

## 2015 Public Participation Summary and Evaluation Report

### MPO Board Meetings

| <u>Meeting Dates</u> | <u>Attendance</u> | <u>Date Advertised</u> | <u>Packets delivered</u> | <u>Public Comments &amp; highlights and Response/resolution</u> |
|----------------------|-------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|---|
|----------------------|-------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|---|

|             |          |                    |                    |   |
|-------------|----------|--------------------|--------------------|---|
| February 12 | 5/5-100% | February 5 ,2015   | February 4, 2015   | -roundabout location(s) on Kings Hwy.<br>-fixed route transit needs<br>-River Rd. and S/M #1 priority. <u>Response:</u> MPO will continue to keep River Road a top priority including researching as many funding mechanisms as possible) |
| May 4       | 5/5-100% | April 27, 2015     | April 26, 2015     | FDOT District One Revenue Equity Study presented. <u>Response:</u> Long time issue with MPO Board members now agreeing with Charlotte County's overall revenue allotment from gas tax as distributed by FDOT.                             |
| August 24   | 5/5-100% | August 17 , 2015   | August 17, 2015    | 2040 LRTP draft final Executive Summary presented to Board beginning of 30 day public comment period on the Plan. 6 <sup>th</sup> "Peggy Walter Citizen Mobility Award presented to CAC Chair Steve Fabian Jr.                            |
| October 5   | 5/5-100% | September 29, 2015 | September 28, 2015 | The 2040 LRTP was adopted by MPO Board  |

|            |           |                       |                       |   |
|------------|-----------|-----------------------|-----------------------|---|
| December 7 | 5/5-100%- | November 25 ,<br>2015 | November 30,<br>2015, | CAC member noted bicycle/vehicle issues on US 41 between Aquia Est and Airport Rd. Many business along this roadway and increased bicyclist have impacted safety.<br><u>Response:</u> FDOT staff will assess this issue and report at March 2016 meeting. |
|------------|-----------|-----------------------|-----------------------|---|

**Attendance by MPO Board members in 2015 was 100%**

**Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) Meetings**

Meeting Date      Attendance      Date Advertised      Packets delivered      Public Comments & Response/Resolution

|              |  |                 |                 |   |
|--------------|--|-----------------|-----------------|---|
| January 14   | 6/10-60%- 1 vacancy (West)                     | January 5, 2015 | January 7, 2015 | none  |
| April 8      | 8/10-80%- West vacancy filled; 1 vacancy (Mid) | April 1, 2015   | April 2, 2015   | none  |
| July 30      | 10/11-91%- Mid vacancy filled                  | July 22, 2015   | July 23, 2015   | CAC Bylaw Amendment reviewed. 2040 LRTP Status Report presented to members  |
| September 16 | 8/11-(73%)                                     | Sept. 9, 2015   | Sept. 9, 2015   | none  |
| November 18  | 9/11-(82%)                                     | Nov. 9, 2015    | Nov. 11, 2015   | Discussions centered on Sarasota County efforts to improve River Road Englewood Interstate Connector in future.<br><u>Response:</u> Issue |

|  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|
|  |  |  |  | on agenda for<br>January 25, 2016<br>Joint Charlotte-<br>Sarasota MPO<br>Regional<br>Meeting |
|--|--|--|--|--|

**Average attendance (CAC)-2015-77%**

**Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (LCB) Meetings**

Meeting Date      Attendance      Date Advertised      Packets delivered      Public Comments  
& response/resolution

|              |   |                 |                       |   |
|--------------|---|-----------------|-----------------------|---|
| January 15   | 13/19 (68%)-<br>Citizen Advocate<br>User position<br>filled | January 7, 2015 | January 5, 2015       | none  |
| May 14       | 15/19 (79%)-<br>Citizen Advocate<br>Rep. vacancy            | May 6, 2015     | May 1, 2015           | 2040 LRTP<br>Consensus<br>Building Team<br>members from<br>LCB thanked by<br>MPO staff  |
| September 10 | 11/19 (58%)-No<br>member<br>vacancies                       | August 28, 2015 | September 1 ,<br>2015 | Staff noted LCB<br>efforts in<br>development of<br>Draft 2040 LRTP<br>Exec. Summary.<br>Chair Doherty<br>proposes future<br>Transit<br>Workshop to<br>address overall<br>state of TD with<br>focus on service<br>and logistical<br>improvements |
| November 18  | 12/17- (71%)  | Nov. 10, 2015   | Nov. 9, 2015          | Awarded<br>Outstanding<br>Coordinating<br>Board for 2015<br>by CTD. Long<br>serving disabled<br>rep. (19 years)   |

|  |  |  |  |          |
|--|--|--|--|----------|
|  |  |  |  | retired. |
|--|--|--|--|----------|

