



# INNOVATIVE OUTREACH AT US DOT

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February 2013



# Principles of Environmental Justice

- To avoid, minimize, or mitigate disproportionately high and adverse human health and environmental effects, including social and economic effects, on minority populations and low-income populations.
- To ensure the full and fair participation by all potentially affected communities in the transportation decision-making process.
- To prevent the denial of, reduction in, or significant delay in the receipt of benefits by minority and low-income populations.





# Recent Accomplishments

- Updates to the EJ Order, May 2012
- Environmental Justice Forum, July 2012
  - Public training at DOT HQ to share promising practices for conducting EJ assessments & learn about tools and strategies for public engagement.
- FHWA releases *Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations*.  
June 2012
- FTA Environmental Justice Policy Guidance Circular,  
August 2012
- FTA Circular Online Training, December 2012

# FTA EJ Circular Emphasis on Outreach

Formal Meeting



Engaged Dialogue



Traditional

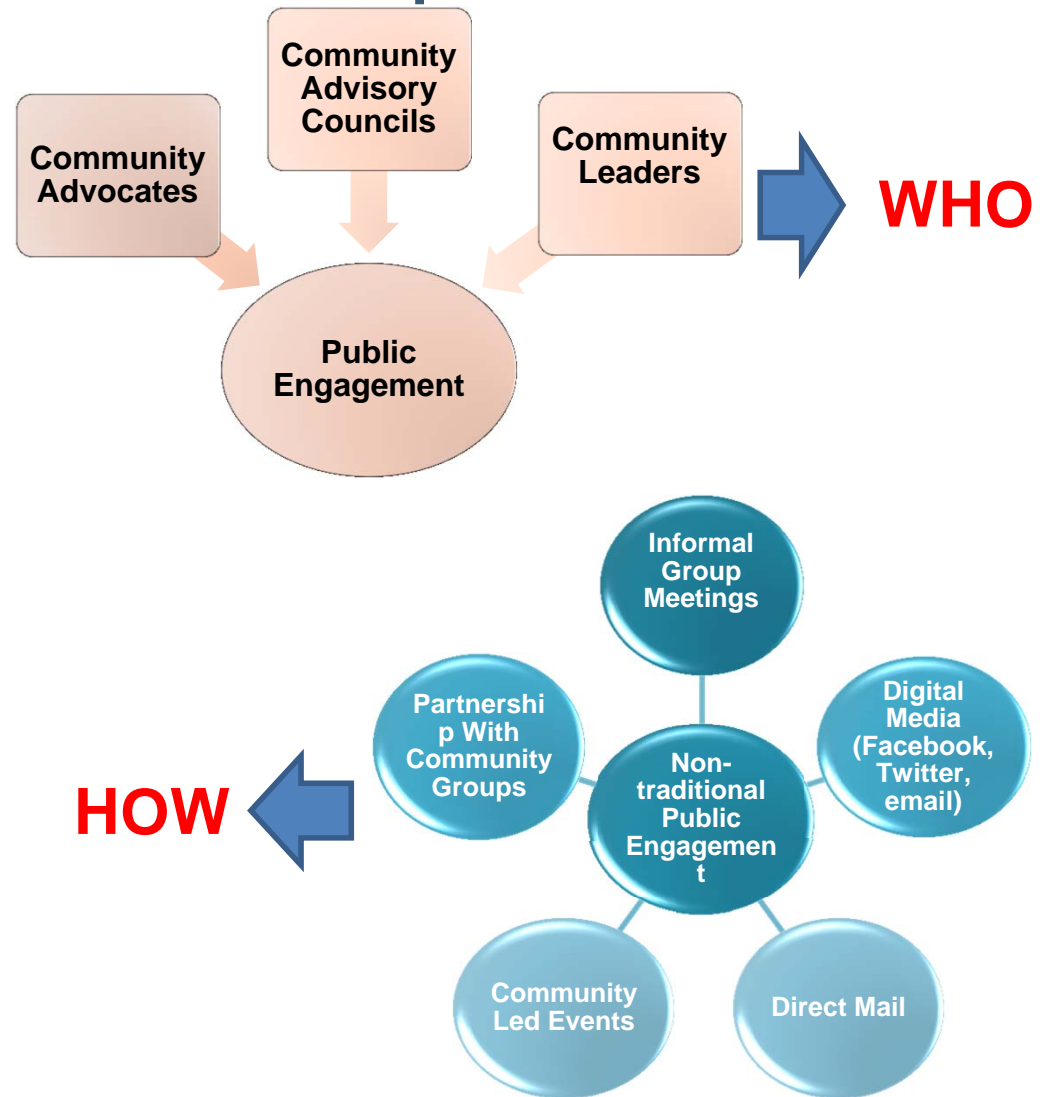


Non-Traditional



# Public Outreach and Participation

- Reach out to minority and low-income communities
- Contact social agencies and private organizations
- Provide opportunities for public input in addition to traditional open houses
- Advertise in target publications and community newsletters, other than in English
- Follow-up on suggestions gathered during public outreach activities.
- Make reasonable efforts to reach those affected by the proposed action





Early, Often, Consistent

**Good Outreach = No EJ Issues**



# FTA Public Participation Pilot Program



PPS staff explain the Place Improvement Exercise to community members in Brooklyn.

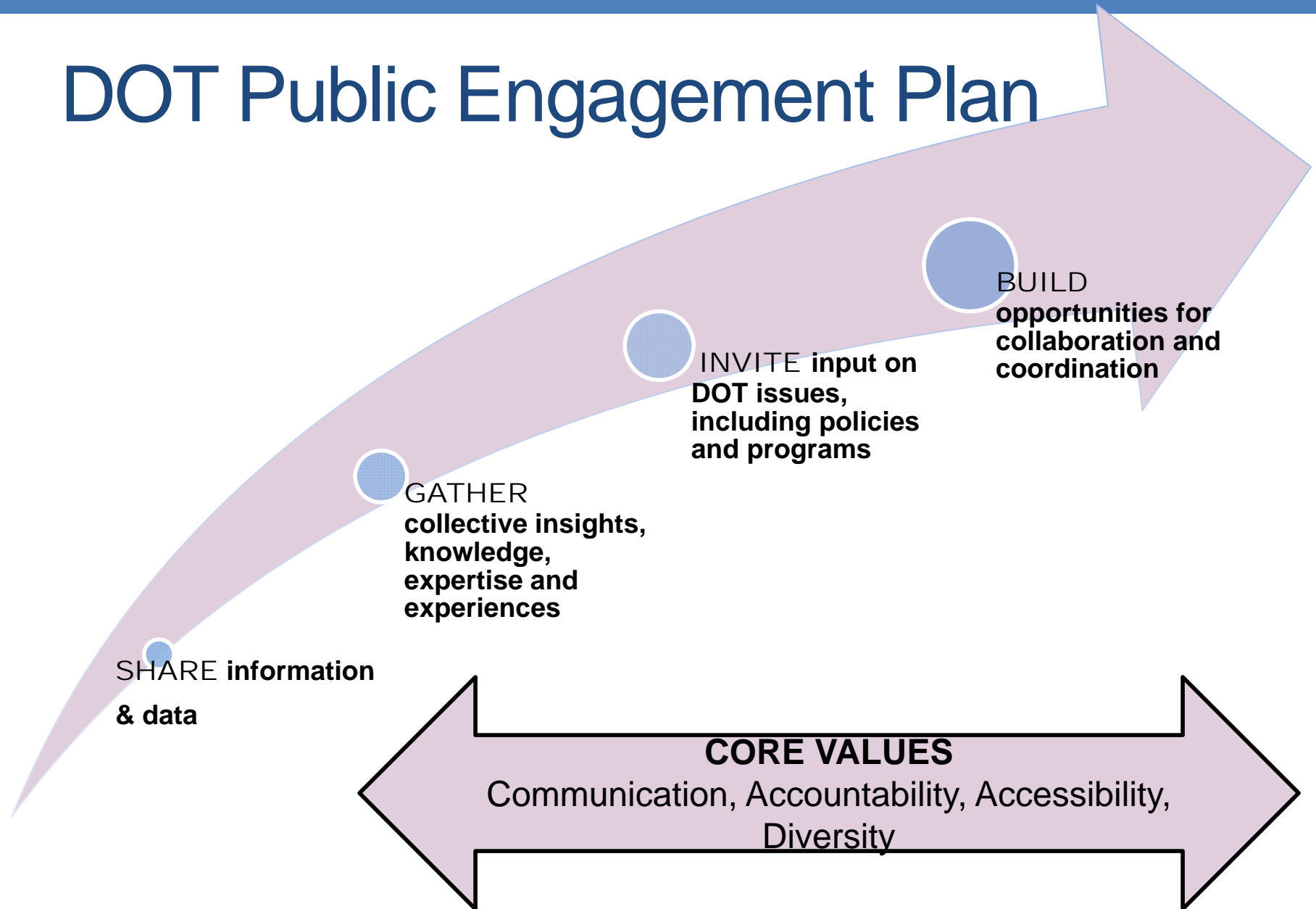
[http://www.fta.dot.gov/12347\\_5925.html](http://www.fta.dot.gov/12347_5925.html)



