



# 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan

## Chapter 15 | Public Participation Findings



Adopted: December 10, 2025



## WHAT IS IN THIS DOCUMENT?

This chapter outlines MetroPlan Orlando's Public Participation Plan (PPP) goals and objectives and discusses the work that was done to engage the community throughout the development of the 2050 MTP and measures that engagement against the metrics set in the PPP.

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## 15.1 The Public Participation Journey

### 15.1.1 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION DESTINATION (GOAL) FOR THE 2050 PLAN

#### PUBLIC PARTICIPATION GOAL

Establish a thorough, inclusive process that uses creative approaches to offer the public continuous opportunities to shape the 2050 Plan.



The Public Participation Goal for the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (2050 MTP or 2050 Plan) included four cornerstones that would be used to shape the objectives and strategies for community engagement.

**Thorough:** This part of the goal reflected the need to be comprehensive in how the community could access information and provide input.

**Inclusive:** Inclusiveness recognizes that the 2050 MTP will shape a three-county region, and emphasized the importance to go to out into the community to incorporate their feedback, particularly in areas of persistent poverty and/or transportation disadvantage.

**Creative:** The 2050 MTP offers the opportunity to use creativity to make complex concepts easier for the public to understand, as well as finding new ways and channels to reach them.

**Continuous:** By leveraging digital channels, the public should have an opportunity to become informed, and provide input, from the comfort of their own homes at a time that is convenient to them.

The full 2050 MTP Public Participation Plan can be found in Appendix L.

### 15.1.2 PLAN CONSISTENCY WITH 2024 ORGANIZATIONAL PPP

The 2050 MTP Public Participation Plan was drafted to be consistent with the 2024 Organizational Public Participation Plan, which guides public involvement across all MetroPlan Orlando activities.

Consistency with MetroPlan Orlando's Title VI Program: Nondiscrimination & Language Plan was also intended to avoid adverse impacts on members of our community while also being in compliance with federal and state requirements.

