
Technical Advisory Committee

Monday, October 16, 2023

Regular Session

Item H3

Approval Recommendation of Final Draft Public Participation Plan Update 2024

Staff Contact: Allan Zafft, MPO Program Manager

TAC Agenda Report
October 16, 2023

Agenda Item No. H3

ISSUE

VOTE: Draft Public Participation Plan Update 2024

BACKGROUND

In accordance with 23 CFR 450.316, metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) are required to develop and use a documented public participation plan that defines a process for providing various stakeholders with reasonable opportunities to be involved in the metropolitan transportation planning process. The current, and first, Public Participation Plan for the Grand Island Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (GIAMPO) was adopted by the Policy Board in November 2015, and includes an amendment which was approved in February 2017.

The current GIAMPO Public Participation Plan indicates that an update of the Public Participation occurs at least every five years, prior to an update of the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). *Journey 2040* is GIAMPO's first LRTP, which was adopted by the Policy Board in April 2016. In February 2021, GIAMPO completed an LRTP update with the adoption of the *2045 LRTP*. Since the current Public Participation Plan was adopted over five years ago and the process for the next LRTP will begin sometime in 2024, GIAMPO staff began developing the Public Participation Plan Update in December 2022.

Enclosed is the Draft Public Participation Plan Update 2024.

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS/DISCUSSION

GIAMPO's current Public Participation Plan requires that the Draft Public Participation Plan 2024 be released for public review and comment prior to Policy Board adoption.

Once adopted, the public involvement methods identified in the Public Participation Plan Update 2024 will serve as a guide for public involvement on GIAMPO transportation plans and documents in the Grand Island metropolitan region.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS

None.

COMMITTEE ACTION

The TAC received a report on the Public Participation Plan Update in February 2023 from GIAMPO staff.

RECOMMENDATION

Approve Draft Public Participation Plan Update 2024 and release it for public review and comment.

STAFF CONTACT

Allan Zafft

Public Participation Plan Update 2024



October 2023 - DRAFT



October 2023

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Additional copies of this document may be obtained by contacting:

City of Grand Island
Public Works Department
City Hall
100 East First Street
Grand Island, NE. 68802

Contents

| | |
|---|-----|
| Abbreviations and Acronyms..... | 1 |
| Introduction | 2 |
| What is GIAMPO? | 2 |
| Public Participation Plan Development & Coordination..... | 3 |
| Guiding Principles | 3 |
| Benefits of Public Participation..... | 3 |
| Goals for Public Involvement..... | 4 |
| GIAMPO’s Agency Membership..... | 5 |
| Public Involvement Methods | 7 |
| Emergency Situations | 10 |
| Engaging Traditionally Underserved Populations | 10 |
| Evaluating Public Participation Methods..... | 11 |
| MPO Planning and Program Documents..... | 12 |
| Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)..... | 13 |
| Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) | 14 |
| Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)..... | 15 |
| Public Participation Plan (PPP)..... | 16 |
| Other Reports and Documents | 16 |
| | |
| APPENDIX A: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SURVEY | A-1 |
| APPENDIX B: PUBLIC COMMENTS | B-1 |

Abbreviations and Acronyms

| | |
|---------|--|
| CFR | Code of Federal Regulations |
| FHWA | Federal Highway Administration |
| FTA | Federal Transit Administration |
| GIAMPO | Grand Island Area Metropolitan Planning Organization |
| IIJA | Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act |
| L RTP | Long Range Transportation Plan |
| MPA | Metropolitan Planning Area |
| MPO | Metropolitan Planning Organization |
| Neb. RS | Nebraska Revised Statute |
| NDOT | Nebraska Department of Transportation |
| PPP | Public Participation Plan |
| STIP | Statewide Transportation Improvement Program |
| TAC | Technical Advisory Committee |
| TIP | Transportation Improvement Program |
| UPWP | Unified Planning Work Program |
| 3-C | Continuing, Cooperative, and Comprehensive |

Introduction

This is the Grand Island Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (GIAMPO) Public Participation Plan, which describes the public involvement process for the GIAMPO transportation planning process. Public participation is an integral part of this process.

GIAMPO is required to develop a Public Participation Plan to fulfill the requirements stated in Metropolitan Transportation Planning and Programming Regulations (23 CFR 450.316). While federal laws and regulations set a framework for public involvement, GIAMPO strives to carry out a public participation process that is effective at engaging the diverse population in the region.

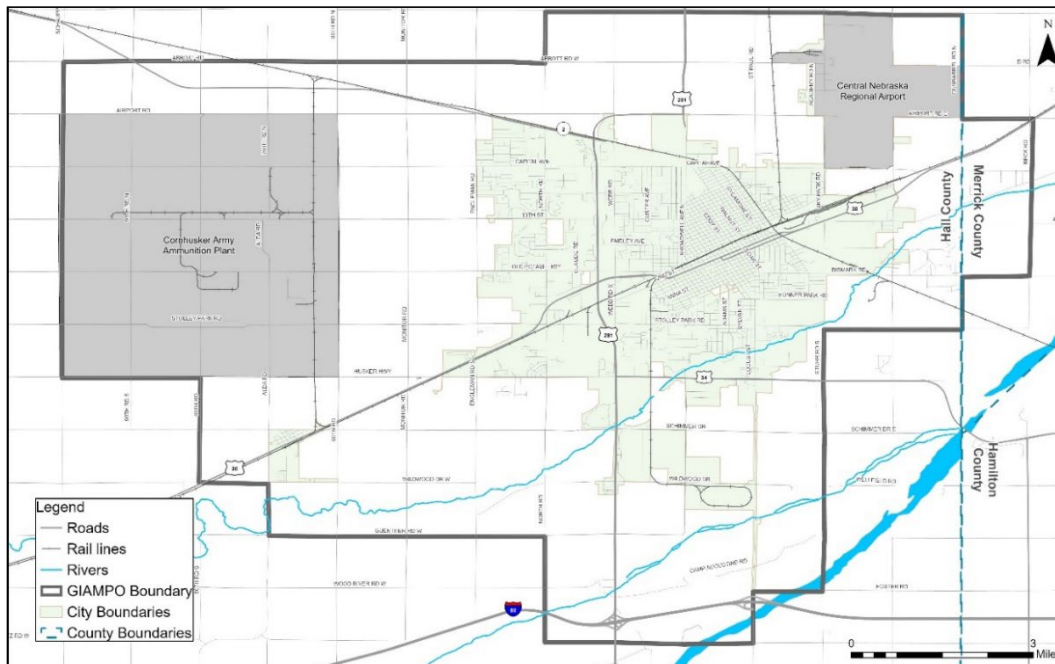
The GIAMPO Public Participation Plan establishes the methods used to provide a proactive public involvement, and it provides a list of activities and procedures GIAMPO will follow to engage the public in the transportation planning process.

What is GIAMPO?

Federal law requires any Urbanized Area population exceeding 50,000 persons to create a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). The MPO is designated to carry out the Continuing, Cooperative, and Comprehensive (3-C) transportation planning process for the metropolitan area. The Grand Island Urbanized Area officially exceeded this population threshold in the 2010 Census, and in 2013 the Governor of Nebraska designated GIAMPO as the official MPO for the Grand Island Urbanized Area. GIAMPO serves as the formal transportation planning body for the greater Grand Island, Nebraska metropolitan area.

