



REGION 6
**RESOURCE
PARTNERS**

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN



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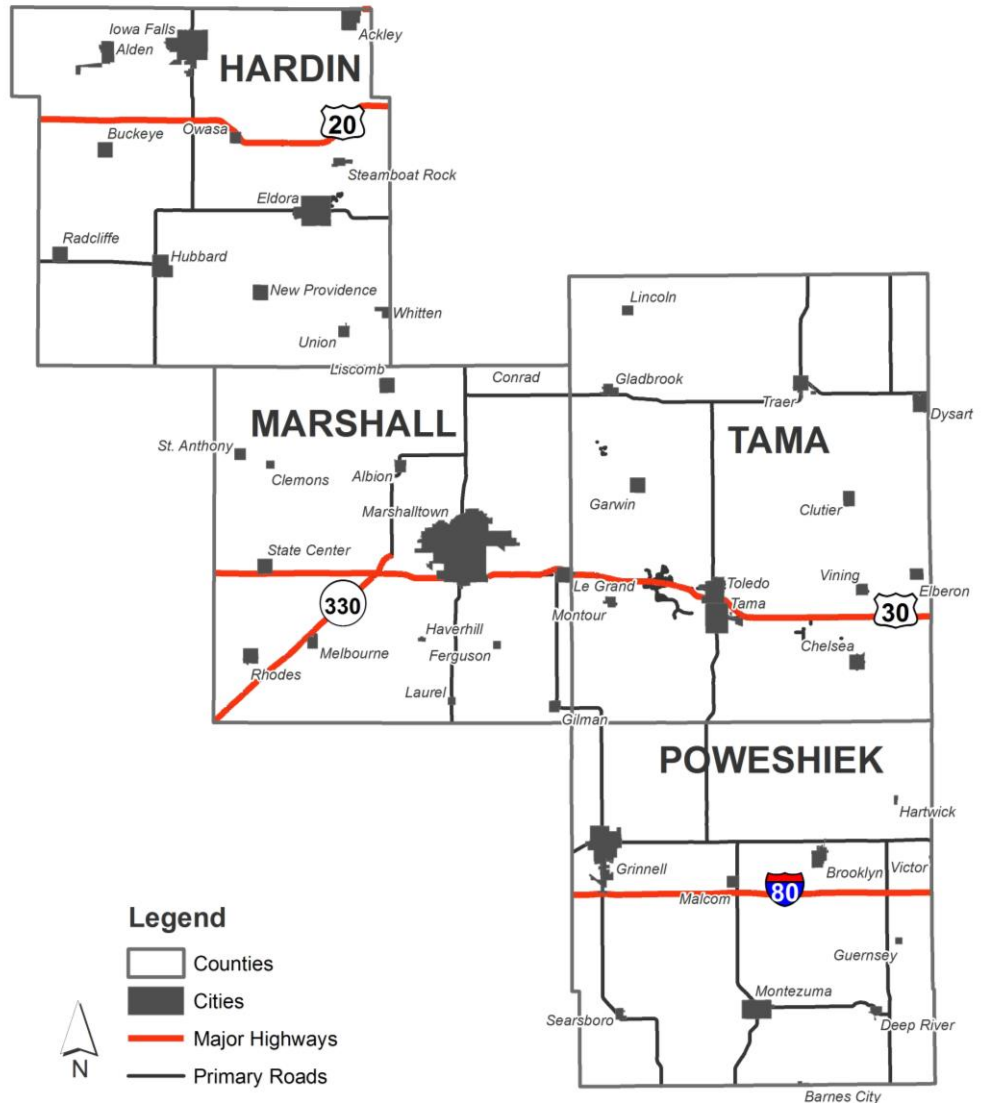
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Chapter 1: Introduction

This document serves as the Public Participation Plan for the transportation planning efforts of Region 6 Resource Partners (Region 6). Region 6 serves as the regional planning affiliate (RPA 6) and oversees transportation planning and programming for Hardin, Marshall, Poweshiek and Tama Counties. RPA 6 is responsible for distributing federal transportation funds, completing the required DOT planning documents and managing RPA 6 projects in the DOT programming system (TPMS). RPA 6 is also involved in various state and regional initiatives that work to improve or support the transportation network within the region.

