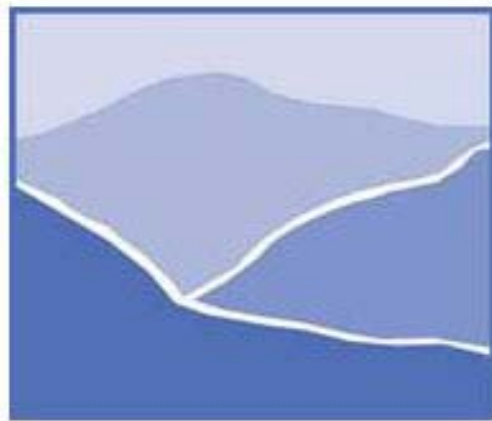


# **SOUTHWESTERN RURAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION**

## **Public Involvement Policy**



Updated October 2015

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## I. Introduction

### A. *Southwestern RPO*

#### 1. Overview

The Southwestern Rural Planning Organization (RPO) is the designated regional transportation planning entity for Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Jackson, Macon, and Swain counties in North Carolina. In an effort to create intelligent and sustainable transportation systems, the agency seeks to find ways of including the public in appropriate phases of planning. An effective public involvement process provides an open exchange of information and ideas between the public and transportation decision makers. Public Participation also includes education about the planning process and ongoing transportation projects. The SWRPO seeks public input with a diversity of techniques, including but not limited to public notices, comment periods, workshops, public hearings, newsletters, surveys, media relations, and the use of committees and work groups with citizen representatives as appointed. The techniques employed vary depending on the specific planning task. The information and data collected through such techniques serve as a blueprint throughout the planning process. The Southwestern RPO's Public Involvement Policy encompasses all RPO transportation planning and programming processes. These include the Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP), Prioritization Lists, the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), and the RPO's provisions for the American with Disabilities Act (ADA).

The Southwestern RPO will hold a 14-day public comment period for amendments to the Public Involvement Policy and will seek input and feedback on the RPO's public involvement efforts. It is expressly noted that update by Southwestern RPO staff of Appendix A (Stakeholders list) or Appendix B (Media Contacts list) is *not* considered amendment of the Public Involvement Policy and requires neither a public comment period nor the approval of the Technical Coordinating Committee nor the Transportation Advisory Committee.

#### 2. Purpose, Goals and Objectives

The purpose of the SWRPO Public Involvement Policy is to create an open decision making process whereby citizens have the opportunity to be involved in all stages of the transportation planning process. This policy is designed to ensure that transportation decisions will reflect public priorities. It seeks to promote an active role by the public in the development of transportation plans, programs, and projects from the early stages of the planning process to detailed project development. The RPO implements and designs a combination of different public involvement techniques to meet the diverse needs of the public.

The goals and objectives of the SWRPO Public Involvement Policy include the following:

- Bring a broad cross-section of the public into the public policy and transportation planning decision-making process.
- Maintain public involvement from the early stages of the planning process through detailed project development.

- Use different combinations of public involvement techniques to meet the diverse needs of the public.
- Determine the public's knowledge of the rural transportation system and the public's values and attitudes concerning transportation.
- Increase general understanding of transportation issues among citizens and elected officials.
- Make technical and other information available to the public.
- Establish a channel for an effective feedback process.
- Evaluate the public involvement process and procedures to assess their success at meeting requirements specified in the ISTEA, TEA-21, SAFTEA-LU, MAP-21 and the Interim FTA/FHWA *Guidance on Public Participation*.
- Carefully evaluate effectiveness of procedures used for public outreach and modify procedures following evaluation and public feedback.

### **3. Policy Elements**

The SWRPO's Public Involvement Policy is comprised of a number of sub-policies. All planning programs and activities go through the RPO Board public process. In addition, the RPO will initiate public involvement programs for Comprehensive Transportation Plans, transportation Prioritization, the Planning Work Program (PWP) and the RPO's provisions for Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The final component of the Public Involvement Policy is the policy review element designed to ensure that the programs are meeting their goals.

