

RMAP- PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN

Informational Brochure

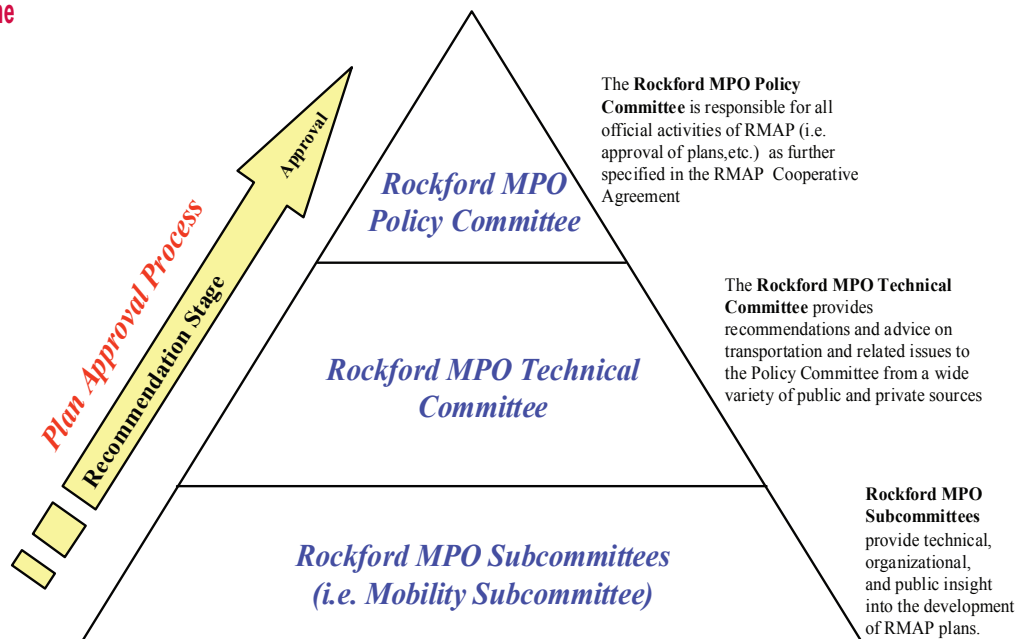
What is the RMAP Public Participation Plan?

The Rockford Metropolitan Agency (RMAP) for Planning's Public Participation Plan is a document that explains the policies, procedures, methods and details for involving the public and area stakeholders in the early stages of the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) transportation planning process.

What is RMAP?

RMAP is the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Rockford Area. The governing body of RMAP is the Policy Committee which is responsible for all official activities of the MPO such as the approval of transportation planning documents, etc. The Policy Committee obtains input and advice on transportation matters from the Technical Committee. The Technical Committee consists of various regional organizations such as municipal and county governments, IDOT, mass transit districts, economic development councils, etc. There are also subcommittees of the Technical Committee which serve different functions. Subcommittees that have been used in the past include, but are not limited to, the Transit TIP Subcommittee, the STP Subcommittee and the Mobility Subcommittee. Each respective Subcommittee has provided input to RMAP staff and the Technical Committee in the development of transportation planning documents created by the MPO.