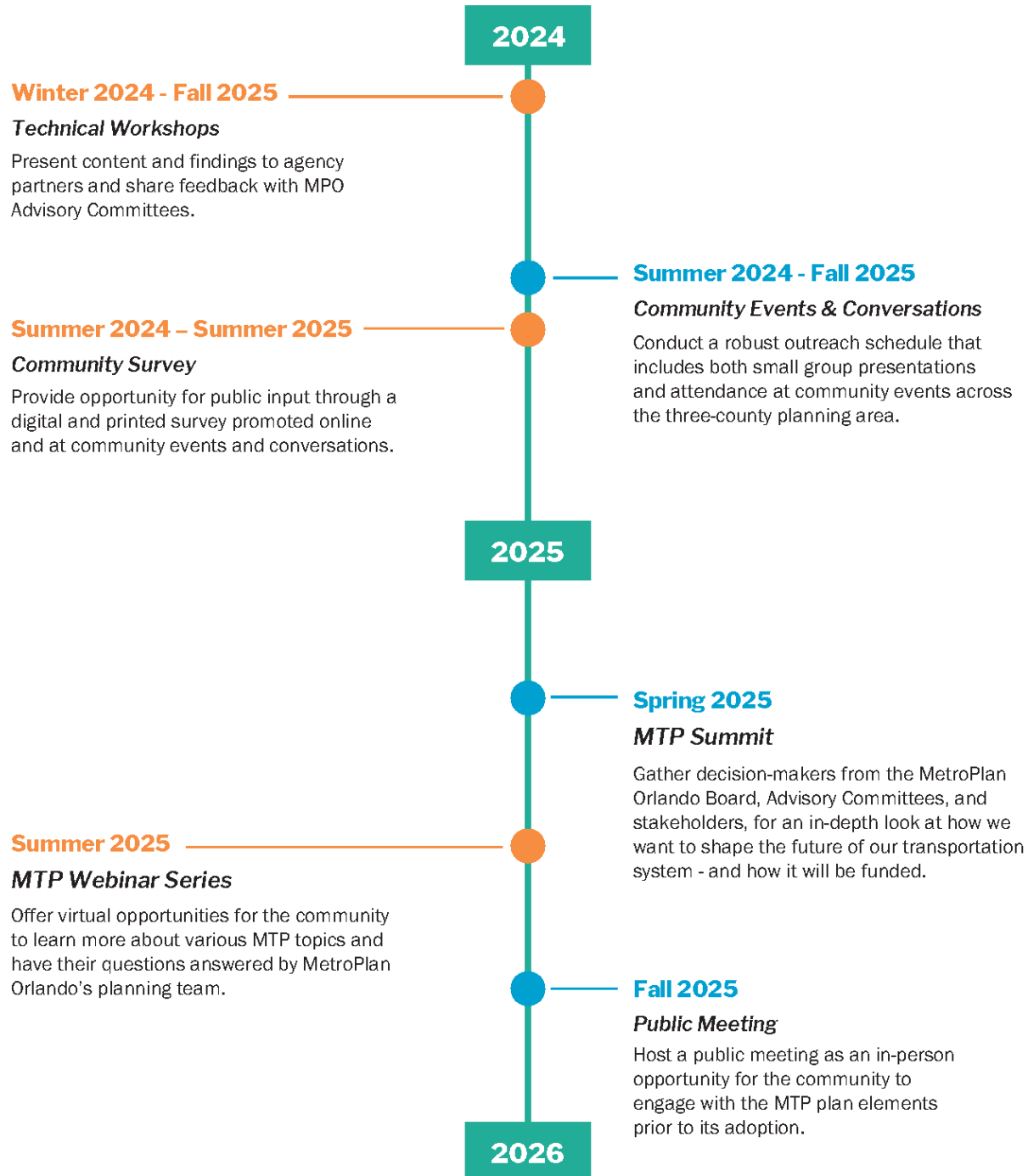
### 15.1.3 PARTICIPATION PLAN TIMELINE

Public input was collected throughout the entirety of the MTP's development from early 2024 through public comment made at the December 10, 2025 Board meeting at which time the plan was adopted. Strategic engagement opportunities were scheduled around key opportunities for public input to inform the planning process.

Once transportation funding and investment scenarios were identified in the spring of 2025, MetroPlan Orlando hosted the MTP Summit at which time stakeholders were convened to review funding scenarios and deliberate on their priorities.

In fall 2025, the MTP was made available for public comment, and a public meeting was held to give the community an opportunity to comment on the plan prior to its adoption in December.

# SCHEDULE OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ACTIVITIES FOR 2050 PLAN





## 15.2 How Public Input Helped Plot Our Course

The 2050 Metropolitan Public Participation Plan created opportunities for the public to be informed and engaged throughout the planning process to fulfill community involvement objectives.



Public input was collected through an intentional mix of public, stakeholder, and board engagement.

Feedback from local stakeholders was collected through interviews, technical workshops, and the MTP Summit. These touchpoints were planned to allow stakeholders the opportunity to provide their expertise and advise on different plan elements throughout the process.

Public engagement opportunities included the 2050 MTP Community Survey as well as over 40 outreach events and meetings that included schools, community organization meetings, resource fairs, festivals, and more. This mix of quality and quantity programming allowed the project team to give a wide range of voices the opportunity to provide input on what transportation investments were important to them.

While these approaches were different, insights from both the public and stakeholder activities were regularly reported to the MetroPlan Orlando Board and committees.

### 15.2.1 STAKEHOLDER AND BOARD ENGAGEMENT

#### 15.2.1.1 INTERDISCIPLINARY INTERVIEWS

Interviews with cross-sector subject matter experts informed the MTP with unique insights from fields including health, housing, freight, environmental assessments, and several other topics as described in other MTP Chapters. These interviews helped the project team better understand ancillary challenges that could be solved by more wholistic transportation planning.

### 15.2.1.2 MTP TECHNICAL WORKSHOPS

MTP Technical Workshop participants helped play an active role in shaping the 2050 MTP. Participants received regular updates on the development of plan elements and provided both their expertise and perspective from their respective organizations on all aspects of the MTP they were being developed. Eleven virtual workshops were held throughout the MTP process.