#### ***B. State Requirements***

The Public Involvement Plan has the following objectives as provided in N.C.G.S. §136-212:

- Develop, in coordination with NCDOT, transportation plans.
- Provide a forum for public participation in the transportation planning process.
- Develop and prioritize suggestions for projects that the organization believes should be included in the State Transportation Improvement Program.
- Provide transportation-related information to local governments and other interested organizations and persons.

## **II. Regular Public Involvement Opportunities**

#### ***A. TAC and TCC Meetings***

Both the Southwestern Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) and the Southwestern Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) hold advertised meetings on a regular schedule. These meetings are open to members of the public and, upon request, anyone can be placed on the mailing list for either committee. During each meeting, the TAC and TCC reserve time to receive public comments as a set part of their agenda. The public and concerned parties are welcome to provide public comment through telephone, email and in writing to RPO staff at any time. Meeting dates are established at the previous meetings and are posted on the website or are available by contacting RPO staff.

### ***B. Public Comment***

The TAC typically acknowledges public comments in one of several ways. The TAC may incorporate a summary of public comments and the RPO's response, as an appendix, into the specific planning document. Or, depending on the number of comments, the TAC may instruct the planning staff to respond directly by letter. Acknowledging public comments is a way to let the public know that its comments are being addressed and is part of the public involvement feedback process. RPO staff can separate requests for data submitted by the public from the public comments. RPO staff can respond to requests for data submitted by phone or in writing directly, without submitting those to the TAC for review. Where the distinction is not clear, RPO staff will present the comment to the TAC.

## **III. Public Involvement Toolkit**

### ***A. Identify and Build Relationships with Stakeholders***

In order to create and implement transportation plans with long-lasting benefits, appropriate stakeholders must be identified. RPO staff will seek to identify stakeholders that are critical to the success of a specific transportation plan or policy. RPO staff will create a Community Stakeholder Contact List. A Community Stakeholder is defined as any person or group that is affected by a transportation plan, program, or project, including those who may not be aware they are affected. In accordance with MAP-21, stakeholders will include “citizens, affected public agencies, representatives of public transportation employees, freight shippers, providers of freight transportation services, private providers of transportation, representatives of users of public transportation, representatives of users of pedestrian walkways and bicycle transportation facilities, representatives of the disabled, and other interested parties. Citizens include the general public, environmental health, neighborhood, citizen, and civic organizations, and traditionally underserved communities such as people with disabilities, and low-income, minority, and elderly citizens.

### ***B. Publicize SWRPO Activities***

Activities of the SWRPO will be advertised by utilizing various media and social outlets. These activities may include distributing press releases to the media, inviting the media to regular TAC and TCC meetings, posting public involvement activities on the RPO website, and presenting drafts of plans at social events. RPO staff will develop publicity strategies appropriate to the scope and timeframe of the specific project or plan. Articles, news releases and/or media alerts will be disseminated to announce public review and comment periods for Comprehensive Transportation Plans and other major activities. A current list of media outlets such as mainstream local radio stations, newspapers, and small community-based publications will be established and maintained; the current list is available in Appendix B.

### ***C. Partner with Outreach Professionals***

In an effort to maximize public involvement, RPO staff may collaborate with outreach professionals as needed. Such professionals have long-standing relationships with the public and are aware of the various concerns expressed by the citizens they represent. Utilizing their resources to publicize RPO events and programs will promote increased levels of public participation. Presentations will be made to interested civic

organizations on Southwestern RPO activities, the transportation planning process in general, or specific transportation projects. Presentations will be made by Southwestern RPO staff and/or NCDOT staff.

