement activities specifically designed and held for a diverse group.)

**Strategy 2E:** Public information is available in a format for traditionally underserved populations.

- The MPO continues to contract with LanguageLine Solutions, a nationwide leader in the field of translation and interpretation services. The service provides over-the phone, face-to-face and videoconference interpreting and document translation services. This provides the MPO access to more than 200 languages.
- Flyers for the November 11, 2022 Hobe Sound SUN Trail Open House were developed in both English and Spanish.
- Martin MPO's website is easily translated into different languages with the use of Google Translate.

**Evaluation: Strategy achieved.** Staff continues to meet the needs of the underserved populations through outreach efforts and by providing ways to communicate with the non-English speaking population.

**Strategy 2F:** The MPO maintains an up-to-date database of contacts that regularly receive information.

- The MPO maintains an up-to-date database of contacts in the form of distribution lists who receive regular information from the MPO.

**Evaluation: Strategy achieved.**



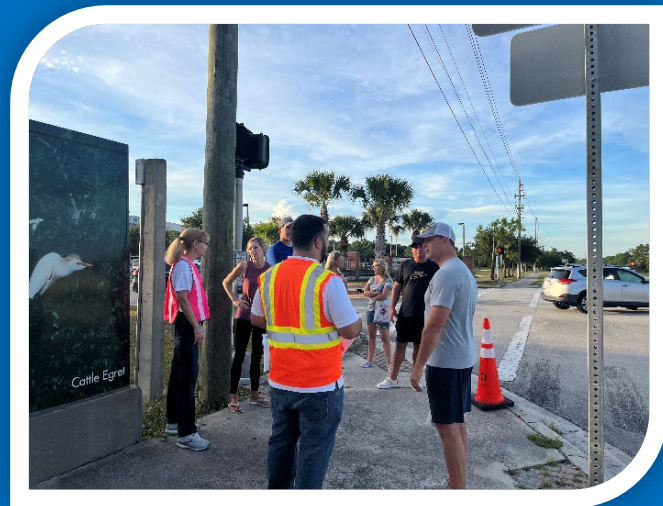
**Objective 3: Engage the public early, often, and with clarity so that opportunities exist for public feedback in the transportation decision-making process.**



**Hobe Sound Chow Down  
10/14/22**



**Hobe Sound North Corridor SUN  
Trail Study Public Meeting  
3/9/2022**



**Citrus Grove Safety Event  
8/25/22**



**Martin County Health and  
Wellness Fair  
11/3/22**



### **Objective 3 Strategies:**

**Strategy 3A:** Public information regarding MPO actions is available in different formats and easily accessible.

- Documents are available in a searchable format that accommodates the visually impaired.
- MPO meetings are televised live on local television MCTV (Martin County Television) Channel 20 and U-verse Channel 99; past meetings can be viewed “on demand” on MCTV. Agendas, minutes and MPO documents can be found on the Martin MPO website.

**Evaluation: Strategy achieved.**

**Strategy 3B:** The MPO responds to public inquiries within seven working days of the date of receipt.

- Martin MPO utilizes the electronic public inquiry system “Request for Service”. This allows the request to be tracked from time of inquiry until time of resolution.

**Evaluation: Strategy achieved.**

**Strategy 3C:** Meeting notices and information are available at least five days prior to meetings.

**Evaluation: Strategy exceeded measures.** Staff has a strong record of providing meeting notices to the public well in advance of meetings and will continue to strive for this 100% goal. One-hundred percent (100%) of all public meeting notices were made available to the public at least five (5) days prior to the meeting on the MPO website. (Satisfaction 100%; Measure: 80%)

**Strategy 3D:** MPO will provide follow-up information to groups on project process and comments received.

- The FY23 – FY27 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) was made available for public review and comment for 45 days at the Martin County Administration Building, all County libraries, and on the MPO website.
- During each MPO public meeting, staff shares information related to public comments and recommendations.
- After MPO Meetings, staff shares relevant information to all committee members and Board members. MPO staff provides follow-up notices to groups in form of meetings, flyers, or updates to website.