Region 6 is responsible for submitting all required transportation planning documents to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Transit Administration (FTA), and Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT). It is also responsible for distributing this information to the general public. Region 6 works directly with the Region 6 policy board and the public to help prepare transportation planning documents. The Public Participation Plan outlines the ways in which members of the public may become involved in Region 6 transportation planning activities.

Region 6 Resource Partners serves Hardin, Marshall, Tama and Poweshiek Counties. The estimated population for this region according to the 2017 ACS is 94,863 people. In terms of population, Marshall County is by far the largest county in the region with a population of 40,476 followed by Poweshiek County. Tama, and Hardin Counties have nearly the same population at 17,236 and 17,239 respectively. The four cities over 5,000 in population within the region are Iowa Falls, Marshalltown, Grinnell and the combined cities of Tama and Toledo. A map of the regional transportation network is illustrated to the right.



Chapter 2: Transportation Planning Documents

As an RPA, there are five primary documents that Region 6 is responsible for developing:

Transportation Planning Work Program (TPWP)



The Region 6 Transportation Planning Work Program (TPWP) provides a description of the local, state, and federal transportation planning activities that Region 6 is involved with annually.

Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)



The Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) is used to outline the existing status and future needs of Region 6's transportation system. It helps set the direction of planning efforts and programming investments for the region by outlining transportation projects for the next 30 years. The development process for the LRTP enables the planning agency to evaluate demographic, economic, passenger, and freight forecasts for the area to understand how anticipated growth or decline will interact with expected land use to

impact the demands on the transportation system. This plan is used as a tool for planning, implementing and maintaining the region's transportation system.

Passenger Transportation Plan (PTP)



The Passenger Transportation Plan (PTP) process is designed to promote joint, coordinated passenger transportation planning programs that further the development of the local and regional public transportation systems. The goals of the plan are to: improve transportation services to Iowans; increase passenger transportation coordination; create awareness of unmet needs; develop new working partnerships;

assist decision-makers, advocates, and consumers in understanding the range of transportation options available; develop justification for future passenger transportation investments, and; save dollars and eliminate overlapping of services.

Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)



The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) identifies projects funded through federal aid in the RPA 6 region. This document is prepared annually and incorporates all city, county and state transportation projects of significance that are considered to be eligible for federal funding.

Public Participation Plan (PPP)



The Public Participation Plan (PPP) outlines the process for involving the public in the development of transportation planning documents and decision-making and identifies ways that Region 6 will attempt to solicit public participation in transportation planning.

Chapter 3: Public Involvement in Developing Transportation Planning Documents

Region 6 has developed a process by which the public can become involved in the development of all major transportation planning documents. These transportation planning processes are outlined below.



Transportation Planning Work Program (TPWP)

The Region 6 Transportation Planning Work Program (TPWP) provides a description of the local, state, and federal transportation planning activities that Region 6 is involved with annually.

1. Draft TPWP

The plan is drafted by RPA staff with input from the Iowa DOT and may be reviewed by the Transportation Committee (TC) prior to full recommendation from the Board of Directors. Any comments from the TC will be forwarded to the Board of Directors. This annual document requires the approval of the Region 6 Resource Partners Board of Directors. A draft TPWP may be reviewed by the Transportation Committee (TC) prior to full recommendation from the Board of Directors.

2. Notices, Public Hearings, Meetings, Public Comment Period

No public hearing is required for TPWP approval, however, the public is allowed to provide comments at the Board of Directors and Transportation Committee meetings concerning the TPWP.

3. Final TPWP

Following adoption of the final version of the TPWP, the plan will be submitted to the Iowa DOT, the FHWA, and the FTA and made available on the Region 6 website at www.region6resources.org. A copy of the TPWP will also be available at the Region 6 Resource Partners offices at 903 E. Main Street, Marshalltown, Iowa. Region 6 Resource Partners will copy and mail the document to people requesting same.