Public Outreach activities will include efforts to involve traditionally underserved groups (i.e., minorities, elderly, low-income persons) in the transportation planning process. These efforts may include, but not be limited to, the following:

- Identifying areas in the Southwestern RPO region with concentrations of minority, elderly, and low income populations
- Including organizations that deal directly with minority groups on the Stakeholder List
- Posting notification of meetings, public hearings, and open houses in county health departments and senior centers
- Publishing notification of meetings, public hearings, and open houses in Spanish

#### ***D. Outreach to Non-Participating Minority, Low-Income, Limited English-Proficiency and Low-Literacy Populations***

RPO staff will create and periodically update a Community Stakeholder Contact List. Community Stakeholder Contact List will include neighborhood liaisons and representatives of organizations serving the populations historically underrepresented in the transportation planning process including minority, low-income, Limited English Proficiency and Low-Literacy Population. RPO staff will consult with the Community Stakeholders on the list on methods and opportunities to better publicize transportation planning efforts and opportunities for public input in the future.

#### ***E. Develop an Outreach and Education Program***

Public involvement is at its best when the general public is thoroughly informed of the complex issues surrounding a project. Such outreach also includes informing the public and other agencies about the roles and responsibilities of the RPO. When necessary, the RPO will develop outreach and educational programs to inform various parties of the public involvement process for a particular project or to provide technical framework. English and Spanish materials will be a part of this program. Adequate outreach also includes taking different meeting times and locations into consideration in an effort to reach a diverse cross section of the affected population.

#### ***F. Maintain Website***

The SWRPO website is a tool that provides timely information to the public. Various Transportation plans are accessible through our website in conjunction with additional resources. Interested parties also have the ability to access updates on the status of specific plans and projects, along with the time remaining within public comment periods. The website provides dates of upcoming meetings and public involvement opportunities. Anyone can access the SWRPO website at <http://www.regiona.org/rpo/>

#### ***G. Create and Maintain New Forms of Technology and Media***

RPO staff seek to utilize all available forms of media in an effort to increase public involvement. Government agencies are taking advantage of progressive and interactive media formats to communicate with citizens. Strategies to encourage public input may include social marketing mediums such as Facebook, Twitter and

blogs. Such mediums are not a required aspect of each transportation public participation plan, but efforts to include them will be made when deemed appropriate.

### ***H. Hold Open Houses and Information Workshops***

RPO staff may decide to hold open houses to provide the public with information regarding the transportation planning process, or to provide further information about a plan prior to a public hearing. These open houses are informal and allow the public to engage with the material in a relaxed format. The format may include but is not limited to maps of projects, PowerPoint presentations, and surveys. RPO staff will be available to facilitate questions from the public or organization representative. Open houses also provide an opportunity to expand the RPO mailing list. Information workshops are topic specific and conducted on an as-needed basis. These workshops are informal and allow RPO staff to gain immediate feedback that may be incorporated in a transportation plan.

### ***I. Provide for Public Input at SWRPO meetings***

Formal RPO business is conducted during TAC and TCC meetings. RPO TAC and TCC meetings allot time for public comment. These public comments are documented and become a part of the meeting minutes. In the event that the public is unable to make comments during a meeting time, comments may be submitted in written, verbal or electronic form.

### ***J. Conduct Surveys***

Surveys and focus groups allow RPO staff to directly collect feedback from the general public. Strategies for disseminating surveys will consider differences in language and technology access among affected citizens. Some methods may include inserting surveys in water or power bills, and providing links to surveys on government websites. RPO staff may also gather small groups of citizens to create focus groups that will provide feedback regarding a specific topic or transportation plan. The composition of a focus group may include residents of an affected neighborhood.

## **IV. Public Involvement Structure**

### ***A. Open Meetings***

All RPO Committee meetings will be open to the public and subject to the North Carolina Open Meetings Law. All materials presented during RPO Committee meetings will be public record and made available for review at the Southwestern Commission office. Copies of archived records can be made available upon request.

### ***B. Access by Persons with Disabilities***

All RPO meetings will be held in facilities that are accessible to people with disabilities.

### ***C. Adequate Notice***

The SWRPO will provide at least a week notice to citizens and media outlets of meetings in Accordance with North Carolina Open Meetings Law. Meeting notices will be posted on the SWRPO website and publicized during SWRPO events.