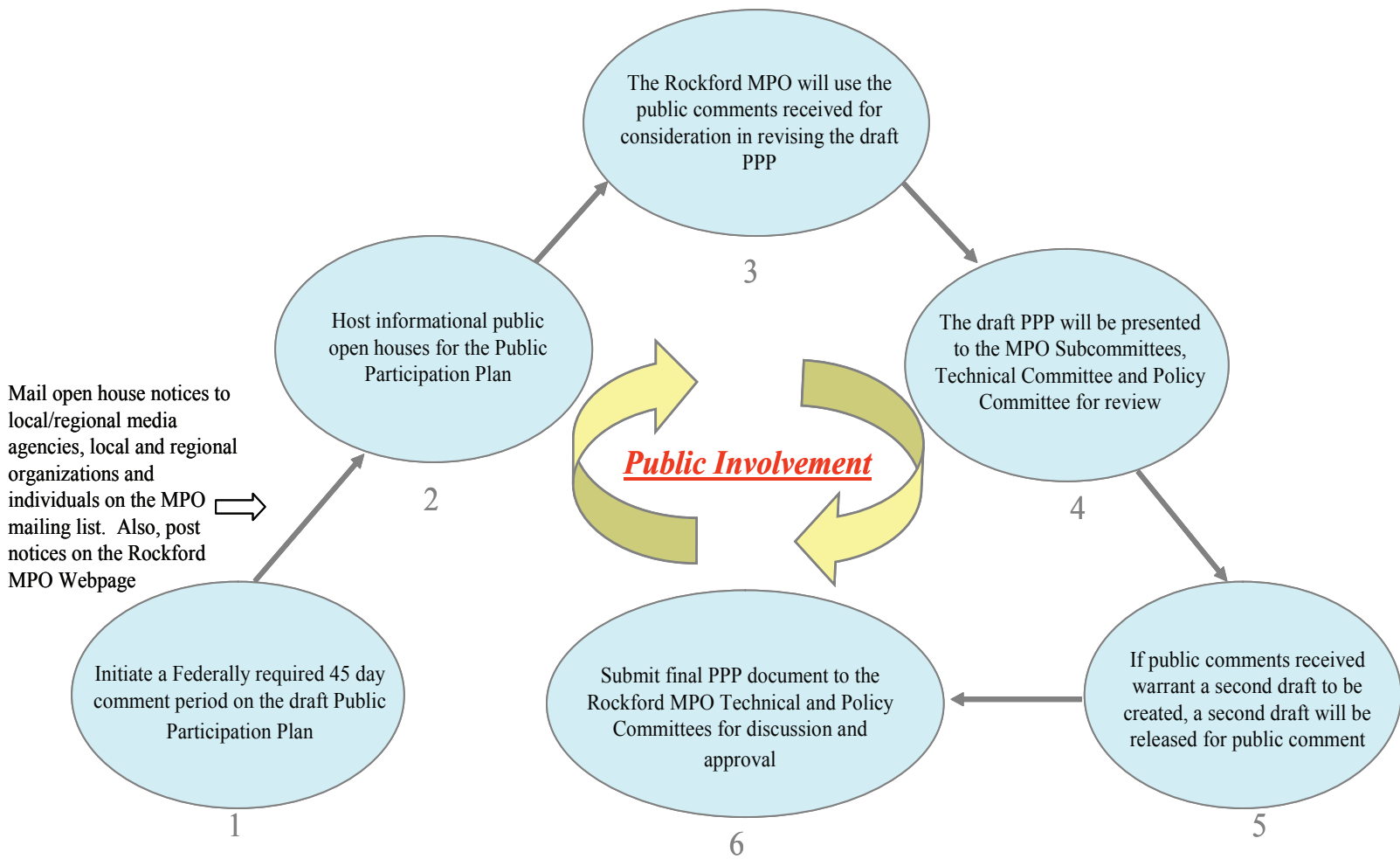
ROCKFORD MPO ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE and PLAN APPROVAL PROCESS



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How was the RMAP Public Participation Plan created?



The above diagram displays the process that was undertaken to develop the Public Participation Plan. Public comment is always welcome on the document as well as on other RMAP documents. If you would like to provide comments or suggestions, please feel free to contact RMAP staff. Contact information is provided at the end of this brochure.

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RMAP Strategies for Public Participation

Engage the public in the transportation planning process

1. Provide information to citizens, affected public agencies, and other interested parties regarding transportation plans and programs early in the process to afford time for review material and participate in the process
2. Maintain the Rockford MPO mailing list to ensure that all interested parties are notified of planning activities so that they may comment and participate in the planning process
3. Utilize various visualization techniques, which include but are not limited to maps, graphs and charts to assist the public in better understanding transportation plans and planning processes
4. Provide reasonable public access to technical and policy information used in the development of transportation related plans

Keep the public informed of transportation related activities

1. Provide access to transportation plans and related information to the public during normal business hours
2. Make documents available related to the transportation planning process to interested parties through a comprehensive and continually updated contact list (i.e. the Rockford MPO Mailing List)
3. Maintain the Rockford MPO website with transportation plans, contact information, upcoming events, committee meeting schedules, agendas, minutes, and related transportation planning materials
4. Issuing PSA's

Promote participation in the transportation planning process by making the MPO visible and accessible

1. Continue the Rockford MPO policy of affording all members of the public to comment at all MPO meetings
2. Facilitate public meetings/informational open houses, when appropriate, at convenient and accessible places and times.
3. Publish public notices regarding transportation plans, open houses etc. to make the public aware of comment periods.