**Average attendance (LCB)-70%**

**Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee Meetings**

| <u>Meeting Date</u> | <u>Attendance</u>            | <u>Date Advertised</u> | <u>Packets Delivered</u> | <u>Public Comments &amp; Resolution</u>               |
|---------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| March 19            | 6/9-67% -West County vacancy | March 11, 2015         | March 12, 2015           | “Very informative meeting”-CC Public Schools attendee |
| June 18             | 7/9-78 %                     | June 10, 2015          | June 11, 2015            | none  |
| September 17        | 3/9-33 %                     | Sept. 9, 2015, 2015    | Sept. 10, 2015           | Meeting quorum not met                                |
| December 3          | 7/9-78%                      | November 25 , 2015     | November 30, 2015        | none  |

**Average attendance-(BPAC)-64%**

The MPO is well aware that better public understanding enhances the effectiveness of public policy. To that end, the MPO also understands that the “public” is a rich source of ideas, full of citizens willing to contribute to improving their local, regional and national transportation modes. The MPO continues to strive to include broad and varied segments of the community to bring people of different abilities, needs, and perspectives together to improve current and future transportation issues and challenges.

Overall attendance at meetings by MPO staffed Boards and Committees remains high. Of note, the MPO has measured that beginning in 2014 and continuing into 2015 that Board and Committee vacancies are now being quickly filled by an ever increasing number of citizen volunteers. Appointments decided by MPO Board members for openings on the CAC and LCB were common in 2015. Candidates not appointed are made aware that their application is on file and that they will be notified of future openings as they occur. Discussions held with current Board and Committee members at Community Workshops held in 2015 has proven to be an effective method of recruiting new volunteers and provides current members the opportunity to suggest potential members who are committed to learning of and improving the community. In 2015 the MPO has coordinated with senior County library staff to aid the MPO in Board and Committee recruitment. This concept proved effective as a new CAC member was appointed in 2015 through this collaborative effort.

## Media Articles on MPO Events-Efforts & Community Discussion -2015

January 9, 2015-Port Charlotte Herald-*Charlotte Sun* insert editorial, “Forty years later we’re still just talking about mass transit” -commentary on the need to move forward with transit improvements including the implementation of fixed route bus service.

January 26, 2015-*Charlotte Sun*-Front Page article, “Officials talk transit” –article discusses potential of linkage between Sarasota County Area Transit (SCAT) and Charlotte County’s Dial-a-Ride paratransit program

January 27, 2015-*Charlotte Sun* Front Page article, “River Road remains a priority; funding is a problem”-article discusses the January 26, 2015 Joint Regional MPO Board Meeting held in Venice, FL by the Sarasota/Manatee and Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPOs. Article focus on the need for extensive River Road improvements in light of the current traffic patterns and proposed future housing developments to be built along this roadway

January 27, 2015-*Herald Tribune* article, “River Roads wider future”-article emphasizes the growing need for River Road improvements discussed at the January 26 joint Sarasota/Manatee and Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO meeting. Funding issues related to the estimated \$41 million dollar cost of widening this roadway from US 41 to I-75 were noted.

January 28, 2015-*Charlotte Sun* Front Page article, “Priority: River Road”-discusses issues related to expansion and future improvements to River Road, and potential funding options and efforts.

February 21, 2015-*Charlotte Sun* “Feeling Fit” insert article, “Senior Symposium: Public Transportation needs to happen now”-article describes Charlotte County’s 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Positive Aging Symposium where discussions at the event centered on a lack of viable public transportation options for living independent seniors.

March 3, 2015-*Charlotte Sun* article, “Help shape Charlotte County’s transportation future”-*Charlotte Sun* article describes the series of upcoming Community Workshops to be held throughout the County. The workshops will provide attendees the opportunity to voice their opinion on what transportation projects are needed and how will growth impact transportation in the future.

March 7, 2015-*Charlotte Sun* article, “-Transportation plan draws public transit plea”- article describes the MPO’s Mid-County Community Workshop held at the Cultural Center on March 5 to solicit public opinion on the transportation “needs” of the community including transit improvements in support of the continuing 20140 LRTP.

April 22, 2015-Charlotte Sun article,-“Hop on board: Try Transit Day today-article describes the Transit Dept. Statewide initiative effort to “try transit” and noted the collaboration with the Community Health Improvement Partnership (CHIP) programs the MPO plans for and are a part of.

May 2, 2015-Charlotte Sun article,-Charlotte County Transit shows off its rides”, Article included information on the April 22 “Try Transit” for free Day with quotes from current LCB and transit staff on the current programs and needs Charlotte County transit provides.

May 4, 2015-Charlotte Sun photo montage,-Parkside honors code officer”-Series of photos with current and former BPAC and CAC members honoring Parkside CRA Code Enforcement official.

May 19, 2015-Charlotte Sun Community News Brief,-“Planning Group seeks input”, article describes opportunities available to the community to voice and discuss funding and project priorities through a series of public Workshops to be held May 19-21, 2105.