4. Revisions

Revisions to the TPWP will be made as needed. Aggregate TPWP budget changes greater than 10% require Board of Directors' approval.

Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)



The Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) is the document the region uses to outline the existing status and future needs of Region 6's transportation system. It helps set the direction of planning efforts and programming investments for the region by outlining transportation projects for the next 30 years. The development process for the LRTP enables the planning agency to evaluate demographic, economic, passenger, and freight forecasts for the area to understand how anticipated growth or decline will interact with expected land use to impact the demands on the transportation system. This is used as a tool for planning, implementing and maintaining the region's transportation system.

1. Draft LRTP

The LRTP will be reviewed and updated approximately every five years. Strategies such as surveys, personal interviews, focus groups, etc., shall be implemented to obtain input on the plan from stakeholders. The draft LRTP will be developed by RPA staff, with further input from jurisdiction representatives and the Iowa DOT and oversight by the Technical Advisory Committee. LRTP draft copies will be available at the Region 6 office, on the Region 6 website, and upon request.

2. Notices, Public Hearings, Meetings, Public Comment Period

Prior to approval of the Long Range Transportation Plan, Region 6 Resource Partners Commission Board of Directors shall hold a public hearing on the LRTP. The public hearing notice shall comply with the Iowa Code publication requirements – the public hearing notice shall be published at least 4 but not more than 20 days prior to the public hearing. The public hearing notice shall be published in the Marshalltown Times Republican. The public hearing notice shall also be posted at the Region 6 Resource Partners offices. Press releases may also be provided concurrently to Marshalltown Times Republican, Iowa Falls Times Citizen, Eldora Herald Register, Ackley World Journal, KDAO, KIFG, Mid-Iowa Enterprise, KFJB, Toledo Chronicle, Tama News Herald, Traer Star Clipper, Montezuma Record, South Hardin Signal Review, Grinnell Herald Register, and KGRN. The press releases shall be provided via mail, fax, or email.

3. Final LRTP

Following adoption of the final version of the LRTP, the plan will be submitted to the Iowa DOT, the FHWA, and the FTA and made available on the Region 6 website at www.region6resources.org. A copy of the LRTP will also be available at the Region 6 Resource Partners offices at 903 E. Main Street, Marshalltown, Iowa. Region 6 Resource Partners will copy and mail the document to people requesting same.

4. Revisions

Any new project, significant change in the scope of work, or change in the requested federal funding are considered amendments. The amendments must be approved by the Region 6 Resource Partners Board of Directors. The Region 6 Board of Directors shall hold a public hearing on these amended projects. The approval procedure for an amendment shall be the same as the approval procedure for the document, which is outlined above. There are no minor amendments that do not require public participation comments.



The Passenger Transportation Plan (PTP) process is designed to promote joint, coordinated passenger transportation planning programs that further the development of the local and regional public transportation systems. The goals of the plan are to: improve transportation services to Iowans; increase passenger transportation coordination; create awareness of unmet needs; develop new working partnerships; assist decision-makers, advocates, and consumers in understanding the range of transportation options available; develop justification for future passenger transportation investments, and; save dollars and eliminate overlapping of services.

1. Draft PTP

The PTP will be reviewed and updated approximately every five years. Strategies such as surveys, personal interviews, focus groups, etc., shall be implemented to obtain input on the plan from stakeholders, specifically human service agencies, passenger transportation providers, and users and advocates of transportation services. The draft PTP will be developed by RPA staff, with further input from jurisdiction representatives and the Iowa DOT. PTP draft copies will be available at the Region 6 office, on the Region 6 website, and upon request.

