

OWENSBORO – DAVIESS COUNTY
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

PARTICIPATION PLAN

APRIL 2014

Prepared by the
GREEN RIVER AREA DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

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RESOLUTION
OF THE
POLICY COMMITTEE
OF THE
OWENSBORO – DAVIESS COUNTY
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
APPROVING THE
PARTICIPATION PLAN

WHEREAS, the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Act, A Legacy for Users (SAFTEA-LU) requires that Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO) establish a Participation Plan (PP), and

WHEREAS, the Participation Plan requires periodically review, and update public participation processes to assure early and continued public awareness of, and access to, the transportation decision-making process, and

WHEREAS, the Policy Committee of the Owensboro – Daviess County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) desires to gather community input on transportation related issues, and


WHEREAS, the MPO will provide a Participation Plan that provides complete information, timely public notice, full public access to key decisions, and supports early and continuing participation of the public in developing all transportation plans, and

WHEREAS, the MPO will seek out and consider the needs of those traditionally underserved by existing transportation systems, including but not limited to low-income and minority households, and

WHEREAS, the MPO desires to provide reasonable public access to the technical and policy information utilized in the development of plans, Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and open public meetings where matters related to the Federal-Aid highway and transit programs are being considered, and

WHEREAS, the MPO desires the Participation Plan to be consistent will all federal and state regulations and actions, and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Policy Committee of the Owensboro – Daviess County Metropolitan Planning Organization at is meeting on March 25, 2014 approves the Owensboro – Daviess County Metropolitan Planning Organization Participation Plan.



Hon. Al Mattingly
Judge/Executive, Daviess County, Kentucky

INTRODUCTION

Public participation is an essential component of the Owensboro – Daviess County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) transportation planning process. The MPO transportation planning process is built on the 3 – C approach (Continuing, Cooperative, and Comprehensive). The cooperative segment of the process indicates that it is a coordinated effort between units of local government, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC). It also references a process that is open to all people living and working within the urbanized area. Transportation related decisions will be made with opportunities for input from citizens living and working in the MPO urban area.

The MPO is made up of the city of Owensboro, KY., and Daviess County, KY. These entities are the core of the populations within the MPO. The Green River Area Development District (GRADD) is designated, by the Governor, as the staff agency for the MPO.

OWENSBORO – DAVIESS COUNTY MPO RESPONSIBILITIES

The Owensboro – Daviess County MPO is made up of a Policy Committee, a Technical Advisory Committee, and a Citizens Advisory Committee. Each committee has its own specific tasks concerning all the issues and policies of the MPO. Appendix B provides a list of committee members for each MPO committee.

The MPO is responsible for transportation planning activities that lead to the expenditure of Federal surface transportation funds within the designated MPO planning area. Other significant products produced by the MPO include the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) and the Participation Plan. The MPO Policy Committee has the final decision in determining issues, and policies, and the expenditure of federal funds within the MPO urbanized area.

1. METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN (MTP)

The MTP is a financially constrained document that addresses the future transportation needs of the urbanized area including highways, public transportation, and bicycle/pedestrian. The MTP addresses these needs over a minimum 20-year planning horizon. Several elements must be considered in the MTP including:

- a. Identification of policies, strategies, and projects for the future
- b. Determination of projected demand for all modes of transportation over a 20-year period
- c. Articulation of regional goals for the transportation system that reflect the eight (8) planning factors identified in MAP – 21
- d. Consultation with non-metropolitan local officials
- e. Consultation with Federal, State, and local land-use management, natural resources, historic preservation, environmental protection, and conservation
- f. Public Transportation element
- g. Operations & Maintenance strategies in the MTP to improve the performance of existing transportation facilities to relieve congestion and maximize safety and mobility of people and goods
- h. Reflect the goals and objectives of Kentucky’s Strategic Highway Safety Plan
- i. Employ visualization techniques to describe the MTP
- j. Estimation of costs and identification of reasonable available funding sources to meet the needs of the region
- k. Discussion of system level environmental mitigation activities
- l. Update at least every 5 – years

2. TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)

The MPO is also responsible for developing a TIP that covers a minimum of four years. The TIP contains all federally funded transportation investments as well as local and state funded projects that have significant impact to the transportation system. Federal law requires that the TIP:

- a. Cover a minimum four-year period
- b. Be updated at least every four years
- c. Is fiscally constrained
- d. Is incorporated in the Statewide TIP

3. UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP)

The MPO UPWP is the document that outlines the transportation planning activities and products to be developed by the MPO each fiscal year from July 1 through June 30. The UPWP is updated on an annual basis and is developed in conjunction with the FHWA, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and the KYTC.

4. PARTICIPATION PLAN

The Participation Plan provides guidance for obtaining public input into the decision-making processes of the MPO. This document describes the actions that the MPO will undertake to give the public and various agencies the opportunity to provide input in the planning process. The mission of the participation plan is as follows:

To establish a transportation planning process that is open to all citizens and to ensure that all input received from the public is given proper consideration in the decision-making process.

Because public concerns are often localized, and active participants do not always represent the concerns of the public as a whole, proactive steps will be taken to ensure that public participation process results in accurate understanding of the public as a whole. Public Participation activities will vary by time, place, and method to simplify access to the decision making process. Various methods will be used continuously throughout the planning process. Public availability of technical data and other information in a concise and understandable format shall be assured. Open access to the decision-making process shall also be assured.

FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Federal Requirements for Public Participation activities were issued in the Final Rules, 23 CFR Part 450 and 49 CFR Part 613, by the US Department of Transportation in 1994. The following outlines the commitment the Owensboro – Daviess County MPO has made to meet the Federal Requirements.

The rules require MPOs to:

“Include a proactive public involvement process that provides complete information, timely public notice, full public access to key decisions, and supports early and continuing involvement of the public in developing plans and TIPs and meets the requirements and criteria specified.”

- a. Require a minimum public comment period of 45 – days before the public involvement process is adopted or revised.

The Owensboro – Daviess County MPO will provide a 45 – day public comment period prior to adopting or revising the Participation Plan. A notice will be placed in the local newspaper(s) informing the public that the Participation Plan is available for public review and comment. A copy of the draft Participation Plan will be available at the following locations:

- a. *Green River ADD Website*
- b. *Green River ADD Office*
- c. *City Hall Reception Desk*
- d. *Daviess County Judge/Executive Office (Courthouse)*
- e. *Owensboro Transit System Office*
- f. *Daviess County Public Library*

- b. Provide timely information about transportation issues and processes to citizens, affected public agencies, representatives of transportation agency employees, private providers of transportation, other interested parties and segments of the community affected by transportation plans, programs and projects (including but not limited to central city and other local jurisdiction concerns)

The MPO will provide timely information to citizens and agencies listed above by including relevant information on the Green River ADD website and through public notices advertised through local media. The MPO will also maintain a list of contact agencies and will share with these agencies relevant information regarding transportation plans, programs, and projects.

- c. Provide reasonable public access to technical and policy information used in the development of plans and TIPs and open public meetings where matters related to the Federal-aid highway and transit programs are being considered.

All MPO committees meetings are open to the public. The MPO will ensure reasonable access to information utilized in the development of the MTP and TIP. This information shall be available upon written request to the MPO and the MPO shall have 30 days to respond in writing to such requests. All public meetings conducted by the MPO will be held in locations that are accessible to all citizens and will be ADA accessible.

- d. Require adequate public notice of public involvement activities and time for public review and comment at key decision points, including, but not limited to, approval of plans and TIPs.

All Public Participation activities of the MPO will be advertised in the local media not less than seven (7) days and not more than twenty-one (21) days prior to the activity. The MPO will comply with Federal regulations concerning the time for public review and comment at key decision points as listed above. The required public comment periods are listed on page 27 of this document.

- e. Demonstrate explicit consideration and response to public input received during the planning and program development processes.

All public input received during the planning and program development processes will be given due consideration by the MPO. The MPO staff will provide public comments to the MPO committees for consideration.

- f. Seek out and consider the needs of those traditionally underserved by the existing transportation systems, including but not limited to, low-income and minority households.

The MPO will seek out and consider the needs of traditionally underserved populations through public meetings that will be held in locations that are accessible to all citizens. The MPO will also provide information to agencies that work with low-income and

minority populations to enhance the ability of the MPO to distribute information to the traditionally underserved. These agencies are included in Appendix D, Agency Cooperation.