May 13, 2015-Charlotte Sun Viewpoint written by Punta Gorda City Manager describing opportunities for citizens to attend one of a series of public participation Workshops to solicit public opinion on project priorities and funding needs for the developing 2040 LRTP.

May 20, 2015-Charlotte Sun-Our View Editorial,-“Transport plan highlights cost of car culture”-editorial by *Sun* publisher notes the MPO Community Workshops to be held in mid-May 2015. Editorial briefly describes the MPO process including MPO Board makeup, LRTP goals and needs, the state of transit improvements and future per-mile road construction costs.

May 20, 2015-Charlotte Sun-Viewpoint written by County Administrator noting that the MPO will be holding a series of Community Workshops in support of their continuing 2040 LRTP. Venues, dates and times for the Workshops are mentioned in the informational article.

June 10, 2015-Charlotte Sun-Our View Editorial,-“Promise fulfilled on Winchester”-describes overall history of the Winchester Blvd. South Extension beginning in 1998. Mentions early CAC member and other “Road Warrior” advocates actions to get this northern leg of Winchester Blvd. built.

June 2, 2015-Charlotte Sun-citizen editorial,-“Dial-A-Ride drivers deserve higher pay”,-article advocates that Charlotte Transit drivers be paid more than minimum wage and commensurate with the training and responsibilities driver jobs require.

June 27, 2015-Charlotte Sun-Viewpoint by Team Punta Gorda CEO,-Cycling Community sets a great example. Editorial mentions BPAC member receiving mention by the Florida Bicycle Association as Citizen Bicycle Advocate of the year.

July 7, 2015-Charlotte Sun article, “Governor’s veto leaves Charlotte sore”,- Front Page Article describing BCC and MPO Board member reaction to Governor’s veto of state funding for the widening of those sections of Burnt Store Road still in need of widening.

August 19, 2015-Charlotte Sun article, “MPO to honor Stephen M Fabian Jr. with Citizens Mobility Award”, -News of Note article describes the MPO’s Citizen Mobility/Planning Award named for long swerving CAC and LCB member Peggy Walters. Article continues with a description of Award recipient and current CAC Chairs career and contributions to the City of Punta Gorda, the Community and the MPO Process.

August 26, 2015-Charlotte Sun page 2 article, “MPO honors Steve Fabian, volunteer extraordinaire”, with photo of MPO Board Chair presenting the Award. Article describes the Award origin, career of recipient and remarks made by recipient who noted “it was an honor to receive this Award in the name of Ms. Walters”.

August 30, 2015-Charlotte Sun Sunday feature article, “Health Care Crisis”. Roundtable article featuring quotes and information from LCB member and Virginia B. Andes CEO, Suzanne Roberts, and MPO 2040 LRTP Consensus Building Team member Carrie Blackwell-Hussey, on the plight of County residents struggling to afford and obtain basic health care. Discussion also focused on the need for improved transit options for these citizens to improve employment opportunities and health care visits.

September 2, 2015-Charlotte Sun Viewpoint editorial written by Punta Gorda City Manager congratulating recent MPO “Peggy Walters” Citizen Award recipient and former Punta Gorda Mayor Stephen M. Fabian Jr. on his effort to improve transportation mobility in Charlotte County.

September 12, 2015-Charlotte Sun front page article “Issues Drive County Commission Candidacy” describes a current Mid-County CAC Representatives bid to be elected as the District 5 County Commissioner in 2016.

September 17, 2015-Charlotte Sun front page feature article “Citizens group takes 2040 transit plan for test drive”. Article review finding of draft 2040 Executive Summary from attendance at Sept. 16, CAC meeting. Article focused on the Needs and Cost Feasible aspects of the Long Range Transportation Plan, with a number of CAC members quoted in the article and mentioned potential adoption of the Plan at the scheduled October 5 MPO Board meeting.

October 2, 2015-Punta Gorda Herald Letter to the Editor from October 1975 Daily Herald News stating that the community desperately needs public transportation.

October 4 and 5, 2015-Charlotte Sun front page 2 part series article on the state and support of Transit within the County. Articles describe the current transit services provides and opinions on improvements to the system going forward.

November 4, 2015-Charlotte Sun Viewpoint editorial by Charlotte County Administrator congratulating the Charlotte County-Punta Gorda Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (LCB) which was named the 2015 Outstanding LCB by the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged. He noted the contribution LCB members made by their participation in public involvement events scheduled in 2015 in support of the MPO's 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP).

## **II. Comments Received from phone/e-mail/mail**

During 2015 received approximately 25 phone calls from citizens interested in discussing and voicing their opinion on MPO process plans and documents. The majority of these call were to express support for proposed improvements for the transit program including the initiation of a fixed and flexed route bus service. Other calls from citizens included bike path information, schedules for improvements to I-75, Traffic Congestion and signal light timing along the US 41 Corridor, and the inability of young people who live in the West County area to have access to transit services (fixed route) to employment centers in the county.

