

2017

# Public Participation Plan for Public Transportation Planning



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For the Birmingham Jefferson County Transit  
Authority (BJCTA)  
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# **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION PLANNING**

## **Adopted by the Birmingham Jefferson County Transit Authority**

This documents the public involvement procedures adopted by the Birmingham Jefferson County Transit Authority (BJCTA) in the development of the public transit plans and programs for Metropolitan Birmingham, Bessemer, Homewood, Mountain Brook, Tarrant, Vestavia Hills and Jefferson County.

The Federal Transit Authority (FTA) have specific requirements for public participation related to the Program of Projects (POP). Each urbanized area, to receive Federal capital or operating assistance, must have a continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive transportation planning process which results in plans and programs consistent with Federal regulations.

The Birmingham Jefferson County Transit Authority (BJCTA), in accordance with Federal Transportation Administration Circular 9030.1E (FTA C 9030.1E) – Urbanized Area (UZA) Formula Program: Program Guidance and Application Instructions, will develop and publish a Program of Projects (POP). A POP is a list of projects proposed by a designated recipient in cooperation with a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to be funded from the urbanized area's Section 5307 apportionment.

The POP will list public transit projects that have been proposed by BJCTA and eligible grant recipients to be programmed into the Birmingham MPO's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The POP covers FTA grant programs:

- ❖ FTA Section 5307 (Formula Funds and Jobs Access Reverse Commute – JARC), and
- ❖ FTA Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities
- ❖ FTA Section 5339 Bus and Bus Capital

As the designated Federal Transit Administration (FTA) 5307, 5310 and 5339 recipients, Birmingham Jefferson County Transit Authority projects are programmed into the MPO Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The FTA allows a grantee, such as BJCTA, to rely on locally adopted public participation requirements for the new or amended/updated TIP in lieu of the process required in the development of the Program of Projects (POP) if the grantee has coordinated with the MPO and ensured that the public is aware that the TIP development process is being used to satisfy the POP public participation requirements. To comply with this requirement, the Birmingham MPO's public participation process has been adopted by the BJCTA Board of Directors, and in doing so, satisfies the grantee's public participation process for the POP. When the MPO publishes a public notice of the TIP development, review, and adoption process, the notice will explicitly declare (a) that it is a public notice for public involvement, (b) establish a time for public review and comment, and (c) state that the public involvement process satisfies the FTA's POP requirements. The declaration of public involvement activities is as follows: "This public notice of public involvement activities and time established for public review and comments on the TIP development process will satisfy the FTA's Program of Projects requirements."

BJCTA has locally adopted public participation requirements of the overall metropolitan planning process as developed by the Birmingham MPO. However, the BJCTA has established a separate Public Participation Process (PPP) (attached Appendix A, Title VI Program updated 2016) to inform the public of changes to the POP which were not included during the public involvement conducted by the Birmingham MPO.

# Funding Program Descriptions

## **FTA Section 5307 Urbanized Area Formula Program**

FTA Section 5307 formula funds provides funding to public transit systems in the Urbanized Areas (UZA) for public transportation capital, planning, job access and reverse commute projects, as well as operating expenses in certain circumstances. FTA Section 5307 formula funds may also be used by Jobs Access Reverse Commute (JARC 5307). JARC 5307 provides funding for local programs that offer job access and reverse commute services to provide transportation for low income individuals who may live in the city core and work in suburban locations and the development and maintenance of transportation services designed to transport welfare recipients and eligible low-income individuals to and from jobs and activities related to their employment.

The Program of Projects (POP) identifies the sub-recipients and projects for which the designated recipient is applying for financial assistance. The BJCTA will submit a POP to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) for approval of FTA Section 5307 projects located within the Birmingham MPO urbanized area.

## **FTA Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities**

Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities (5310) is a formula assistance program for the special needs of elderly individuals and individuals with disabilities. This grant program seeks to reduce barriers to transportation services and expand the transportation mobility options available to people with disabilities beyond the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. This grant authorizes funding for public transportation capital projects planned, designed and carried out to meet the special needs of elderly individuals and individuals with disabilities.

The POP will identify the sub-recipients and projects for which the designated recipient is applying for financial assistance. This POP will be submitted to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) for approval of Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities projects within the Birmingham MPO urbanized area. The BJCTA will submit a POP to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) for approval of FTA Section 5310 projects located within the Birmingham MPO urbanized area.

## **FTA Section 5339 Bus and Bus Facilities Formula Program Description**

The Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities program (49 U.S.C. 5339) makes federal resources available to states and direct recipients to replace, rehabilitate and purchase buses and related equipment and to construct bus-related facilities including technological changes or innovations to modify low or no emission vehicles or facilities. Funding is provided through formula allocations and competitive grants. A sub-program, the Low- or No-Emission Vehicle Program, (Lo-No) provides competitive grants for bus and bus facility projects that support low and zero-emission vehicles.

## **POP Development Process**

The POP includes a brief description of the projects, including any sub-allocation among public transportation providers, total project costs, and Federal share for each project. BJCTA, in cooperation with the Birmingham MPO, will develop and publish a POP for the Birmingham urbanized area. As a part of this process, BJCTA will utilize the Birmingham Metropolitan Planning Organization's Public Participation Plan (PPP) prepared by the Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham (RPC) (Appendix B) to inform elected officials, civic leaders, government agencies and departments, businesses, residents, social service agencies, and other interested parties about the POP.

Funds from these programs will be included in the POP for the current federal fiscal year. The POP may include funds from a previous fiscal year that have not been completely expended and that have rolled over into the current fiscal year. In some cases, the POP may also include flexible highway funds such as Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ).

## Public Involvement Process

BJCTA will give an opportunity for a public involvement meeting/hearing by advertisement of the draft Program of Projects (POP), whenever subsequent revisions or amendments to the Birmingham MPO's long range transportation plan (LRTP) and the transportation improvement plan (TIP) are not advertised by the MPO. The advertisement of the POP will be on BJCTA's and RPC's website.

If BJCTA determines a public involvement meeting/hearing is required, BJCTA will follow it's approved public participation plan.

All meetings facilitated by BJCTA will have notices that will include a point of contact for any person(s) requiring special arrangements related to the ADA. Notification of need shall occur no less than seven days prior to the date of the scheduled meeting so that necessary special arrangements can be made to facilitate participation.

The point of contact will be required to summarize comments and keep a record with date/proof of advertisement.

## BJCTA Board Adoption

Adoption of the POP shall be by official action recorded in the meeting minutes for the BJCTA Board.

## Incorporation into the TIP

The POP will be provided to the Birmingham MPO so that projects identified in the POP can be incorporated into the TIP by amendment. If the development timeframe for the POP and the Birmingham MPO's TIP document coincide, the POP development timeline can be synchronized with the MPO TIP development timeline and the public involvement process for both the POP and the TIP combined. If a public meeting is requested, BJCTA will be solely responsible for ensuring that information for the POP is available for the public involvement meeting, and will provide representation to present the information and answer questions from the public. BJCTA will develop a Public Involvement Report detailing minutes for each requested meeting. BJCTA will evaluate each request for a public involvement meeting/hearing and determine if a meeting is required. BJCTA will be responsible for developing a Public Involvement Report.