GIAMPO is responsible for transportation planning activities within a geographic area identified as the Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA). GIAMPO's MPA is comprised of the City of Grand Island, Village of Alda, portions of Hall County, and a portion of west Merrick County. The MPA is shown in **Figure 1**.

Figure 1 – GIAMPO Metropolitan Planning Area

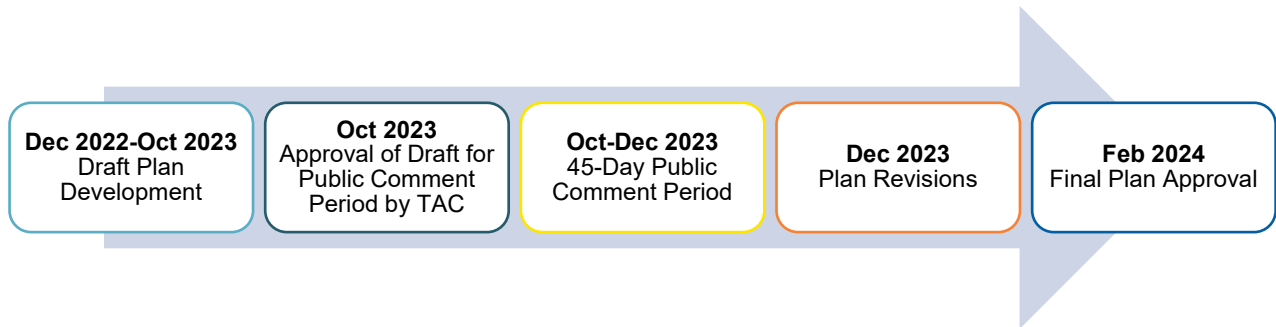


Public Participation Plan Development & Coordination

The 2024 Public Participation Plan is an update to the 2015 Public Participation Plan. This plan update was developed through collaboration of GIAMPO and City of Grand Island staff. **Figure 2** illustrates the overall process utilized to update this plan. During the 45-day public comment period for this Draft, GIAMPO will solicit for public and stakeholder input through postings on social media, the GIAMPO webpage, and in the local newspaper.

As a part of the plan development process, a survey was sent to resource agencies and interested parties asking how they would like to be involved in the planning process. The survey asked respondents to select which types of outreach they felt were the most effective and what areas GIAMPO should improve on. See survey responses in **Appendix A**.

Figure 2 – Public Participation Plan Approach



Guiding Principles

There are several principles that guide the participation process established by GIAMPO, which include the following:

- Effective transportation planning must include the participation by those whose everyday lives are affected by how they are able to get to work, home, school, commercial establishments and services;
- Informing and educating the public about transportation planning is essential to obtaining quality public input; and
- Involving persons and groups that are typically under-represented in transportation planning or with special transportation needs, including, low-income, minority, elderly, student and disabled populations.

Benefits of Public Participation

Public and stakeholder participation is the corner stone of any planning process. Effective public participation allows planners to identify issues and understand aspects of the transportation system directly from the various users. In its simplest form, transportation planning must include the efforts for participation of those whose everyday lives are affected by how they are able to get to work, home, school, stores, and services.

Public participation allows the public an opportunity to voice concerns and offer suggestions regarding transportation-related issues. Additionally, the process helps educate the public about

the transportation planning process and affords transportation professionals and decision-makers the opportunity to see sides of an issue that may be missed when considering a project from a purely technical or political perspective. Meaningful dialog among technical professionals, local decision-makers, and general stakeholders is the key to achieving consensus, which is desired before moving a project forward. Other benefits of public participation include:

- Developing a sense of community and ownership
- Identifying issues and concerns that matter most to the community
- Fostering trust in decision-makers
- Promoting accountability
- Encouraging cooperation and compromise
- Preventing and/or mitigating future conflicts

Goals for Public Involvement

Public involvement is an integral part of the transportation planning process and ensures that decisions are made in consideration of and to benefit public needs and preferences. Early and continuous public involvement; reasonable public availability of technical and other information; collaborative input on alternatives, evaluation criteria and mitigation needs; open public meetings where matters related to the transportation system are being considered; and open access to the decision-making process helps bring diverse viewpoints and values into the planning process. As a result, public involvement for GIAMPO's transportation planning process will focus on the following goals:

- ✓ Responding to and remaining consistent with the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) (also known as the "Bipartisan Infrastructure Law") requirements and those outlined in 23 CFR 450.316, and future transportation laws – interested partners, participation, and consultation.
- ✓ Providing timely notice and reasonable access to information.
- ✓ Purposefully seeking input from targeted and interested parties about the goals, objectives, existing conditions, performance measures, improvement scenarios, potential projects and environmental concerns that could be included in the planning process.
- ✓ Engaging citizens, the business and economic development community, freight and rail operators, transit providers, advocacy groups, limited or non-English speakers, environmental justice and underserved populations, and those who use transit, pedestrian walkways, and/or bicycle facilities.
- ✓ Demonstrating consideration and reasonable response to public comments received.
- ✓ Coordinating meeting times and locations with sensitivity to environmental justice groups.
- ✓ Strengthening and creating new partnerships with a wide variety of stakeholders.
- ✓ Building support for adoption and future implementation, while gathering feedback early and often during the planning process.
- ✓ Employing visualization techniques to convey transportation information.

- ✓ Remaining sensitive to the fact that, according to the 2020 U.S. Census, 30% of Hall County’s 62,895 residents are Hispanic or Latino.¹ Further, U.S. Census Bureau indicates that English and Spanish were the top two languages spoken at home by Hall County residents in 2021. Other, individual languages were spoken by less than 1.5% of their representative groups.²
- ✓ Providing bilingual (English/Spanish), informational and educational materials in a range of formats (in person, print, digital, and/or augmented reality) and without technical jargon when requested.

GIAMPO’s Agency Membership

GIAMPO functions through a committee structure consisting of the Policy Board and Technical Advisory Committee (TAC).

GIAMPO Policy Board Members

The Policy Board is the governing body of GIAMPO. It is comprised of elected and appointed officials representing local, state, and federal governments or agencies that establish the overall policy direction for the MPO planning activities. **Table 1** shows the voting and non-voting membership of the Policy Board. The Policy Board has the final responsibility of the MPO activities, and it approves the work program that determines the activities undertaken by GIAMPO, and has the responsibility for approving MPO work products, including the Public Participation Plan.

Table 1 – Policy Board Membership

| Policy Board Voting Members |
|--|
| Mayor of the City of Grand Island |
| Three members of the Grand Island City Council recommended by the Mayor and approved by City Council |
| Two members of the Hall County Board of Commissioners who reside in the Metropolitan Transportation Planning area |
| The Chair of the Hall County Regional Planning Commission or designee if Chair resides outside the GIAMPO Metropolitan Planning Area |
| The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) Director-State Engineer or designee |
| Policy Board Ex-Officio (Non-Voting) Members |
| The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Nebraska Division Administrator or designee |
| The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Region VII Administrator or designee |
| Other members as approved by the majority vote of the Policy Board |

¹ U.S. Census Bureau. 2020 Decennial Census. DP1: Profile of General Population and Housing Characteristics.

