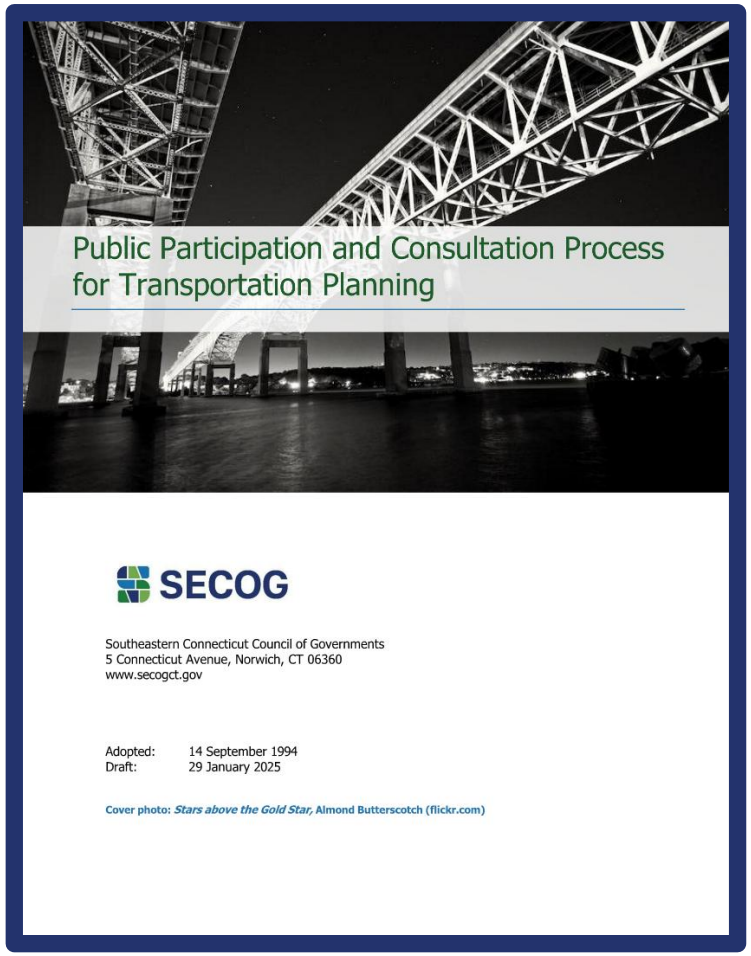
Public Participation and Consultation Process for Transportation Planning

2025 updates

Hearing February 19, 2025

2025 Update Schedule

- February 1 – Public Notice, Direct Mailing, Website Posting, Public Comment Period Opens
- **February 19 - Public Hearing**
- March 4 – Executive Committee, referral to COG
- March 17- Public Comment Period Closes
- March 18 - Public comments are incorporated
- March 19 - COG Meeting, anticipated adoption of 2025 updated process
- April 1 – FHWA filing date for updated process



Summary of Changes

- Section 1- Introduction
  - Added regulatory reference 450.316(a)(1)(i)
  - Staff to review plan annually
- Section 2- Core Plan Processes (NEW)
  - States processes for
    - Regional Plan of Conservation and Development
    - Metropolitan Transportation Plan
    - Transportation Improvement Plan
      - Newly identifies the Amendment process
- Section 3- Information Availability and Transparency
  - Reviews process for special studies
  - Describes web, GIS, and social media resources
  - Clarifies how public can access plans and data
- Section 4- Stakeholder Consultation
  - Defines Stakeholder Groups
  - Adds detail regarding member municipalities and SEAT representative
  - Discusses outreach to underserved and limited-English speaking communities
- Section 5- Modes of Engagement
  - Describes SECOG's approach to meeting accessibility by outlining considerations for format, location and time
  - Incorporates discussion of virtual meetings
- Section 6- Opportunity for Public Comment
  - Outlines opportunities for providing input in person, in writing, verbally, or virtually

