



**Charlottesville-Albemarle Metropolitan Planning Organization  
of the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission**

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**Memorandum**

To: CHART Committee  
From: Will Cockrell, Planner II  
Date: March 25, 2009  
Re: Public Outreach for UnJAM

The MPO Policy Board is scheduled to review the urban portion of UnJAM 2035 at the end of May 2009. The public has been involved throughout this process, through community meetings, open house events, public hearings and comments via the website. In compliance with the Public Participation Plan (PPP), notification of these events were provided to central places of low-income and minority neighborhoods. Notices were given to the Piedmont Housing Alliance (PHA), Albemarle Housing Improvement Program (AHIP), City of Charlottesville and Albemarle County to be posted for their low-income residents. Unfortunately, there was limited attendance and participation from low-income and minority groups. The Public Participation Plan states that the MPO will:

Meet with and identify needs of other groups with special interests in the community.

Identify and communicate with populations traditionally underserved by the transportation network, such as those with disabilities and low-income persons through organizations and media outlets known to serve these populations.

Identify locations of low income and minority communities using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) or other suitable means and will provide information to seek input from these communities for the TIP and during Long Range Plan updates.

Methods for communicating may include:

1. Presenting at or sponsoring a community meeting in the targeted area and/or
2. Seeking representatives from the community to participate in an MPO meeting focusing their concerns and/or
3. Seeking representatives from the community and/or from service agencies familiar with the needs of these communities.

To comply with the standards set forth in the PPP and reach out to these important groups, Staff contacted the Charlottesville Housing Authority and discussed options for continued outreach. Staff drafted a summary of the UnJAM update that will be included in the Housing Authorities newsletter, which is included in monthly mailings that reach all of their public housing and section 8 voucher residents. Staff will also present UnJAM at four of the Housing Authority's community meetings in April. These meetings are open to all of the Housing Authority's residents, providing a unique outreach opportunity. The exact times and dates are still unknown, but this topic is on the agenda for these meetings.

Staff would also like to discuss the possibility of representation from low-income and minority neighborhoods on the CHART committee. We are seeking Committee feedback on these topics and any suggestions to move forward.