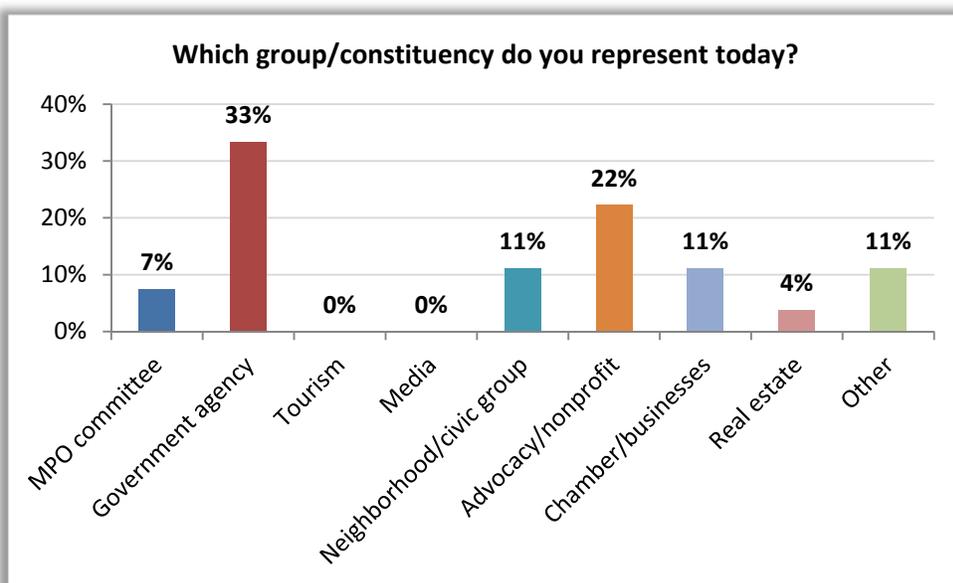
A distinct increase in the number of citizens who “stop by” the MPO offices to express their opinions and learn of MPO public participation events was noted in 2015. Overall increases in direct e-mail contact and reaching out to the traditionally underserved (Charlotte County Homeless Coalition, local Habitat for Humanity and homeowner associations may have played a role. The MPO will continue to monitor this dynamic going forward.

Of note were a few citizens scheduling or visiting the MPO offices to learn of the impact the Babcock Ranch state of the art “smart city” project that began construction in mid-2015. As envisioned, more than 19,000 homes and 6 million square feet of commercial-retail space will be constructed over a 20 year timeframe on a portion of the Preserve. The MPO will monitor project transportation impacts and attend public participation events scheduled as the project continues.

## V. 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan Public Involvement Summary-Consensus Building and Community Workshops

On February 25, 2015 the MPO began its Public Involvement efforts to solicit public opinion on the developing 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan. The first of two, Consensus Building Workshops was held with 27 of 29 invitees (90% participation rate) in attendance. In an attempt to include individuals, groups and representatives who do not traditionally participate in the MPO process invitees include representatives of the local real estate association, Habitat for Humanity, Home Owner Association leaders, Goodwill Industries, food challenged distribution center officials and the recruitment of local high school students interested in providing input and working to improve their future. At this Workshop the MPO initiated an attendee remote voting technique to increase interest and provide accurate meaningful data on community transportation needs. This “remote voting” technique and data acquisition method was very well received by attendees at this event and greatly aided in capturing the current transportation “needs” from those in attendance.

Attendees were asked 47 questions related to the transportation “needs” facing the community over the next 20 years. Responses were electronically tabulated for each question with results visually represented in bar graph form in real time. Data obtained in this fashion was integrated into the final 2040 LRTP with all questions and responses detailed in the Appendices of the Plan. Described below are examples of the type of questions asked by participants concerning community “needs” with the responses tabulated and analysis provided. Shown below is an example of the type of question and responses generated from the workshops. A complete list of questions and attendee responses may be found in the final LRTP 2040 document.



1. A diverse group of Consensus Building team members were in attendance.

Total responses: 27

**The first series of Community Workshops** to solicit public opinion on community transportation “needs” were held on March 4 (West County); March 5 (Mid County) and March 17, 2015 (South County and the City of Punta Gorda) with a second series conducted during March 19, 20 and 21, 2015. A Power Point presentation was utilized along with a series of informational boards to aid attendees in their overall understanding of the goals and objectives of the Plan. Attendees were asked to list their opinions on future transportation planning ideas and opinions, with results tabulated. These responses are included and integrated into the final 2040 LRTP document. Activity Responses for those Workshop participants offering their opinions, ideas and vision on the future transportation “needs” of the MPOs Planning area are detailed below:

**A 2<sup>nd</sup> Consensus Building Workshop** was held on May 12, 2015 with 23 of 29 (80%-participation rate) invitees in attendance. The Workshop and activities are described below...