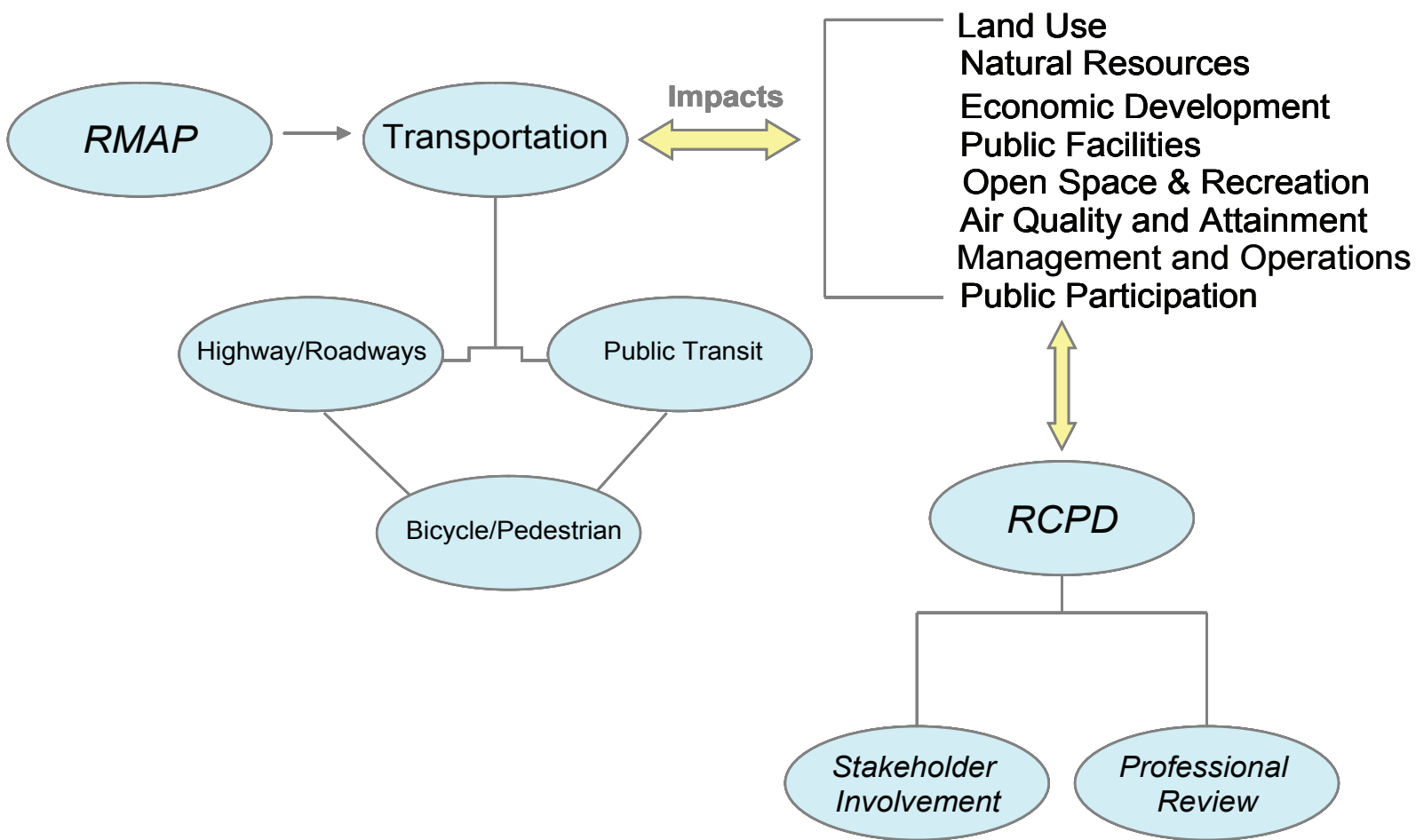
Develop methods to improve public participation

1. Evaluate current public participation techniques used to encourage involvement and modify accordingly
2. Continue to work with the Mobility Subcommittee to encourage public participation
3. Expand upon current public participation and involvement methods with the development of the new RMAP MPO structure and promote the Rockford MPO webpage on MPO documents

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How will RMAP and the Regional Center for Planning and Design work together?



The above diagram displays the relationship that will be formed between the Rockford Metropolitan Agency for Planning and the Regional Center for Planning and Design. While the relationship will be based upon the above qualities, new and different aspects will be incorporated into the model to develop and strengthen a dynamic in which RMAP and RCPD will work in collaboration to provide objective and effective planning recommendations and projects. With the combined efforts of the two organizations and constant stakeholder (i.e. the public, businesses, land owners, non-profit agencies, etc.) participation, efficient solutions can be created to promote the region as a whole.

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How can we work together to make a difference?

- How can we make a difference? How can the public and planning professionals, etc. understand where each other are coming from? -

“We”, the public, community and citizens, can make a difference by communicating with each other and with planners/professionals within RMAP and the RCPD. By letting these professionals know what your questions, concerns, recommendations and suggestions are, plans that are developed will take your ideas into consideration. The only way that your ideas can be heard and acted upon is if you let them be known. Listed below are some ways in which the public can participate in the planning process.

1. Request to be added to the RMAP mailing list. If you would like to be added to the list, please contact RMAP staff and they will gladly add you to the listing.
2. Attend RMAP meetings. All RMAP meetings are open to the public and public attendance is encouraged. RMAP meeting dates, times and locations are listed on the RMAP webpage. Meeting agendas are also sent out prior to meetings to those on the mailing list.
3. Contact RMAP staff with any questions that you might have.
4. RMAP staff can be contacted through e-mail, fax, or by simply calling them. Also, you can submit questions and comments through the RMAP webpage.

<http://rockfordil.gov/government/works/index.cfm?section=planning&id=977>

5. Attend RMAP Public Open Houses. These events are held so that the public may come and view plans, speak with RMAP planners/staff and become more familiar with the MPO planning process. Prior to an RMAP Public Open House being held, notices are published in the Rock River Times and are sent out to all individuals on the RMAP mailing list.

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RMAP Contact Information

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