



GDOT Publications

Policies & Procedures

Policy: 3145-1- GDOT Consultation Process With Local Officials in Non-Metropolitan Areas of the State

Section: Consultation Process with Local Officials in Non-Metro Areas

Office/Department: Office of Planning

Reports To: Division of Planning

Contact: [Department Phone Number]

The Georgia Department of Transportation's (GDOT's) Consultation Process with local officials in rural areas of the state will provide affected local officials that have responsibility for transportation an opportunity to be involved in transportation plans and programs, on a consultation basis, for portions of the plan in non-metropolitan areas of the state. Consultation meaning that one party confers with another identified party in accordance with an established process. This implementation plan addresses the process in which the GDOT shall use to confer with Rural Local Officials or state associations and agencies representing Rural Local Officials during the development of and final product for the Statewide Transportation Plan, Statewide Strategic Transportation Plan and the State Transportation Improvement Program.

Described below is the methodology that is recommended to achieve Local Government Consultation. It is GDOT's objective that the implementation of this proposed process will be maintained separate from, but in support of, GDOT's current Public Involvement Process.

STATE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (STIP) CONSULTATION WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

As part of the STIP development process, the District Planning and Programming Coordinators shall meet with representatives (rural local government officials) from each county and city in their area to discuss projects in the STIP, to solicit comments and to answer questions. During these meetings, a range of transportation issues may be discussed. The STIP consultation meeting with rural local officials will be documented through the "Certification of Consultation with Elected Officials" (Please see [attachment](#)). The District Planning and Programming Coordinator will be responsible for providing local officials a copy of the signed form. The Office of Planning will notify all of the rural cities and counties by email or letter that the STIP consultation meetings will be scheduled in the near future as part of the Rural Government Consultation Process. The District Planning and Programming Coordinator will follow up the Office of Planning's announcement with a letter or email (to rural city and county government officials) giving each City and County government official an opportunity to meet with the District Planning and Programming Coordinator to discuss the STIP.

Requests or questions from these meetings that cannot be addressed by the District will be forwarded by the District to the appropriate GDOT office for response and the rural local official shall be copied. The responding office, along with the District Office for any requests handled there, shall reply to the rural local official in a timely manner, with the amount of time required being dependent upon the availability of information and the time required to generate the needed information for an appropriate response by GDOT.

STATEWIDE TRANSPORTATION PLAN AND STATEWIDE STRATEGIC TRANSPORTATION PLAN CONSULTATION WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS (SWTPSSTP)

A representative for the Association of County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG), the Georgia Municipal Association (GMA) and the

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Regional Commissions (RCs) shall be included as part of the Statewide Transportation Plan and Statewide Strategic Transportation Plan's (SWTP/SSTP) Stakeholder Advisory Committee. The Stakeholder Advisory Committee shall work with GDOT in an advisory role to provide feedback on SWTP/SSTP work products and tasks. During the stakeholder meetings, the attendees will be encouraged to voice their concerns and ask questions. Comments will be addressed during the stakeholder meetings or after the meetings in a timely manner, with the amount of time required being dependent upon the availability of information and the time required to generate the needed information for an appropriate response by GDOT. All comments and responses shall be included in the official documentation of the SWTP/SSTP process.

FIVE (5) YEAR REVIEW OF CONSULTATION WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

At least once every five 5 years, the Office of Planning shall review and solicit comments from non-metropolitan local officials or Regional Commissions for a period of not less than 60 days regarding the effectiveness of the consultation process and proposed modifications. GDOT shall be responsible for determining whether to accept any proposed modifications. If a proposed modification is not accepted by GDOT, it will be made publicly available (the reasons for not accepting the proposed modification) including written notification to non-metropolitan local officials or their associates.

References:

History:

corrected typo: 09/28/21;

revised: 04/26/21;

added to TOPPS: 3/30/04