

MWACT

Mid-Willamette Valley Area Commission on Transportation

***Public
Involvement
Plan***

Adopted:

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MWACT Public Involvement Plan

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1.0 Introduction

The Mid-Willamette Valley Area Commission on Transportation (MWACT) is committed to an open, public involvement process, which allows all citizens and transportation stakeholders the opportunity to participate in transportation decision-making. Our public involvement strategy has four primary goals:

- To involve stakeholders in developing the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP),
- To inform the public about the STIP process and how they can participate,
- To educate the public on regional and statewide transportation issues, projects, and funding procedures, and
- To provide a forum for receiving input and feedback from the public

In addressing each of these goals, our plan defines our key topics and messages (the “what”), identifies target audiences (the “who”), and establishes a process for soliciting and receiving input, and involving citizens in the ACT’s work (the “how”).

2.0 The “WHAT”: Key Topics for Public Outreach

The MWACT has four key areas where stakeholder and public outreach are needed:

2.1 STIP Development

A primary function of Area Commissions across the state is to provide for stakeholder and citizen input on the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). The Oregon Transportation Commission relies heavily on the MWACT to involve stakeholders through STIP development, and to provide a forum for public input and comment on projects proposed in the STIP.

2.2 “Who/What is MWACT?”

Our ACT members also feel a responsibility to inform local governmental agencies, our stakeholders and the public about the ACT’s purpose, our

membership, and our structure and processes. It is important for all citizens to understand the ACT's key role in providing a forum for regional transportation decision-making.

2.3 Funding Opportunities

Funding for transportation improvements, at both the state and local level is of significant concern for our members and stakeholders. In addition to providing a forum for regional discussion of funding programs and setting regional priorities for funding investments, the MWACT works closely with ODOT to assist our local agencies in identifying and competing for grants.

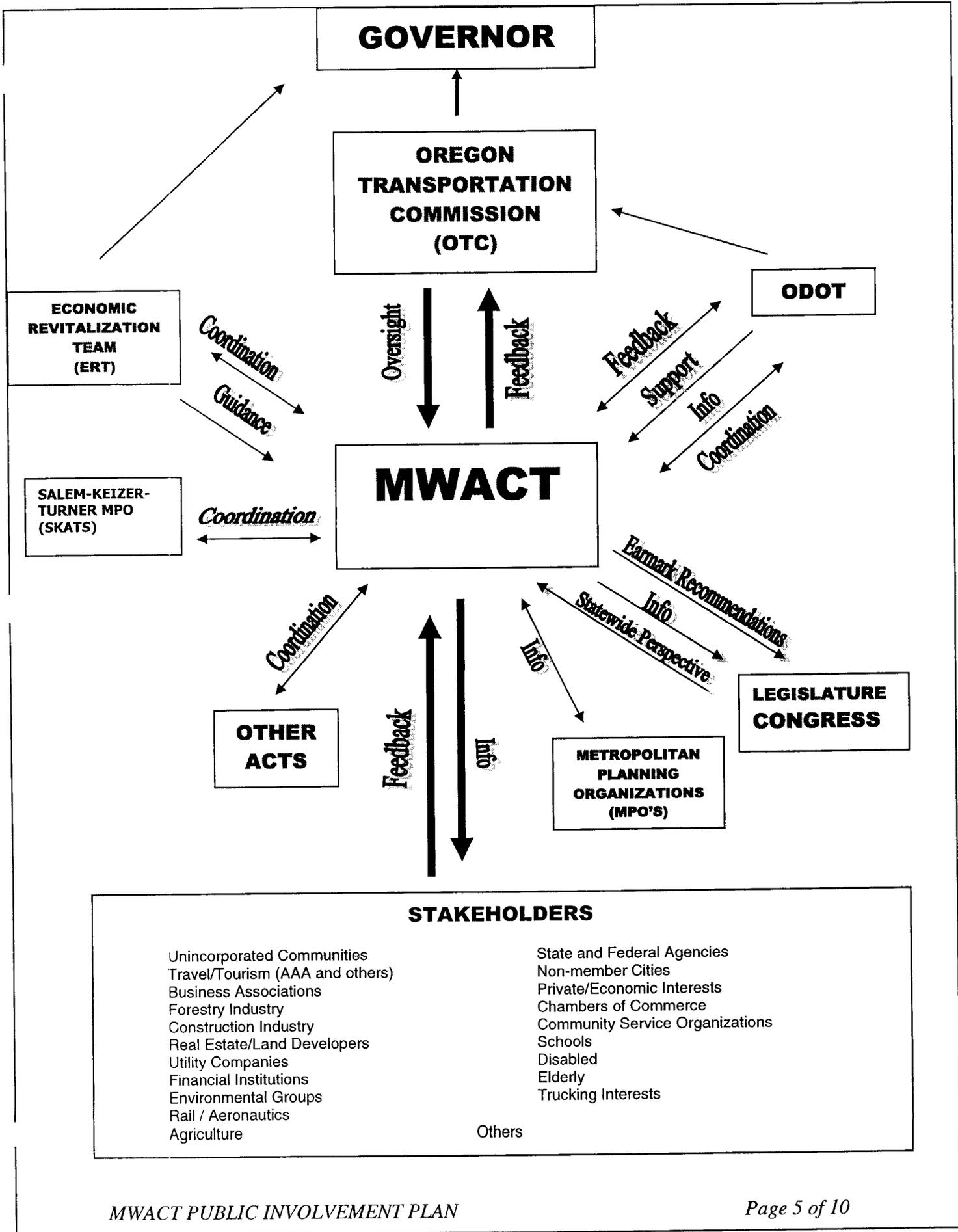
2.4 Regional and Statewide Transportation Issues