² U.S. Census Bureau. 2013-2017 ACS 5-Year Estimates. S1601: Language Spoken at Home.

The Policy Board meetings are open to the public and are held in accessible locations. There is a public announcement of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act at the beginning of each meeting. Additionally, the Policy Board agendas are posted on the GIAMPO webpage, sent out to citizens who have asked to be included on the GIAMPO email notification list, and meeting notices are published in the newspaper in a timely manner in accordance to state law.

Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Members

The TAC is a staff-level committee, which advises the Policy Board on technical matters related to MPO work products, transportation policies, and other technical studies and plans considered by GIAMPO. This committee is comprised of engineering, planning, transit, and other professionals. It includes representation from local, state, and federal officials. **Table 2** shows the voting and non-voting membership of the TAC. Through this web of professionals, GIAMPO staff remains informed about transportation concerns from a variety of stakeholders.

Table 2 – Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Membership

| TAC Voting Members |
|--|
| Public Works Director, City of Grand Island |
| City Administrator, City of Grand Island |
| Assistant Director of Public Works: Engineering Services, City of Grand Island |
| City of Grand Island Community Development Director |
| Transit Program Manager, City of Grand Island |
| Hall County Public Works Director |
| NDOT Intermodal Planning Engineer or designee |
| NDOT District 4 Engineer |
| Merrick County Highway Superintendent |
| Village of Alda |
| Central Nebraska Regional Airport Executive Director |
| TAC (Non-Voting) Members |
| Finance Director, City of Grand Island |
| Streets Superintendent, City of Grand Island |
| Local Projects Urban Engineer, NDOT |
| Local Projects Engineer, NDOT |
| Transportation Planner, FHWA |
| Community Planner, FTA |
| Grand Island Area Chamber of Commerce |

Table 2 – Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Membership (Continued)

| TAC (Non-Voting) Members |
|--|
| Grand Island Area Economic Development Corporation |
| Union Pacific Railroad |
| Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad |

The TAC meetings are open to the public and are held in accessible locations. There is a public announcement of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act at the beginning of each meeting. Additionally, the TAC agendas are posted on the GIAMPO webpage, sent out to citizens who have asked to be included on the GIAMPO email notification list, and meeting notices are published in the newspaper in a timely manner in accordance to state law.

Public Involvement Methods

GIAMPO strives to provide a public involvement process with comprehensive information, timely public notice, and full public access to the regional transportation planning process. GIAMPO works closely with local, state, and federal planning partners (NDOT, FHWA, FTA, and local jurisdictions) to coordinate public outreach efforts. The following methods are used to provide the public and interested parties with a variety of opportunities for being involved in the transportation planning process.

Nebraska Open Meetings Act

Both the Policy Board and TAC meetings are governed by the Nebraska Open Meetings Act. However, there may be times when Policy Board meetings are closed to the public for executive sessions to discuss personnel and other sensitive issues, as permitted by state law. The Policy Board may on occasion meet with a member(s) joining via conference call or video conference. In this situation, there will be a speakerphone or video conference equipment located at the meeting location listed on the agenda.

Working Groups and Steering Committees

In addition to the TAC, GIAMPO may create ad hoc working groups or steering committees to focus on a specific topic or document. Any long-term or standing sub-committees of the Policy Board will be appointed by the Policy Board at a regularly occurring meeting.

Draft Document Availability

When major MPO documents or products are developed, updated or amended, copies of the draft document will be available during the public comment period. The public notice indicates the staff person responsible for ensuring all documents are available to the public. A copy of the draft may also be obtained by visiting the GIAMPO webpage at www.grand-island.com/giampo, by emailing the MPO Program Manager at giampo@grand-island.com or at his/her direct email address, or by stopping by the Grand Island Public Works Department at City Hall, 100 East First Street, Grand Island, NE 68801.

Social Networking

The City of Grand Island's Public Works Department maintains a social media account(s) to provide notifications and updates to the public on the transportation planning process. As of this update of the Public Participation Plan, Facebook is being used to elicit public comments on documents during public comment opportunities. This social networking site can be accessed by clicking the Facebook icon on the GIAMPO's homepage or by visiting, www.facebook.com/GI.PublicWorks. GIAMPO will consider to use other methods of social media as they become available and gain in popularity.

Email Notifications

GIAMPO maintains a database of interested citizens, agency staff and stakeholders wanting to receive email notifications. This allows GIAMPO to email notifications regarding meeting agendas, special events or meetings, public comment periods or other information.

During the development of the Long Range Transportation Plan update, GIAMPO may also utilize the email notification systems already established by local jurisdictions to inform citizens of public meetings and of the draft document's public comment period.

Postal Mailings

GIAMPO recognizes the diversity in the citizens it serves and that not everyone may have readily available access to the internet to view the GIAMPO webpage or receive email notifications. While it would be cost prohibitive to mail every resident in the GIAMPO region notification each time a comment period or public meeting is held, citizens may request that GIAMPO mail them notifications if that is their preferred method. Mailings may also be used by GIAMPO to target specific neighborhoods or stakeholder groups to gather comments or feedback.

Public Meetings, Workshops, and Open Houses

GIAMPO will hold public meetings as necessary for specific issues or documents. If a public meeting is required by federal regulations, one will be held before or during the public comment period in a location accessible by the public. Public meetings and open houses will generally be conducted for a two-hour period between the hours of 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. (Monday through Friday). GIAMPO will strive to hold a public meeting in areas to provide access that is more convenient for all citizens in the GIAMPO region.

Workshops, open houses, or other events may also be conducted to keep the public informed, involved, and solicit feedback on various projects and plans. To notify the public of these events, the GIAMPO staff will post information on the GIAMPO webpage, and, if appropriate, through email notices, mailed notices, legal publications in the newspaper, and press releases.

Virtual Public Meetings

Virtual tools and platforms can efficiently be made accessible to communities. By removing barriers of transportation, access to childcare, and general time constraints, virtual public meetings allow for more participation in the planning process. Using virtual platforms, GIAMPO may conduct virtual public meetings that coincide with or supplement in-person public meetings for specific projects when appropriate.

Legal Notices

GIAMPO will publish a legal notice in the local newspaper notifying the public of public meetings or of public comment periods for applicable MPO documents.

Media Press Releases

Press releases are sent to local media contacts regarding public meetings, open houses and applicable MPO documents out for public comment. Media contacts who have requested to be placed on the Policy Board and TAC email notification lists will be notified.

Surveys

GIAMPO may deploy surveys to gather community feedback regarding a particular document or process. Survey can be conducted online, in-person, or through hard-copies. Accessible formats, platforms, and translation options will be identified, as needed.

Presentations

Civic organizations, interest groups, and agencies may request presentations by GIAMPO staff. Presentation topics may include a general overview of the MPO or specific GIAMPO work products or planning activities.

