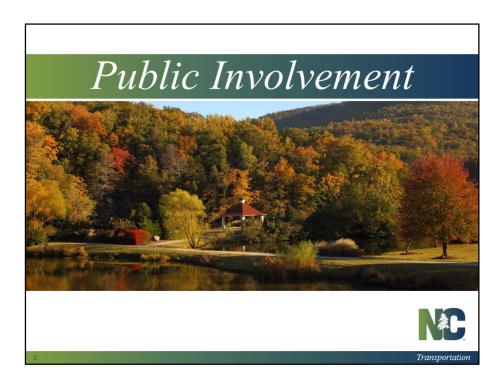


Greeting – my group is responsible for coordinating and conducting public outreach for the department. The topic of my presentation is what I would term Public Involvement or PI 101. So, I am going to cover the basic who, what, why, where, and when of PI. The HOW is more nuanced because there is "no one size fits all" public involvement strategy.



We are in an era of unprecedented change at NCDOT, it is imperative that we develop/implement some measures of consistency. This is especially important in our dealings with the public.

Public Involvement Is...

- A Fundamental component of effective transportation planning and project development
- An Opportunity for a voice
- A critical source of information for NCDOT



Transportation

WHAT IS PI???? - Public Involvement is a Fundamental component in the decision making process that gives the public an opportunity for a voice in decisions. It also provides us the opportunity to allay fears, clarify misconceptions and to gather information we normally wouldn't have readily available.

There is a growing demand by the public for a more active role in project development process. Putting people first is a common sense way to design public infrastructure. Giving a voice to all stakeholders, asking them for input early on, delivers fresh ideas while fostering a sense of ownership by local residents. This also aids in earlier identification of issues which can help to streamline the project development process. It is really all about creating a dynamic two-way communication with the public.

Our current administration has emphasized customer service as a main focal point for the Department of Transportation. To meet these goals it is important that we move and think "outside of the box" when it comes to involving the public in our decision making. It is essential that the public perceives us as a transparent agency.

Public Involvement

- Education & Communication!
- Education & Communication!
- Education & Communication!



It really just boils down to education on our processes, policies, and procedures.

It is imperative that they know the parameters we work within – budgetary, technical and regulatory.

Especially, your local and elected officials. They can be our best ambassador or ally or our worst enemy. So, I cannot stress enough the importance of keeping them apprised of project milestones throughout the project development process. Ideally, you want to meet with them prior to any notice of a public involvement event goes out.

Communication as you would guess is an important cornerstone of successful public outreach. As engineers and transportation professionals it is all to easy for us to use technical jargon and acronyms when dealing with the public - whether in writing or conversation. The mantra I like to follow is WWGT

Public Involvement

Everyone Does it...

Phone Calls and Emails

Encounters during Maintenance Work

Small Group Meetings

Local Citizen Advisory Groups

Local Official's Informational Meetings

Public Meetings/Hearings

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Whether you realize it or not, almost everyone at NCDOT conduct PI in their jobs. I would say around 95%, however, keep in mind 67% of all stats are made up on the spot.

Public Involvement

Why Public Involvement?

PI is required by federal and state laws, rules, and regulations They guide our processes

Proper Public Involvement yields:

Better results

- ✓ More meaningful input
- ✓ More informed decision making
- ✓ Better projects
- ✓ Customer satisfaction

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WHY PI??? Well for starters, it is a required by law for the majority of our projects, plans or studies AND, more importantly, it is just good business. We cannot lose sight that we work for the citizens of this great state.

Good PI results in:

There about 17

Federal and state statutes

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964
ADA of 1990
NEPA of 1970
National Historic Preservation Act of 1966
Clean Air Act of 1970
Clean Water Act of 1972
Federal transportation statutes
ISTEA of 1991
SAFETEA-LU of 2005
MAP-21 of 2012

FAST of 2015

North Carolina state statutes

NC SEPA of 1971

NC NEPA/404 Merger Process of 1997

Federal regulations

Title 23, United States Code (U.S.C.)

Title 23 - Highways, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR)

 ${\sf Title~40-Protection~of~Environment,~Code~of~Federal~Regulations~(CFR)} \\ {\sf Metropolitan}$

Transportation Planning

Federal executive orders

Executive Order 12898 – Environmental Justice (1994)

Executive Order 13166 – Limited English Proficiency (2000)

I will talk a little more about EJ and LEP later in the presentation.