The MWACT serves as the central dissemination point for information on regional and statewide transportation issues. In addition, we provide a public forum where transportation issues are discussed and the diverse viewpoints of our constituents are heard. Based on feedback and input received from stakeholders, the MWACT advises the Oregon Transportation Commission on policies and programs affecting our area.

3.0 The "WHO": Target Audiences

3.1 Relationship of MWACT to Other Organizations and Interests

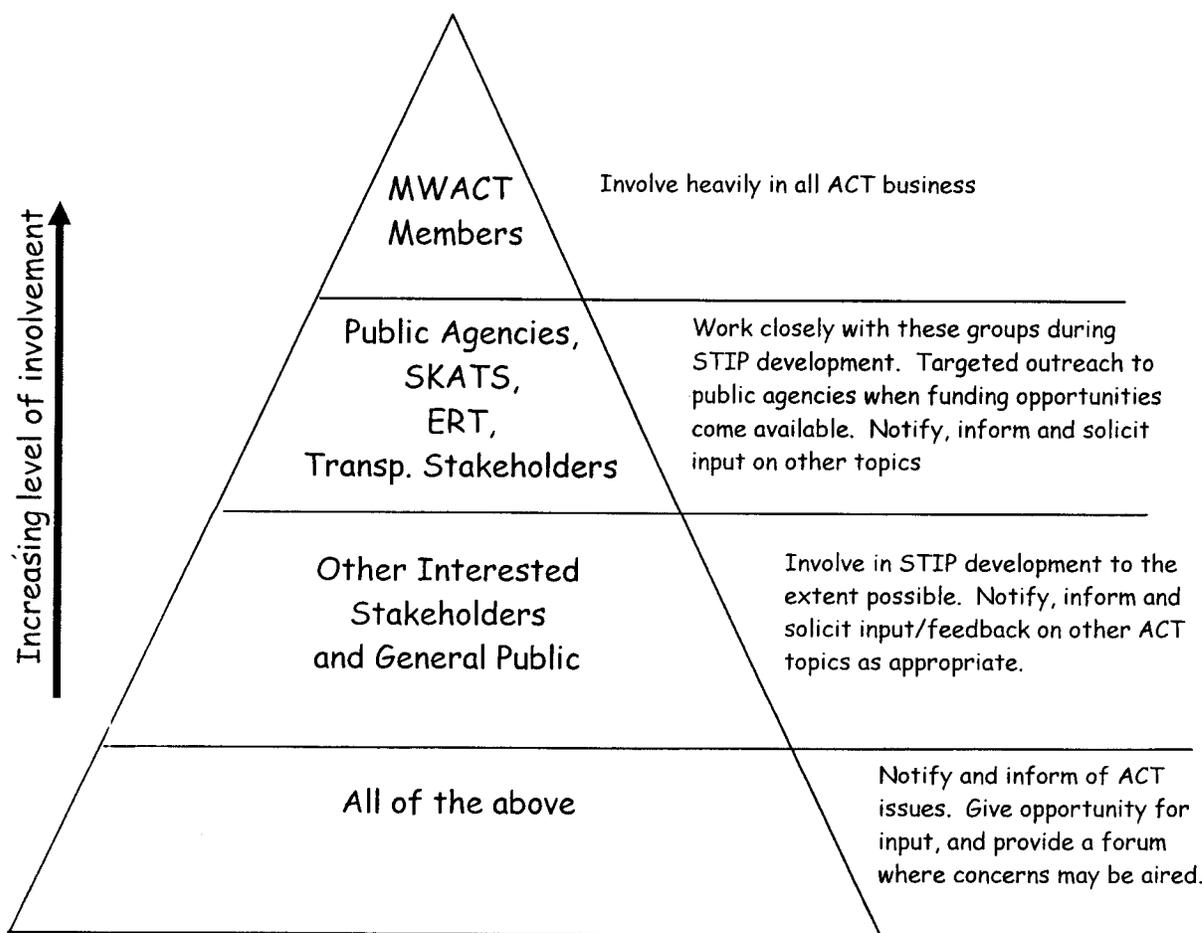
The MWACT has many community allies in the form of other established organizations and civic groups. Effective communication between the MWACT and these interests is essential to ensure regional transportation decisions and investment priorities match other regional decision-making processes for community services and economic development. The following chart depicts the MWACT's relationship to several key organizations, however it should be noted that many other organizations exist which will require periodic outreach.