- g. When significant written and oral comments are received on the draft MTP or TIP (including the financial plan) as a result of the public involvement process or interagency consultation process required under the U.S. EPA's conformity regulations, a summary, analysis, and report on the disposition of comments shall be made part of the final plan and TIP.

The MPO will provide for an additional comment period of 21 days should the final MTP or TIP have significant differences from the draft that was originally reviewed by the public.

- h. Public involvement processes shall be periodically reviewed by the MPO in terms of their effectiveness in assuring that the process provides full and open access to all.

As outlined on page 19 of this document, the MPO will conduct periodic effectiveness reviews to ensure that the MPO is effectively pursuing public comment and the process provides full and open access to all citizens.

- i. The procedures will be reviewed by the FHWA and the FTA during certification reviews for TMs, and as otherwise necessary for all MPOs, to assure that full and open access is provided to MPO decision-making processes.

The MPO will work cooperatively with FHWA and FTA to meet the above requirements.

- j. Metropolitan public involvement processes shall be coordinated with statewide public involvement processes wherever possible to enhance public consideration of the issues, plans, and programs and reduce redundancies and costs.

The MPO will coordinate with the statewide Public Participation processes, wherever possible.

Recent federal transportation authorization legislation additionally requires that:

“before approving the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) (or the annual TIP), each metropolitan planning organization shall provide citizens, affected public agencies, representatives of transportation agency employees, freight shippers, providers of freight transportation services, private providers of transportation, representatives of users of public transit, and other interested parties with a reasonable opportunity to comment on MTP (or the TIP).”

To the greatest extent possible, the MPO will provide the above listed agencies, organizations, and individuals a reasonable opportunity to review and comment on the MTP and TIP.

23 USC, SECTION 134 (g) (4)

PARTICIPATION BY INTERESTED PARTIES – Before approving a long-range plan, each metropolitan planning organization shall provide citizens, affected public agencies, representatives of transportation agency employees, private providers of transportation, and other interested parties with a reasonable opportunity to comment on the long range plan, in a manner that the Secretary deems appropriate.

To the greatest extent possible, the MPO will provide the above listed agencies, organizations, and individuals a reasonable opportunity to review and comment on the MTP.

23 USC SECTION 134 (h) (6)

NOTICE AND COMMENT – Before approving a transportation improvement program, a metropolitan planning organization shall provide citizens, affected public agencies, representatives of transportation agency employees, private providers of transportation, and other interested parties with reasonable notice of and an opportunity to comment on the proposed program.

To the greatest extent possible, the MPO will provide the above listed agencies, organizations, and individuals a reasonable opportunity to review and comment on the TIP.

MEETING THE NEEDS OF TRADITIONALLY – UNDERSERVED

TITLE VI

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 declares it to be the policy of the United States that discrimination on the grounds of race, color, or national origin shall not occur in connection with programs and activities receiving Federal financial assistance and authorizes and directs the appropriate Federal departments and agencies to take action to carry out this policy. This title is not intended to apply to foreign assistance programs.

SECTION 504

Section 504 is a civil rights law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability in programs and activities, public and private, which receives federal financial assistance. Any person who (1) has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more life activities, (2) has a record of such an impairment, or (3) is regarded as having such an impairment is covered under Section 504. Major life activities include walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning, working, caring for oneself, and performing manual tasks.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) is a civil rights law to prohibit discrimination solely on the basis of disability in employment, public services, and accommodations. Any individual with a disability who: (1) has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more life activities; or (2) has a record of such impairment; (3) is regarded as having such an impairment is covered under ADA. Further, the person must be qualified for the program, service, or job.

**TITLE VI, SECTION 504 CONTACT FOR THE
OWENSBORO – DAVIESS COUNTY MPO**

Complaints regarding the MPO's compliance with procedures and requirements of Title VI, ADA, and Section 504 should be directed to:

Keith Harpole
Owensboro – Daviess County MPO
Green River Area Development District
300 GRADD Way
Owensboro, KY42301

(270) 926.4433

(800) 648.6056 (TDD)

http://www.gradd.com/TRAN/Oboro_Daviess_MPO/

DEMOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS

The MPO “Planning Area” is comprised of the City of Owensboro and Daviess County, Kentucky. The total population of the Owensboro-Daviess County Metropolitan Planning Organization “Urbanized Area” is 96,656, based on the 2010 Census. The city of Owensboro has a population of 57,265, while Daviess County has a population of 39,391.

An analysis of the population indicates that approximately 90.02 % of the total population in the MPO planning area is white. The city of Owensboro, Kentucky, has an African-American population of 7.27%. Daviess County has a population of African-Americans as 1.07%. The MPO has a total African-American population of approximately 4.74%. The total female population is 51.4%, while the male population is 48.6% for the MPO.

The language skills within the Owensboro – Daviess County MPO indicates that 0.01 percent of the population speaks English less than “Very Well”. An analysis of the literacy skills indicates that a percentage of 7.29 of the population has less than a 9th grade education.

The MPO has 44.80% of the population at age 16 and over. The City of Owensboro has 22,469 persons with a disability (52.60% of the population aged 16 and over). Daviess County has 9,299 persons with a disability (32.98% of the population aged 16 and over). The MPO has a higher percentage of persons with disabilities aged 16 and over than the state of Kentucky as a whole.

The poverty level of persons age 18 and over in the MPO planning area is 10.80 percent for a total of 7,347 persons. The City of Owensboro has a population of 5,637, 13.66%, age 18 and over Below Poverty Level. Daviess County has a population of 1,710, 6.39%, age 18 and over Below Poverty Level.

The assessment of occupied housing units with no vehicle indicates that 2,885, 8.01%, of occupied housing units do not have a vehicle. This compares very well against the state’s 9.35% and the United States 10.30%.

The analysis of the census data indicates that there are areas the Owensboro – Daviess County MPO needs to target with outreach efforts. The first category to target is Person with Disabilities age 16 and above with 44.80% of the population. This represents 31,768 residents of the MPO. The second category is the Poverty Level for age 18 and above. This category represents 7,347 persons or 10.80% of the population age 18 and above. The final category to target is Occupied Housing Units with No Vehicle. This group is 2,885 housing units, 8.01%, of the Total Housing Units within the MPO planning area.

