



October 12, 2016

Metropolitan Planning Organization
Huntsville, Alabama
longrangeplanning@huntsvilleal.gov

RE: Public Participation Plan

Dear Ms. Colburn,

On behalf of the board of directors and volunteers of the Energy Alabama (EA), thank you for allowing stakeholders and the public to participate in and comment on the 2017 Public Participation Plan (Plan), for the Huntsville Metropolitan Transportation Planning Area (MPO). We also commend the MPO for its leadership on transportation issues in Alabama and for their willingness to respond to input from the public.

Position

We write today to summarize our support for the 2017 Public Participation Plan. As an organization interested in the accelerated deployment of sustainable energy in Alabama, we are pleased at the attention given to energy conservation and actions that inherently promote sustainability. We fully support the Plan in light of the following:

1. The willingness to update the Plan as needed
2. The breadth of public participation techniques and channels employed by the MPO
3. A clear, strong emphasis on the importance of public input and engagement
4. The use of visualization techniques to help the public better understand the MPO and proposed actions

Recommendations

1. The MPO would be served well by implementing ad-hoc support groups on specific topics of interest based on the needs of the MPO or emerging market trends. Examples of these groups include, automated vehicles or the electrification of transportation. Ad-hoc groups populated with relevant experts would help the MPO continue to stay ahead of transportation trends.
2. We would like to formally request Energy Alabama be added to the database(s) to receive MPO meeting notices or any other pertinent information.



Conclusion

We believe the above findings demonstrate the MPO's continued willingness to engage the public, accept input and lead the State of Alabama on transportation issues. Energy Alabama is appreciative of these engagement efforts and is eager to support the MPO's goals in energy conservation, efficiency and renewable fuels. Sustainability is a vital and growing part of any community's transportation planning and we believe the Plan's inclusiveness will lend itself well to these goals. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of additional assistance.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "D. Tait".

Daniel Tait
CEO