**Evaluation: Strategy achieved.**

**Strategy 3E:** Public participation opportunities will be made available at key decision-making milestones.

- The FY23-FY27 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) review period was advertised for 45 days prior to adoption. Advisory Committee members and Board members were able to provide comments on the Draft FY23-FY27 TIP in May and the Final FY23-FY27 TIP during the June 2022 cycle of meetings.
- The FY24-FY28 Draft List of Project Priorities was presented at the Advisory Committee meetings and Board meeting in February 2022 and the final LOPP was presented during the June 2022 cycle of meetings.
- The public was given the opportunity to provide input on the Final Vision Zero Plan during the April 2022 Advisory Committee/Board Meetings.
- Hobe Sound Corridor SUN Trail Study Public Meeting was held at the Hobe Sound Civic Center on March 9, 2022, to gain input from the community regarding the possible East Coast Greenway trail connection.
- The Final Transportation Network Resiliency Study was presented to the Advisory Committees and MPO Board in December of 2022.

**Evaluation: Strategy achieved. (Satisfaction 100%; Measure: 100%)**

**Strategy 3F:** Public feedback is incorporated into transportation decision making.

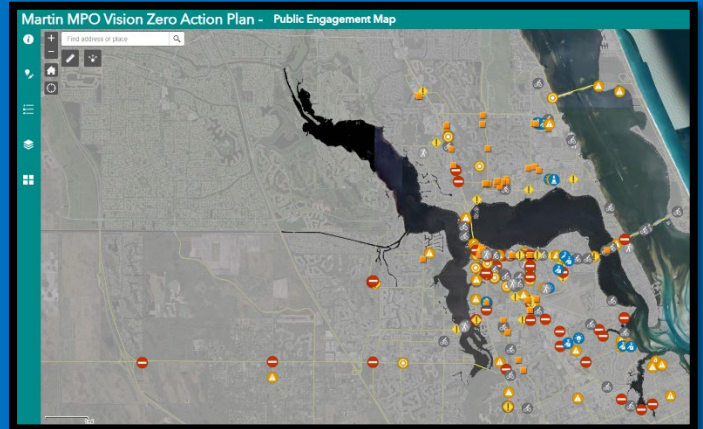
- Comments received from the public and Advisory Committee meetings were shared with the MPO Policy Board members.
- Comments and feedback from the public were incorporated into several of the Martin MPO's plans and studies, such as the Public Participation Plan, Vision Zero Plan, and the Transportation Network Resiliency Study.
- Public comments were recorded and considered at the Hobe Sound Corridor SUN Trail Feasibility Study Open House on March 9, 2022.
- Record of public comments and how they were integrated into transportation planning process maintained by MPO staff.

**Evaluation: Strategy achieved. (Satisfaction: 100%; Measure: A record of public comments will be maintained by staff.)**

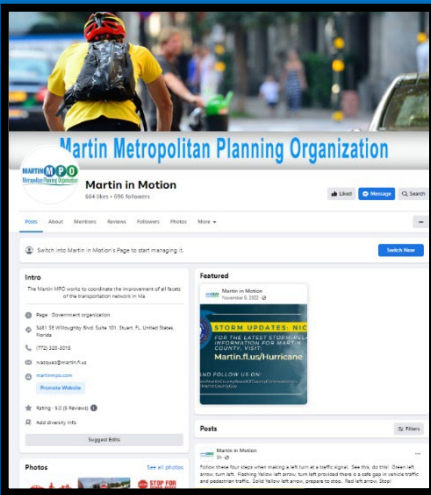
# Objective 4: Use a variety of methods to involve and engage the public.