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act

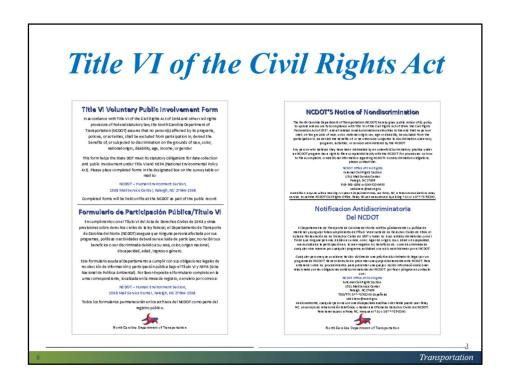
Protects people from discrimination (intentional or unintentional) in any NCDOT programs or activities on the basis of:

- Race, Color, National Origin (Title VI)
- Sex (Federal-aid Highway Act of 1973)
- Disability (Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973)
- Age (Age Discrimination Act of 1975)

I am not going to go through the various federal and state statutes and regulations that govern PI, but I would like to touch on one that is extremely important and that is Title VI of the CRA. Title VI protects people and population's civil rights, affected by federal programs, from discrimination whether it be intentional or unintentional. I would also like spotlight two executive orders that augment Title VI. Those are EJ and LEP. EJ executive order covers race and color but also includes low income populations in consideration of disproportionate impacts. National Origin is the basis for the LEP Executive Order.

I will talk a little more about EJ and LEP later in the presentation.

Larger scale NEPA/SEPA projects should follow the separate CCR – CIA process. Smaller scale projects may use a DMP CIA that should be available later this month. Community Studies is also working on two screening tools, one for projects without ROW and one with, completion of which should provide documentation of assessment for perhaps 9 out of 10 projects. Those that trigger a threshold will complete the appropriate sections of a DMP CIA.



To insure compliance These boards should be displayed at all public meetings. TITLE VI Voluntary Form and NCDOT Notice of NonDiscriminaton

Title V	I of the C	Tivil Rio	hts Act
Title V	TITLE VI PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT FORM Comparing this them is comparing violatinary. You are not personal and in meeting. Safeting Tripe. Leading: TUPN: Project Rendingtons: In accordance with Tale VI of the Child Rights Act of 1964 and head control and in accordance with Tale VI of the Child Rights Act of 1964 and head control and in accordance with Child VI and VI and Child Rights Act of 1964 and head control and in ACT of 1964 and the Public Public Actions of the Local Control Contro	deputing to provide the information requested in order to Date Petrolary 15, 2013	
	Race Ethnicity: This Share Black Afficials American Distant Afficials American Distant Afficials Afficials Afficials Distant Afficials Afficials Distant Afficials Di		
	For more information regarding Title VI or this request, pleas (919) 505-1806 or toll free at 1-500-522-0453, or by email a		

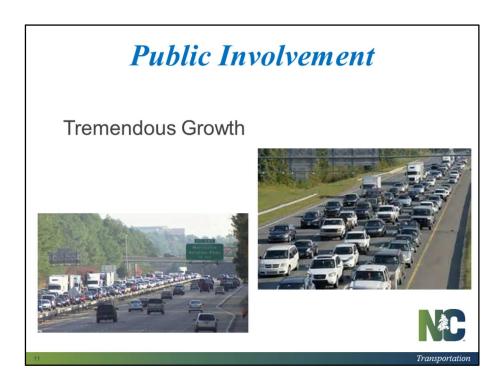
Here is the aforementioned Title VI Voluntary Public Involvement form. Copies of this form need to be available at all public meetings. You can have copies available at the sign in desk or at the comment table. What we like to do is have it as part of the meeting handout...typically the second to the last page. The last page of course being the comment form. The thought there is they can tear those two sheets off to turn in and still have their handout intact.

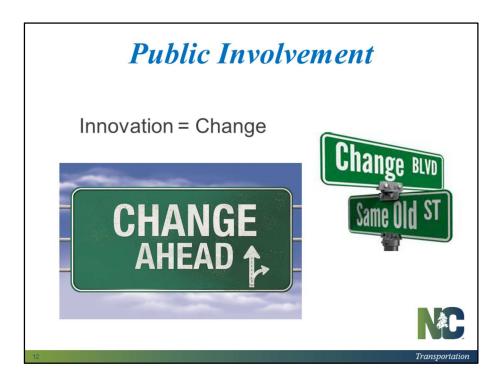


The reason this is important is Times are changing - NC is growing at a rapid rate. All of this growth is bringing more diversity. As each day passes we are more and more likely to encounter different races, ethnicities, etc... or in other words those protected populations.