- February 8, 2024
- April 11, 2024
- June 13, 2024
- August 8, 2024
- October 17, 2024
- December 12, 2024
- February 13, 2025
- April 10, 2025
- June 12, 2025
- August 14, 2025
- October 9, 2025



### 15.2.1.3 2050 MTP SUMMIT

The 2050 MTP Summit was held at the Lake Mary Events Center. At this event, more than 100 participants representing the MetroPlan Orlando Board, Advisory Committees, and stakeholders, convened to evaluate draft funding scenarios and their potential impacts to transportation investment in Central Florida, and to provide recommendations to refine the funding scenario options.



Following a presentation that recapped completed MTP work, and explained potential funding scenarios, attendees participated in an interactive funding activity. This activity fostered conversation and debate among attendees as they had to collaboratively prioritize limited funding across several different investment categories. A group discussion following the activity provided valuable insights into how to distribute funding amongst various transportation modal categories.

Meeting materials, including the event summary, from the 2050 MTP Summit are included in Appendix M.

### 15.2.1.4 UPDATES TO METROPLAN ORLANDO BOARD AND COMMITTEES

Regular updates were provided to the MetroPlan Orlando Board and committees. Each status report included updates on ongoing work and progress to date, a review of the 2050 MTP schedule, and information about upcoming meetings and outreach events related to the MTP. Additionally, event reports for recent community events and Community Conversations were included to share insights that the project team gathered from the community regarding top MTP goal priorities, top transportation system changes, and funding.

MTP status update reports and presentations given at board and committee meetings can be found in Appendix M.



### 15.2.2 2050 MTP COMMUNITY SURVEY

The 2050 MTP Community Survey was distributed from August 2024 – July 2025 and was promoted at community events and community presentations in addition to being advertised digitally. To maximize participation, the survey was intentionally limited to three key questions:

- The 2050 Plan has five goals. Please rank these in order of importance to you. (1 is most important; 5 is least important.)
- What three changes to our transportation system do you think would make the biggest positive change?
- If \$100 could make transportation better in Central Florida, how would you spend it?

#### Results

Overall, 868 respondents participated in the 2050 MTP Community Survey.

We learned that each of the 2050 MTP goals was important to the community. **Safety** was at the top of most respondents' lists while **Connectivity** scored the highest overall for average placement on respondent's lists. Table 15-1 shows how each goal.

Table 15-1 | 2050 Plan Goals (2050 MTP Community Survey)

Goal	1	2	3	4	5
Community – Support public health and the environment	13.68%	16.04%	21.46%	28.18%	20.64%
Connectivity – Improve access to jobs and services for everyone	23.23%	29.13%	23.94%	16.51%	7.19%
Prosperity – Help our region's economy	6.01%	9.91%	18.04%	21.70%	44.34%
Reliability – Provide a dependable system for all types of transportation	21.70%	29.36%	20.87%	17.57%	10.50%
Safety – Work toward a system with no traffic deaths	35.38%	15.57%	15.68%	16.04%	17.33%

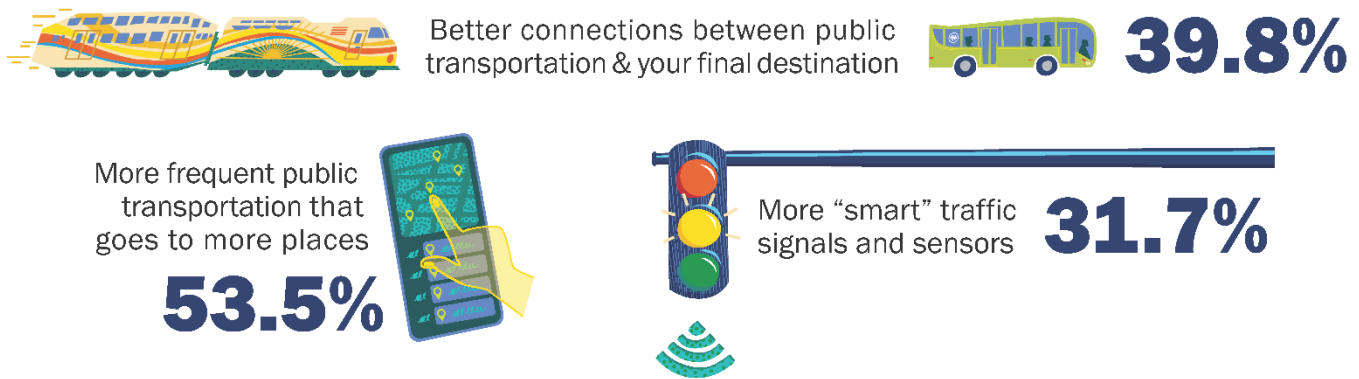
The survey also asked participants to choose their top three improvements that they thought would make the biggest positive change in the region. 13 choices were provided, including:

- More frequent public transportation that goes to more places
- Better connections between public transportation and your final destination
- Bus-only lanes for rapid (transit) service
- More bus stops with features like shade, seating, and lighting
- More physically-separated bicycle lanes
- Improvements to sidewalk connections
- Enhanced pedestrian crossings
- Expanded trail system
- More roads that are friendly to
- More “smart” traffic signals and sensors
- More mobile information about the best way to reach your destination
- Reduced speed limits
- More roadway lighting
- Other

Public transportation network was represented in both of the top two responses to questions about how to drive positive change to the transportation system. Survey respondents shared that “more frequent public transportation,” and “better connections,” were both desired. “More smart traffic signals and sensors,” was the third most frequent choice to appear in the community’s “Top 3” from a list of over 13 choices.

115 survey respondents selected “Other” as part of their “Top 3,” and wrote in a response. The wide-range of responses included location-specific improvements, considerations for land use and requests for both more, and fewer, toll roads. Transit was also a standout theme in the “Other” section with 17 mentioning bus or transit, 16 referencing SunRail, and 2 including Brightline.

Figure 15-1 | Top Transportation Improvements Desired (2050 MTP Community Survey)



Complete Community Survey results can be found in Appendix M.

### 15.2.3 COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

MetroPlan Orlando staff met with 15 community organizations to present information about the MTP and respond to questions or facilitate a discussion. 510 attendees were reached through these community conversations. Table 15-2 provides a listing of each community organization the project team met with.

Table 15-2 | List of 2050 MTP Community Conversations

Date	Community Conversation	County	Attendees
August 14, 2024	Eatonville Chamber of Commerce	Orange	15
September 18, 2024	UCF Urban Knights	Orange	30
September 25, 2024	Mayor’s Committee on Healthy Aging & Livability	Orange	15
November 20, 2024	Central-Northeast Florida Section of ITE	Regional	24
December 5, 2024	American Society of Highway Engineers Central Florida & Florida Engineering Society Holiday Gala	Regional	140

Date	Community Conversation	County	Attendees
February 20, 2025	Seminole County Council on Aging	Seminole	12
March 1, 2025	Greater Orlando Council of the Blind	Orange	15
March 6, 2025	Health Seminole Collaborative	Seminole	20
April 14, 2025	Orange County Disability Advisory Board	Orange	9
April 19, 2025	LYNX Fern Park Superstop	Seminole	25
May 1, 2025	Society for Marketing Professional Services (SMPS) Central Florida Annual Event	Regional	120
May 20, 2025	People of Clarcona-Ocoee Community Association Meeting	Orange	15
September 8, 2025	Hope Helps September 2025 Interfaith Coalition Meeting	Seminole	10
October 8, 2025	UCF Urban Knights	Orange	25
November 5, 2025	Pre-K Transportation Day	Orange	35

#### 15.2.4 COMMUNITY EVENTS

Community events provided opportunities for MetroPlan Orlando to bring information about the 2050 MTP to places where local communities gathered. Over 10,000 residents were engaged during these high touch opportunities for the project team. Event participants were encouraged to learn more about the plan and to provide input by taking the community survey. Event Reports can be found in Appendix M. Table 15-3 provides a list of events that project team members participated in.