Vision Zero Website



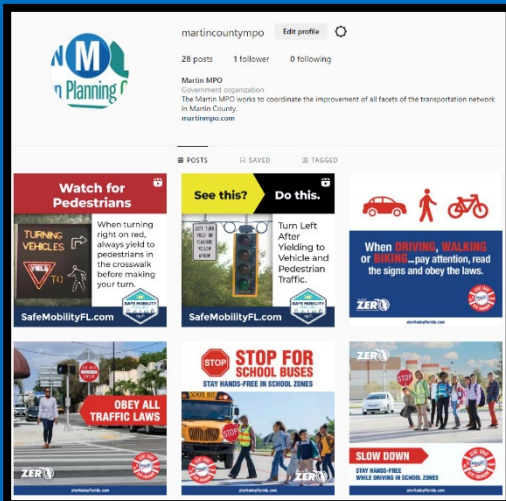
Vision Zero Interactive Map



Martin In Motion Facebook Page



On the Move Newsletter



Martin MPO Instagram Page



Hobe Sound Chow Down Event 10/14/22



## **Objective 4 Strategies:**

**Strategy 4A:** The MPO utilizes varied public involvement techniques.

- MPO staff developed a Vision Zero Plan Website to educate the public on the purpose of the plan, and to share resources and how the public can get involved in the development of the plan.
- A Vision Zero Interactive Map was created to gain input from the public about areas in Martin County that are in need of safety improvements.
- Hobe Sound SUN Trail Feasibility Study Public Meeting was held on March 9, 2022. This meeting was held in the Hobe Sound Civic Center and scheduled right before the Hobe Sound Neighborhood Advisory Committee (NAC) meeting.
- The Martin In Motion Facebook page has continued to share safety messages, and also provides updates on current MPO work products.
- The Martin MPO Website shares announcements on upcoming meetings and special events and hosts all MPO documents.
- On March 11, 2022, MPO staff conducted a Bike to Work Day event as part of Florida Bike Month.
- MPO Staff members participated in Walk to School Day with staff from J.D. Parker Elementary on October 12, 2022, to promote safe walking.

**Evaluation: Strategy achieved.** (Satisfaction 100%; Measure: At least three (3) separate techniques are used to involve/engage the public in decision making.)

**Strategy 4B:** The MPO conducts surveys on the effectiveness of public outreach techniques.

- During MPO public meetings, members of committees and general public during sign-in are asked if meetings are scheduled at convenient days and times.
- The MPO included a survey in the Fall 2022 edition of the MPO Newsletter “On the Move” which asked readers to answer questions regarding their preferred time for meetings and methods of public outreach.

**Evaluation: Strategy successfully achieved.**

**Strategy 4C:** Public information is available in languages other than English, as appropriate, or in other means to address disabilities.

- The MPO partners with Google to offer a unique option on its website that translates the site to more than 75 languages.
- The MPO maintains a contract with LanguageLine, a translating service available for written, on-site and telephone translations to accommodate more than 200 languages.
- Currently, one Spanish speaking professional is on staff.

**Evaluation: Strategy successfully achieved.** (Satisfaction 100%; Measure: In specific geographic areas and for specific community meetings, presentation

materials are produced in a language other than English.)

**Strategy 4D:** The MPO uses varied website tools to provide information.

- MPO staff continued to use its traditional website as a means of providing information to the public ([www.martinmpo.com](http://www.martinmpo.com)). All pages of the MPO website are available in more than 75 languages.
- The MPO has an interactive web-based TIP that will allow users to see each project on a map, research financial information for specific projects, and generate customized reports.
- A Vision Zero Plan Website was developed to help with public outreach. The website describes the purpose of the Vision Zero Plan, shares resources, and explains to the public how to get involved with the development of the plan.
- The Martin MPO staff developed an Interactive Map for the Vision Zero Plan. The interactive map is a way for the public to share where they think improvements are needed in Martin County.
- MPO staff utilizes social media to share meeting event information, and safety messages.
- Staff continued the Bicycle and Pedestrian Virtual Safety Awareness messages with key components for Nighttime Visibility Safety, Mid-Block Safety, Bicycle Safety and Pedestrian Safety as part of the Vision Zero Plan. Awareness Messages continued to be published in the County Connection Digital Newsletter and the Martin MPO Martin in Motion Social Media Account.
- Martin MPO staff developed a Development Review Interactive Map to assist the MPO Board in prioritizing projects in relation to planned developments.
- MPO staff introduced three new social media campaigns that included:
  - Schools Out Summer Campaign
  - Back to School Summer Campaign
  - Aggressive Driving Fall Campaign

**Evaluation: Strategy exceeded measure.** (Satisfaction 100%; Measure: At least three separate website tools are used to involve/engage the public. MPO will attempt to use social media.)

**Strategy 4E:** The MPO uses the website to track public interest in activities.

- Martin MPO uses Google Analytics to track activity on the website.
- The Martin MPO Facebook page allows staff to receive notification when someone comments, 'likes' or shares an announcement from the MPO.