With the rapid growth comes more cars – more congestion so, WE are constantly looking for new and innovative ways to address congestion and provide sufficient infrastructure.

Involving the Public is the Only Way we can introduce our new innovative methods.





People inherently resist one of the true constants in the world and that ironically is change.

[&]quot;Everybody wants to change the world but nobody wants to change"



Change is essential, yet scary for most.

It is based in the fear of the unknown - "sameness" is psychological security.

Without change, as the saying goes, "If all you ever do is all you've ever done, then all you'll ever get is all you ever got."



"That may work in [Fill in the Blank] but it will not work here!!!"

Understanding and/or anticipating the resistance position(s) is key.

Once you have that knowledge, you can develop your messaging and outreach strategy.

Ultimately, you are trying to get understanding from the stakeholders on why this change is necessary and why it is beneficial to them and/or their community.

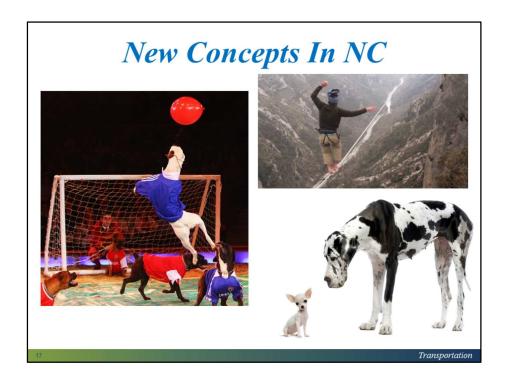
They still may not like it but at least they understand it.



Superstreets/Synchronized Streets {Animate} DDI Ramp Signals CFI – should have something for this - clip Express Lanes



We Had to Step up our Game!!



It's a whole new game.

We are playing with the big dogs now. We are actually having to mimic (or incorporate) some of the skill sets associated with an ad/marketing agency. It's all about messaging. We HAVE to set up ourselves up for success.

Use I-540 On-Ramp Signals project as an example.

21st Century Outreach

Project Websites

Social Media

Visualizations

- Photo Simulations
- Renderings / Conceptual Images
- Animating Designs (Traffic Flows / Patterns)
- Visual Surveys



Numerous surveys have found that standard public participation techniques (e.g., public hearings) by themselves are considered inadequate.

While we strive to make our public meetings as convenient as we can, it is impossible to provide a date and time that works for everyone interested in a specific project and/or action. This often leads to citizens getting misinformation from their neighbors, who may have a bias or just simply did not fully comprehend the message.

We often hear from a similar demographic across the state regardless of the proposed project and/or action.

Too often we do not get participation from the younger generation, minorities, and communities identified as Limited English Proficient (LEP).

21st Century Outreach

Webinars

Online Public Engagement Tools



Webinars: one such software is GoTo Meeting

MetroQuest, MySidewalk, and Smart Comment to name a few.

I would also like to add Radio to this category. While radio is not a new medium overall, it is with respect to advertising outreach events and opportunities. Our radio ads run during the Total Traffic and Weather segments on iHeart radio stations during commute times (rush hour) – 6-10 in the morning and 3-7 in the evening. This allows us to reach a "captive" market actually using the transportation system. I feel it is more effective than Newspaper ads.

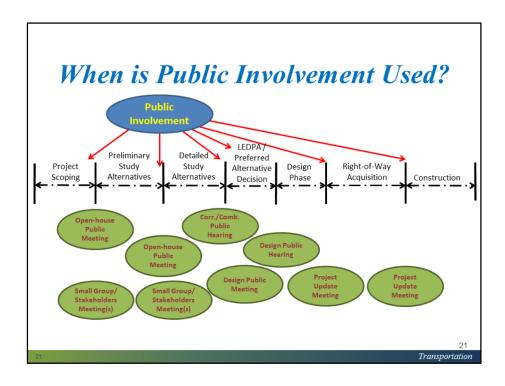


So, now that we have discussed the WHAT and WHY let's talk about WHEN - Public Involvement occurs at all stages of the transportation lifecycle

Long Range Planning through to Construction....even maintenance

When is Public Involvement Needed?

- •When it is required by law.
- •When public decisions have substantive impacts on communities and individuals.
- •When the public has information, ideas, and/or concerns that should be considered by decision-makers who are serving as public representatives and have the responsibility to listen to their constituents and others before acting on their behalf.



Let's take a look at the Public Involvement process in general during project development.