Visualization

Visualization techniques will be used in all core transportation plans, programs and documents as much as possible. Visualization techniques promote improved understanding of the GIAMPO process and products for those who do not have a background in transportation planning. These techniques will include the use of colors, diagrams, tables, figures, maps and photos that further illustrate the ideas and concepts in transportation plans, projects and programs.

Brochures and Fact Sheets

Brochures and fact sheets are means of providing data and information in a graphic format. This simple visual serves as a fact sheet, providing information in a quick and easy to read format. GIAMPO may use this tool to disseminate information about major plans, studies, and the general transportation planning process.

Local Events and Information Tables

While formal meetings provide a good forum for public education and input, transportation plans and processes may receive wider exposure at various community events. Events like county fairs, music festivals, and other recreational and social gatherings attract many people who would not typically attend a formal meeting, but would be willing to take a brochure and to provide input for a transportation project. As appropriate, GIAMPO staff may attend special events in person or with stand-alone booths and/or tables to provide information.

Stakeholder/Focus Group

During specific projects, the MPO may convene a group of experts, individuals, or stakeholders that are representative of interested parties to provide greater insight on a specific plan or study, or to identify user specific priorities and concerns. These individuals offer valuable insight in

project development, and are generally sought out outside of general public engagement activities.

Website

The GIAMPO webpage www.grand-island.com/GIAMPO provides a wealth of information about the MPO. Housed on the webpage are important documents and meeting agendas and minutes, along with announcements regarding current comment periods and public meetings. The GIAMPO webpage has contact information for GIAMPO staff to allow interested parties to submit comments, questions, or requests to be placed on the GIAMPO's email notification list.

The webpage also contains Google's free translation tool. This allows for website information to be translated from English into a multitude of other languages, including Spanish, the largest population of non-English speaking as primary language in the GIAMPO MPA.

Emergency Situations

In a period of a public health emergency or disaster recovery – when social distancing is required, or when a weather-related or other disaster prevents regular public involvement processes from going forward – alternative arrangements may be made to the participation process that continue to allow for meaningful involvement from members of the public. These may include alternative in-person meetings, virtual-only meetings, or other methods. GIAMPO will use the resources available to it to notify and inform the public of such changes.

Engaging Traditionally Underserved Populations

While a federal requirement, it is also a practice of GIAMPO to make special effort to consider the concerns of traditionally underserved populations, including low-income, minority, elderly, immigrant, and disabled populations. GIAMPO meetings are open to the public and held in locations that are accessible by transit and in buildings compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The GIAMPO staff will use a combination of the following techniques, as appropriate, to engage the traditionally underserved populations:

- Conduct interviews orally to reduce low-literacy as a barrier.
- Utilize local residents to help interview citizens in their own communities.
- Provide a comfortable meeting space with appropriate accommodations.
- Involve local officials and community representatives, as appropriate.
- Use traditional, non-computer based means during public outreach efforts.
- Hold meetings in “neutral” locations like schools, community centers, or public libraries (when necessary).
- Utilize the knowledge and connections of existing organizations.
- Attend scheduled and special events (the “don’t wait for them to come to you, go to them” approach).
- Provide documents in alternative formats upon request when feasible.
- Use interpreters and translated materials where appropriate and feasible (this is further defined in the GIAMPO Limited English Proficiency Plan).

Evaluating Public Participation Methods

The Public Participation Plan is a constantly evolving document and must be continuously evaluated and improved upon to create and maintain effective public engagement.

A complete update of the Public Participation Plan is initiated at least every five years to reevaluate the methods and strategies for engaging the public. In the interim, the public participation process will be reviewed on an annual basis to assess whether public opinions are being actively sought and that the public has equal and full access to all GIAMPO documents and plans. Public participation methods will be reviewed using the evaluation criteria in **Table 3** to gauge the effectiveness of each strategy.

Table 3 – Evaluation of Public Participation Plan Methods

| Method | Evaluation Criteria |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Website | Number of page views Number of unique page views |
| Social Networking | Number of Facebook “Likes” Number of Facebook “Shares” |
| Email Notifications | Number of persons contacted (emails sent) |
| Public Meetings | Total number of attendees at all events Number of comments received during events |
| Informational Tables/Local Events | Number of events |
| Focus Group/Stakeholder | Total number of attendees at all events |
| Surveys | Number of survey respondents |
| Presentations | Number of presentations made |
| Public Comment Periods | Number of comments received |

MPO Planning and Program Documents

GIAMPO is responsible for preparing and adopting the following plans and programs according to the listed schedules for each as shown in **Table 4**.

Table 4 – MPO Planning and Program Documents

| MPO Planning and Program Document | Reviewing Body Public Meeting | Meeting Notices | Comment Period | Availability of Reports/Minutes and Agenda * |
|---|--|---|---|---|
| Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Update and Amendments | MPO Technical Advisory Committee, MPO Policy Board | Posted during the public review period and prior to public meetings | At least 30 calendar days prior to approval by MPO Policy Board | Agenda and packet available at least 7 calendar days prior to meetings, minutes available pursuant to Neb. RS 84-1413 |
| Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) | MPO Technical Advisory Committee, MPO Policy Board | Posted during the public review period and prior to public meetings | At least 30 calendar days prior to approval by MPO Policy Board | Agenda and packet available at least 7 calendar days prior to meetings, minutes available pursuant to Neb. RS 84-1413 |
| TIP Amendments | MPO Technical Advisory Committee, MPO Policy Board | Posted during the public review period and prior to public meetings | At least 15 calendar days prior to approval by MPO Policy Board | Agenda and packet available at least 7 calendar days prior to meetings, minutes available pursuant to Neb. RS 84-1413 |
| Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) and Amendments | MPO Technical Advisory Committee, MPO Policy Board | Posted during the public review period and prior to public meetings | At least 15 calendar days prior to approval by MPO Policy Board | Agenda and packet available at least 7 calendar days prior to meetings, minutes available pursuant to Neb. RS 84-1413 |
| Public Participation Plan (PPP) and Amendments | MPO Technical Advisory Committee, MPO Policy Board | Posted during the public review period and prior to public meetings | At least 45 calendar days prior to approval by MPO Policy Board | Agenda and packet available at least 7 calendar days prior to meetings, minutes available pursuant to Neb. RS 84-1413 |
| Other Reports/Documents | MPO Technical Advisory Committee, MPO Policy Board | Posted during the public review period and prior to public meetings | At least 15 calendar days prior to approval by MPO Policy Board | Agenda and packet available at least 7 calendar days prior to meetings, minutes available pursuant to Neb. RS 84-1413 |

* According to Nebraska Revised Statute 84-1413, minutes will be available for inspection within ten working days of the meeting or prior to the next convened meeting, whichever occurs earlier. Draft documents/reports are included in the agenda packets for MPO Technical Advisory Committee meetings. According to the Nebraska Revised Statute 84-1411, agendas are maintained for public inspection and may not be altered later than 24 hours before the scheduled meetings.

Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)

Updated:

- Every 5 years

Amended:

- As needed

Public Comment Period:

- Minimum of 30 calendar days for updates and amendments

Minimum Required Techniques & Strategies:

- Discussion with the TAC prior to public comment period.
- Newspaper and MPO webpage notices announcing public comment period.
- Email notification of public comment period.
- Draft update available for review on the GIAMPO webpage, at Grand Island City Hall and at Grand Island Public Library.
- Open houses/public meetings as needed.
- Summarize public comments, including how the comments were addressed, and include in the final draft update.