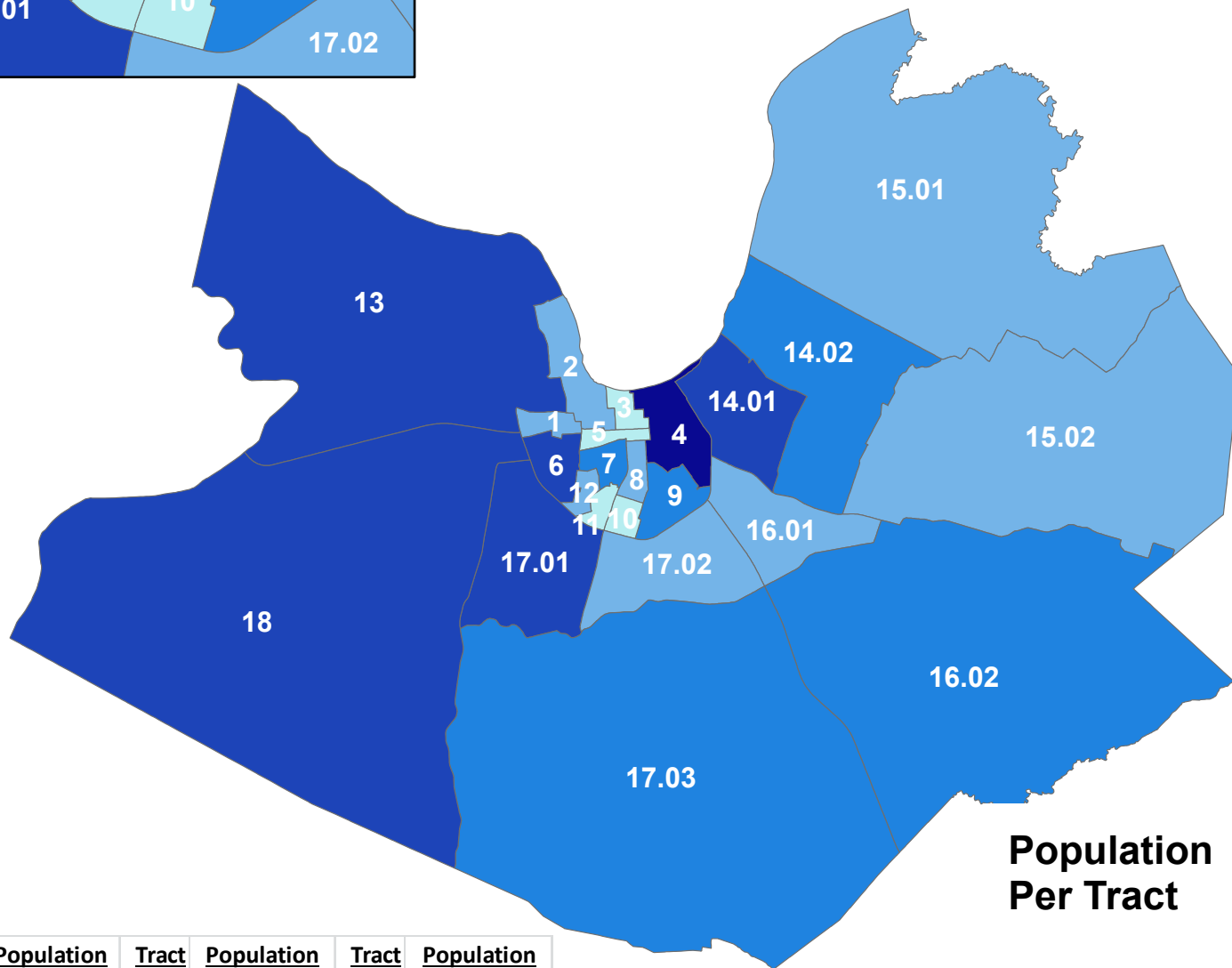
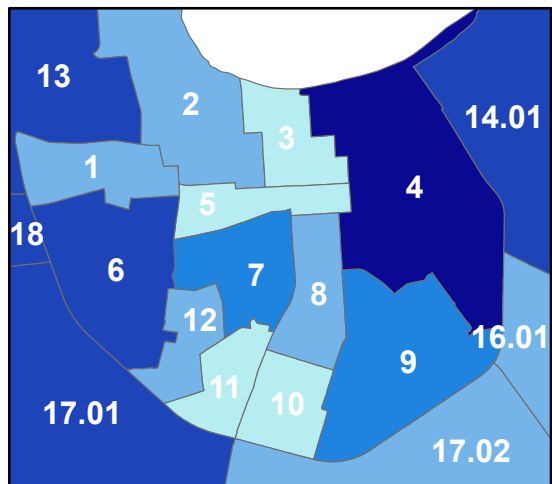
The following tables highlight these figures. The maps in Appendix D provide a further view of the census numbers discussed in this analysis.

Source: 2010 Census Data, SF-1	City of Owensboro	Daviess County	Owensboro - Daviess County MPO	KENTUCKY	UNITED STATES
Total Population	57,265	39,391	96,656	4,339,367	308,745.54
By Race					
White alone	49,284	37,721	87,005	3,809,537	223,553,265
% White Population	86.06%	95.76%	90.02%	87.79%	72.41%
Black or African American	4,162	421	4,583	337,520	38,929,319
% African American Pop.	7.27%	1.07%	4.74%	7.78%	12.61%
America Indian / Alaska Native	65	47	112	10,120	2,932,248
% America Indian / Alaska Native	0.11%	0.12%	0.12%	0.23%	0.95%
Asian	489	181	670	48,930	14,674,252
% Asian	0.85%	0.46%	0.69%	1.13%	4.75%
Native Hawaiian / Other Pacific Islander	35	12	47	2,501	540,013
% Native Hawaiian / Other Pacific Islander	0.06%	0.03%	0.05%	0.06%	0.17%
Some Other Race alone	139	38	177	55,551	19,107,368
% Some other race alone	0.24%	0.10%	0.18%	1.28%	6.19%
Two or more races	1,249	288	1,537	75,208	9,009,073
% Two or more races	2.18%	0.73%	1.59%	1.73%	2.92%
Persons of Hispanic or Latino Origin	1,842	683	2,525	132,836	50,477,594
% Person of Hispanic or Latino Origin	3.22%	1.73%	2.61%	3.06%	16.35%
Total Minority Population	7,981	1,670	9,651	529,830	85,192,273
% Minority Population	13.94%	4.24%	9.98%	12.21%	27.59%
By Female					
Total Population age 18 Years +	43,713	29,338	73,051		
Total Female age 18 Years +	17,110	9,554	26,664		
% Female	39.14%	32.57%	36.50%		
The following categories consist of 2000 Census data. 2010 Census Data was not available at the time of the update.					
Limited English Proficiency: Speak English less than "Very Well" for population 18 years + (Table P19)					
Total Population 18 years and Over	41,261	26,765	68,026	3,776,230	262,375,152
Speak English "Less than Very Well"	501	281	782	24,126	9,664,875
% Speak English less than "Very Well"	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.64%	3.68%

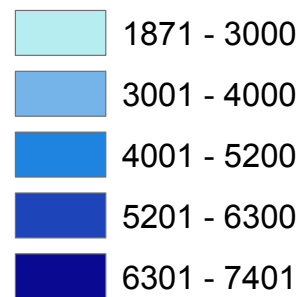
Source: 2000 Census Data, SF-1	City of Owensboro	Daviess County	Owensboro - Daviess County MPO	KENTUCKY	UNITED STATES
Total Population	57,265	39,391	96,656	4,339,367	308,745.54
Low Literacy: Less than 9th Grade Education for Population 25 Years +					
Total Population	33,367	23,438	56,805	2,646,397	182,211,639
Less than 9th Grade Education	2,958	1,182	4,140	104,781	7,457,750
% Less than 9th Grade Education	8.87%	5.04%	7.29%	3.96%	4.09%
Persons with Disabilities for Civilian Non-institutionalized Population 16 Years +					
Total Population 16 Years +	42,718	28,197	70,915	3,432,660	242,933,996
Total Disabilities for age 16 Years +	22,469	9,299	31,768	832,170	47,131,329
% with Disabilities	52.60%	32.98%	44.80%	24.24%	19.40%
Low-Income: Less than Poverty Level in 1999 for Population 18 Years +					
Total Population 18 Years +	41,260	26,766	68,026	2,948,812	202,956,971
Income in 1999 Below Poverty Level: 18 Years +	5,637	1,710	7,347	417,549	22,152,954
% Income in 1999 Below Poverty Level	13.66%	6.39%	10.80%	14.16%	10.92%
Occupied Housing Units with No Vehicle					
Total Occupied Housing Units	22,748	13,285	36,033	1,590,647	105,480,101
Occupied Housing Units with No Vehicle	2,467	418	2,885	148,691	10,861,067
% Occupied Housing Units with No Vehicle	10.84%	3.15%	8.01%	9.35%	10.30%

Daviess County

Total Population by Census Tract (2010 Census)