Now, keep in mind, that there is no "one size fits all" approach to Public Involvement. A simple one mile widening in the eastern portion of the state is different from a similar project in the mountains. A project in Charlotte will have different issues than one in Asheville.

Types of Public Meetings

- Small Group/Stakeholder Meetings
- Charrettes
- Panel Discussions/Q&A
- Open-House Public Meetings

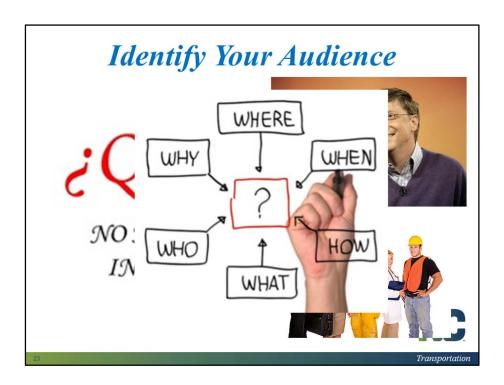
Formerly: Citizen's Informational Workshops

- Design Public Meetings
- Project Update Meetings
- Corridor Protection Hearings
- Corridor Public Hearings
- Design Public Hearings
- Combined Public Hearings

22

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New - Noise Wall Public Meetings



Now let's talk about a fundamental PI topic – Audience Identification To know your audience you have to first assess the community's needs. One of the first things we do is look at demographic data. Typically, that is accomplished by looking at the CCR and/or the CIA. Now, I would like to note that the majority of Division managed projects will not have CCRs/CIAs, however, at a minimum, LEP/Title VI screenings should be done.

Level of Education Cultural Barriers Economic Barriers Communication Barriers

Knowing the scope or objectives of your project and potential impacts are a necessity in developing a PI Plan.

Defines the best tools/techniques for your particular outreach

Community Characteristics Report

Documents notable characteristics, resources and such surrounding physical features as buildings, parks, landmarks, wildlife habitats, streams and air quality

24

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By documenting notable community characteristics and resources, we are able to identify potential EJ and LEP communities/issues.

Environmental Justice (EJ)

Executive Order 12898

Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations

"Each Federal agency shall make achieving environmental justice part of its mission by identifying and addressing, as appropriate, disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of its programs, policies, and activities on minority populations and low-income populations."

25

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Passed by Bill Clinton – that basically states that minority and low income populations cannot be disproportionately impacted by a particular project/action and that they as historically underrepresented and underserved populations have an opportunity for "meaningful input".

Environmental Justice (EJ)

More Robust Outreach

- Strategic/Targeted
- Door Hangers/Flyers
- · Use of Color

Small Group Meetings



Zeamen exterior

Limited English Proficiency (LEP)

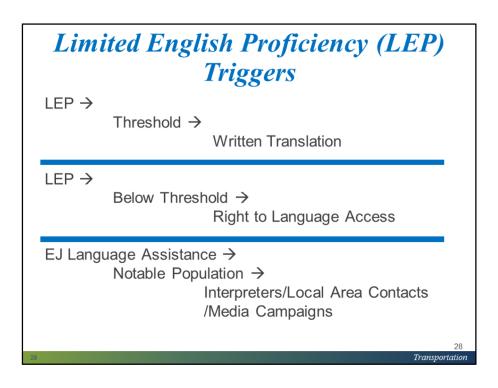
Executive Order 13166
Improving Access to Services for Persons with Limited English Proficiency

Individuals who do not speak English as their primary language and who have a limited ability to read, speak, write, or understand English can be limited English proficient, or "LEP." These individuals may be entitled language assistance with respect to a particular type of service, benefit, or encounter.

27

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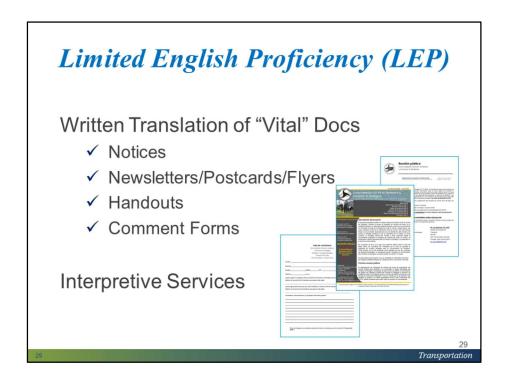
Passed by George Bush II



Threshold 5% of the DSA or 1000 people whichever is less.

