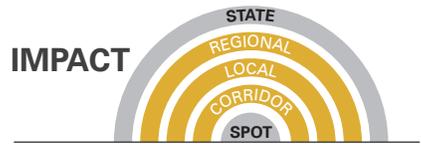




# CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEES



WHO



LEAD AGENCY

HURDLES



EQUITABLE REPRESENTATION

## SUCCESS STORIES

**TriMet, in Portland, Oregon,** has developed a strong committee structure for each major capital project. This structure bridges changes in leadership when projects move from the planning phases at Metro (the metropolitan planning organization) to the design and construction phases at TriMet (the transit agency).

## Implementation Issues

The primary issue with an advisory committee is ensuring that all interested parties are represented without making the group so large that it cannot function (generally no more than 20 to 30 members). Group dynamics may also hinder successful use. Stakeholders with opposing points of view may refuse to consider each other's ideas. Committees must also ensure that they are transparent, providing an open and clear process to the public, and that they are resourced properly.

**More Information:** [tti.tamu.edu/policy/how-to-engage-people](http://tti.tamu.edu/policy/how-to-engage-people)

## Description

A citizen advisory committee is a group of public stakeholders that meets regularly with transportation planners to closely collaborate on an issue or project. A citizen advisory committee represents the public by participating and providing input on transportation planning issues to agency partners.

Citizen advisory committees should include:

- Local stakeholders like business owners, residents, and interested organizations.
- Local transportation agencies.
- Other decision-making entities like school boards.

## Target Market

Citizen advisory committees are useful in the earliest stages of transportation projects. The committee makeup should ensure that all interests are properly represented. Agencies should be available to advise committee members on a project without interfering with their function.

## How Will This Help?

- **Builds working relationships and promotes collaboration** between agencies and committee members.
- **Allows for in-depth and technical discussions.**
- **Educates the public** on local transportation issues.
- **Ensures that the feedback** considered in the decision-making process of a transportation project **represents community interests.**

## CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEES ON THE SPECTRUM OF PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

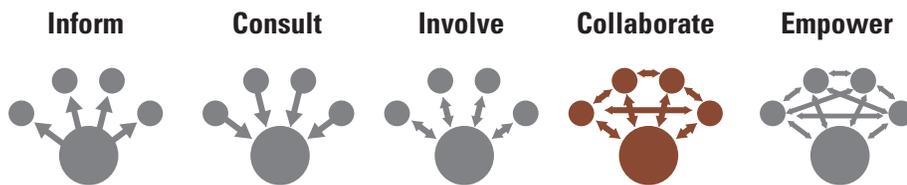


Figure 1. Spectrum of Public Engagement (Source: IAP2)