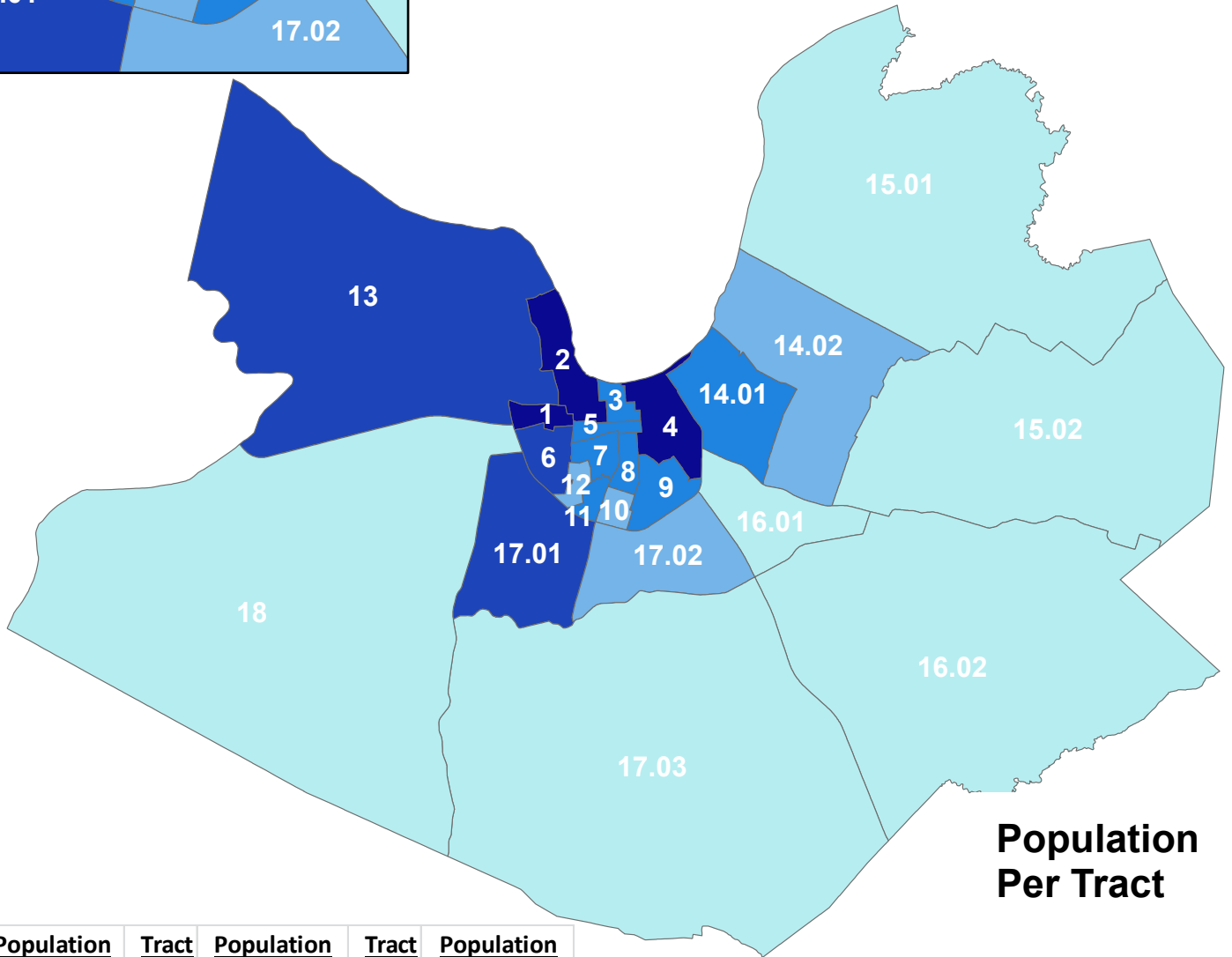
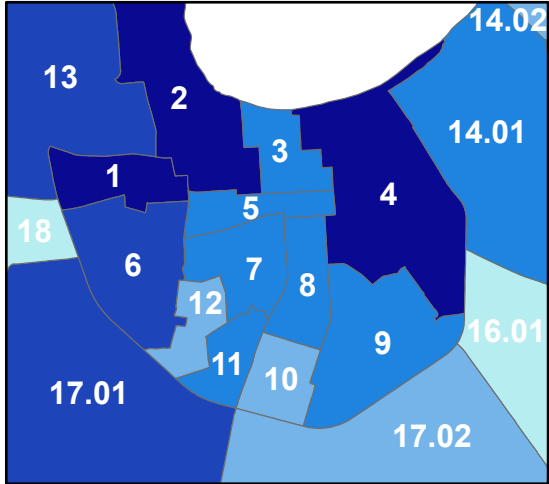
Population Per Tract



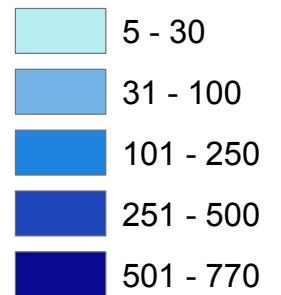
Tract	Population	Tract	Population	Tract	Population
1	3269	9	5124	15.02	3406
2	3586	10	2923	16.01	3822
3	1871	11	2375	16.02	4654
4	7401	12	3215	17.01	5935
5	2032	13	5881	17.02	3297
6	5434	14.01	5298	17.03	4278
7	4135	14.02	5103	18	6244
8	3738	15.01	3635		

Daviess County

Black Population by Census Tract (2010 Census)

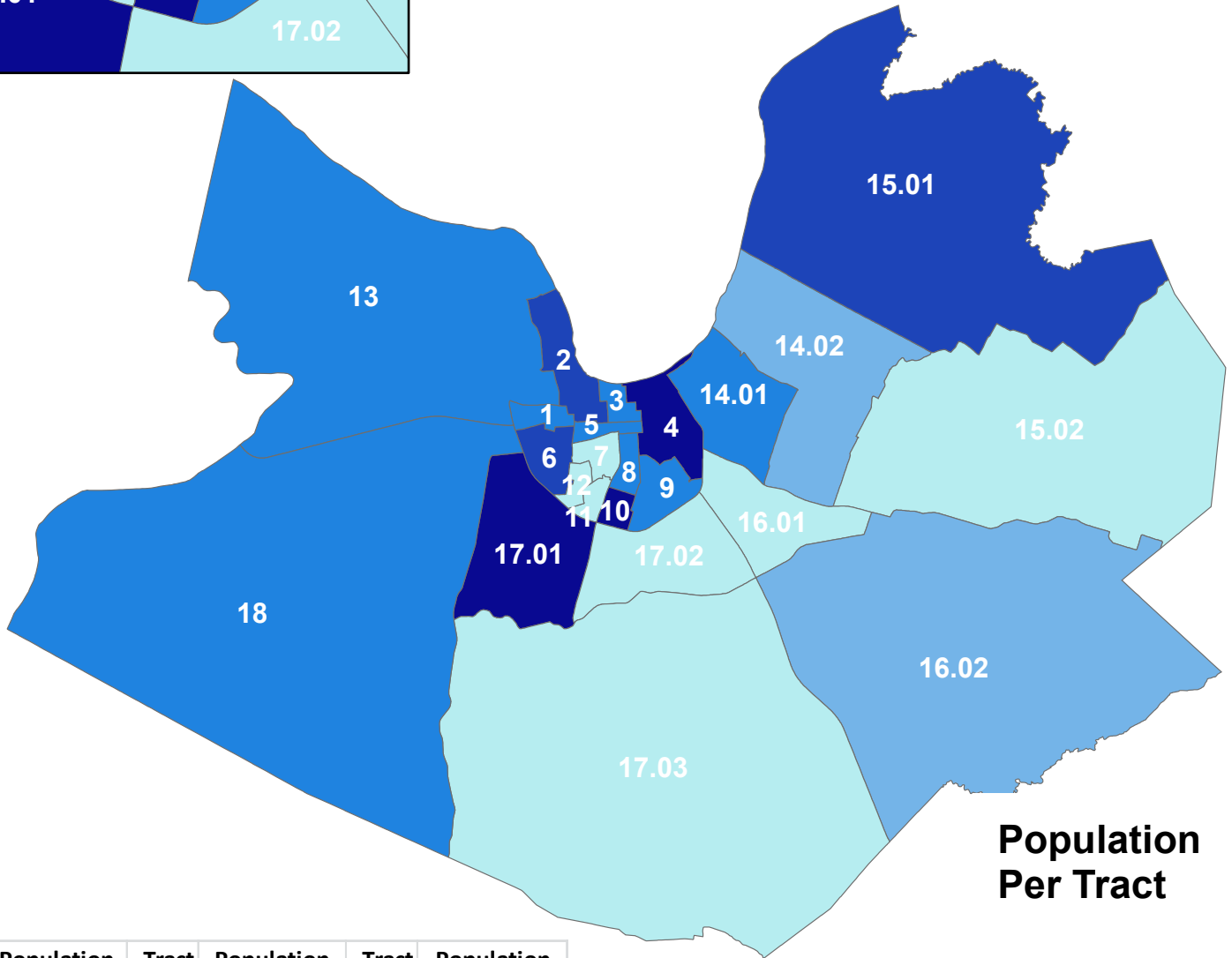
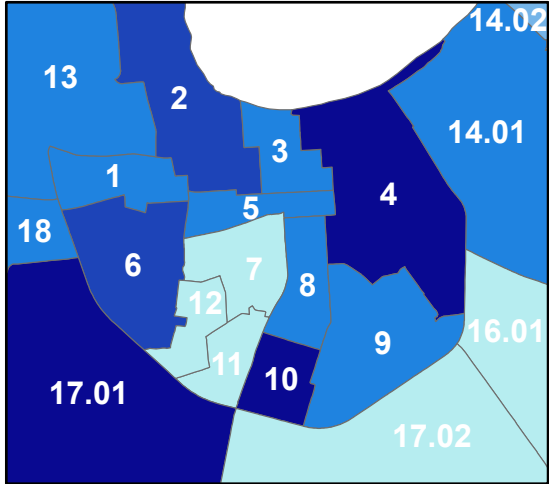