### ***D. Public Comments***

Public comments may be submitted in a number of ways. The SWRPO will accept comments in writing, through email, by fax, with TTY (teletypewriter) or TDD (telecommunications device for the deaf), verbally at a public meeting, or during an RPO public outreach opportunity.

## **V. Implementation Plan**

### ***A. Comprehensive Transportation Plan***

#### **Minimum Transportation Plan Public Involvement Procedure**

The Southwestern RPO will provide opportunity for meaningful public involvement in the development and update of the Comprehensive Transportation Plan. The public comment period will be for a minimum 30-day period, effective from the date of the public notice publication. Written comments will be received during the comment period and will be directed to the SWRPO. The SWRPO will assemble all comments and forward them to the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC). At least one public hearing for the Comprehensive Transportation Plan will be held. The availability of the Plan will be publicized using the media resources provided in Appendix B.

#### ***Purpose of Public Involvement Process***

The purpose of the public involvement policy is to develop and implement strategies to inform and involve citizens in the development and update of the Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP). Public ownership of the Transportation Plan is critical to its success; the goal of the program is to ensure that policy decisions will reflect the values, needs, and priorities of those affected by the decisions (i.e. the public). The public review and participation process is designed to provide adequate opportunities for citizens and public officials to be involved in the CTP development. The public participation is designed to provide gradual progression from the general information (such as vision setting and / or formulation of goals, objectives and policies) pertaining to the plan to specific information regarding alternative scenarios and plan selections. Each public forum or input technique will use information collected at previous "forums" in order to build progression concluding with the adoption of the Transportation Plan.

#### ***Objectives***

- Encourage citizens to take a proactive role in the development of Transportation Plans.
- Bring a broad cross-section of members of the public into the public policy and transportation planning decision-making process.
- Educate the public and elected officials in order to increase public understanding of both the options and constraints of transportation scenarios.



- Determine public concerns and/or perceived impacts of Transportation Plan elements.
- Determine which elements of the Comprehensive Transportation Plan would support or diminish the citizens' desired lifestyle.
- Establish a channel for an effective feedback process.

### ***B. Optional Public Involvement Techniques (Comprehensive Transportation Plan)***

As a method for increasing public involvement and participation in the process, the public involvement for the CTP may also include any or all of the following techniques:

- Information dissemination, notification of meetings and publication of proposed plans will be integral elements of the public involvement process.
- Proactive participation techniques may be employed to involve citizens and provide fuller access to information and technical data on the Transportation Plan. These techniques may include, but not be limited to, public meetings/hearings, surveys, focus groups, newsletters, public service announcements, charrettes, transportation advisory group, mass media, etc.
- Public meetings may be held to formulate a vision for the Transportation Plan development, provide the public background information on the rural transportation system and other issues as well as the proposed framework of the Transportation Plan update process, and to receive citizen input.
- Public meetings (forums) designed to solicit public comment may be held at various locations around the county or RPO area to encourage the greatest public participation. Public meetings should be held at a location which is accessible to persons with disabilities and preferably located on a transit route.
- Copies of the draft Transportation Plan will be distributed to the member jurisdictions and posted on the Southwestern RPO website. Notification of the draft Transportation Plan may be provided through various media outlets.
- The notification will inform the public of the availability of the draft Comprehensive Transportation Plan for review and comment where to send written comments, and addresses and phone numbers of contact persons. The notices also will include an announcement that states that persons with disabilities will be accommodated. Special provisions will be made if notified 2 business days in advance (i.e. having available large print documents, audio material, someone proficient in sign language, a translator, or other provisions as requested). Additionally, the notice will inform the public that copies of the draft Transportation Plan are on file for public review at the Southwestern Commission office..
- The public comment period will be for a minimum 30-day period, effective from the date of the public notice publication. Written comments will be received during the comment period and will be directed to the SWRPO. The RPO's contact person, phone number and e-mail address will be included in the public notice.
- Any significant revisions to the Comprehensive Transportation Plan will also be subject to a public comment process as described in this policy.
- Involvement of the public in key decision points may be desirable. Decision points are those stages where the TAC may consider endorsement of the work in progress or take action on particular work elements. These may include some of the following:
  - Formulation of vision, goals and objectives
  - Review of multi-modal goals and elements
  - Review and approval of socio-economic and demographic projections
  - Review and determination of transportation deficiencies

