

Draft Framework for Public Engagement

Presented by the current TCI-P Jurisdictions, in consultation with the other TCI collaborating states

Introduction

In the “[Update on Public Engagement Planning](#),” published on March 1, 2021, Transportation and Climate Initiative (TCI) jurisdictions outlined the next steps to ensure meaningful, equitable and inclusive community participation when jurisdictions implement the TCI Program (TCI-P). The TCI-P jurisdictions are working with Metropolitan Group to engage with communities to support meaningful public engagement as each jurisdiction develops their respective implementation plans.

This document includes draft principles that are intended to guide TCI-P jurisdictions when conducting outreach and public engagement, with a particular focus on ensuring just and equitable outcomes, including emission reductions and access to low-carbon transportation for communities that are overburdened by pollution and underserved by the transportation system.

TCI-P jurisdictions invite public input on the guiding principles (starting on the next page) and the following questions:

- 1) Is anything missing from this proposed public engagement approach that is important to you?
- 2) Are there any aspects of the proposed approach that are particularly relevant or important to you?
- 3) How could TCI-P jurisdictions provide additional opportunities and entry points for environmental justice, equity and other stakeholders to meaningfully engage in the implementation of TCI-P?
- 4) Does anything need to be added to these principles to guide each jurisdiction’s implementation of TCI-P to effectively target benefits for environmental, climate, and transportation justice communities, tribal communities, and other equity stakeholders (e.g., air quality improvement, access to reliable low-cost transportation options)?

Please submit input through the [TCI public input portal](#).

Guiding Principles

- 1) Each TCI-P jurisdiction will work with their stakeholders to create, or adapt existing, public engagement plans that include the following elements:**
 - Plans for meaningful and effective public engagement, particularly for environmental, climate, and transportation justice communities, tribal communities and other equity stakeholders;
 - Articulation of clear goals, expectations, and limitations;
 - Clearly outlined timelines for each stage of the TCI-P Implementation Plan;
 - Engagement plans that will be updated and revised over time as milestones are reached and related policies are adopted or advanced;
 - Description of how equity and justice considerations will be centered and how input from overburdened communities will be incorporated into decision-making processes; and
 - Inventory of existing communication and engagement channels to identify gaps.
- 2) Build trust through honest and open exchanges of information.**
 - Maintain respect, honesty and integrity in the process.
 - Use an open, two-way exchange of information to increase understanding among all stakeholders, and encourage active listening. Establishing or maintaining open communication channels that are consistently monitored and responded to.
 - Maintain a public funding dashboard/report detailing where program proceeds are being spent.
- 3) Encourage active community participation.**
 - Increase the number of community members who recognize themselves as stakeholders in the low-carbon transportation policy conversation.
 - Where possible, partner with other types of community centers, such as employment centers and rural health offices, to help expand the transportation dialogue.
- 4) Recognize community knowledge and expertise.**
 - Document input received from community members, respond to it, and be transparent regarding how input is reflected in decision making. Make efforts to reconnect with the groups that originally provided the input to see that the input has been effectively integrated into the program.
 - Use input received through community engagement to inform TCI-P decisions and activities in the wider context of overburdened and underserved communities' strengths and concerns.
- 5) Make public engagement accessible for everyone (e.g., language and disability access).**
 - Methods, processes, and information should be targeted and applicable to the specific community's needs.
 - Host meetings at varied times, in venues and in formats that maximize community engagement, including through accommodations for language, disability and other needs. Meeting structures should vary (e.g., including presentations, breakout rooms, and facilitated discussion) to provide different ways for people and organizations to participate and provide input.

- Reduce barriers to engagement and enable interested community members to meaningfully participate. This may include viewing parties for online meetings in areas where internet access is limited.
- Provide plain language resources, technical assistance, and materials that make TCI-P more understandable and accessible to a broad cross-section of stakeholders. Best practices include frequently asked questions, a glossary defining common terms, and contact information for agency officials able to provide assistance. Create anonymous options for submitting questions about program content or requests for simplifying definitions and education materials.
- Provide translation and interpretation services and follow culturally relevant communication practices. If possible, identify commonly spoken languages in different regions across the jurisdiction and translate accordingly for those communities.

6) Build capacity for sustained, long-term community engagement that can exist beyond the TCI-P implementation process.

- Build capacity within communities and community organizations to ensure that underserved and overburdened communities have the technical and policy knowledge to effectively influence low-carbon transportation policy outcomes.
- Invest in community-based air quality monitoring and other tools so data collected in communities is accessible to the public and used in decision-making by TCI-P jurisdictions. Establish and/or maintain a public dashboard/report to share data.
- Build capacity within government agencies to institutionalize public participation
- Ensure that data and information collected by TCI-P jurisdictions can measure the outcomes of transportation policies in ways that are disaggregated by race, income, and other equity-related metrics.
- Leverage federal resources (e.g., U.S. EPA and U.S. DOT grants) and work with federal agencies, as appropriate, to further enable capacity building within communities and TCI-P government agencies.