Table 15-3 | List of 2050 MTP Community Events

Date	Community Event	County	Attendees
October 30, 2024	The Blind Experience	Regional	75
November 6, 2024	Lake Nona High School STEAM Fair (Lake Nona High School)	Orange	100
November 13, 2024	Seminole County Teach-In with Wicklow Elementary	Seminole	20
November 14, 2024	Transportation Disadvantaged Public Meeting	Regional	100
November 16, 2024	Bike Rodeo with Midway Elementary School	Seminole	100
December 19, 2024	Orange County Office on Aging	Orange	30
January 15, 2025	Lake Nona STEAM Night (Lake Nona Middle School)	Orange	200
January 25, 2025	Aerospace and Aviation Day (Orlando-Sanford International Airport)	Seminole	5,000
February 21, 2025	LYNX Central Station	Regional	100
March 22, 2025	Kissimmee Kowtown Festival	Osceola	2,000
March 28, 2025	City of Orlando Bike to Work Day	Orange	500
April 19, 2025	Orange County District 1 Safety Expo	Orange	250
June 25, 2025	Commissioner Cheryl Grieb's 2025 Community Resource Network Event	Osceola	100
July 24, 2025	Commissioner Brandon Arrington's Government Resource Fair	Osceola	200
August 2, 2025	Back to School Health Fair at Children's Safety Village of Central Florida	Orange	650
August 11, 2025	Women's Transportation Seminar Thirty, Visionary and Thriving: Reflecting on the Past, Driving Toward 2055	Orange	55
August 26, 2025	Seminole State Community Resource Fair	Seminole	300
October 15, 2025	The Blind Experience	Regional	75
November 4, 2025	Tabling with UCF's Puerto Rico Research Hub	Orange	25
November 5, 2025	Lake Nona High School STEAM Night	Orange	250

In addition to the Community Conversations and Community Events, MetroPlan Orlando staff also attended 19 meetings or events at which they distributed MTP-focused materials or promoted the MTP Community Survey or the MTP Public Meeting.

#### 15.2.5 2050 MTP WEBINARS

The 2050 MTP Webinar series consisted of three separate webinars hosted during the 12pm-1pm lunch hour. Following each webinar, a recording was placed onto the MetroPlan Orlando YouTube channel for additional viewing opportunities.

More than 180 people attended a MTP webinar and the recorded videos have received over 250 views. Information shared at each of these webinars, as well as audience questions and responses, can be found in Appendix M.

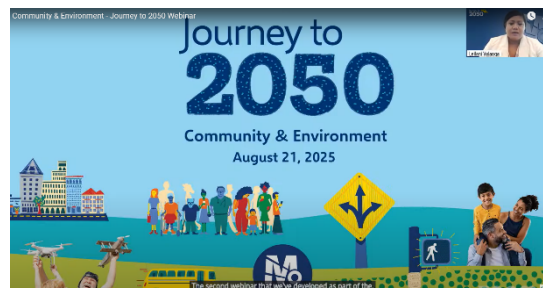
#### 15.2.5.1 FUTURE TECHNOLOGY AND TRENDS

The first webinar was held on July 24, 2025, and discussed the existing conditions in the region and areas of need including growth, congestion, housing, transit ridership, the economy, as well as environmental and safety concerns. It also examined drivers of change that impact the demands on the transportation network. These drivers included trends in population growth, public health and wellness, visitor patterns, and the economy.

This webinar also emphasized the role that technology plays in shaping transportation from changing trip patterns to the discovery of new solutions.

#### 15.2.5.2 COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT

The second 2050 MTP Webinar took place on August 21, 2025, and discussed community issues, including health and housing, as well as the environment and resiliency. Presenters discussed how each of these topics impact, and are impacted by, transportation planning choices.



#### 15.2.5.3 MULTIMODAL NEEDS

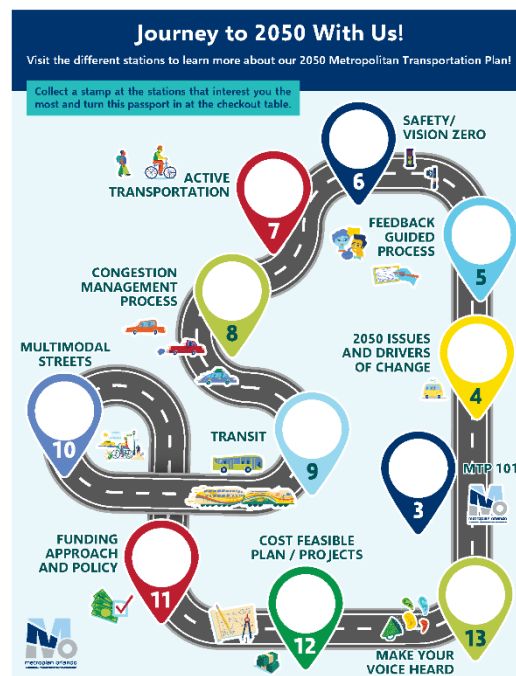
The final webinar was held on September 11, 2025, and presented MetroPlan Orlando's process of working with existing plans and projects, as well as local stakeholders, to assess the community's needs and incorporate them within the MTP. This webinar also explained how project costs are estimated. This brought the audience up to speed on the plan's then-current status as it neared adoption.