2. Notices, Public Hearings, Meetings, Public Comment Period

Prior to approval of the PTP, Region 6 Resource Partners Board of Directors shall hold a public hearing on the PTP. The public hearing notice shall comply with the Iowa Code publication requirements – the public hearing notice shall be published at least 4 but not more than 20 days prior to the public hearing. The public hearing notice shall be published in the Marshalltown Times Republican. The public hearing notice shall also be posted at the Region 6 Resource Partners offices. Press releases may also be provided concurrently to Marshalltown Times Republican, Iowa Falls Times Citizen, Eldora Herald Register, Ackley World Journal, KDAO, KIFG, Mid-Iowa Enterprise, KFJB, Toledo Chronicle, Tama News Herald, Traer Star Clipper, Montezuma Record, South Hardin Signal Review, Grinnell Herald Register, and KGRN. The press releases shall be provided via mail, fax, or email.

3. Final PTP

Following adoption of the final version of the PTP, the plan will be submitted to the Iowa DOT, the FHWA, and the FTA and made available on the Region 6 website at www.region6resources.org. A copy of the LRTP will also be available at the Region 6 Resource Partners offices at 903 E. Main Street, Marshalltown, Iowa. Region 6 Resource Partners will copy and mail the document to people requesting same.

4. Revisions

Any new project, significant change in the scope of work, or change in the requested federal funding are considered amendments. The amendments must be approved by the Region 6 Resource Partners Board of Directors. The Region 6 Board of Directors shall hold a public hearing on these amended projects at a regularly scheduled meeting. The approval procedure for an amendment shall be the same as the approval procedure for the document, which is outlined above. There are no minor amendments that do not require public participation comments.



The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) identifies projects funded through federal aid in the RPA 6 region. This document is prepared annually and incorporates all city, county and state transportation projects of real significance that are considered to be eligible for federal funding.

1. Draft TIP

Annually Region 6 Resource Partners accept applications for the Region 6 Surface Transportation Program and Transportation Alternatives Program. Application instructions and forms will be provided to Region 6 Cities and Counties, County Engineers, City Engineers, IDOT, Parks & Recreation, Conservation Boards, Bicycle Groups, Meskwaki Settlement, Development-Betterment Groups, Historical Societies, along with other persons interested in regional transportation funding.

2. Notices, Public Hearings, Meetings, Public Comment Period

Prior to approval of the annual Transportation Improvement Program, Region 6 Resource Partners Board of Directors shall hold a public hearing on the TIP. The public hearing will be held prior to the date the TIP is due to the IDOT. The public hearing notice shall comply with the Iowa Code publication requirements – the public hearing notice shall be published at least 4 but not more than 20 days prior to the public hearing. The public hearing notice shall be published in the Marshalltown Times Republican. The public hearing notice shall also be posted at the Region 6 Resource Partners offices. Press releases may also be provided concurrently to Marshalltown Times Republican, Iowa Falls Times Citizen, Eldora Herald Register, Ackley World Journal, KDAO, KIFG, Mid-Iowa Enterprise, KFJB, Toledo Chronicle, Tama News Herald, Traer Star Clipper, Montezuma Record, South Hardin Signal Review, Grinnell Herald Register, and KGRN. The press releases shall be provided via mail, fax, or email.

3. Final TIP

A copy of the TIP will be available online at the Region 6 website at www.region6resources.org. A copy of the TIP will also be available at the Region 6 Resource Partners offices at 903 E. Main Street, Marshalltown, Iowa. Region 6 Resource Partners will copy and mail the document to people requesting same.

4. Revisions

Any new project, a significant change in the scope of work, or a change in the requested federal funding, are considered amendments. The amendments must be approved by the Region 6 Resource Partners Board of Directors. The Region 6 Board of Directors shall hold a public hearing on these amended projects. The approval procedure for an amendment shall be the same as the approval procedure for the annual document, which is outlined above.

Any minor TIP changes can be approved by the Region 6 Resource Partners Board of Directors without a public hearing. These include moving a project from one fiscal year to another, or adjusting the total project costs.

Public Participation Plan (PPP)



The Public Participation Plan (PPP) outlines the process for involving the public in the development of transportation planning documents and decision-making and identifies ways that Region 6 will attempt to solicit public participation in transportation planning.