**Evaluation: Strategy achieved.** (Satisfaction 100%; Measure: Project specific web pages developed and tracked as a method to gather feedback.)

**Strategy 4F:** The MPO maintains and uses a social media presence to provide information and receive feedback.

- Martin MPO uses Facebook and Instagram to maintain a social media presence.

**Evaluation: Strategy Achieved**

## Objective 5: Gather public feedback on the Program of Projects for Martin County Public Transit.



### **Objective 5 Strategies:**

**Strategy 5A:** Request the Martin County Section 5307 Program of Projects (POP).

- The MPO collaborates with Martin County Public Transit to inform the public about transit projects. In doing so, the public has the opportunity to provide input on the Program of Projects and be involved in the prioritizing of the Program of Projects for funding. During the June 2022 Advisory Committee meetings, individuals present had the opportunity to comment on the Public Transit POP. The MPO Policy Board also reviewed the POP on June 20, 2022.

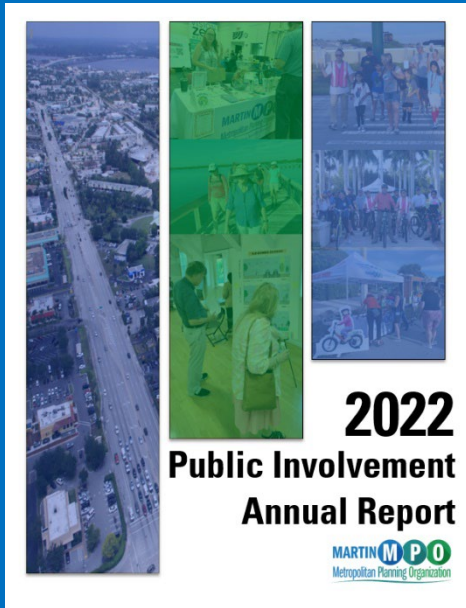
**Evaluation:** Strategy successfully achieved. (Satisfaction 100%)

**Strategy 5B:** POP will be included with the MPO List of Project Priorities (LOPP) and presented at the CAC, TAC, BPAC and MPO Policy Board meetings.

**Evaluation:** Strategy successfully achieved. (Satisfaction 100%)



# Objective 6: Strive to continuously improve the public participation process.



**Table 6-1: Public Participation Plan Measures of Effectiveness**

Objective 1 – Hold regular public meetings with MPO advisory committees to obtain feedback on all documents, projects, and funding determinations prior to consideration by the MPO Board.		
	Tool/Technique Area	Measure
<b>Strategy 1a</b> Advisory committee positions are filled.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Program management</li> <li>Public notification</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain 80% of all advisory committee positions filled during course of the year.</li> </ul>
<b>Strategy 1b</b> Advisory committees receive meeting notices, agenda items, and information at least 5 days prior to meetings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Program management</li> <li>Public notification</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>80% of advisory committee meeting notices and information sent at least five (5) days prior to meeting.</li> <li>MPO staff meet at least twice annually with partner MPO staff to discuss regional issues and provide feedback to advisory committees.</li> <li>MPO staff meet at least once per year with Chamber of Commerce/Economic Development Council to discuss transportation issues and provide feedback to advisory committees.</li> </ul>
<b>Strategy 1c</b> Advisory committee recommendations/ actions are presented to MPO Board.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Program management</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>100% of advisory committee recommendations or actions logged and subsequently presented to MPO Board.</li> </ul>

## Objective 6 Strategies:

**Strategy 6A:** Review, revise, and re-adopt the PPP at least once every 3–5 years, amending as necessary in between.

- The PPP was adopted on February 21, 2022. MPO staff has reviewed the PPP and does not have any recommended changes to the document at this time.

**Evaluation: Strategy achieved.**

**Strategy 6B:** Continuously evaluate public participation techniques and strategies, changing or adding as necessary.

- MPO staff produces a Public Involvement Annual Report for the purposes of determining the effectiveness of its public outreach.

**Evaluation: Strategy achieved.**

**Strategy 6C:** Produce a Public Involvement Annual Report each year using Methods of Effectiveness (MOE) to monitor performance.

- Public Involvement Annual Report has been produced. All strategies have been achieved.
- Public Involvement Annual Report is available on the Martin MPO website, and available upon request.

**Evaluation: Strategy achieved.**