Amendments:

- Notification of amendment to the TAC prior to posting the draft for public comment, with explanation of the need for the amendment.
- Notices announcing the public comment period on the MPO webpage and in the newspaper.
- Email notification of public comment period.
- Draft available for review on the GIAMPO webpage and at Grand Island City Hall.
- Open houses/public meetings are not required for GIAMPO amendments.

NOTE: If the final LRTP document differs significantly from the draft made available for public comment, an additional opportunity for public comment will be provided.

The Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) formalizes the vision for the regional transportation system for the next 25 years through establishing a series of transportation goals and objectives. The LRTP details the condition, issues, and opportunities of the existing system, while outlining a realistic plan for future improvements based on historical and projected funding trends.

The LRTP is updated in its entirety at least once every five years. This includes reevaluating the goals and objectives for the transportation system, updating the needs analysis, along with the identified projects. Amendments to the LRTP are made as needed to reflect significant changes to fiscally constrained projects and/or funding conditions.

After the public comment period, the draft update will be taken to the TAC (along with any public comments received) for their recommended approval for the Policy Board to adopt the plan. Once the Policy Board approves the update or amendment the approved document then replaces the former LRTP. The final LRTP is submitted to NDOT, FHWA and FTA for informational purposes (as these entities do not approve the LRTP).

Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Updated:

- Annually

Amended:

- As needed

Public Comment Period:

- Minimum of 30 calendar days for new TIP
- Minimum of 15 calendar days for amendments
- No comment period required for administrative modifications

Minimum Required Techniques & Strategies:

- Discussion with the TAC prior to public comment period.
- Newspaper and MPO webpage notices announcing public comment period.
- Email notification of public comment period.
- Draft available for review on the GIAMPO webpage and at Grand Island City Hall.
- Summarize public comments, including how the comments were addressed, and include in the TIP.

Amendments:

- Notification of amendment to the TAC prior to posting the draft for public comment, with explanation of the need for the amendment.
- Notices announcing the public comment period on the GIAMPO webpage and in the newspaper.
- Email notification of public comment period.
- Draft available for review on the GIAMPO webpage and at Grand Island City Hall.

NOTE: If the final TIP document differs significantly from the draft made available for public comment, an additional opportunity for public comment will be provided.

The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is a short-range plan that includes all regionally significant and/or federally funded surface transportation projects to be implemented over period of not less than four years. The TIP is developed in cooperation with NDOT, City of Grand Island, Hall County, Merrick County, and Village of Alda.

For projects to be included in the TIP, they must first be in the LRTP. A project, if not regionally significant or specifically identified as a line item in the LRTP, must only be consistent with the LRTP.

In Nebraska, the TIP is required to be updated annually. The MPO-approved TIP is submitted to NDOT for the State’s approval and inclusion in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). FHWA and FTA approves the STIP, which includes the projects from the TIP.

Between TIP updates, GIAMPO will process amendments as needed to reflect major project changes such as a new project. Administrative modifications may be made at any time and do not require public review or Policy Board action. This includes minor changes such as project termini changes of less than 0.25

mile. After an administrative modification has received concurrence by NDOT, it should be posted on the GIAMPO webpage. For more information on amendments and administrative modifications, see the most current TIP document.

The public transportation element of the TIP includes projects for the City of Grand Island’s Transit Program that collectively constitutes the Program of Projects (POP) for the City of Grand Island’s Transit Program. Approval of the TIP includes the approval of the POP for the City of Grand Island’s Transit Program. The public involvement procedures used for TIP development and amendments are used to satisfy the POP requirements for FTA Section 5307 (urban) funding.

Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

New UPWP:

- Developed Annually

Amended:

- As needed

Public Comment Period:

- Minimum of 15 calendar days for new UPWP and amendments
- No comment period required for administrative modifications

Minimum Required Techniques & Strategies:

- Discussion with the TAC prior to public comment period.
- Newspaper and MPO webpage notices announcing public comment period.
- Email notification of public comment period.
- Draft available for review on the GIAMPO webpage and at Grand Island City Hall.
- Summarize public comments, including how the comments were addressed, and include in the Policy Board’s meeting packet, which recommends MPO approval.

Amendments:

- Notification of amendment to the TAC prior to posting the draft for public comment, with explanation of the need for the amendment.
- Notices announcing the public comment period on the GIAMPO webpage and in the newspaper.
- Email notification of public comment period.
- Draft available for review on the GIAMPO webpage and at Grand Island City Hall.

The UPWP identifies and budgets for the regional transportation planning projects that GIAMPO and its planning partners will undertake during each calendar year. The UPWP outlines the status of planning activities, provides information about accomplishments from the previous year, and provides an overview of major activities planned for the upcoming year. The UPWP is developed in cooperation with NDOT, FHWA, FTA, and the City of Grand Island’s Transit Division.

Each February the GIAMPO staff begins drafting the upcoming year’s UPWP in coordination with the planning partners. The UPWP is typically approved by GIAMPO in May, before being submitted to NDOT and FHWA/FTA for approval.

The UPWP may be amended throughout the year to adjust the activities or budget. The “NDOT Operating Manual for MPO Transportation Planning” provides guidance on when the UPWP must be revised through an amendment versus administrative modification. Amendments require NDOT and FHWA/FTA approvals. Administrative modifications may be made at any

time and do not require public review or Policy Board action. After NDOT has provided concurrence on an administrative modification, GIAMPO can then update its UPWP with the change.

Public Participation Plan (PPP)

Updated:

- At least every 5 years, prior to LRTP updates
- Reviewed annually and updated as needed

Public Comment Period:

- Minimum of 45 calendar days for complete updates
- Minimum of 30 calendar days for amendments
- No comment period required for administrative modifications

Minimum Required Techniques & Strategies:

- Discussion with the TAC prior to public comment period.
- Public and stakeholder consultation through a variety of methods including surveys, stakeholder meetings, and/or public meetings.
- Summarize public comments, including how the comments were addressed, and include summary in the final draft of PPP.
- Newspaper and MPO webpage notices announcing public comment period.
- Email notification of public comment period.
- Draft available for review on the GIAMPO webpage and at Grand Island City Hall.

The Public Participation Plan (PPP) has been discussed in detail throughout this document, but essentially the PPP serves as a guide to improve the process for involving the public in regional transportation decision making. It establishes a process to effectively engage citizens in the planning process by outlining the public input procedures, processes, and methods to be used.

Other Reports and Documents

GIAMPO may lead or coordinate with a local agency for a study or plan, authorized through the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), to develop a greater understanding of transportation needs and public desires for proposed improvements. A public involvement process is developed for these documents providing a unique opportunity to discuss the issues, conceiving potential improvements, and commenting on any recommendation.

Enclosed are the survey responses received from resource agencies and interested parties to a public participation survey as part of the GIAMPO Public Participation Plan update. The survey was available from June 26, 2023 through July 17, 2023. In total, there were 37 surveys completed.

