



Ozarks Transportation Organization

**October 2, 2009
News Release**

For Immediate Release

The Ozarks Transportation Organization is seeking input on its public participation process. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) requires every designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to maintain and update a Public Participation Plan (PPP). The Ozarks Transportation Organization, as the region's MPO, is responsible for this update. The PPP outlines the policies, objectives, and techniques used by OTO to achieve public involvement. As part of the PPP, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) requires MPOs to evaluate the effectiveness of their public involvement strategies. OTO is currently in the process of creating a comprehensive evaluation of its public outreach strategies and will be releasing a draft of its current PPP on November 2, 2009.

In an effort to evaluate and improve current outreach and participation strategies, OTO is seeking the input and feedback of interested parties. There are two ways of participating: by joining OTO's Public Participation Plan (PPP) Committee or by filling out a short survey.

If you would like to participate on OTO's PPP Committee, please reply by October 20, 2009. You may call (417) 836-5442, e-mail help@ozarkstransportation.org, or mail:

Ozarks Transportation Organization
117 Park Central Square, Suite 107
Springfield, MO 65806

The PPP Committee will provide input on public participation strategies and will review additional public comment regarding the Plan. The first meeting of the committee will be Tuesday, October 27, with the time and place still to be determined.

If you prefer to fill out a survey, please visit www.ozarkstransportation.org and follow the link on the home page. OTO is committed to confidentiality; therefore, all information provided will remain anonymous. Surveys should be completed by Monday, October 26, 2009 before 5:00 p.m.

If you have any questions or suggestions regarding this survey, please call (417) 836-5442 or email help@ozarkstransportation.org

For more information, contact Natasha Longpine, Planner, Ozarks Transportation Organization, 117 Park Central Square, Suite 107, Springfield MO 65806, 417-836-5442.

Si usted necesita la ayuda de un traductor del idioma español, por favor comuníquese con la Debbie Parks al teléfono (417) 836-5442, cuando menos 48 horas antes de la junta.

Persons who require special accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act or persons who require translation services (free of charge) should contact (Debbie Parks at (417) 836-5442) at least 2 working days of the publication notice.