1. Draft PPP

Input for the draft document will be sought from all interested parties. Input may be sought through Region 6 Board meetings, public meetings, and any other effective means of communicating with the public. The draft document will be prepared by Region 6 staff with input from jurisdiction representatives and the Iowa DOT and oversight by the Region 6 Policy Board. The draft will be available for public review on the Region 6 website and at the Region 6 office.

2. Notices, Public Hearings, Meetings, Public Comment Period

Prior to approval of the PPP, Region 6 Resource Partners Board of Directors shall hold a public hearing on the PPP. The public hearing notice shall comply with the Iowa Code publication requirements – the public hearing notice shall be published at least 4 but not more than 20 days prior to the public hearing. The public hearing notice shall be published in the Marshalltown Times Republican. The public hearing notice shall also be posted at the Region 6 Resource Partners offices. Press releases may also be provided concurrently to Marshalltown Times Republican, Iowa Falls Times Citizen, Eldora Herald Register, Ackley World Journal, KDAO, KIFG, Mid-Iowa Enterprise, KFJB, Toledo Chronicle, Tama News Herald, Traer Star Clipper, Montezuma Record, South Hardin Signal Review, Grinnell Herald Register, and KGRN. The press releases shall be provided via mail, fax, or email.

3. Final PPP

The PPP will be submitted to the Iowa DOT, the FHWA, and the FTA and made available online at the Region 6 website at www.region6resources.org and at the Region 6 Resource Partners offices at 903 E. Main Street, Marshalltown, Iowa. Region 6 Resource Partners will copy and mail the document to people requesting same.

4. Revisions

The public participation process associated with the PPP will be evaluated and updated as needed. Minor revisions will be made in consultation with the Policy Board. Major revisions will be considered an update and will follow the process outlined above.

Chapter 4: Region 6 Organizational Structure

Region 6 Organizational Structure

The Region 6 Executive/Policy Board reflects the region's population and business demographics and is representative of the various objectives of Region 6: economic and community development, transit, housing, and transportation. The Region 6 Executive/Policy Board and Transportation Technical Committee are outlined below. The Transportation Technical Committee works under the Executive/Policy Board of Region 6, which is responsible for the day-to-day operation of the organization. The Executive/Policy Board of Region 6 reviews the direction of the Transportation Technical Committee and makes any necessary final actions. Region 6 has a transportation advisory committee that operates under the Executive Board.

Region 6 Executive Board and Transportation Policy Board

| NAME | AFFILIATION | POSITION |
|----------------------------|--|----------------------------|
| Kendall Jordan | Tama County | Board of Supervisors |
| Lance Granzow | Hardin County | Board of Supervisors |
| Jason Roudabush | Poweshiek County | Board of Supervisors |
| Jody Anderson, Chair | City of Iowa Falls | City Administrator |
| Michelle Spohnheimer | City of Marshalltown | City Housing Administrator |
| Dan Agnew | City of Grinnell | Mayor |
| Trudi Scott | City of Gladbrook | City Council |
| Mark Schoborg, Vice Chair | Self-Employed | Independent Business Owner |
| Dave Thompson, Secty/Treas | Thompson True Value & Marshall County Board of Supervisors | Owner |
| Roger Luehring | Clapsaddle-Garber Associates | Finance Manager |
| Mark Buschkamp | Iowa Falls Area Development | Director |

Transportation Technical Committee

| Transportation Technical Committee | Name | Title | County, City or Agency Represented |
|---|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| Voting Member | Taylor Roll | County Engineer | Hardin County |
| Voting Member | Jody Anderson | City Administrator | City of Iowa Falls |
| Voting Member | Paul Geilenfeldt | County Engineer | Marshall County |
| Voting Member | Justin Nickel | Public Works Director | City of Marshalltown |
| Voting Member | Lyle Brehm | County Engineer | Tama & Poweshiek Counties |
| Voting Member | Russ Behrens | City Administrator | City of Grinnell |
| Voting Member | Doug Ray; Brian Sokol | Mayor of Tama; Mayor of Toledo | Tama/Toledo urbanized area (1 vote) |
| Voting Member | Marty Wymore | Director | Region 6 Transit/Peoplerides |
| Non-Voting (ex officio) | Andy Loonan | IA DOT | State of Iowa |
| Non-Voting (ex officio) | Kevin Pigors | Municipal Transit Director | Marshalltown Municipal Transit |
| Non-Voting (ex officio) | Rita Schoenman | Grant Writer | Meskwaki Tribe |

