

Appendix F

Public Participation Plan (PPP)

Introduction

The Public Participation Plan (PPP) for Lowndes County's 5311 Transit System's was developed to ensure that all members of the public, including minorities and Limited English Proficient (LEP) populations, are encouraged to participate in the decision making process of the TPO and the Lowndes County Transit Department regarding the 5311 Transit System. Policy and service delivery decisions need to take into consideration community sentiment and public opinion based upon reasonable and well-executed outreach efforts. The public outreach strategies described in the PPP are designed to provide the public with effective access to information about the 5311 Transit System's, the TPO's and the Lowndes County Transit Department's services and to provide a variety of efficient and convenient methods for receiving and considering public comment prior to implementing changes to services. The TPO and the Lowndes County Transit Department also recognize the importance of many types of stakeholders in the decision-making process, including other units of government, metropolitan area agencies, community-based organizations, major employers, passengers and the general public, including low-income, minority, LEP, and other traditionally underserved communities.

Public Participation Goals

The main goal of the PPP is to offer meaningful opportunities for all interested segments of the public, including, but not limited to, low-income, minority and LEP groups, to comment about the 5311 Transit System's operations and about the TPO and the Lowndes County Transit Department. The goals for this PPP include:

- **Inclusion and Diversity:** The TPO will proactively reach out and engage low-income, minority, and LEP populations for the 5311 Transit System's service area so these groups will have an opportunity to participate.
- **Accessibility:** All legal requirements for accessibility will be met. Efforts will be made to enhance the accessibility of the public's participation – physically, geographically, temporally, linguistically and culturally.
- **Clarity and Relevance:** Issues will be framed in public meetings in such a way that the significance and potential effect of proposed decisions is understood by participants. Proposed adjustments to fares or services will be described in language that is clear and easy to understand.
- **Responsive:** The TPO and the Lowndes County Transit Department will strive to respond to and incorporate, when reasonably possible, appropriate public comments into transportation decisions.
- **Tailored:** Public participation methods will be reasonably tailored to match local and cultural preferences as much as practicable.
- **Flexible:** The public participation process will seek to accommodate participation in a variety of ways and will be adjusted over time as may be required.

Public Participation Methods

The methods of public participation included in this PPP were developed considering demand response transit system best practices in conjunction with the needs and capabilities of the TPO and the Lowndes County Transit Department. The Lowndes County Transit Department and the TPO intend to achieve meaningful public participation by a variety of methods with respect to service and any significant changes to such service.