- Evaluation of alternatives and selection of preferred option
- A local government, SWRPO, and the NCDOT Transportation Planning Branch may occasionally agree to amend a Comprehensive Transportation Plan, in order to update the plan to reflect changed conditions or to better reflect transportation needs. Minimum public involvement procedures for Transportation Plan amendment include:
  - Posting a copy of the proposed amendments on the SWRPO website
  - Publicizing the proposed amendment and request for public input through local media outlets
  - Holding a public review and comment period for a minimum of 30 days
  - Upon completion of a 30-day public review and comment period, a public hearing will be held at or prior to the TAC meeting prior to final Comprehensive Transportation Plan amendment(s) approval

### ***C. Prioritization and Programming***

#### **1. Public Involvement Process**

##### **Transportation Project List:**

- The Southwestern RPO solicits a list of local priorities for transportation improvements from the TCC and TAC representatives in each member jurisdiction.
- The Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) will hold a public meeting on the project list and take official action to approve the list. TAC and TCC meetings are open to the public. Public comments can be made at all meetings. The public meeting will be held at a location which is accessible to persons with disabilities.
- The approved final project list will then be posted on the SWRPO website. The list is then submitted to NCDOT Strategic Prioritization Office of Transportation (SPOT) for scoring and consideration in the Prioritization process.

##### **Southwestern RPO Local Methodology for Prioritization:**

- RPO Staff will work with a Methodology subcommittee to develop a Draft Local Methodology for Prioritization.
- The Draft Local Methodology for Prioritization will be subject to a 14-day public comment period. Written comments will be received during the comment period and will be directed to the SWRPO. The RPO's contact person, phone number and e-mail address will be included in the public notice.
- A public hearing will be held the final day of the public comment period, or during the first TAC meeting after the public comment period, to receive public comments on the local prioritization methodology. The public meeting will be held at a location accessible to persons with disabilities.
- The TAC will take official action after considering public comments.
- The Final Local Methodology for Prioritization will be posted on the Southwestern RPO website and submitted to NCDOT.

##### **Local Point Allocation**

- Once all projects are scored by the SPOT office, RPO Staff will coordinate with NCDOT, TCC and TAC members to develop a draft local point allocation.
- The TAC will hold a public meeting on the draft local point allocation with a public comment period.
- The TAC will take official action after considering public comments. The public meeting will be held at a location which is accessible to persons with disabilities. The final project prioritization methodology will then be posted on the RPO website.

### **Comments on Draft STIP**

- After local points are applied, final scores are calculated and projects are programmed for funding in the 10-year Draft State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).
- The State shall produce a draft STIP and provide a subset of that document to the RPO. Copies of a draft STIP will be posted on the SWRPO website and distributed to TCC and TAC members. The TCC will review the draft STIP and make comments to the TAC. The TAC will review draft STIP and make comments, if appropriate.
- This will be conducted in a regularly scheduled meeting. Public comments are accepted at all regularly scheduled meetings.

## ***D. Planning Work Program (PWP)***

### **1. Introduction**

The PWP must identify the RPO planning tasks to be undertaken with the use of federal transportation funds, including highway and transit. The purpose of public involvement in the PWP process is to keep the public apprised of and to receive input on the planning activities to be undertaken by the Rural Planning Organization.

### **2. Public Involvement Process**

- The TAC and TCC meetings are open to the public and comments may be received at this time.
- The SWRPO compiles a draft Planning Work Program for the upcoming State fiscal year, considering tasks requested by local government members.
- The draft Planning Work Program is reviewed by the Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC). The TCC meetings are open to the public. The TCC then endorses a draft PWP and forwards the document to the TAC.
- The draft PWP is then reviewed by the TAC. Public comments may be provided at this time. The draft is sent to the Public Transportation Division for comments.
- The final PWP comes back again to the TAC for approval. Upon TAC approval, the PWP is then forwarded on to the State.
- Amendments to the PWP, when required, are administered similarly to approvals of new PWPs, with the same Public Involvement Process as described above.