Public Participation Survey – Input from Resource Agencies and Interested Parties
June 26, 2023 through July 17, 2023

Question No. 1 – What agency or group do you represent?

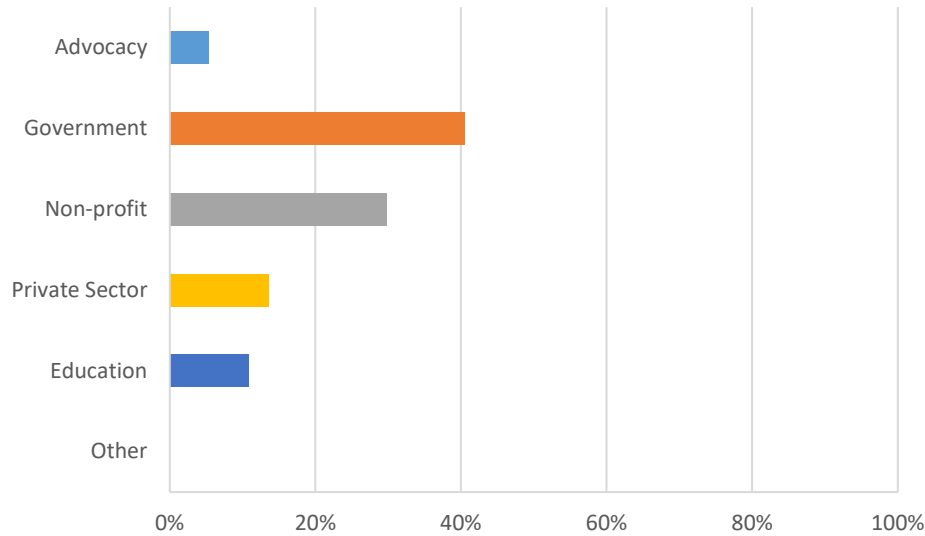
Answered: 37 Skipped: 0

Central Community College
Police
Leadership Unlimited
Legal
Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Da-Ly Realty
Central District Health Department
St. Francis Hospital
Environmental Protection Agency R7
Nebraska Commission on Latino Americans
Heartland United Way
Regional Planning
Hall County
Grand Island Public Schools
Literacy Council of Grand Island
Grand Island Public Library
NCHS
Nebraska State Fair
City of Grand Island
Wood River Rural Schools
City of GI - Transit Division
Willow Rising
local consultant
Nebraska Game and Parks Commission
Hall County Board
Central Community College
Volunteer advocate previously with United Way
Grand Island Chamber
Audubon's Rowe Sanctuary
Audubon Great Plains
CHI Health St. Francis Hospital
Village of Alda
Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy
City of Grand Island
Hope Harbor
Public
City Council
Abuse and Neglected Children

Public Participation Survey – Input from Resource Agencies and Interested Parties
 June 26, 2023 through July 17, 2023

Question No. 2 – What role does your agency or group play in the planning process?

Answered: 37 Skipped: 0

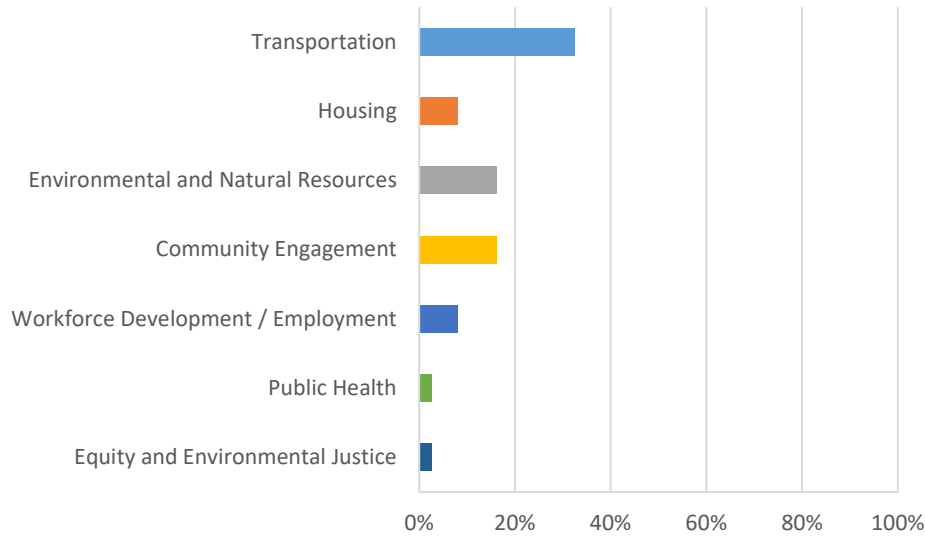


| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES | |
|-----------------------|-----------|----|
| Advocacy | 5.41% | 2 |
| Government | 40.54% | 15 |
| Non-profit | 29.73% | 11 |
| Private Sector | 13.51% | 5 |
| Education | 10.81% | 4 |
| Other | 0.00% | 0 |
| Total Respondents: 37 | | |

Public Participation Survey – Input from Resource Agencies and Interested Parties
 June 26, 2023 through July 17, 2023

Question No. 3 – What is your organization or group’s main goal relating to planning?

Answered: 37 Skipped: 0

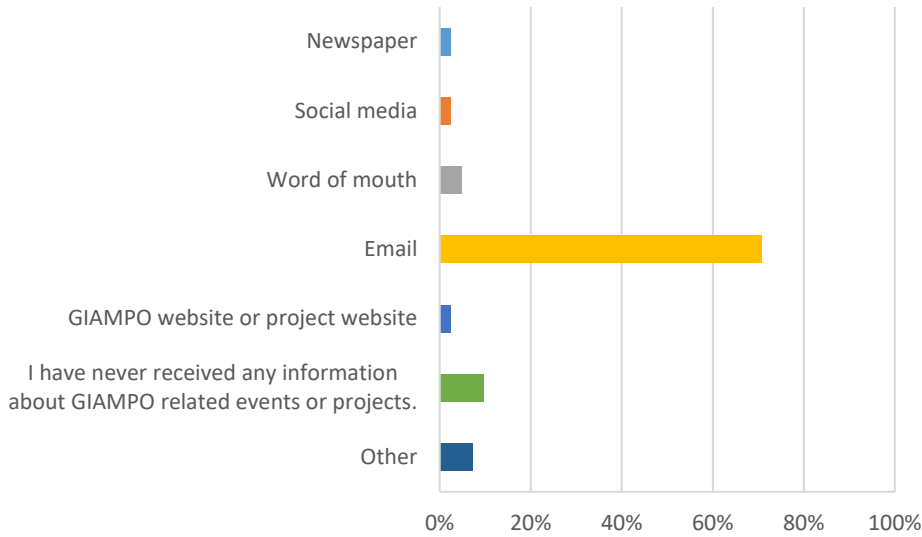


| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Transportation | 32.43% | 12 |
| Housing | 8.11% | 3 |
| Environmental and Natural Resources | 16.22% | 6 |
| Community Engagement | 16.22% | 6 |
| Workforce Development / Employment | 8.11% | 3 |
| Public Health | 2.70% | 1 |
| Equity and Environmental Justice | 2.70% | 1 |
| Other | 13.51% | 5 |
| TOTAL | | 37 |