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**Format of the meeting and agenda**

The meeting was held in the early afternoon on May 12, 2015. Participants were invited by MPO staff to attend. The room was set up in a U-shape to participants to communicate with the project team as well as other attendees.

The project team encouraged attendees to speak up as needed, and make the conversation and activities interactive.

The meeting consisted of a presentation by the consultant team and MPO staff and activities for the participants.



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**Meeting summary**

Attendees introduced themselves and stated who they represent. The project team structured the meeting around the presentation, breaking at specific spots to conduct the activities. The presentation began with a background on the LRTP update process, including why the update is needed, update schedule, goals and objectives, and population and employment projections for 2040.

The project team described the Cost Feasible Plan, the steps to get there, how it is determined, and why it is needed. The project team then explained where we are in the process, having defined the Needs Plan projects and identified the revenue sources and projections. Therefore, the next step is to prioritize the Needs Plan list by quantitatively scoring each project. The presentation continued with an explanation of the performance criteria agreed upon for prioritizing the projects.

## **Response Review and Observations**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Consensus Building Workshop was held on May 12, 2015 at Meeting Room “C” of the Mid County Library on Forrest Nelson Blvd. Team invitees included civic, health care, real estate, business and agency and related a number of ideas, opinions and vision on transportation “cost feasibility” of project identified by the team at the first Consensus Building Workshop (February 25, 2015) where transportation “needs” were identified.

**Second Series of Community Workshops** was held to solicit public opinion on the “cost feasibility” of those projects identified by members of the Consensus Building Team and the public during a series of public Workshops held on May 19 through May 21, 2015.....Activity Responses **What are your priorities?** Attendees were asked to look at the maps and using the handout provided, to select their top priority projects for the following modes: roads (capacity), bicycle & pedestrian, and transit.

## **SUMMARY OF MPO SURVEY DEMOGRAPHICS FROM 2040 LRTP COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS**

Data obtained from the six (6) Workshops held in March and May 2015 was obtained by Workshop attendees completing the MPO’s Evaluation/Comment Form (Figure 7). This MPO generated survey asked attendees demographic, logistical and marketing questions aimed at continually improving and targeting MPO efforts to reach and engage citizens who desire and want their opinions known and their visions recognized.

Results obtained from MPO Evaluation/Comment Form indicate that the MPO is meeting its public involvement goals and targets goals by providing accurate, timely and easily understood information (Figure 1). Workshop locations and timing of events to provide opportunities for comment and input are also well received (Figure 2). There were comments received that the MPO should consider the scheduling of morning or early afternoon Workshops rather than scheduling later in the day in attempting to reach people who work during the day. This timing of events issue presents the MPO with the demographic issue of balancing a predominately retirement aged community with the needs of those who work in the community. Discussions continue with MPO staff and CAC members on the potential need to hold two Workshops at each venue one in the a.m. with another held later in the afternoon. Workshop time lengths may be required to be reduced if this option is tried. The MPO continues to provide these public participation opportunities at each of the three (3) distinct geographic areas the County is divided into (Mid (Port Charlotte)-South (Punta Gorda) and West (Englewood area).

Advertisements in the *Charlotte Sun* newspaper continue to be the most effective method of informing the citizenry of MPO public involvement events. Direct e-mails sent by the MPO to its Committee and Board members, contact lists and interested citizens is the second most effective communication method (Figure 3). The Charlotte community still does not fully utilize electronic media (website/e mail blasts) in learning of public participation events. The

dominate presence of residents over the age of 65 within the community may account for this and the MPO will continue to improve and enhance its website in response to public comment and ease of use improvements. The MPO will continue to improve, expand and enhance electronic opportunities as physical media outlets continue to have challenges going forward; the MPO will continue to utilize the printed word for the foreseeable future as its primary information dissemination tool.

All MPO Board Meetings are televised live, with workshops and scheduled public participation events placed on Charlotte County Government Access Television *Comcast* cable Channel 20 and *Century Link Prism* Channel 96 scrolling on air announcements. The MPO has discussed with Board and Committee members to inform their constituents of this opportunity to view live MPO Board meetings and provide input to Board members after the broadcast.

The U.S. Census Bureau's 2014 estimate of citizens over the age of 65 in Charlotte County is 37% (Figure 5). This percentage is expected to increase to 42% by the year 2030 (Florida State Office of Economic and Demographic Research). Male attendance at public participation events continued its improvement from 2013-2014 with male attendance now larger than that of female participants. (Figure 4). The MPO will continue to explore varied and targeted media advertisements and techniques to strive for increased participation and interest.

