

# Participation Plan Summary

## PURPOSE OF PARTICIPATION

Public participation is integral to good transportation planning. Without meaningful public participation, there is a risk of making poor decisions, or decisions that have unintended negative consequences. With it, it is possible to make a lasting contribution to an area's quality of life. The fundamental objective of public participation programs is to ensure that the concerns and issues of everyone with a stake in transportation decisions are identified and addressed in the development of the policies, programs, and projects being proposed in their communities. Public input is weighed against the costs of the projects and the technical and environmental feasibility of the projects within a scheduled timeframe.



## MAJOR PLANNING DOCUMENTS

The Gainesville-Hall Metropolitan Planning Organization (GHMPO) is responsible for the development of documents that outline transportation plans, account for MPO operations, and explain the efforts to get greater participation from all stakeholders within the community. Early participation by the public in the preparation of select documents can improve the finished product as continuous feedback on transportation plans make for a more comprehensive view of current needs and future aspirations. Plans that require public participation include the **Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)**, **Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP)**, and the **Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)**.

## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION STRATEGIES

GHMPO employs the following strategies to ensure adequate public participation:

- I. Give Adequate Public Notice**
  - a. Public Notices, Mailing List, Electronic Mail, Direct Mail, GHMPO Website, Public Meetings
- II. Provide Timely and Reasonable Access to Information**
  - a. GHMPO Website, Public Meetings, Committee Meeting Access, Signage
- III. Make Public Meetings Accessible**
  - a. Public Meetings, Committee Meeting Access, Signage, Speakers Bureau
- IV. Solicit the Needs of the Traditionally Underserved**
  - a. Mailing Lists, Focus Groups, Citizens Advisory Committee, Public Meetings, Translator Assistance, Language Identification Cards, Spanish Language Outreach Materials, Limited English Proficiency Plan (LEP)
- V. Coordinate the Public Participation Process**
  - a. Partnering with representatives from local, regional and statewide governments to coordinate and share information
- VI. Review the Participation Plan**
  - a. Update every three years, evaluate as needed.