Public Participation Survey – Input from Resource Agencies and Interested Parties
 June 26, 2023 through July 17, 2023

Question No. 4 – How do you find out about GIAMPO related events or projects? (please select all that apply)

Answered: 37 Skipped: 0

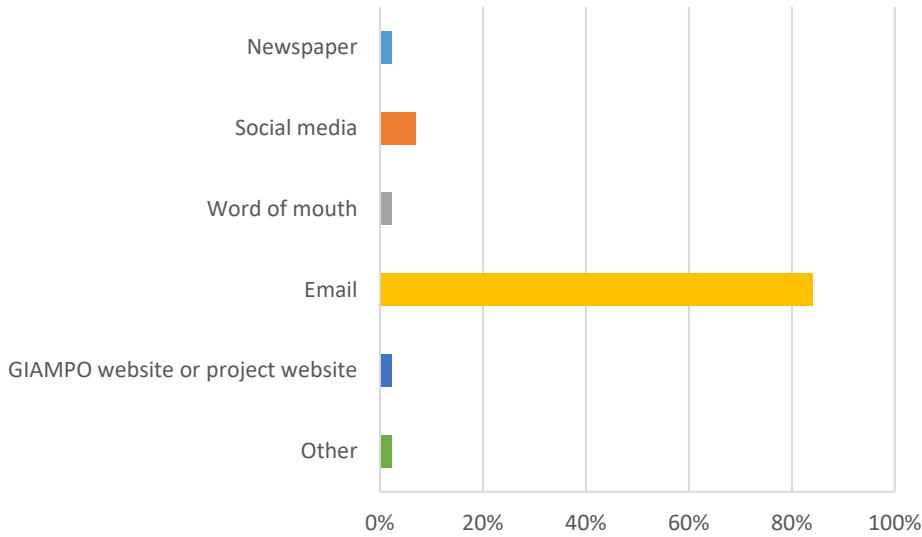


| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES | |
|--|-----------|----|
| Newspaper | 2.44% | 1 |
| Social media | 2.44% | 1 |
| Word of mouth | 4.88% | 2 |
| Email | 70.73% | 29 |
| GIAMPO website or project website | 2.44% | 1 |
| I have never received any information about GIAMPO related events or projects. | 9.76% | 4 |
| Other | 7.32% | 3 |
| Total Respondents: 37 | | |

Public Participation Survey – Input from Resource Agencies and Interested Parties
 June 26, 2023 through July 17, 2023

Question No. 5 – What is the best way to communicate with you about upcoming GIAMPO events? (please select all that apply)

Answered: 37 Skipped: 0

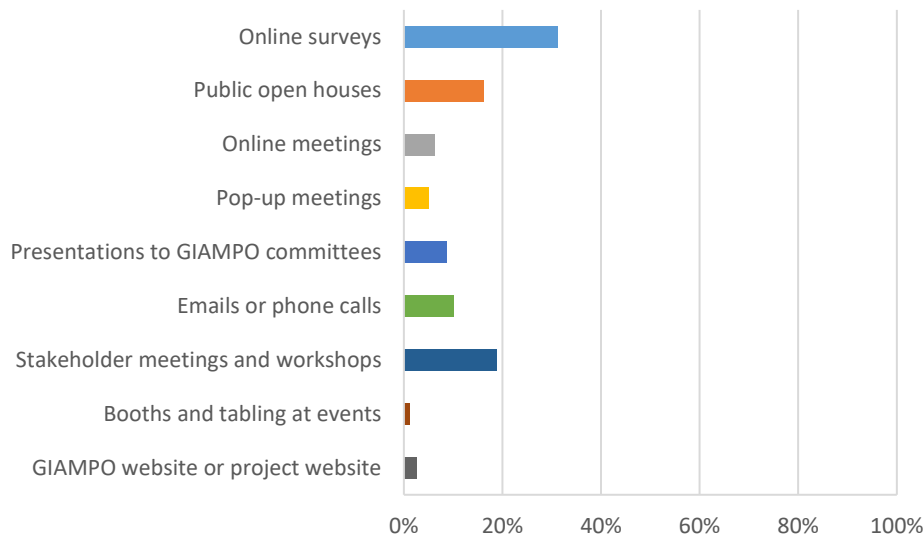


| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|----|
| Newspaper | 2.27% | 1 |
| Social media | 6.82% | 3 |
| Word of mouth | 2.27% | 1 |
| Email | 84.09% | 37 |
| GIAMPO website or project website | 2.27% | 1 |
| Other | 2.27% | 1 |
| Total Respondents: 37 | | |

Public Participation Survey – Input from Resource Agencies and Interested Parties
 June 26, 2023 through July 17, 2023

Question No. 6 – In which of GIAMPO’s public involvement strategies have you participated? (please select all that apply)

Answered: 32 Skipped: 5

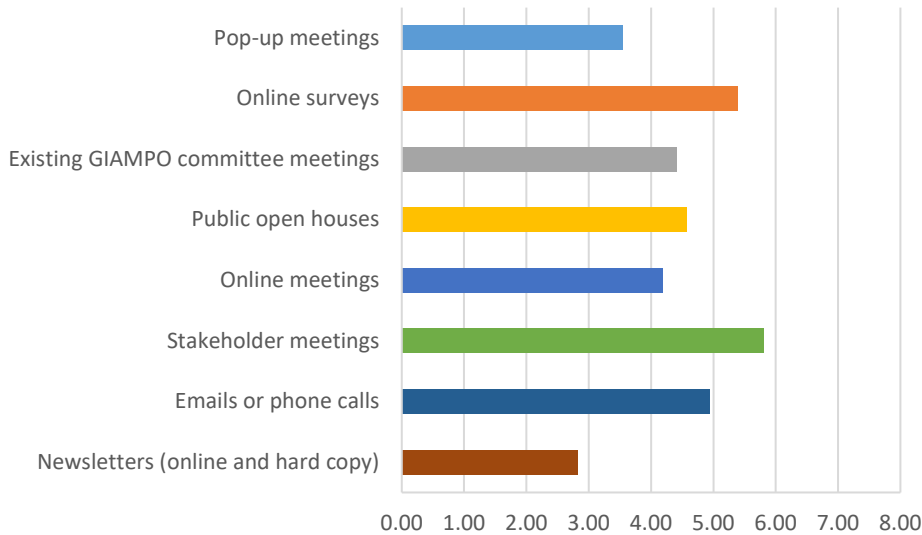


| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES | |
|------------------------------------|-----------|----|
| Online surveys | 31.25% | 25 |
| Public open houses | 16.25% | 13 |
| Online meetings | 6.25% | 5 |
| Pop-up meetings | 5.00% | 4 |
| Presentations to GIAMPO committees | 8.75% | 7 |
| Emails or phone calls | 10.00% | 8 |
| Stakeholder meetings and workshops | 18.75% | 15 |
| Booths and tabling at events | 1.25% | 1 |
| GIAMPO website or project website | 2.50% | 2 |
| Total Respondents: 32 | | |

