

## CHAPTER 7: PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Public involvement is an integral part of STIP development. Continual coordination between ODOT, MPOs, RTPOs, transit authorities, local governments, and other stakeholders through active public participation is an important element in STIP development. MPOs and RTPOs lead the development and public review of TIPs for their regions; while ODOT coordinates the development and public review of the STIP for Ohio counties outside of the MPO and RTPO boundaries.

[ODOT's Planning Program Public Involvement Process](#) outlines the procedures to be used for the STIP public involvement period. The 2021-2024 draft STIP public involvement period was held Monday, March 30, through Friday, April 10, 2020. Various forms of notification for statewide outreach were used to engage the public in the review of the draft 2021-2024 STIP including:

- Facebook posts: Along with the organic posts, ODOT placed an advertisement for statewide outreach on Facebook which reached 98,623 and resulted in 1,611 clicks.
- Twitter posts: Along with the organic posts, ODOT placed an advertisement for statewide outreach on Twitter which resulted in 288,352 impressions and 269 clicks.
- ODOT's webpage, Instagram, and Nextdoor Accounts
- Media Releases: Regional and Statewide Media Releases were sent out by the ODOT Office of Communications which reached over 8,700 constituents.
- Mailing Lists: ODOT's Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) mailing list and ODOT's Division of Opportunity, Diversity & Inclusion mailing list were used to reach over 10,600 transportation partners including County Engineers, City Engineers, Village Service Directors, Township Trustees, individuals in the consultant and business communities.

- Various Forms of Invitations: Regional invitations in the form of flyers, letters, and emails were sent by the ODOT Districts to local officials and transportation partners.

ODOT worked in a collaborative effort with the MPOs and RTPOs to ensure the STIP and TIPs were available for review and comment during the public review period and to provide timely responses to questions received. The ODOT STIP webpage provided an easily viewable draft STIP document with the opportunity to comment directly on the site. The site also provided an interactive webmap of the draft STIP projects, printable individual county maps with the draft STIP projects identified, and a Power BI Dashboard for the draft STIP which provided an interactive breakdown of funding by purpose, location, and year. The site also provided links to Ohio's MPOs and RTPOs websites to provide quick access to the regional TIPs. ODOT Districts were prepared with printed copies of the draft STIP and had a computer available should they be contacted by a constituent who did not have internet access. No requests for a printed copy of the draft STIP were received.

ODOT received forty-five comments electronically during the two week period. ODOT received no comments by mail. All comments were reviewed and provided timely responses. Additional public involvement documentation including the comments and responses can be found in Appendix 1.