Data obtained on participant race resembles that described in the United States Census Bureau's American Community Survey 2010-2014. MPO data obtained indicate that 84% of workshop participants were white, while current census data show that 91% of Charlotte County identify themselves as white. Data from the revised (2016) MPO's Limited English Proficiency Plan indicates that slightly more than one (1) percent of the MPO area population is not proficient in English. The LEP population in this region will likely increase the probability of future contact with the MPO. To date, no requests were made by either individuals or groups directly to the MPO for Spanish or other language interpreters or publications. The MPO continues to strive to provide and increase inclusion by lower income and minority populations in preparing for and planning public involvement events. Recent forays into these populations including Environmental Justice initiative (EJ) populations through inclusion of high school aged students, food distribution groups aiding the food challenged, and outreach to the Charlotte County Homeless Coalition in support of 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) have shown increased public participation levels from these populations. These efforts will continue as the MPO seeks increased participation at all levels of community interest and need.

## Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO Evaluation/Comment Form

**Title of Event/Workshop/Meeting:** Transit Development Plan 2<sup>nd</sup> Workshop

**Place:**

**Date:**

**{1} By attending this event were your questions and concerns addressed?**

Yes  No

If not, what additional information do you need or would like to have?

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**{2} Was the meeting location and time appropriate for this participation event?**

Yes  No

If not, please suggest location and time options \_\_\_\_\_

**{3} How did you hear about this Public Participation event?**

Newspaper  From another person

Invitation/Mail  Website

Direct e-mail notice  Other

**{4} Please share your concerns and ideas.** Be assured that all your comments are read, reviewed and will be considered. Thank you for your time, participation, and help.

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**Demographic Data** The MPO compiles this data to improve public participation.

This information is kept strictly confidential.

**Sex:** Male \_\_\_ Female \_\_\_

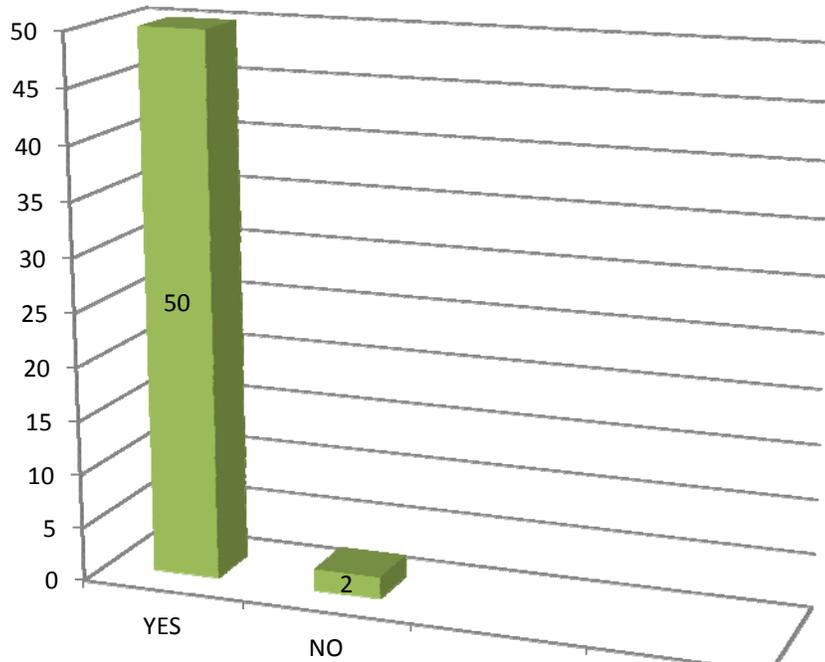
**Race:** White \_\_\_ Black \_\_\_ Latin \_\_\_ Asian \_\_\_ Other \_\_\_

**Age:** Less than 25 \_\_\_ 25-50 \_\_\_ 50-75 \_\_\_ greater than 75 \_\_\_

[ccmpo.com](http://ccmpo.com)