## Guide to Public Participation in Transportation Planning

Prepared by:  
Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles  
Community Economic Development Unit

# DOT Public Engagement Plan







# MAP-21 Public Outreach Efforts

- DOT's innovative public engagement efforts reached thousands of State and local officials, traditional and nontraditional stakeholders, and members of the public.
- Generated an enthusiastic response rate, demonstrating broad interest
  - Performance measures listening session with over 800 participants
  - Delivered 30 informational webinars in three months
  - Implementation updates sent to a listserv of more than 3,000 people
- National Online Dialogues
  - Performance measures site visited 8,165 times by 5,300 unique visitors
  - Freight site visited 1,854 times from 1,318 unique visitors

# National Online Dialogues

The screenshot shows a Windows Internet Explorer browser window. The address bar displays the URL <http://tam.ideascale.com/>. The browser's address bar includes navigation icons (back, forward, refresh, home) and the Bing search engine logo. The browser's tab bar shows three tabs: "Planning & Environ...", "FHWA Order 6640.23A - F...", and "National Online Dialog...". The browser's status bar shows "Page" and "Safety" options. The main content area of the browser displays the "National Online Dialogue on Transit Asset Management" page. The page features the United States Department of Transportation logo, the "OpenDOT SHARE YOUR IDEAS" logo, and the "OPEN GOV WHITEHOUSE.GOV/OPEN" logo. A search bar labeled "Search Ideas" is present, along with an "Accessibility" link. The main heading is "National Online Dialogue on Transit Asset Management". To the left of the heading, the text "SHARE. DISCUSS. VOTE." is displayed in red. The main text of the page reads: "Thank you! Thanks to everyone who participated in the Transit Asset Management (TAM) Online Dialogue. This new requirement under the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) provides challenges as well as opportunities to improve the way transit is provided in this country. The information collected from this dialogue will provide FTA with good insight into issues surrounding TAM as seen by practitioners in the field. Please stay tuned to FTA's website, [www.fta.dot.gov](http://www.fta.dot.gov), for more news on the development of the TAM rulemaking." Below this, a section titled "Background Material" states: "In response to the establishment of MAP-21, FTA put together a wealth of material on its website, [www.fta.dot.gov/map21](http://www.fta.dot.gov/map21), to help clarify new or changing programs. A list of frequently asked questions can be found there as well as past MAP-21 webinars, outreach opportunities, summaries, powerpoints and fact sheets. The program fact sheets for TAM and for



Facilitating a conversation is about:

**L**ead with a Clear Purpose

**E**mpower to Participate

**A**im for Consensus

**D**irect the Process

# Questions