#### 15.2.6 2050 MTP PUBLIC MEETING

MetroPlan Orlando hosted a public meeting on September 29, 2025, at the Orange County Multicultural Center. The purpose of the meeting was to provide the community with an in-depth look at the MTP plan elements and to discuss the plan with the project team.

The meeting was held in an open house format with stations set up for each of the 2050 MTP elements. To encourage attendees to visit each station, an interactive "passport" game was provided to guests. The meeting also included family-friendly activities such as the MTP funding activity and children's activity books.

Public comments were collected through a feedback station. Five comments were collected during the meeting. Comment topics included connectivity between the Orlando International Airport and Brightline, the importance of safety in planning; the need for multimodal transportation options, and the benefits of the information shared at the MTP Public Meeting.







### 15.2.7 MTP PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD

The MTP Public Meeting also marked the start of the MTP public review and comment period. Comments were encouraged, and multiple ways to provide a comment were offered. This included:

- By Voicemail
- By Email
- By Mail
- In-Person

Comments received by November 21, 2025, would be shared with the MetroPlan Orlando Board prior to their adoption of the 2050 MTP. The community also had the opportunity to attend and make an in-person comment at any of the MetroPlan Orlando Board or Advisory Committee meetings through December 10, 2025.

### 15.2.8 ALIGNING POLICY WITH WHAT WE HEARD

The recommended 2050 MTP Funding Policy allocates the highest percentage of funding to High Injury Network Improvements (\$7.3M), which reflects community input stating that safety was the highest priority. \$6.2M in annual estimated Transit Capital allocations, placing it on par with other projects including TSM&O Improvements (\$6.2M), Context Sensitive/Urban Corridor Improvements (\$6.2M), reflects both the community's interest in connectivity and transit investments. MetroPlan Orlando increased the amount of money dedicated to these projects based on community feedback that was received throughout the plan development.




## 15.3 Rating the Trip: Journey Metrics

### 15.3.1 EVALUATION OF PLAN OBJECTIVES

Table 15-4 evaluates how the results of nearly two years of outreach and community engagement aligned with the Public Participation Plan objectives.



Table 15-4 | Evaluation of Objectives

Objective Success	Objective	Description & Target	Results
	Inclusive Engagement	Measured by public attendance at community events and public comments and feedback related to the 2050 plan received.	MetroPlan Orlando hosted and participated in events that reached an estimated <b>13,423*</b> community members.  The 2050 Community Survey received 868 responses.
	Community Events and Public Outreach	Create multiple opportunities for public involvement by hosting a variety of community events and implementing strategic public outreach efforts to raise awareness of key milestones during the development of the 2050 plan.	A partner and stakeholder summit was held with over 100 attendees.  Outreach was conducted at middle school, high school, and collegiate events. Additional family-friendly events were leveraged to reach a wider segment of the population.  The <i>Path to 2050</i> youth activity book was created to engage younger residents about transportation choices.  More than 40 in-person outreach events were held.
	Sharing Public Input with Decision Makers	Supply a continuous stream of public input on the 2050 Plan to decision makers by providing community outreach updates to MetroPlan Orlando's Board, committees, and through various communication channels.	More than 40 Board and Committee meetings included MTP status updates.  Public input was shared with participants at each of the 11 MTP Technical Workshop meetings.  More than 100 people gathered for the 2050 MTP Summit to seek input from decision-makers.
	Use of Plain Language & Visualization in Communications Tools	2050 Plan print and electronic materials will communicate MetroPlan Orlando's message in an effective, appealing way by using visuals (photos, illustrations, charts, etc.).	Media was provided in both print and digital content. In addition to being examined for plain language, products were tested for 508 compliance. Select materials were prepared in multiple languages including English, Spanish, and Haitian Creole.
	Digital Outreach (Website, Social Media & Video)	Provide digital engagement opportunities and transportation planning information through MetroPlan Orlando's website, social media channels, and online videos, achieving: a monthly average of 500 unique page views to the 2050 Plan section of the MetroPlanOrlando.gov	Social media was used to promote 2050 MTP events including the MTP Webinar series and the September 2025 public meeting. Social media content included both graphics and short-form video.  Results included: 58,000+ social media impressions 112 posts (did not meet goal) 12% engagement rate (exceeded goal)