Population Per Tract

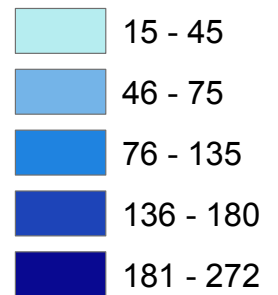


Tract	Population	Tract	Population	Tract	Population
1	614	9	152	15.02	5
2	770	10	89	16.01	21
3	212	11	115	16.02	12
4	620	12	79	17.01	419
5	158	13	343	17.02	72
6	346	14.01	188	17.03	16
7	105	14.02	58	18	27
8	184	15.01	21		

Daviess County Hispanic Population by Census Tract (2010 Census)

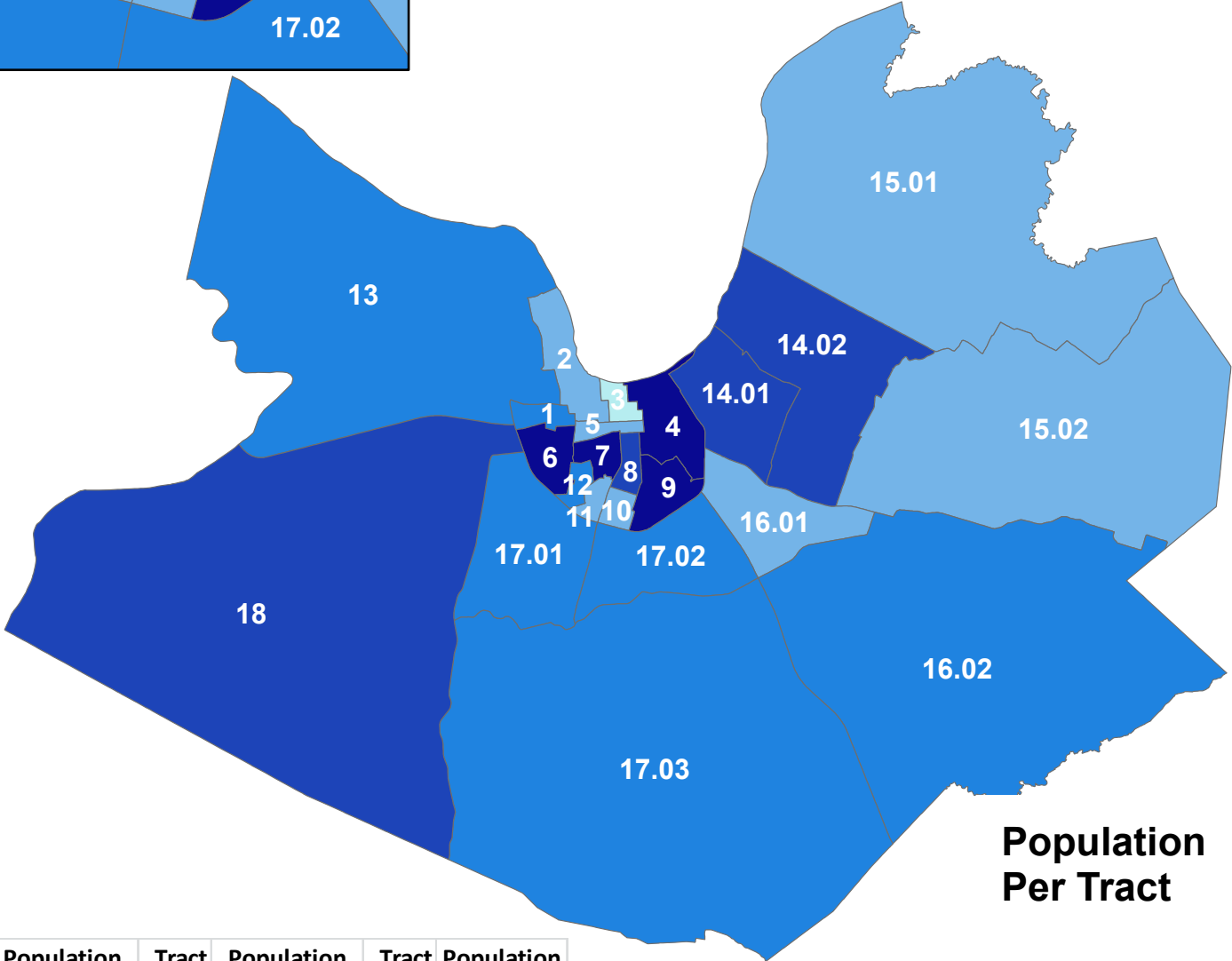
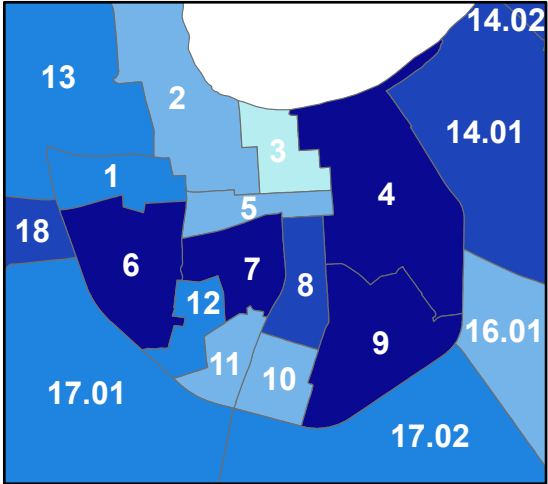


Population Per Tract

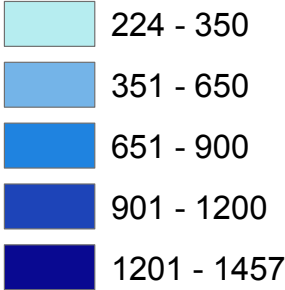


Tract	Population	Tract	Population	Tract	Population
1	101	9	106	15.02	15
2	159	10	272	16.01	26
3	124	11	21	16.02	52
4	243	12	42	17.01	249
5	132	13	118	17.02	31
6	165	14.01	116	17.03	36
7	29	14.02	74	18	115
8	119	15.01	180		

Daviess County Senior (Age 60+) Population by Census Tract (2010 Census)



Population Per Tract



Tract	Population	Tract	Population	Tract	Population
1	774	9	1409	15.02	608
2	641	10	634	16.01	599
3	224	11	553	16.02	835
4	1399	12	848	17.01	867
5	366	13	851	17.02	772
6	1457	14.01	1007	17.03	850
7	1403	14.02	901	18	1184
8	967	15.01	585		

This map was produced in cooperation with the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet



TARGETED OUTREACH TO THE TRADITIONALLY UNDERSERVED

The Owensboro – Daviess County MPO will place emphasis on reaching the traditionally underrepresented populations with the urbanized area. These underrepresented persons are traditionally identified as low-income, elderly, disabled, minority, low literacy, limited English proficiency and non-English speaking individuals. Appendix E provides a list of agencies that the MPO will consult with concerning major planning issues. Many of these agencies represent person who are considered traditionally underrepresented.

The Owensboro – Daviess County MPO will continue to reach out to all segments of the community that we serve. Some of these efforts include:

- Distribution of fliers and posters for public meetings to senior centers, post offices, public libraries, and community centers, including those in areas with high minority populations
- Distribution of fliers and posters to supermarkets and department stores in numerous locations throughout the community.
- Plans and documents available on the Owensboro – Daviess County MPO website.
- Inviting representatives of organizations that represent minority, disabled, and elderly members of our community to meetings and appropriate workshops.
- Utilizing the list of agency contacts in Appendix E, many of which agencies represent underrepresented populations

Other public outreach tools and techniques can be found on pages 20 – 23 of this document.

