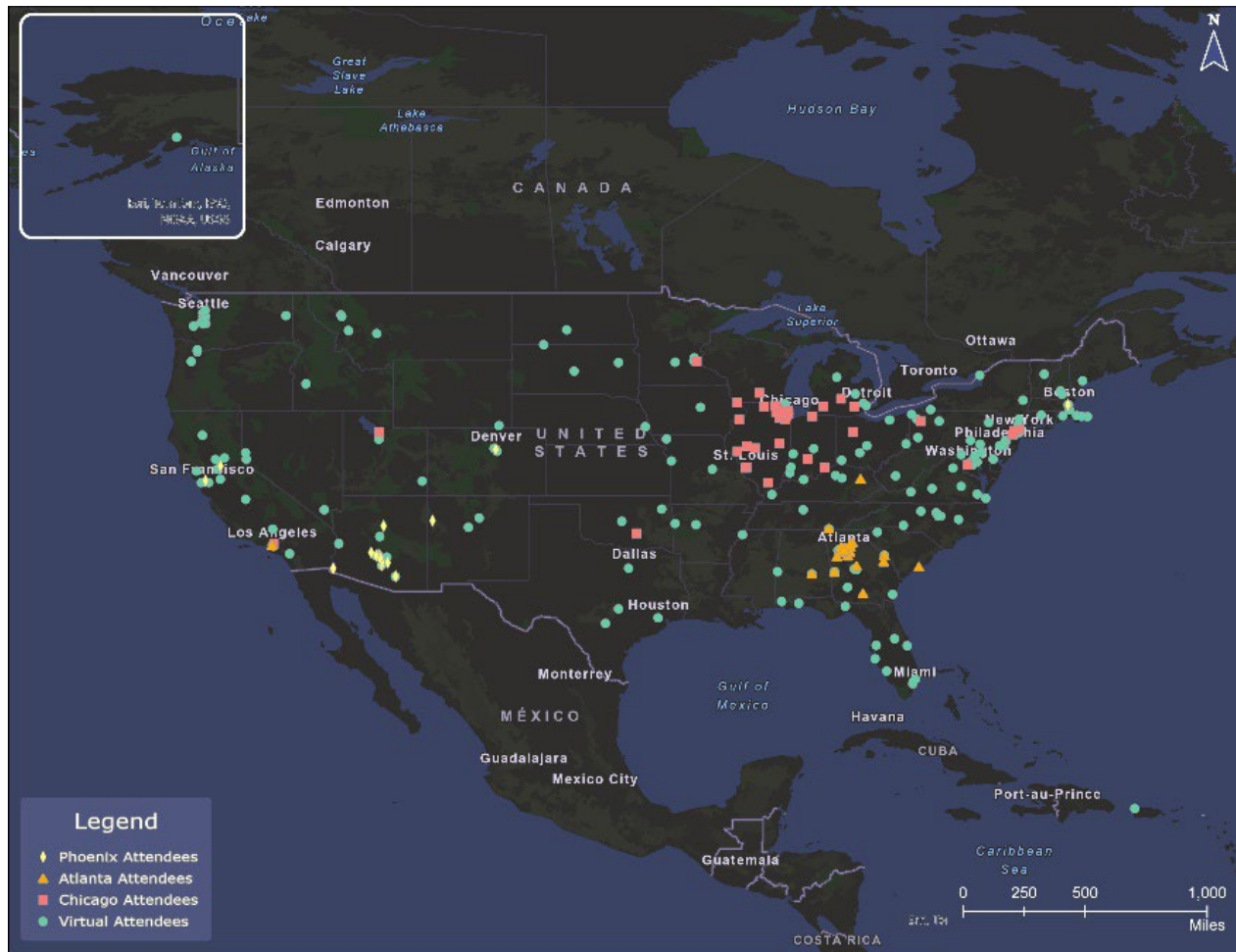


U.S. DOT Public Engagement Workshops

During the spring and summer of 2024, the U.S. Department of Transportation's Office of Public Engagement planned and hosted three in-person and one virtual public engagement workshops. The three in-person workshops took place in Phoenix, AZ, Atlanta, GA, and Chicago, IL. Combined, these four workshops brought together 643 transportation professionals, community leaders, and members of the public from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico to learn about best practices for ensuring meaningful public involvement in transportation projects, how the transportation decision-making process works, and how all parties can ensure the public's voice is heard and considered as transportation decisions are made.



ATTENDEES AT ALL PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT EVENTS

In-Person Workshop Summaries

Following welcome remarks and a presentation on making equitable transportation decisions, Transportation professionals and community leaders/members of the public each morning and afternoon breakout sessions relevant to their groups. Transportation professionals attended a session focused on effective ways to deliver public involvement and building organizational capacity to meaningfully engage with the public. Participants engaged in interactive exercises to practice what they learned and apply it to their contexts. In the afternoon session for transportation professionals, participants discussed the development of community participation plans, how to use federal funds for public involvement, and what metrics can be used to measure success.



**FHWA SENIOR EXECUTIVE PRESENTING ON THE TRANSPORTATION
DECISION-MAKING PROCESS & ADDRESSING CRITICAL GAPS**



**COMMUNITY LEADERS & MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC
LEARNING ABOUT THE TRANSPORTATION DECISION-
MAKING PROCESS**

Community leaders/members of the public attended a session that introduced the five steps of the transportation decision-making process – plan, fund, design, build, and maintain – and ways to be involved in each. Participants played an interactive game that helped them understand how everyone experiences the transportation system differently. In the afternoon, community leaders/members of the public participants explored how to navigate common transportation scenarios, such as asserting needs in a road project, adding or moving a bus stop, becoming involved with an airport runway project, and making a rail crossing work for their community. Participants discussed who to contact, when to get involved, what information they need to know, and what they need to consider.

In-Person Workshop Guest Presenters

During the in-person workshops, transportation professionals and community leaders from each region were invited to present on their meaningful public engagement activities and how the communities have their voices heard on transportation projects and plans. The projects/programs and presenting organizations are listed below.

Phoenix, AZ

- MOMENTUM 2050
 - Maricopa Association of Governments and Arizona Public Interest Research Group
- I-10 Wild Horse Pass Project
 - Arizona Department of Transportation and Gila River Indian Community
- Grand-35 Study
 - Arizona Department of Transportation

Atlanta, GA

- Airport Station Improvements Project
 - MARTA
- 2050 Regional Transportation Plan
 - Chattanooga-Hamilton County Regional Planning Agency and Chattanoogans in Action for Love, Equality and Benevolence
- The Stitch
 - Atlanta Downtown Improvement District, Alta Planning + Design, and Atlanta Downtown Neighborhood Association

Chicago, IL

- Transit is the Answer Coalition
 - Regional Transportation Authority
- Community Alliance for Regional Equity
 - Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, Northwest Center, Faith in Place, and Access Living
- Red Line Extension Project
 - Chicago Transit Authority and Greater Roseland Chamber of Commerce

Virtual Workshop Summary

This workshop was geared towards community leaders/members of the public (given that U.S. DOT was delivering [virtual public engagement trainings](#) for transportation professionals around the same time). Following welcome remarks, which included a video from Secretary Buttigieg, participants learned about how to make equitable transportation decisions. There was also an interactive activity where participants shared their own experiences with transportation, including barriers to getting around. Participants also heard about the Chicago Transit Authority's Red Line Extension from representatives of the Chicago Transit Authority and the Greater Roseland Chamber of Commerce, who had previously presented at the Chicago workshop. Participants also had the opportunity to ponder several transportation scenarios and ways to respond to them with an eye towards meaningful public involvement.