



Public Involvement Advisory Committee Meeting

Agenda

Wednesday, June 16, 2021

9:00 – 10:00 a.m. (Virtual)

1. Welcome / Greeting / Introductions of committee members — **Roz Rodgers, Mary Grace Lewandowski**
2. Overview of EWG Activities — **Roz Rodgers**
 - a. Update on [EWG](#) activities
3. Discussion of Committee Members: How has your organization modified its Public Involvement Activities due to COVID19? — **PIP Advisory Members**
4. Status report/progress update Goals and Strategies 3 & 4 in [Public Involvement Plan](#) (pages 10-12) — **Roz Rodgers**
5. Presentation: Madison County Transit (MCT) — **Amanda Schomaker/MCT**
6. Other Comments /Thank you / Adjourn — **Roz Rodgers, Mary Grace Lewandowski**
7. Next Meeting — October 20, 2021, 9:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m.

MINUTES
PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Tuesday, February 17, 2021
9:00 AM – 10:00 AM
Virtual (GoToMeeting)

Members Present

Marie Elliot – Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT)
Maude Trost – STL Partnership St. Louis Zone
Morris Taylor – Southern Illinois University @ Edwardsville (SIUE)
Kevin Jemison – Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT)
Amanda Schomaker – Madison County Transit (MCT)
Wayne Flesch – St. Louis County Senior Services
Sarah Schwegel – Paraquad
Tamar Brown – Community Impact Network (CIN)

Others Present

Eva Steinman – Federal Transportation Administration (FTA)
Betsy Tracy – Federal Highway Administration - Illinois (FHWA-IL)

Staff

Mary Grace Lewandowski – East West Gateway (EWG) Roz Rodgers – EWG

1. Welcome / Greeting / Introductions of committee members

— Mary Grace Lewandowski – EWG, Roz Rodgers – EWG

Roz Rodgers and Mary Grace welcomed the committee. Roz asked the members to introduce themselves and briefly explain the organization they represent. Three new members joined the committee meeting: Sarah Schwegel, Paraquad, Tamar Brown, Community Impact Network, and Maude Trost, STL Partnership St Louis Zone. Mary Grace Lewandowski gave an overview of the committee stating that the purpose of the Public Involvement Advisory Committee is to inform and assist East-West Gateway Community Engagement staff, by providing input on public involvement communication practices, outreach strategies, and engagement opportunities. As a committee member you provide invaluable input as staff implements the goals and objectives of the East-West Gateway Public Involvement Plan. Two Federal Highway staff: Eva Steinman and FTA and Betsy Tracy - FHWA-IL also attended.

2. Overview of EWG Activities

— Roz Rodgers, EWG

Roz Rodgers updated on EWG activities by directing members to EWG website for current and past activities such as Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) public comment period at:

www.ewgateway.org. She also directed them to the draft Title VI Program: Open house that was held on February 17th @ 5:00 PM., explaining that every three years East-West Gateway Council of Governments (EWG) updates its Title VI Program. The [Title VI Program](#) describes how EWG will comply with the nondiscrimination requirements found in the Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and executive orders that address environmental justice (EJ) and persons with limited English proficiency (LEP) (Title VI). EWG is dedicated to an inclusive planning process that ensures that citizens are informed about and given meaningful opportunities to engage in regional planning efforts and decision making. EWG's Title VI Program is designed to protect against discrimination and ensure that all agency planning processes are fair and consider issues that impact disadvantaged residents. Roz talked about the Activity Tracker. The Activity Tracker, which is used to track activities and events, was revamped in 2018 to update staff input options. Utilizing the activity tracker, staff is able to document how we collect and use feedback from the public in our plans, projects and programs. It also helps determine how well we are reaching the PIP's goals and objectives. Staff will be updating tracker by adding a virtual event option and streamlining questions. Roz invited members to the virtual EWG Board meeting on February 23rd @ 10:00 AM.

3. Discussion of Committee Members: How has your organization modified its Public Involvement Activities due to COVID19?

— Roz Rodgers/PIP Committee Members

Wayne Flesch mentioned that the senior population is having a hard time communicating virtually during the pandemic. There is a program <https://www.slcl.org/using-the-library/grandpads> through St. Louis County that provides tablets to seniors. St. Louis County Library is expanding the Digital Equity Initiative to help underserved older adults access technology and stay connected to loved ones during the COVID-19 pandemic. Starting February 10, older adults can apply to receive a GrandPad tablet for one year. Application deadline is February 28, 2021. Marie Elliott said that MoDot is using a hybrid approach for their outreach efforts. She expressed concern that the underserved populations of the region are in a “digital genocide”, meaning there are areas that have little to no internet or Wi-Fi access. With this in mind, MoDOT has taken extra efforts to provide targeted outreach to the underserved areas. When possible they held in person outside activities with safety precautions. They also provided written materials where Wi-Fi wasn't available. Maude Trost is interested in exploring funding options through TIGER grants funding opportunities. Kevin Jemison, IDOT, also expressed that they are using a hybrid of virtual and in person outreach activities. Dr Taylor, SIUE said that the University is mostly virtual, however they are dealing with lack of available resources or lack of reliable information as well as students not wanting to heed to pandemic guidelines. Tamar Brown, CIN, said that like most community service organizations the concern is having access to all the tools. Their organization is doing a combination of things to help the underserved communities.

4. Status report/progress update Goals and Strategies in PIP

— Roz Rodgers, EWG

Roz provided information on the goals and strategies of the public involvement plan. The committee reviewed Goal and Strategies one and two. Members identified completed goals and discussed how to identify status updates of the goals/strategies. The committee will review two additional goals and strategies at each meeting.

5. **Other comments and adjourn**
— Mary Grace Lewandowski, EWG

The invitation was extended to the group for a member to provide a brief presentation about their organization's public involvement plan and activities at future committee meetings. Marie Elliott, MODOT and Amanda Schomaker, MCT have agreed to present on June 16, 2021. The next meeting date is June 16, 2021 @ 9:00 AM.