REVIEW AND REVISION

The Owensboro – Daviess County MPO and its committees will strive to make the transportation planning process a success. Public participation is essential to that success; therefore, this document is open to revision when necessary to achieve an optimum level of involvement of the citizens of this area. This Participation Plan will be examined on a periodic basis for effectiveness and revised as necessary. The Participation Plan will be updated every four (4) years (in advance of the TIP update. The MPO Staff in conjunction with the Technical Advisory Committee will draft any proposed revisions to this plan. Federal Law requires a 45 – day public review and comment period prior to this Participation Plan is adopted or revised (this and all federal requirements concerning public involvement are listed beginning on page 4). If the final version of the document has significant differences from the draft, an additional public review and comment period will be conducted. Final approval of any modification to this plan will be made by the MPO Policy Committee.

TOOLS/TECHNIQUES FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Owensboro – Daviess County MPO has developed a “toolbox” of outreach methods that may be utilized to notify the public of major planning activities with the MPO planning area. These tools may not all be used at the same time and some may not be used at all. However, the MPO will keep these resources available to enhance the participation in the transportation planning process.

Public Notices and Advertisements

Public notices will be placed in the local newspaper, Messenger & Inquirer, to inform the public concerning public meetings and/or opportunities to review MPO documents and amendments to these documents. Notices for public meetings will be placed in the local newspaper. The public meeting notices will include the date, time and location of the meeting.

Notices for MPO document and amendment review will include information concerning the document undergoing public review, the locations where the document is on display, and the time period for the review. The notices for MPO document review and amendment review will be placed in the local newspaper.

MPO Webpage on GRADD Website

The MPO webpage (http://www.gradd.com/TRAN/Oboro_Daviess_MPO/) is the primary source for information related to the MPO’s planning activities. The webpage will be utilized to inform interested persons about the MPO process, meeting dates and times, and contact information. The site contains a listing of regular meeting of the MPO Policy Committee, Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), and the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC). However, the meeting dates, times and locations may change from time to time. If citizens are interested in attending an MPO committee meeting, it is recommended to contact the GRADD to confirm the meeting is still on schedule.

The MPO webpage contains all planning documents and studies completed by the MPO. These documents include: Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) and the Participation Plan. The website also has a link to submit comments on any document the MPO produces.

Press Releases

Press releases may be sent to local media (newspaper, tv, and radio) to announce public meetings and other activities of interest to the public and to provide specific information on issues considered by the MPO. Appendix D provides a list of local media outlets that will be contacted concerning press releases and other newsworthy information pertaining to the MPO.

Public Libraries

The MPO Participation Plan, Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) will be placed in the public library in Daviess County. These documents will remain on display for the period outlined in this document. For a listing of the public libraries refer to Appendix D, page 21.

Public Meetings

Public meetings will be held, as necessary, to give the public an opportunity to provide input into the development/update of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) or a specific study or project the MPO may be undertaking. All public meeting locations will meet the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements.

Committee Meetings

All MPO Citizen Advisory, Technical Advisory and Policy Committee meetings are open to the public. The Technical Advisory Committee meetings are scheduled the last Tuesday of every month. The meetings are held in Room 406, Owensboro City Hall, at 10:00 a.m. Interested person should contact the GRADD office to confirm that the meeting has not been canceled or changed in any way.

The MPO Policy Committee meets in the Commission Chambers in the Owensboro City Hall, Fourth Floor, at 11:00 a.m. Meeting dates are posted on the MPO webpage.

The MPO Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) meets in the GRADD Board Room located at 300 GRADD Way, at 12:00 noon. Meeting dates are posted on the MPO webpage.

***Meeting dates, times and locations are subject to change. Contact the GRADD transportation staff prior to attending a meeting to confirm that no changes have been made to the meeting schedule.

Special Surveys and Advisory Committees

Public comment surveys and special advisory committees may be utilized when input is needed from the public on a specific issue, project or program.

Surveys may be utilized to gather information from the public in general concerning planning or project issues. A special advisory committee may be set up to gather information from a specific group of citizens and to gauge public opinion. The special advisory committee will also review and collaborate on planning or project related issues. As special committees are organized, specific emphasis will be made to include traditionally underrepresented populations as identified through Title VI.

Local Access Television

Local access television may be utilized to publicize upcoming public meetings or events related to the MPO.

A listed of Local Access Television can be found in Appendix C.

Flyers/Posters

For the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) updates and other appropriate activities such as public meetings, flyers may be distributed at various locations throughout the urbanized area to alert citizens of opportunities to review draft materials and/or documents and provide comments to the MPO.

Visualization Techniques

To the extent possible, visualization techniques will be utilized at public meetings to enhance the understanding of citizens concerning proposed transportation improvements. The tools and techniques employed will vary based on the type of project. Possible visualization techniques include:

- Video presentations
- Computer presentations
- Computer simulations
- Geographic Information Systems Maps/Display Boards
- Visual Preference surveys
- Interactive Displays/Kiosks

* The MPO is not limited to the visualization techniques listed above. These techniques are provided only as examples. The type of visualization techniques utilized will depend on the type of study or project.

Visualization techniques will also be utilized in the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). These documents may include but are not limited to the following visualization tools:

- Maps
- Charts
- Illustrations
- Diagrams
- Sketches
- Photographs

* Not all MPO documents will include all of the visualization tools listed above. These techniques are provided only as examples. The type of visualization tools utilized will depend on the type of plan or document.

PUBLIC REVIEW OF MPO DOCUMENTS

Federal regulations related to public participation in the metropolitan transportation planning process and public review of MPO documents are listed on pages 4 – 8 of this document. The initial Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the Owensboro – Daviess County MPO were developed and approved, May 1975, in a manner that was consistent with the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1962. During this time, two committees were formed, the Technical Advisory and the Citizens Advisory Committees. They were formed to receive and review public comments on the initial transportation plan. These two committees are still utilized today. The most recent Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) were developed and approved in a manner consistent with the most recent transportation bill, Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP - 21). Of particular importance to this Participation Plan is the manner in which these regulations are applied when changes are made to the MTP or TIP. Such actions fall into two general categories – Administrative Modifications and Amendments, as defined below.

The actions listed below may be handled as an Administrative Modification to the MTP and TIP. Administrative Modifications involve notification to the MPO committees and designated TIP recipients, but no public review is required.

- Correcting obvious minor data entry errors
- Splitting or combining projects without modifying the original project design, concept, and scope or creating project segmentation
- Changing or clarifying elements of a project description. This change would not alter the original project design, concept, and scope*
- Moving a project from federal funding to state funding
- Shifting the schedule of a project or phase within the years covered by the TIP
- Updating project cost estimates (within the original project scope and intent)
- Moving any identified project phase programmed for previous year into a new TIP (rollover provision)**

* As allowed under 23 CFR 450.216 (j) and 23 CFR 450.324 (f), clarifying elements may include project specific information for grouped projects in the TIP.

** When the MPO TIP is adopted, project tables reflect funds expected to be obligated by the time the new TIP is in effect. However, it is normal that some

** When the MPO TIP is adopted, project tables reflect funds expected to be obligated by the time the new TIP is in effect. However, it is normal that some projects or phases are delayed. The rollover provision allows these projects to automatically move into the new year.

Amendments to the TIP (or MTP) would include the following:

- Add/Delete a project or phase(s) that require a federal action (authorization) and is not eligible for an Administrative Modification
- Change in design concept and scope of the project
- Change in cost estimates that affect fiscal constraint
- Change that effects air quality conformity in non-attainment areas including regionally significant projects funded with non-federal funds
- Change from non-federal to federal funded unless grouped project type
- Addition of an approved TIP

As a general rule, Amendments are subject to the public and agency participation outlined below. However, other federal regulations identify types of projects (Categorical Exclusions) that are exempt from the NEPA approval process (23 CFR 771.117) and project types that exempt from air quality conformity regulations (40 CFR 93.126). These two very similar lists of projects types include a wide variety of highway, transit, and bicycle/pedestrian improvements that normally are not controversial and produce negligible impacts (other than positive benefits for safety, traffic operations, or preservation). Often, these types of projects are not produced by the planning process. Usually they are initiated by traffic operations or maintenance functions in transportation agencies to correct existing problems or deficiencies.