3.2 Target Audiences and Level of Engagement

Our target audiences, and their level of interest and involvement can be defined by a pyramid. At the top are those most vested in regional transportation issues and decisions, such as our own MWACT members. Near the base of the pyramid are those who are peripherally affected by transportation issues and investment decisions, but who may not have the time or inclination to participate in day to day decision-making. Our public involvement strategy acknowledges that different levels of outreach and stakeholder engagement are needed, depending on the topic and interest levels of various audiences.

Finding the Right Level of Involvement



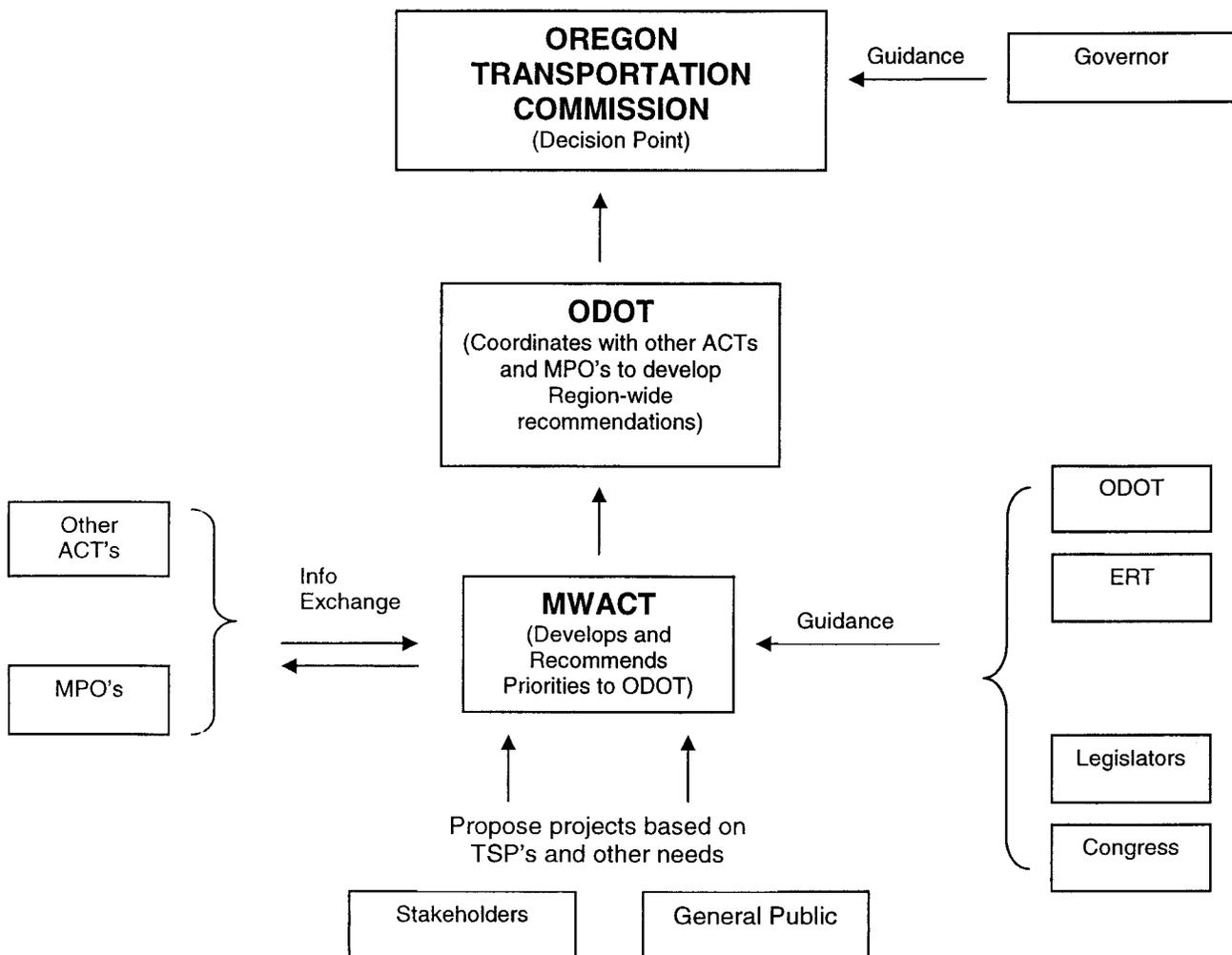
4.0 The "HOW": Public Involvement Strategies