## **VI. Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Provisions**

All notices for planning activities of the Southwestern Rural Planning Organization will include an announcement that states that persons with disabilities will be accommodated. Special provisions will be made if notified 2 business days in advance (i.e. having available large print documents, audio material, someone proficient in sign language, a translator or other provisions requested). Notices for the public comment period and the public hearing will be advertised using the media list described in

Appendix B. Public meetings will be held in locations accessible to persons with disabilities and will be located near or on a transit route if possible. SWRPO staff will utilize the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services database of sign language interpreters in our region to secure a sign language

interpreter for a scheduled meeting upon request. Currently the database is available at <http://www.ncdhhs.gov/dsdhh/directories.htm>

## **VII. Title VI Plan**

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin in programs and activities receiving Federal financial assistance. Specifically, Title VI provides that “no person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance” (42 U.S.C. Section 2000d). The SWRPO adheres to the Public Involvement Policy for Title VI-related issues and includes the Title VI Plan in this document by this reference.

## **VIII. Limited English Proficiency Plan**

This Public Involvement Policy was developed to guide SWRPO in its public outreach and compliance with Executive Order 13166, Improving Access to Services for Persons with Limited English Proficiency (2000) and is included in this plan by this reference.

## IX. Appendices

### *A. Appendix A: Stakeholders*

#### **Local Governments**

Cherokee County  
Town of Andrews  
Town of Murphy  
Clay County  
Town of Hayesville  
Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians  
Graham County  
Town of Fontana Dam  
Town of Lake Santeetlah  
Town Robbinsville  
Jackson County  
Town of Dillsboro  
Town of Forest Hills  
Town of Sylva  
Town of Webster  
Macon County  
Town of Franklin  
Town of Highlands  
Swain County  
Town of Bryson City

#### **Educational**

Carolina Christian Academy, Hayesville  
Cherokee Central School  
Cherokee County Schools  
Clay County Schools  
Grace Christian Academy, Bryson City  
Graham County Schools  
Heritage Christian Academy, Sylva  
Jackson County Schools  
The Learning Center!, Murphy  
Macon County Schools  
Mountain Discovery Charter School, Bryson City  
Mt Nebo Christian Academy, Robbinsville  
Murphy Adventist Christian School  
Refuge Christian School, Murphy  
Summit Charter School, Cashiers  
Swain County Schools  
Southwestern Community College  
Tri-County Community College  
Trimont Christian Academy, Franklin  
Victory Christian School, Sylva

Western Carolina University

**Chambers of Commerce**

Andrews Chamber of Commerce  
Cashiers Chamber of Commerce  
Cherokee Chamber of Commerce (EBCI)  
Cherokee County Chamber of Commerce  
Clay County Chamber of Commerce  
Franklin Area Chamber of Commerce  
Graham County Chamber of Commerce  
Highlands Chamber of Commerce  
Jackson County Chamber of Commerce  
Swain County Chamber of Commerce

**Economic Development Commissions**

Cherokee County Economic Development Commission  
Clay County Economic Development Commission  
Graham County Economic Development Commission  
Jackson County Economic Development Commission  
Macon County Economic Development Commission  
Swain County Economic Development Commission  
Mountain West Partnership

**Tourism Development Authorities**

Cherokee County Tourism Development Authority  
Clay County Travel & Tourism  
EBCI Destination Marketing  
Graham County Travel & Tourism  
Franklin Tourism Development Authority  
Jackson County Travel & Tourism  
Macon County Tourism Development Commission  
Swain County Tourism Development Authority

**Regional Organizations**

Mountain Resource Center  
Region A Smart Start  
Smoky Mountain Mental Health  
Southwestern Child Development Commission  
Southwestern Commission  
Western NC Transportation Alliance (Freight)

