



Charlottesville-Albemarle Metropolitan Planning Organization

POB 1505, 401 E. Water St, Charlottesville, VA 22902 www.tjpd.org

(434) 979-7310 phone (434) 979-1597 fax info@tjpd.org email

Memorandum

TO: CHART Committee
FROM: MPO Staff
DATE: September 28th 2009
RE: The Future Role of the CHART Committee: Scope of Work

At the last CHART committee meeting, the committee determined that its next steps would involve aiding the MPO in improving upon the traditional public participation model currently in use. This traditional model fosters reactive public participation; essentially showing members of the public plans that are practically complete and asking them to comment. The traditional model does not allow the public an opportunity to assist in the crafting of planning documents, documents that will have an effect on future development.

It is the hope of TJPDC staff and the CHART committee to revise the traditional public participation model. The new model will encourage an on-going public participation process that can be focused on specific plans or stored and revised for future planning documents. To achieve this new model the CHART committee, in conjunction with the TJPDC staff, needs to develop new goals in fostering public participation.

These new goals include...

- Keeping other organizations informed about transportation planning documents and projects the MPO.
- Creating an on-going outlet for members of the public to comment on transportation planning concerns.
- Presenting on general transportation issues to communities throughout the region.
- Reaching out to transportation organizations and agencies that do not have a strong voice in the MPO.

As discussion on these topics continues, the specific efforts necessary for achieving each of these goals will emerge. Reorienting public participation efforts will take a considerable effort and will require committee members and TJPDC staff to be highly proactive. We look forward to discussing this process further with the CHART committee and shaping implementation ideas in order to improve public participation in the MPO and throughout the entire region.