Regulations and Requirements

Federal regulations require states and RPAs to develop and use a documented public involvement process that provides opportunities for public review and comment at key decision points. At a minimum, this includes:

- Developing the Public Participation Plan in consultation with all interested parties.
- Providing adequate public notice of public participation activities and time for public review and comment at key decision points.
- Providing timely notice and reasonable access to information about transportation issues and processes.
- Employing visualization techniques in transportation plans and Transportation Improvement Programs.
- Making public information (technical information and meeting notices) available in electronically accessible formats and means.
- Holding any and all public meetings at convenient and accessible locations and times.
- Demonstrating explicit consideration and response to public input received during the development of transportation plans and Transportation Improvement Programs.
- Seeking out and considering the needs of those traditionally underserved by existing transportation systems, such as low-income and minority households, who may face challenges accessing employment and other services.
- Providing an additional opportunity for public comment, if final transportation plans and Transportation Improvement Programs differ significantly from the version that was previously made available for public comment, or raises new material issues which interested parties could not have reasonably foreseen from the initial public involvement efforts.
- Coordinating with the statewide transportation planning public involvement and consultation processes.
- Periodically reviewing the effectiveness of the procedures and strategies contained in this Public Participation Plan, to ensure a full and open participation process.
- When significant written and oral comments are received on draft transportation plans and Transportation Improvement Programs, (including financial plans), a summary, analysis, and report on the disposition of comments will be included within the final transportation plans and Transportation Improvement Programs.
- Providing a public comment period for a minimum of 45 days before the initial or revised Public Participation Plan is adopted.
- Providing copies of the approved Public Participation Plan to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), and posting it on the agency's Website.
- In developing transportation plans and Transportation Improvement Programs, consult with agencies and officials responsible for other planning activities within the region that are affected by transportation, such as those involved with economic development, environmental protection, airport operations, and freight movement. To the maximum extent practicable, coordinate the planning process with such activities.

Identified Stakeholders

During the process of preparing or updating transportation planning documents, Region 6 Resource Partners will reach out to identified stakeholder in our region by providing notice of activities as described in Chapter 3 and reaching out to engage groups using telephone or face-to-face interviews where possible. We will also try to have representation from these groups on our focus groups and committees.

Some of the groups that we strive to include in transportation planning are:

- Region 6 Cities & Counties
- County Engineers
- City Engineers
- Regional airports
- Meskwaki Tribe
- Bicycle groups
- Disabled groups
- Senior citizen groups
- Veterans groups
- Major employers in the region
- Chambers of Commerce
- Economic development groups
- Public health departments
- Primary health medical clinic in Marshalltown
- Parks and recreation
- Conservation boards
- Snowmobile groups – Marshalltown & Iowa Falls
- Transit operators
- Limited English proficiency groups
- Hispanic Ministries with the Marshalltown Catholic Church
- Hispanic Ministries with the 1st Baptist Church in Marshalltown
- Hispanic grocery store owners
- Asian grocery store owners
- New Iowans Center at Iowa Valley Community College District downtown Marshalltown site.
- South Tama County Partnership Center in Tama.
- IDOT
- Other people and groups that have an interest in regional transportation.

Chapter 5: How to Get Involved

To get involved in the transportation planning process, the public can contact Region 6 staff listed below by mail, e-mail, phone, or in person.

Marty Wymore, Exec. Director, 641-752-0717, mwymore@region6resources.org

Julie Winter, Planning Director, 641-752-0717, jwinter@region6resources.org

LeAnn Lynch, Transit Manager, 641-752-0717, llynch@region6resources.org

Sarah Runkel, Community Planner, 641-752-0717, srunkel@region6resources.org

Region 6 Resource Partners

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