Public Participation Survey – Input from Resource Agencies and Interested Parties
 June 26, 2023 through July 17, 2023

Question No. 7 – Which of the following strategies do you think are the most effective for gathering input into the planning process? (Please rank from most effective (8) to least effective (1))

Answered: 34 Skipped: 3

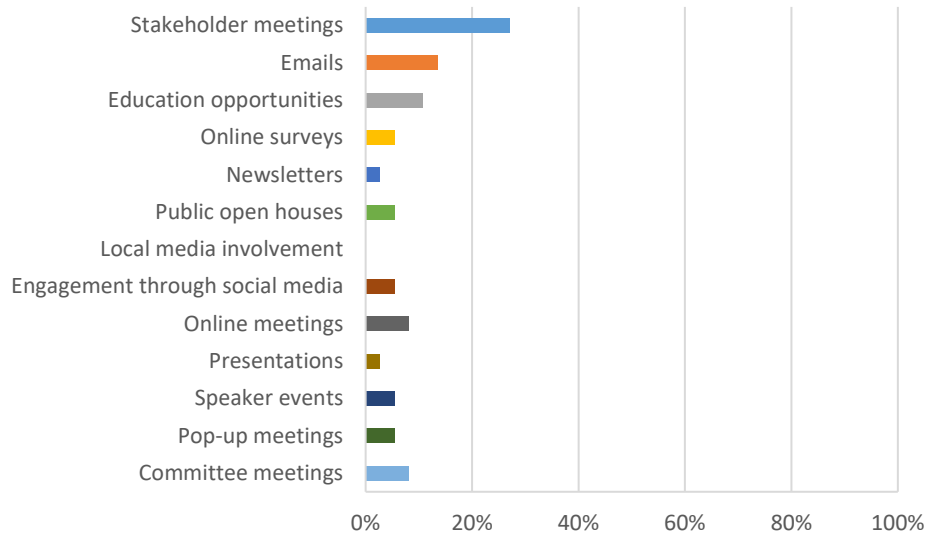


| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | TOTAL | SCORE | |
|------------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|-------|------|
| Pop-up meetings | 19.35% | 22.58% | 12.90% | 19.35% | 6.45% | 3.23% | 6.45% | 9.68% | | | |
| | | 6 | 7 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 31 | 3.55 |
| Online surveys | 2.94% | 2.94% | 11.76% | 8.82% | 23.53% | 23.53% | 11.76% | 14.71% | | | |
| | | 1 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 8 | 8 | 4 | 5 | 34 | 5.38 |
| Existing GIAMPO committee meetings | 12.50% | 15.63% | 9.38% | 12.50% | 15.63% | 12.50% | 9.38% | 12.50% | | | |
| | | 4 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 32 | 4.41 |
| Public open houses | 9.09% | 18.18% | 6.06% | 9.09% | 12.12% | 30.30% | 6.06% | 9.09% | | | |
| | | 3 | 6 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 10 | 2 | 3 | 33 | 4.58 |
| Online meetings | 12.12% | 6.06% | 18.18% | 24.24% | 15.15% | 6.06% | 15.15% | 3.03% | | | |
| | | 4 | 2 | 6 | 8 | 5 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 33 | 4.18 |
| Stakeholder meetings | 3.23% | 3.23% | 6.45% | 19.35% | 9.68% | 6.45% | 25.81% | 25.81% | | | |
| | | 1 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 8 | 8 | 31 | 5.81 |
| Emails or phone calls | 0.00% | 11.76% | 26.47% | 5.88% | 14.71% | 8.82% | 17.65% | 14.71% | | | |
| | | 0 | 4 | 9 | 2 | 5 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 34 | 4.94 |
| Newsletters (online and hard copy) | 42.42% | 21.21% | 9.09% | 6.06% | 0.00% | 9.09% | 6.06% | 6.06% | | | |
| | | 14 | 7 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 33 | 2.82 |

Public Participation Survey – Input from Resource Agencies and Interested Parties
 June 26, 2023 through July 17, 2023

Question No. 8 – What method of communication and outreach would you like to see GIAMPO do more of in the future?

Answered: 37 Skipped: 0



| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES | |
|---------------------------------|-----------|----|
| Stakeholder meetings | 27.03% | 10 |
| Emails | 13.51% | 5 |
| Education opportunities | 10.81% | 4 |
| Online surveys | 5.41% | 2 |
| Newsletters | 2.70% | 1 |
| Public open houses | 5.41% | 2 |
| Local media involvement | 0.00% | 0 |
| Engagement through social media | 5.41% | 2 |
| Online meetings | 8.11% | 3 |
| Presentations | 2.70% | 1 |
| Speaker events | 5.41% | 2 |
| Pop-up meetings | 5.41% | 2 |
| Committee meetings | 8.11% | 3 |
| Total Respondents: 37 | | |

Public Participation Survey – Input from Resource Agencies and Interested Parties
June 26, 2023 through July 17, 2023

Question No. 9 – What is your overall impression of GIAMPO's public outreach activities?
Please list any areas in which we need to improve.

Answered: 37 Skipped: 0

- Not very educated on this currently.
- The goal and purpose of the meetings could be clearer.
- Unsure
- I haven't been involved in any recent GIAMPO meetings in a while.
- Not the best, room for improvement. The community at large does not know this group exists and GIAMPO could benefit from having a paid staff person as part of the city to help connect with All community members and let them know about GIAMPO.
- Good
- Confused at times
- I know they were at the 4th St. Festival. Have they partnered with the non-english speaking community?
- Good
- It has been ok, I attended one public meeting. We are not within Grand Island but interested in how the service could work in conjunction with school.
- I think things are currently going well. I think pop-up meetings would be a good way to go out to people for input, instead of a setup which requires them to attend.
- Average but could be better in communicating steps
- Doesn't always reach out to the right stakeholders or agencies
- I'm not sure the message is getting out well, at least based on what I have seen.
- Need more information
- It has been effective.
- I hadn't heard of GIAMPO before, so it's difficult to say but the outreach must not be very extensive.
- I think if you're in the business community or on a prior list you probably know what's going on, but the general public does not know what is happening. GIPD, GIFD, and other city entities have had luck with social media.
- non existent, nobody knows what GIAMPO is

Public Participation Survey – Input from Resource Agencies and Interested Parties
June 26, 2023 through July 17, 2023

Question No. 10 – Would you like to be added to the below GIAMPO committee(s) and work product(s) to receive email notifications pertaining to that group and work product? (please select all that apply)

If you would to receive email notifications, please provide your email address, name, and organization.

Answered: 22 Skipped: 15

Twenty-two individuals indicated they wanted to receive an email notification pertaining to a GIAMPO committee(s) and/or work product(s).

The Public Participation Plan Update 2024 was released for public review and comment at www.grand-island.com/giampo on October XX, 2023. The public comment period lasted for forty-five calendar days ending on December XX, 2023. An email notification was sent to resource agencies and interested parties about the public comment period on October XX, 2023. A press release was sent electronically to news sources in the Grand Island area on October XX, 2023. A public notice was published in the Grand Island Independent encouraging public comment on October XX, 2023.