Objective Success	Objective	Description & Target	Results
		website; a monthly total of 10 posts per month focused on the 2050 Plan, with 5% average engagement rate, and 1,000 cumulative views on 2050 Plan videos.	3,500 views on MTP-related videos (exceeded goal) 4,643 2050 MTP webpage views 1,860 unique users 284 page vies/month (did not meet goal)

## 15.4 Clearing a Path: Access to 2050 Plan

### 15.4.1 INVENTORY OF COMMUNICATION TOOLS

Communication tools used while implementing the 2050 MTP Public Participation Plan included:

- Surveys
- 2050 MTP Brochure
- Path to 2050 Youth Activity Book
- 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Draft Needs Viewer
- Constant Contact Emails
- PowerPoint Presentations
- Zoom (virtual meetings)

### 15.4.2 DEDICATED 2050 PLAN WEBSITE PAGE

A dedicated web page was created within the MetroPlanOrlando.gov website. This site contained links to current plan information as well as information on how to submit a public comment or other feedback. Plan documents and materials were published to this web page for public review as they were developed.

From August 1, 2024 to December 9, 2025, the 2050 MTP webpage garnered 4,643 page views from 1,860 active users. This amounts to an average of roughly 284 page views per month, which is below the target of 500 per month.


### 15.4.3 SOCIAL MEDIA AND VIDEO

MetroPlan Orlando leveraged its Facebook, X, and LinkedIn platforms to connect audiences to MTP information and public engagement opportunities. A combination of promotional graphics and short video clips were used to increase engagement on these channels.

MetroPlan Orlando currently operates four active social media channels: Facebook, X (formerly Twitter), LinkedIn, and YouTube. From August 1, 2024, to December 9, 2025, MTP-related content generated more than 58,000 impressions and achieved an average engagement rate of 12%. For a small local government agency, this is considered strong performance, and exceeded the engagement rate goal of 5%.

With a total of 112 posts related to the 2050 MTP, the goal of 10 posts per month was not met. This goal will be further evaluated to better reflect both staff capacity and the amount of non-MTP content also anticipated to be scheduled and posted.

During this period, MTP content emphasized key messages and calls to action through a mix of public outreach photos, reels, informational videos, webinar promotions, and infographics.



YouTube was also used to store and share recordings of live meetings and events, informational videos, and promotional video clips.

MetroPlan Orlando also garnered more than 3,500 views on 2050 MTP-related videos, surpassing the goal of 1,000 video views. 25 videos were posted to MetroPlan Orlando's YouTube channel about the 2050 MTP. This included:

- MTP Technical Workshops– full recordings from each of the MTP Technical Workshops held throughout the plan's development
- 2050 MTP Webinars - recordings of each of the three Summer 2024 MTP lunchtime webinars as well as short videos created to promote each webinar on social media
- The 2050 MTP Prioritization Methodology Working Session – a recording of the October 25, 2024 Working Session, including a presentation, breakout group reports, and public comment.
- Transit Vision Master Plan – a video presentation that provided a guide to public transportation in Central Florida over the next 25 years
- 2050 MTP Freight Planning Public Agency Virtual Meeting – a video recording of the July 11, 2024 public meeting presentation and public comments
- 2050 Plan Community Outreach – a video slideshow recapping public involvement around the 2050 MTP plan development
- Rewind: What Happened at the 2050 MTP Meeting – a video presentation recapping the September 29, 2025 MTP public meeting

Goals in the PPP were set for both outbound content created as well as for engagement. Engagement on MTP related posts is measured by gathering the total average engagement rates across all social media channels.

