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TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH BOARD

TRB Committee on Environmental Analysis and Ecology Virtual Seminar

Webinar 2: Inclusive Virtual Public Involvement: The Future is Now?

August 12, 2020; 1:00pm – 2:30pm (EDT)

Draft Agenda

(Subject to change)

Registration is free but required. Only registered attendees will be provided with a link to access the webinar closer to the event.

Virtual Public Engagement has been slowly evolving for years. Over time, states have adopted aspects of online interaction with the public but wholesale virtual engagement has been rare. However, with the advent of the Covid-19 pandemic, in-person meetings were suddenly no longer an option. Agencies everywhere were forced to embrace the digital age whether they were ready or not. This also meant that the public has had to adapt as well. Conducting inclusive and accessible virtual public involvement can be especially challenging when working with traditionally underserved populations. This webinar will explore how virtual public involvement is catching up with the 21st century. Presenters will explore successes, failures, lessons learned, and visions of the future.

Moderator:



Erica L. Schneider, Assistant Environmental Administrator, ODOT, Office of Environmental Services

Erica has over 20 years of experience in cultural resources management and environmental project management. She currently oversees ODOT's NEPA Assignment program and NEPA document review, as well as, Public Involvement, Environmental Justice/Underserved Populations, Section 106, Section 4(f), Section 6(f), air quality, and noise analysis. Erica is a member of the TRB Standing Committee on Historic and Archaeological Preservation in Transportation (AME60) and the TRB Standing Committee on Environmental Analysis and Ecology (AEP70) and is actively involved in AASHTO's Standing Committee on the Environment and Sustainability

Speakers:



Jacque Annarino, Statewide NEPA Assignment & Public Involvement Coordinator, ODOT, Office of Environmental Services

As the Statewide Public Involvement Coordinator & NEPA Assignment Coordinator for the Ohio Department of Transportation's Office of Environmental Services, Jacque is responsible for development and oversight of statewide NEPA public involvement policies and procedures, as well as the review, preparation, and training (both development & delivery) for public involvement, environmental documentation, and other aspects of NEPA at ODOT. Jacque has more than 20 years of experience in contract administration, planning, and administrative

functions at ODOT. Prior to working with ODOT, she worked ten years in the private sector on a variety of roles. Jacque chairs the newly formed Public Involvement Workgroup under the AASHTO Environmental Process Subcommittee.



Rachel Pohnan, GIS Specialist/Environmental Planning, MS Consultants, Cleveland, Ohio

Ms. Pohnan graduated from Ohio State University in 2013 with a BS in Spatial Analysis. She has been an integral part of various transportation, municipal services, and environmental engineering projects. She is involved with work plan development, NEPA documents, field surveys, impact analysis, and graphics preparation. Ms. Pohnan is an experienced writer of environmental compliance documents for the public and private sectors. She also organizes, facilitates, and documents public involvement activities during the preliminary project design/approval process. She is an expert with geographic information systems, especially ArcGIS.



Theresa Townsend, CEO, Planning Communities, LLC

Teresa is a founding partner and Chief Executive Officer of Planning Communities, an urban planning and environmental socially responsible firm, and has been a leader in integrating geospatial sciences in community, transportation and environmental planning for more than 25 years. As a seasoned urban and environmental professional planner, she is known for her deep passion for creativity and love of data to understand social and environmental complexities. Foundational to her core beliefs in social and environmental responsibility, her work spans and is integrated across disciplines into key focus areas of community visioning, climate action plans, urban function and design, land use planning, smart cities, zero-emission vehicle (ZEV) infrastructure, urban greening to achieving equitable sustainable futures.