These projects types are classified as grouped projects. Grouped projects are generally smaller in scale and involve a limited number of similar work types and functions. The grouped projects may also include line items in the TIP and MTP. No additional public review and comment will be required for grouped projects. See [Appendix A](#) for a list of grouped projects. No administrative modification or amendment is required. These projects will be listed in the “Annual Listing of obligated Projects”. Any individual project may be subject to participation requirements if the MPO

determines that public review is proper due to a potential for controversy, negative impacts, or public concern for any other reason.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIODS

The public comment periods for the MPO Participation Plan, Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) are listed below:

	<u>Public</u>	<u>Policy Committee</u>
<u>Participation Plan</u>		
New/Updated PP or PP Revision	45 days	45 days
<u>Metropolitan Transportation Plan</u>		
New/Update MTP	30 days	30 days
MTP Amendments	15 days	15days
Administrative Modification	N/A	N/A
<u>Transportation Improvement Program</u>		
New/Update TIP	30 days	30 days
TIP Amendments	15 days	15 days
Administrative Modification	N/A	N/A

NOTE: If the final version of any MPO document (MTP, TIP, and Participation Plan) has significant differences from the draft then an additional public review and comment period consisting of a total of 21 days will be conducted.

OPPORTUNITIES TO REVIEW MPO DOCUMENTS

- Access the MPO webpage at http://www.gradd.com/TRAN/Oboro_Daviess_MPO/
- Visiting your local public library (refer to Appendix D for locations)
- Attending a public meeting, or other activity.

To request a copy of any MPO document from GRADD:

- **Call** 270.926.4433
 800.648.6056 (TDD)
- **FAX** 270.684.0714
- **Write to:**
Owensboro – Daviess County MPO
c/o Green River Area Development District
300 GRADD Way
Owensboro, KY 42301
- **Visit:**
Green River Area Development District
300 GRADD Way
Owensboro, KY 42301

Comments may be submitted by:

- Letter mailed to GRADD
- Emailed to keithharpole@gradd.com
- Submitted on the MPO website at http://www.gradd.com/TRAN/Oboro_Daviess_MPO/
- Public meetings or other activities

All comments will be presented to the MPO Policy Committee for their review and consideration

APPENDIX A

Grouped Projects

Transportation planning regulations applicable to the development and content of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) allow that projects that are not considered to be of appropriate scale for individual identification in a given program year may be grouped by function, work type, and/or geographic area. Such projects are usually non-controversial and produce negligible impacts – other than positive benefits for safety, traffic operations, or preservation. Typically, these types of projects are not generated by the planning process; they are usually initiated by traffic operations or maintenance functions to correct existing problems or deficiencies, or they are the result of successful grant applications by local governments or entities.

KYTC identifies many of these types of projects as “Z – Various” in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). For the reasons noted above, KYTC and FHWA have developed streamlined procedures for incorporating such projects into the MTP and/or TIP. Individual projects from grouped project categories will be incorporated into the TIP by Administrative Modification as they are defined (in terms of project description, scope, and cost) and approved. Allowing such TIP changes to be made by Administrative Modification, rather than Amendment (and the corresponding requirement for public review), simplifies and streamlines TIP maintenance and project approval processes.

Grouped project categories utilized by the Owensboro – Daviess County MPO are shown in the following table. This was done for applicability to the Owensboro – Daviess County area and to facilitate understanding by MPO committee members and the public. By listing these projects types in the MTP and TIP, planning process stakeholders and the general public are informed of the types of potential projects that may be added to the MTP and/or TIP in the future via streamlined procedures. MTP and/or TIP actions for these projects will not require additional public review, demonstration of fiscal constraint, or a conformity determination (if applicable).

GROUPED PROJECTS	ILLUSTRATIVE ANNUAL AMOUNT
HSIP - High Cost Safety Improvements	\$100,000*
HSIP - Low Cost Safety Improvements	\$50,000
HSIP - Lane Departure Resurfacing Improvements	\$100,000
HSIP - Lane Departure Roadway Section Improvements	\$100,000
HSIP - Drive Smart Safety Corridors	\$100,000
HSIP - Older Driver	\$25,000
HSIP - High Risk Rural Roads	\$100,000
Median Guardrail/Cable Projects	\$100,000
Rail Crossing Protection	\$50,000
Rail Crossing Separation	\$100,000
Intersection Improvements for Safety or Efficiency	\$25,000
Other Highway Safety Improvements	\$25,000
Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) Projects	\$50,000
Traffic Signal System Improvements	\$100,000
Highway Signing	\$10,000
Pavement Resurfacing, Restoration, and Rehabilitation	\$100,000
Pavement Markers and Striping	\$100,000
Bridge Replacement	\$500,000
Bridge Rehabilitation	\$100,000
Bridge Inspection	\$25,000
Bridge Painting	\$50,000
Transportation Alternatives Program	
Transportation Alternative (TA) Projects	\$25,000
Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Projects	\$25,000
Recreation Trails Program	\$10,000
Transportation, Community, and System Preservation (TCSP)	\$50,000
Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ)	\$50,000
Commuter Ridesharing Programs	\$25,000
Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities	\$25,000
Park and Ride Facilities	\$50,000
Purchase of New Buses (to replace existing buses or for minor expansion)	\$100,000
Rehabilitation of Transit Vehicles	\$25,000
Transit Operating Assistance	\$100,000
Transit Operating Equipment	\$50,000
Transit Passenger Shelters and Information Kiosks	\$25,000
Construction or Renovation of Transit Facilities	\$50,000
*Illustrative Costs Only - Please refer to text for explanation	

APPENDIX B
MPO Policy Committee Members

Voting Membership

Honorable Ron Payne
Mayor, City of Owensboro
PO Box 10003
Owensboro, KY 42302-9003

Honorable Al Mattingly
Daviness County Judge/Executive
PO Box 1716
Owensboro, KY 42301-1716

Mr. Mike Hancock, Secretary
Kentucky Transportation Cabinet
200 Mero Street
Frankfort, KY 40622

Designated Representative for Secretary Hancock

Kevin McClearn
Chief District Engineer
KYTC Dept. of Highways, District 2
Kentucky Transportation Cabinet
1840 North Main Street
Madisonville, KY 42431

Non – Voting Members

Mr. Jose Sepulveda, KY Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration
330 West Broadway
Frankfort, KY 40601

Ms. Yvette Taylor, Regional Administrator
Federal Transit Administration
230 Peachtree, NW., Suite 800
Atlanta, GA 30303

Technical Advisory Committee Members

Voting Membership

Bill Parrish, Chairperson, Owensboro City Manager
Jim Lambert, Vice-Chair, Commissioner, Daviess County Fiscal Court
Gary Noffsinger, Director, Owensboro Metropolitan Planning Commission
Mark Brasher, Daviess County Engineer
Nick Hall, Planning Section Supervisor, District 2, KYTC
Brian Wright, Director, Owensboro River Port Authority
Amy Jackson, President, Chamber of Commerce
Bob Whitmer, Manager, Owensboro – Daviess County Regional Airport
Joe Schepers, Owensboro City Engineer
Barry House, Division of Planning, KYTC
Jiten Shah, Executive Director, Green River Area Development District
Michael Hughes, Manager, Owensboro Transit System
Randall Foster, OPD Traffic Unit, Citizens Advisory Committee Representative
Tim Lyons, Owensboro Municipal Utilities
Greg Rawlings, FHWA, Kentucky Division, (non-voting)
J. D. Marksberry, Daviess County Sheriff Department
Dean Behnke, Regional Water Resource Agency
John Newland, Kenergy Electric
Madison Silvert, Economic Development Corporation

Invited Guests to the Technical Advisory Committee

Owensboro – Daviess County Hospital
Bus/School System Representatives
Office of Transportation Deliver
State Historic Preservation Officer

Citizens Advisory Committee Members

Voting Membership

John Medley, Chairperson

Edwin Funk

Randall Foster

Aubrey Nehring

Tom Curtsinger

Michael Bruce

Abby Shelton

APPENDIX C

Local Media Outlets

Messenger & Inquirer
PO Box 1480
Owensboro, KY 42302-1480
Phone: 270.926.0123
Email: news@messenger-inquirer.com

RADIO STATIONS

WBKR 92.5 and WOMI

3301 Frederica Street
Owensboro, KY 42301
Phone: 270.683.1558
Email: ladonne.craig@townsquaremedia.com

WBIO

1115 Tamarack Road
Owensboro, KY 42302
Phone: 270.683.5200

PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Daviess County Public Library
2020 Frederica Street
Owensboro, KY 42301
Phone: 270.684.0211
Website: <http://www.dcplibrary.org/>

APPENDIX D

AGENCY CONSULTATION

The Owensboro – Daviess County MPO maintains list of local, regional, and statewide agencies that will be consulted with to ensure outreach to the maximum extent possible. The list of agencies below will be notified when the MPO is developing or significantly altering its MTP and/or TIP, holding a public meeting, or other noteworthy MPO activities that require Public Participation. This list also contains agencies that serve traditionally underserved populations. By consulting with these agencies, the MPO will have enhanced outreach to these populations and will more effectively provide information to them.