**Community Development**

Andrews Valley Initiative  
Clay County Communities Revitalization Organization  
Coweec Community Development Organization, Macon County  
Graham Revitalization and Economic Action Team  
Heritage Partners of Cherokee County  
Mainstreet Sylva Association

**Transportation Advocacy**

Corridor K Coalition

Jackson County Smart Roads Alliance  
WaysSouth

**Limited Government**

9-12 Project, Cherokee County  
Mountain Patriots, Macon County

**Conservation**

Hiwassee River Watershed Coalition  
Land Trust for the Little Tennessee  
Watershed Association of the Tuckasegee River

**Disadvantaged, Senior, and Minority Communities**

Area Agency on Aging, Southwestern Commission  
DisAbility Partners, Inc  
Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians  
John Welch Senior Center, Marble  
Latino Outreach Solidaridad, Franklin  
Office of Economic Opportunity  
One Dozen Who Care, Inc  
Snowbird Senior Center, Robbinsville  
Texana Community Center, Murphy

**Public Transportation Providers**

Cherokee County Transit  
Cherokee (EBCI) Transit  
Clay County Transportation  
Graham County Transit  
Jackson County Transit  
Macon County Transit  
Swain County Transit

**Pedestrian and Bicycle Groups**

Don Kostelec, local Board member, NC Active Transportation Alliance  
Southern Appalachian Bicycling Association  
WCU Cycling Team

**Airports**

Jackson County Airport  
Macon County Airport  
Western Carolina Regional Airport, Andrews

**Rail**

Great Smoky Mountains Railroad

**Taxicab Companies**

City Taxi, Franklin  
Scott's Taxi Service, Franklin  
Yellow Cab Company, Murphy

***B. Appendix B: Media Contacts***

**Newspapers**

<b><u>Paper Name</u></b>	<b><u>Address</u></b>	<b><u>City State ZIP</u></b>	<b><u>Phone</u></b>	<b><u>Email</u></b>
The Cherokee Scout	P.O. Drawer 190	Murphy, NC 28906	(828) 837-5122	news@cherokeescout.com
The Smoky Mountain Times	P.O. Box 730	Bryson City, NC 28713	(828) 488-2189	news@thesmokymountaintimes.com
The Graham Star	P.O. Box 69	Robbinsville, NC 28771	(828) 479-3383	news@grahamstar.com
Macon County News	110 Highlands Road	Franklin, NC 28734	(828) 369-6767	into@themaconnews.com
Clay County Progress	P.O. Box 483	Hayesville, NC 28904	(828) 389-8431	news@claycountyprogress.com
Cashiers Crossroads Chronicle	P.O. Box 1040	Cashiers, NC 28717	(828) 743-5101	news@crossroadschronicle.com
The Andrews Journal	P.O. Box 250	Andrews, NC 28901	(828) 321-4271	news@theandrewsjournal.com
The Sylva Herald	P.O. Box 307	Sylva, NC 28779	(828) 586-2611	news@thesylvaherald.com
The Highlander	150 N. 5 <sup>th</sup> Street	Highlands, NC 28741	(828) 526-4114	news@highlandsnews.com
The Franklin Press	P O Box 350	Franklin, NC 28744	(828) 524-2010	classifieds@thefranklinpress.com
The Smoky Mountain News	P.O. Box 629	Waynesville, NC 28786	(828) 452-4251	news@smokymountainnews.com
The Cherokee One Feather	PO Box 501	Cherokee, NC 28719	(828) 554-6264	jeanjone@nc-chokeee.com
Asheville Citizen-Times	PO Box 2090	Asheville, NC 28802	800-800-4204	news@citizen-times.com

**Radio Stations**

<b>WCNG, Murphy</b>	<b>WKRK, Murphy</b>	<b>WBHN, Bryson City</b>	<b>WNCC, Franklin</b>	<b>WRGC, Sylva</b>
<b>WCVP-AM, Murphy</b>	<b>WCVP-FM, Robbinsville</b>	<b>WFSC, Franklin</b>	<b>WHLC, Highlands / Cashiers</b>	<b>WCQS, Asheville</b>