Figure 1

**L RTP Community Workshops  
March and May 2015**



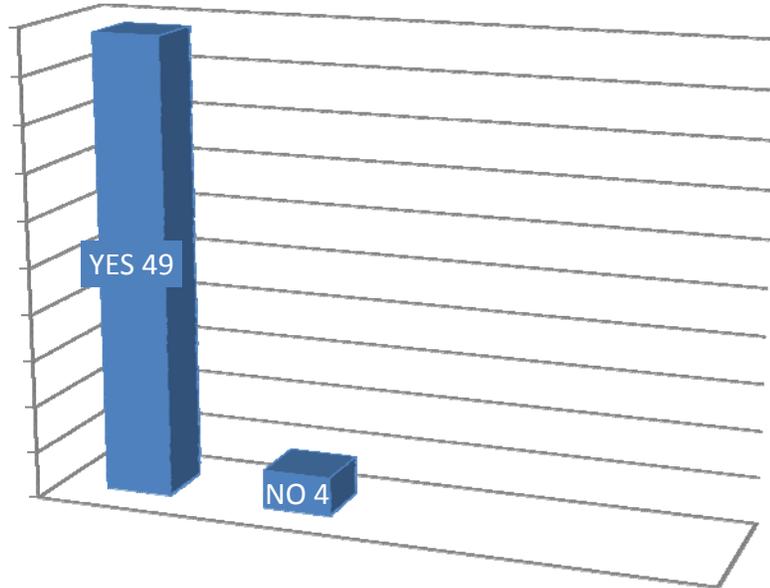
**96% agreement**

**Were your questions and concerns addressed?**



*Figure 2*

2040 LRTP Plan Community  
Workshops March & May  
2015



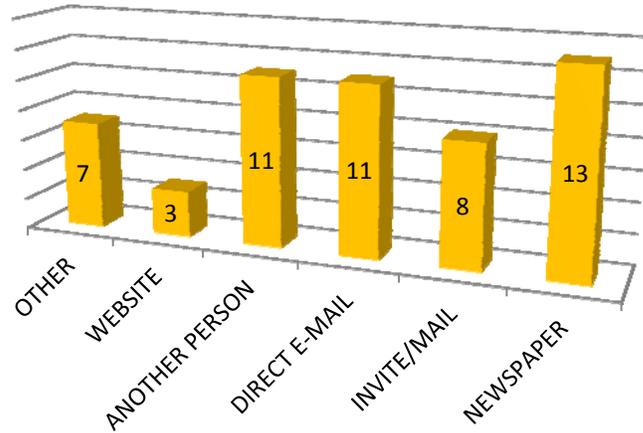
92% appropriate

Was the meeting location and time appropriate?



Figure 3

2040 LRTP Plan Community  
Workshops March and May 2015



**How did you hear of this public participation opportunity? (53 responses)**

25%-By Newspaper (*Sun*) advertisement

21%-Direct e-mail contact

21%-Another person informed attendee of Workshop

15%-Direct e-mail invitation

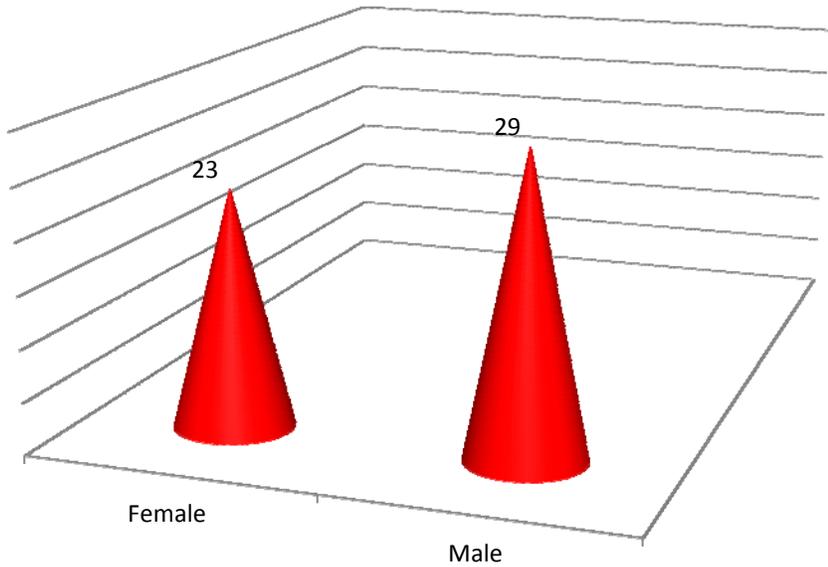
15% other-learned of by visiting MPO office

