Stakeholder and Public Participation

Stakeholder outreach was completed in accordance with the North Central Public Participation Plan, which was adopted in July 2016. This section provides an overview of the robust stakeholder and public participation effort that occurred as part of the development of the 2045 North Central LRTP.

Focus Group Meetings

The Commission conducted nine in-person focus group meetings across the region. Stakeholders representing different areas of expertise and transportation interests (e.g., multimodal transportation, economic and workforce development, tourism and recreation, aging and veterans’ partners, etc.) met with North Central staff to discuss transportation issues and concerns. The following agencies were represented at one or more of the focus group meetings:

- Allegheny National Forest Visitors Bureau
- American Refining Group Inc.
- Area Transportation Authority of North Central Pennsylvania
- Bradford Era
- Bradford Office of Economic and Community Development
- CCAAA, Inc.
- City of Bradford
- City of DuBois
- City of St. Marys
- Clearly Ahead Development
- Congressman Glenn Thompson’s Office
- DuBois Regional Airport
- DuBois Chamber of Commerce
- DuFAST
- Elk County Planning
- Jefferson County Economic Development
- Jefferson County Veterans Affairs
- Johnsonburg Borough
- Kane Borough
- Kinzua Valley Trail
- McKean County Economic Development
- Mt. Jewett to Kinzua Bridge Trail Club
- North Central Workforce Development Board
- Northwest Pennsylvania Industrial Resource Center
- PA DCNR
- PA Great Outdoor Visitors Bureau
- PA Link
- PA Route 6 Tourist Association
- PA Wilds Center
- PA Wilds, Headwaters Charitable Trust
- PennDOT Central Office
- PennDOT District 2-0
- PennDOT District 10-0
- Port Alleghany Borough
- R.J. Corman Rail Road Company
- Stahl Sheaffer Engineering
- Visit Clearfield County

Detailed meeting summaries from each focus group meeting can be found in Appendix E.
State Transportation Commission Twelve Year Program

In updating the LRTP, the North Central RPO leveraged the work that had been performed by the STC. Beginning with the development of the 2015 Twelve Year Program (TYP), the STC began moving away from its traditional biennial program hearing process to one that features the use of an interactive, online platform. This new methodology has resulted in a greater level of participation in the statewide planning process. A side benefit has been enormous amounts of data that can be used by the planning partners as part of their regional transportation planning efforts.

The development of the 2017 TYP was no different, and the North Central RPO was able to tap into the viewpoints and perspectives of its constituents through the STC process. Rather than field traditional county-level meetings as part of LRTP development, the RPO pulled data from the STC outreach results in identifying an array of transportation issues that exist across the region. Figure 33 compares how customers’ priorities compared when viewed by region, versus statewide. The figure shows that transportation priorities within the region are similar to those expressed statewide. A notable difference however involves that of bicycling and walking, which scored lower as a priority within the region compared to the statewide result.

Figure 33: STC Survey Results: Statewide Priorities vs. Regional Priorities

![Figure 33: STC Survey Results: Statewide Priorities vs. Regional Priorities](image_url)

Source: State Transportation Commission

Figure 34 shows the same information in a spatial format. PennDOT has shared the data behind these data points with its engineering district offices, and the state’s MPOs and RPOs. The survey yielded a wealth of information regarding priorities and project needs to be considered in future short- and long-range programs.
Public Meeting and Plan Distribution

As part of the LRTP plan adoption process, the Commission administered a 30-day public review and comment period. The Commission distributed hard copies of the plan to 28 different locations, including the PennDOT District offices, area libraries, county planning offices, and CareerLinks offices. A public meeting was held on June 20, 2017 to review the plan and receive public comments. The draft was also available on the Commission’s website. A summary and disposition of all comments received during the plan’s 30-day review period are summarized in Appendix I.