Safe Harbour (Threshold) for Complying with Requirements of LEP Translation a. For 5% or 1000 of population (whichever is less) to be served, translate vital documents

EJ Language Assistance is needed when you have an adult population above 50.



Above the Threshold

LEP triggers translation of vital documents (newsletters, notice materials, meeting handouts, ROW info)

Limited English Proficiency (LEP)

Right to Language Access (RTLA)

"Persons who speak Spanish and do not speak English, or have a limited ability to read, speak or understand English, may receive interpretive services upon request prior to the meeting by calling 1-800-481-6494."



Below the Threshold Right to language access notice (ie assistance may be requested).

Limited English Proficiency (LEP)

Right to Language Access (RTLA)

"Aquellas personas que hablan español y no hablan inglés, o tienen limitaciones para leer, hablar o entender inglés, podrían recibir servicios de interpretación si los solicitan antes de la reunión llamando al 1-800-481-6494."



31

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LARCS leverage the most efficient and effective means of making LEP – most commonly in NC that is Latino or Hispanic residents - aware of the upcoming Public Involvement Events.

The contacts will also help determine where Latino individuals and families live, where they work, and community gathering spots.

What Can the Public Involvement Group Do For Me?

Sooooo, What Can PI Do for you??

Basic Services We Provide

- Meeting Venue Procurement and Logistics
- Calendar Scheduling/Invitations
- Newspaper Advertisements
- DMV Advertisements
- Public Meeting Website Posting
- Project Website coordination
- Radio Ads
- Press Release Coordination
 (With NCDOT Communications Office)

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With that in mind, we looked at our processes..... There is a long laundry list of services we are tasked with performing for NCDOT transportation projects whether handled from a Central or Division administered standpoint.

Basic Services We Provide

- Mailing List Generation and Verification
- Project Meeting Map Review
- Postcard/Newsletter/Handout Review
- Specialized Outreach To Traditionally Underserved Populations
- Language Assistance
- Interpretive Services
- Latest up-to-date Federal, State and NCDOT rules and requirements

We're here to assist you with meeting all federal, state, local and NCDOT guidelines.

i.e. LOGO issues

Minor mistakes can lead to funding issues and/or public misconceptions.



We can also assist you with development of PI plans and /or the actual development/design of Postcards, Newsletters, Handouts, Flyers, Displays Just to name a few.

We can tailor 'public consumption' items to your needs quickly and in compliance with departmental policies and other guidelines.

Additional Services We Can Provide

- Extra Staff For Meetings
- PA and Recording Equipment
- Transcripts
- Voiceover PowerPoint Presentations
- A Variety Of On-Call Consultants Available

37

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We can also provide all of these items as needed.





Link to the Public Engagement Toolkit.

Visit https://connect.ncdot.gov/projects/toolkit



<u>Identify most suitable</u> public engagement techniques for your plan, project or study Learn about and how to apply techniques

<u>Find resources</u> about specific public engagement topics and techniques of interest to you See which techniques others are using that are <u>working well and most cost effective</u>

<u>Share</u> your public engagement experience to inform the community of practice

<u>Participate</u> in discussion forums

IMPORTANT!!

If you do nothing else, please:

Coordinate the dates of public meetings with our staff so we don't have any conflicts

Allow our staff to make sure we're meeting our Title VI requirements (EJ/LEP and ADA)

Allow our staff to review all documents and maps for public consumption to ensure you are in compliance with the latest rules, regulations and policies

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At a minimum, you should contact the PI group for:

Scheduling of Public Meetings/Public Hearings (see attachment on scheduling Public Meetings)

Set up, advertise and conduct

Avoid scheduling conflicts

Ensure that the meetings are posted on the public meetings webpage and project website (if available)

Ensure Public Notices and Press Releases are advertised and distributed to the proper local media. We will coordinate directly with the Communications Office on the press release to ensure the notice and press release are in sync.

Locate, Reserve and Pay For Facilities

Ensure ADA Compliance

Review of all public outreach materials (handouts, newsletters, display boards, etc....)

Ensure consistency across the state

Ensure adopted guidelines (writing style, formatting) are being followed

Public Hearings

PI Group responsible for approval of NEPA/SEPA Public Hearing Maps

PI Group responsible for conducting formal public hearings

IMPORTANT!!

We are here to assist you in meeting federal, state, local and departmental guidelines for public involvement

We understand the need to move projects quickly

We also understand there are consequences of not meeting the intent of the regulations

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CONTACT US

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Jamille Robbins – Public Involvement Group Leader <u>jarobbins@ncdot.gov</u> 919.707.6085



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