Thank You

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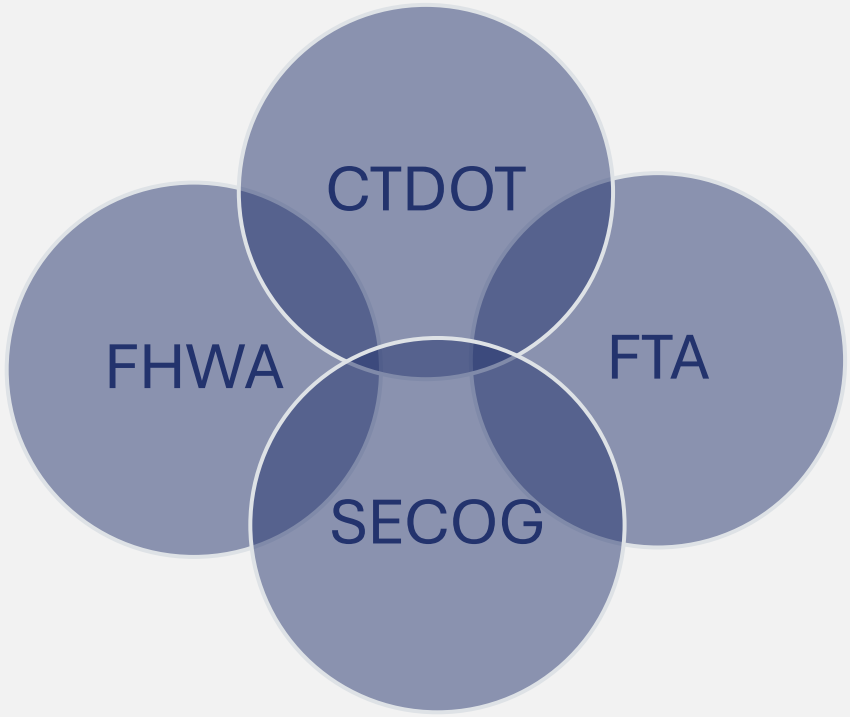
Public Comment may be submitted:

- In person at this hearing
- Via email: dpierce@seccog.org
- Via mail: SECOG, 5 Connecticut Avenue, Norwich, CT 06360
- Via phone: 860-889-2324 x120

Changes by Document Section

Regulatory Framework



- This process is in conformance with regulation pertaining to Metropolitan Planning Organizations
- Ensures compliance with both FHWA and FTA rules so that we can authorize funding to projects and plan in a manner consistent with the regulatory framework.
- Reference to Code of Federal Regulations 450.316(a)(1)(i) of Title 23 was added
- EXCEPTION: Infrequently SECOG will have to use processes not included in this document, including Transit project Environmental Impact Statements, SECOG is required to comply with 23 CFR 771

Section 1: Introduction

2020 Plan

- The Process
- Evaluation and Revisions

2025 Plan Draft

- Updated website links and organization name abbreviation here and throughout the draft.
- Clarified that Staff internally evaluate the Public Participation Process annually to determine if updates to the process are needed, in compliance with federal regulation. If updates are required, they will be subject to the public participation process.

Section 2: Core Plan Public Participation Processes

2020 Plan

- This section was not in 2020 Plan

2025 Plan Draft

- Description of 3 plans and their respective public participation process
  - Regional Plan of Conservation and Development
  - Metropolitan Transportation Plan
  - Transportation Improvement Plan

Section 3: Information Availability and Transparency

2020 Plan

- Special Studies
  - Collaboration and Coordination
- Technical Assistance
- Public Records
- Website and Social Media
- Data
- Meetings with Staff

2025 Plan Draft

- *Data* has been expanded to include information on how Geographic Information System (GIS) hub has been expanded in planning as a mapping resource.
- *Meetings with Staff* is now incorporated throughout the plan based on the section topic.
- Clarifies how the public can access our planning products including plans and data.
- Updates to the *Website and Social Media* section.

Section 4: Stakeholder Consultation

2020 Plan

- Affiliate and Liaison Members
- Other Consultation

2025 Plan Draft

- Section has been reworked to outline the stakeholders
  - Affiliate and Liaison Members
  - Other Consultation
- Additional detail was added to recognize stakeholders and the communities
  - Member Municipalities and SEAT Representatives
  - Outreach to Underserved Communities
  - Civil Rights (Title VI)

Section 5: Modes of Engagement

2020 Plan

- Public Hearings and Informational Meetings
  - Opportunity for Public Comment
  - Location of the Meeting
  - Timing of the Meeting
  - Meeting Notification
  - LEP/EJ Communities
  - Content of the Meeting
  - Presentation and Visualization
  - Response to Comments

2025 Plan Draft

- Describes processes for different types of meetings and inclusive organization of meetings.
- *Content of the Meeting* section divided into types of meetings
  - Public Outreach
  - Public Hearings
  - Public Information Meetings
  - Virtual Modes of Engagement
- Outlines opportunities for providing input in person, in writing, verbally, or virtually
- *Presentation and Visualization* is now incorporated throughout the plan based on the section topic.
- Note: LEP and Minority Communities information was moved to *Stakeholder Consultation* section