6%-From MPO website



Figure 4

2040 LRTP Plan Community Workshops March and May 2015



Demographic Data-Workshop Participant Gender

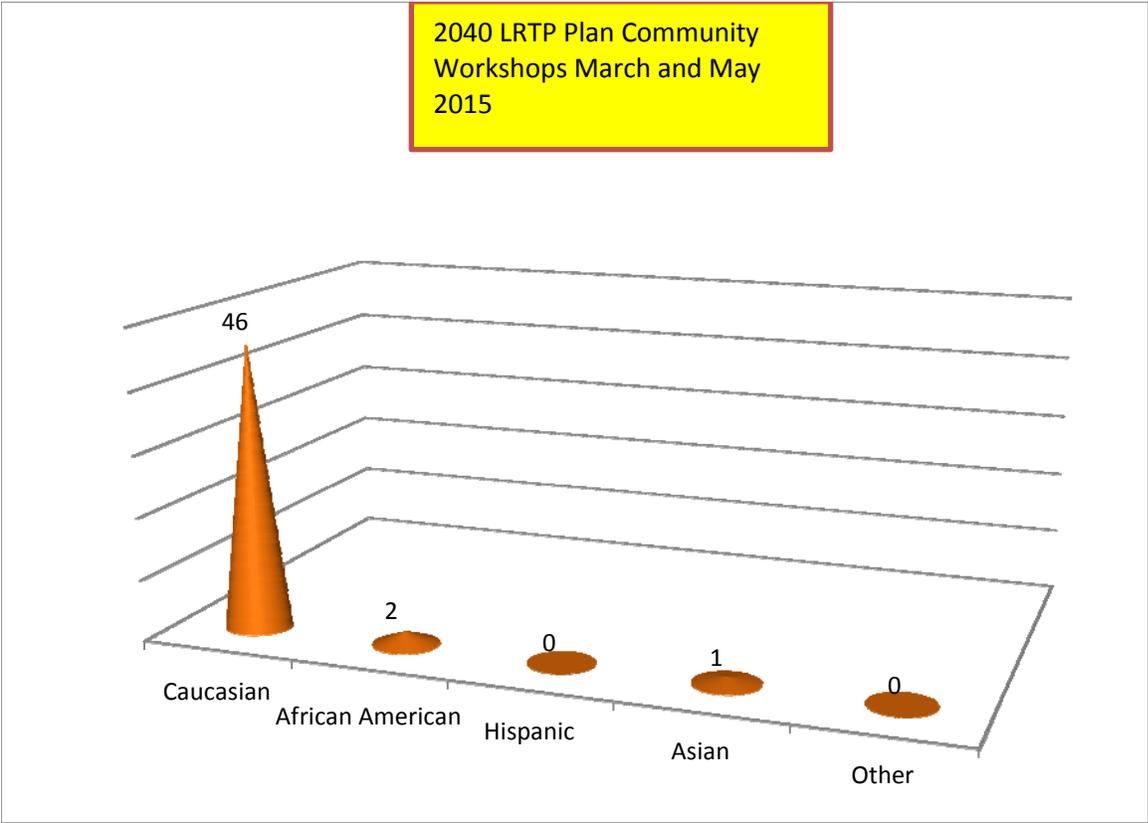
56% Male

44% Female



Figure 5

2040 LRTP Plan Community Workshops March and May 2015



Demographic Data-Workshop participants by Race

94% White

6% other races



Figure 6

## **VI. Other 2015 Public Participation events, opportunities and staff training**

A number of citizens representing various community organizations continue to appeal to MPO Board members of the need for a fixed route bus system to begin in the County.

The MPO Direction in 2015 addressed the Charlotte County Curmudgeon Club, a citizen based group, providing information on the MPO process, proposed planning projects and to answer questions by members.

The MPO has expanded efforts in 2015 concerning the Community Traffic Safety Team (CTST). Participants including representatives from FDOT, the Florida Highway Patrol, County and City law enforcement, County Community Development, Charlotte County School Board and interested citizens meet bimonthly to discuss current safety issues and needs and provide viable solutions to identified concerns. MPO staff prepares meeting agendas and meeting note distribution.

MPO staff reviewed and provided input into all public participation materials prepared by Jacobs Engineering used in the development of the 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan. Emphasis included a review of proposed public involvement techniques, target audience, venue selection, and the inclusion of public input into revisions on Environmental Justice (EJ) populations.

In 2015 the MPO has initiated membership and attends subcommittee meeting of the Charlotte County Health Departments' "Community Health Improvement Partnership" (CHIP). MPO interest focuses on improved access to healthcare and the type of "needs" health care professionals identify in the transportation planning process.

The MPOs Public Participation Plan (PPP) and Limited English Proficiency (LEP) was revised to reflect the use of the term Public Meeting in place of Public Hearing. This change originated with MPO participation in a statewide MPO Public Information Officer (PIO) webinar in November 2015. Over 30 MPO public participation specialist exchanged ideas, techniques and provided examples of their experiences in public engagement. It is anticipated that the MPO Board at their March 7, 2016 meeting and after a 45 day public comment period will adopt these revisions.

MPO Staff shared a public involvement technique (Peggy Walters Citizen Mobility Award) as part of the aforementioned webinar session. This technique was posted and included in a summary webinar report prepared by Metro Plan Orlando (MPO for Orange, Osceola, and Seminole Counties). These webinars will continue in 2016 and the MPO will participate in them.

The MPO staff continues to “reach out” to include varied segments of its citizens in the MPO Process. To this end, MPO staff has contacted high schools for inclusion by younger citizens, the real estate industry for a view of their insight, and citizen help including food distribution organizations including Habitat for Humanity, the Virginia B. Anders Volunteer Health Clinic and the local St. Vincent de Paul organization. These groups have been engaged by the MPO staff and served as members of the 2040 LRTP Consensus Building Team.

## **VII. Website Data**

Website “hits in 2015 increased, with over 19,000 “hits” recorded.

In 2015 the MPO began revisions and updates to the MPO website to improve overall user friendly aspects of the site. These improvements will continue in 2016 and will focus on improved site security, readily identifiable drop down menus, and more use of visual information including streaming video to aid visitors seeking information on planning concepts and proposals.