

PUBLIC NOTICE
PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD and VIRTUAL PUBLIC HEARING
Hattiesburg-Petal-Forrest-Lamar Metropolitan Planning Organization
Public Participation Plan (PPP) Amendment

In response to U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) recent guidance related to virtual public involvement in the planning process for Metropolitan Planning Organizations, the Hattiesburg-Petal-Forrest-Lamar Metropolitan Planning Organization (HPFL-MPO) will be amending the current HPFL-MPO Public Participation Plan (PPP).

Due to recent COVID-19 pandemic protocols such as social distancing requirements, in-person meetings have been limited in participants. To ensure we meet requirements under statutes 23 U.S.C. 134-135 and 23 CFR 450 giving the public the ability to participate in the transportation planning process, virtual public hearings and meetings have become necessary. An amendment to our PPP addresses the implementation of a new and safe electronic venue for public participation in HPFL-MPO public hearings that does not require social contact.

The draft amendment will be available for review at www.hattiesburgms.com/mpo. A hard copy of the document can be requested by contacting the MPO office at 601.554.1008. The official review and comment period will be held from November 16, 2020 – December 30, 2020.

Written comments regarding the PPP amendment should be emailed to mpo@hattiesburgms.com or mailed to:

Armendia Esters, MPO Division Manager
P.O. Box 1898
Hattiesburg, MS 39403

Additionally, HPFL-MPO is hosting a virtual public meeting on the matter at 5:00 p.m. on December 1, 2020. This will provide the public with another opportunity to make comments on the proposed PPP amendment.

Individuals who would like to participate in the virtual public meetings should contact the HPFL-MPO at 601.554.1008 by 1:00 p.m. on December 1, 2020. Access to the hearing will be available by computer, smart phone, or land line telephone.

Anyone who may require auxiliary aids or special accommodations to participate should advise the HPFL-MPO at least 10 business days in advance by calling 601.554.1008 or emailing aesters@hattiesburgms.com.

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