#### **15.4.4 OUTREACH TO TRANSPORTATION UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES**

The project team leveraged the “Transportation for All Network,” which includes over 100 stakeholders within Orange, Osceola, and Seminole counties. This multidisciplinary approach to engagement activated partners from the health, education, housing, food insecurity, disability, nonprofit, workforce development and tourism sectors. This Transportation for All Network helped bring the needs, and voices, of communities in the region that face daily limitations due to their ability or inability to access the transportation network.

##### **15.4.4.1 LANGUAGE CONSIDERATIONS**

The 2050 MTP brochure was translated into English, Spanish and Haitian Creole, and was used at outreach events. The 2050 MTP Community Survey was also available in Spanish. Outreach events were staffed with bilingual staff when possible.

The MTP written language guidelines, as well as MetroPlan Orlando's 2023 Brand Guide update, each required plan materials to meet accessibility standards.

##### **15.4.4.2 REACHING YOUNGER VOICES**

Engaging the youth was an important part of MetroPlan Orlando's strategy to bring new voices to the table. An activity book was developed that explained planning concepts in a way that children could easily understand. These books, along with educational items, were provided at community events to engage younger attendees. Additionally, a family-friendly activity station was included at the 2050 MTP Public Meeting.

Back to school Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics (STEAM) events at the high school and middle school levels aimed to increase participation among teens and young adults.



## 15.5 A look in the Rear-View Mirror

*Public Engagement Photos From our Journey to 2050*



Needs Assessment Webinar : Journey to 2050

### Our host and presenters



Leilani Vaiaoga  
Communications  
Specialist  
Host



Adriana Rodriguez, PE  
Senior Transportation Engineer  
Presenter

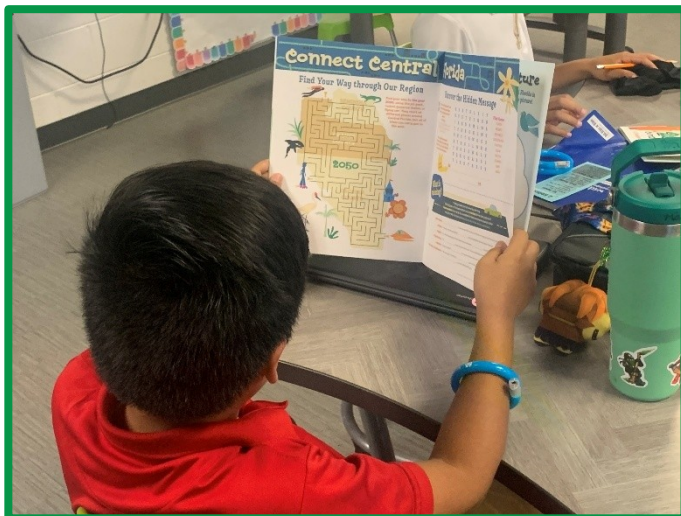


Lara Bouck, PE, AICP  
Manager of Project  
Development  
Presenter

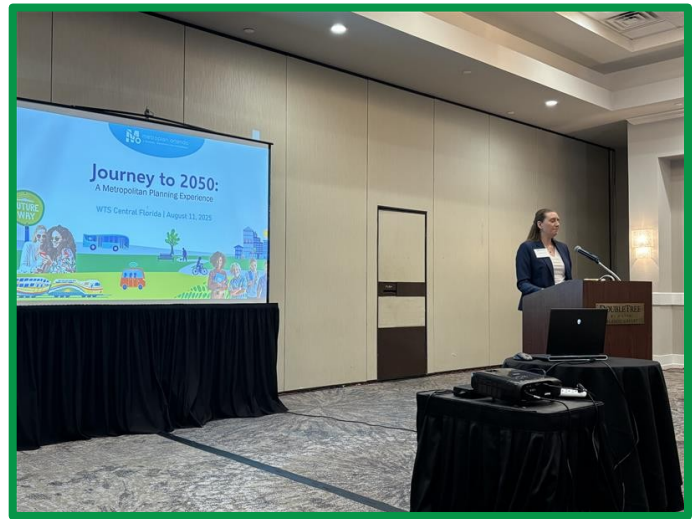


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