NAACP
2207 Frederica Street
Owensboro, KY 42303
(270) 683.3533
Email: pres.naACP@owbky.com

Daviess County Public Library
2020 Frederica Street
Owensboro, KY 42301
Phone: (270) 684.0211
Website: <http://www.dcpLibrary.org/>

Greater Owensboro Chamber of Commerce
200 East 3rd Street
Owensboro, KY 42301
(270) 926.1860
Website: <http://chamber.owensboro.com/>

Owensboro – Daviess County Convention
and Visitors Bureau
215 East 2nd Street
Owensboro, KY 42303
(270) 926.1100
Website: <http://visitowensboro.com/>

United Way of the Ohio Valley
403 Park Plaza Drive
Owensboro, KY 42302
(270) 684.0668

Daviess County Schools
1622 Southeastern Parkway
Owensboro, KY 42303
(270) 852.7000

Greater Owensboro Economic
Development Corporation
200 East 3rd Street
Owensboro, KY 42301
(270) 926.4339

Blind Center for Independent Living
311 West 2nd Street
Owensboro, KY 42301
(270) 926.2381

Cliff Hagan Boys and Girls Club
2130-A East 19th Street
Owensboro, KY 42303
(270) 686-8327

Cliff Hagan Boys and Girls Club
3415 Buckland Square
Owensboro, KY 42301
(270) 685.4903

Owensboro Catholic Schools
1524 West Parrish Avenue
Owensboro, KY 42301
(270) 686.8896
Email: ken.rasp@owensborocatholic.org

Owensboro Public Schools
450 Griffith Avenue
Owensboro, KY 42301
(270) 686.1000

Daviess County Health Department
1600 Breckenridge Street
Owensboro, KY 42303
(270) 686.7747

Owensboro Community and
Technical College
4800 New Hartford Road
Owensboro, KY 42303
(270) 686.4400

Owensboro Home Builders Association
3515 Wathens Crossing
Owensboro, KY 42301
(270) 688.0353

Owensboro – Daviess County Airport
2200 Airport Road
Owensboro, KY 42301
(270) 685.4179

Director
Mary Kendall Campus
193 Phillips Court
Owensboro, KY 42303
(270) 683.6481

Director
H. L. Neblett Community Center
316 Hale Avenue
Owensboro, KY 42301
(270) 685.3107

Commissioner
Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife
1 Sportsman Lane
Frankfort, KY 40601
Info.center@ky.gov

Director
Kentucky Division of Water
200 Fair Oaks Lane, 4th Floor
Frankfort, KY 40601
water@ky.gov

Director
Kentucky Division of Air Quality
200 Fair Oaks Lane, 1st Floor
Frankfort, KY 40601
(502) 564.3999

Commissioner
Kentucky Dept for Environmental Protection
300 Fair Oaks Lane
Frankfort, KY 40601
(502) 564.0323
envhelp@ky.gov

Commander
US Army Corps of Engineers
Louisville Engineer District
P.O. Box 59
Louisville, KY 40201-0059

Director
Department of Health & Human Services
1650 West 2nd Street
Owensboro, KY 42301
(270) 685.3931

Executive Director
Kentucky Heritage Council
300 Washington Street
Frankfort, KY 40601
(502) 564.7005

Commissioner
KY Department for Local Government
1024 Capital Center Drive
Suite 340
Frankfort, KY 40601
(502) 573.2382

Director
Kentucky Division of Forestry
627 Comanche Trail
Frankfort, KY 40601
(502) 564.4496

Commissioner
Kentucky Department for Natural Resources
2 Hudson Hollow
Frankfort, KY 40601
(502) 564.6940

Audubon Area Community Services
1700 West 5th Street
Owensboro, KY 42301
(270) 686.1600

Regional Administrator
US EPA, Region 4
Sam Nunn Atlanta Federal Center
61 Forsyth Street, SW
Atlanta, GA 30303-8960

Secretary
Kentucky Cabinet for Economic Development
Old Capital Annex
300 West Broadway
Frankfort, KY 40601
econdev@ky.gov

Area Agency on Aging & Independent Living
Green River Area Development District
300 GRADD Way
Owensboro, KY 42301
(270) 926.4433
Vivianmcnatton@gradd.com

Appendix E

Commonly Used Transportation Acronyms

ASSHTO – American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials
ADA – Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990
ADT – Average Daily Traffic
AMPO – Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations
APTA – American Public Transit Association
AQ – Air Quality
CAC – Citizens Advisory Committee
CBD – Central Business District
CFR – Code of Federal Regulations
CMAQ – Congestion Mitigation Air Quality
DUI – Driving Under the Influence
DWI – Driving while Intoxicated
EIS – Environmental Impact Statement
EJ – Environmental Justice
EPA – Environmental Protection Agency
FHWA – Federal Highway Administration
FTA – Federal Transit Administration
FY – Fiscal Year
GIS – Geographic Information System
GPS – Global Positioning System
ISTEA – Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991
ITS – Intelligent Transportation System
KYTC – Kentucky Transportation Cabinet
LOS – Level of Service
MTP – Metropolitan Transportation Plan
MPO – Metropolitan Planning Organization
MSA – Metropolitan Statistical Area
MUTCD – Manual on Traffic Control Devices
NEPA – National Environmental Policy Act
NHI – National Highway Institute
NHS – National Highway System
NHTSA – National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
PM – 10 –Particulate Matter of 10 Microns in Diameter or Smaller
PM – 2.5 – Particulate Matter of 2.5 Microns in Diameter or Smaller
ROW – Right of Way
SIP – State Implementation Plan

STIP – Statewide Transportation Improvement Program
 STP – Surface Transportation Program
 SYP – Six-Year Highway Plan
 TAC – Technical Advisory Committee
 TAZ – Transportation Analysis Zone
 TCM – Transportation Control Measure
 TDM – Transportation Demand Management
 TE – Transportation Enhancement Funds
 TEA – 21 – Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century
 TIP – Transportation Improvement Program
 TMA – Transportation Management Area
 TSM – Transportation System Management
 UZA – Urbanized Area
 UPL – Unscheduled Projects List
 VMT – Vehicles Miles of Travel

Acronyms for Funding Types

IM	Interstate Maintenance
NH	National Highway Systems
HPP	High Priority Projects
TE	Transportation Enhancement Program
CMAQ	Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality
SRTS	Safe Routes to School
STP	Statewide Transportation Program
BRO	Bridge Replacement On System
BRZ	Bridge Replacement Off System
BRX	Bridge Replacement On/Off System
FH	Forest Highway
RRP	Safety – Railroad Protection
HES	Safety – Hazard Elimination
HSIP	Safety – Highway Safety Improvement
KYD	Demonstration Funds to Kentucky
FTA	Federal Transit Administration

NOTICE

In accordance with Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP – 21), enacted July 6, 2012, notice is hereby given for an opportunity to present public comments on the Owensboro – Daviess County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Participation Plan.

The purpose of the Participation Plan is to provide opportunities for the public to be involved in the transportation planning process. It serves as a guide for the MPO to follow in planning public participation opportunities. The participation process is built on the principles established by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA):

1. Early and continuous public participation;
2. Reasonable public availability of technical data and other information;
3. Open public meetings where matters related to transportation policies, programs, and projects are being considered; and
4. Open access to the decision making process prior to closure.

The Owensboro – Daviess County MPO has prepared the Participation Plan to fulfill the requirements of MAP – 21. Comments shall be received from February 3, 2014, through March 19, 2014. Copies of the Participation Plan and comments can be made at the following locations, the MPO website, www.gradd.com (listed under the heading "Transportation Planning – Owensboro MPO Documents"), GRADD Office, Owensboro City Hall Front Lobby, Daviess County Judge/Executive office, Owensboro Transit System, and the public library. Alternative formats will be made available upon a 7 day advance request. If you have any questions or comments, contact Keith Harpole, GRADD, 270.926.4433.