The MWACT has defined several public involvement strategies, based on the key information to be conveyed and our target audiences as described above.

4.1 Public Involvement for the STIP

Outreach through the development of the Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP) is a primary role of the MWACT. Our public outreach activities parallel ODOT's schedule for STIP development, which spans a two-year development and approval process. The chart below defines the MWACT's role in developing recommended project priorities.

MWACT Project Prioritization Process



The following table shows a schedule of MWACT's activities for the FY08 to FY11 STIP.

MWACT FY08-11 STIP Process	
<i>Timeline</i>	<i>MWACT STIP Activities</i>
Spring 2005	Receive and review program goals and anticipated funding levels from OTC
Summer 2005	MWACT returns comments to OTC on program goals MWACT sets Mod criteria MWACT sends letters to public agencies and stakeholders describing project prioritization process and requesting candidate projects for inclusion in scoping
Summer/Fall 2005	MWACT recommends new projects to area manager for inclusion in scoping process MWACT rates projects remaining from previous prioritization process and new projects according to the adopted prioritization factors during a public meeting
Winter 2005/2006	ODOT Scoping Process. MWACT assigns members or other representatives to participate on scoping teams
Spring 2006	MWACT sends delegation to All-Area meeting in Region 2 to negotiate funding for modernization projects on the ACT's prioritized list
Summer/Fall 2006	Draft STIP is published by ODOT and reviewed by MWACT members 45 day public comment period MWACT schedules public open if requested by ODOT staff
Fall 2006	Members present STIP to their own boards/councils MWACT open houses are held, and public comments are collected MWACT holds a public hearing at their regular meeting in late Fall at the close of the 45 day comment period.

MWACT FY08-11 STIP Process	
<i>Timeline</i>	<i>MWACT STIP Activities</i>
Fall/Winter 2006/2007	MWACT reviews public comments, then forwards comments and recommendations for program changes (if any) to OTC
Spring/Summer 2007	MWACT members review the final STIP
Fall/Winter 2007/2008	ACT members notify their boards/councils when final STIP adopted by OTC.

4.2 Public Involvement Activities Related to Funding Opportunities

Because funding opportunities are of significant interest to ACT members and other local agencies, the MWACT serves as a clearinghouse for information on funding programs. Additionally, we sponsor funding workshops which correspond with ODOT's Transportation Enhancement, Bike/Ped and Scenic Byways solicitation processes.

As part of our work plan, MWACT will be developing a list of potential transportation funding sources and opportunities which are available to local communities.

4.3 Public Involvement Activities to Increase Awareness of the MWACT (Implementing the "Who is the ACT" Message)

To get the word out about MWACT, our mission, members, structure and activities, our work plan includes a task for preparing and distributing a handout describing our organization. We will also develop a "canned" presentation to be made available to members who may wish to make presentations about the ACT to civic groups and local agencies.

4.4 Public Involvement Activities related to Regional Transportation Issues

The MWACT's regular monthly meeting provides an open public forum for discussion of regional transportation issues. In addition, we coordinate with the Governor's Economic Revitalization Team, the Salem-Keizer-Turner Metropolitan Planning Organization, and other organizations to provide regional forums on transportation concerns.

4.5 Reaching Minority and Economically Disadvantaged Groups

An voting seat is provided on the MWACT's membership for the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde.

4.6 Other Public Outreach Activities

For general public outreach, MWACT maintains a website and publishes a newsletter periodically.