

# VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETING

## Description

Virtual public meetings are an innovative method of encouraging public participation and soliciting feedback regarding transportation projects. It is a cost effective approach with the ability to attract a larger audience than a regular public meeting. Virtual meetings are particularly beneficial for individuals who would not typically have the time, transportation, or inclination to attend a regular public meeting. Furthermore, web-based meetings can provide an opportunity for people to submit comments anonymously. Virtual public meetings should display project information in a meaningful way on a website that is easy to navigate. This format allows for as much or as little participation as a person may desire.



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<b>Cost:</b>	<b>Moderate</b>
<b>Time:</b>	<b>Long</b>
<b>Impact:</b>	<b>Local/Region</b>
<b>Who:</b>	<b>Lead Agency</b>
<b>Hurdles:</b>	<b>May Exclude Some</b>

## Target Market

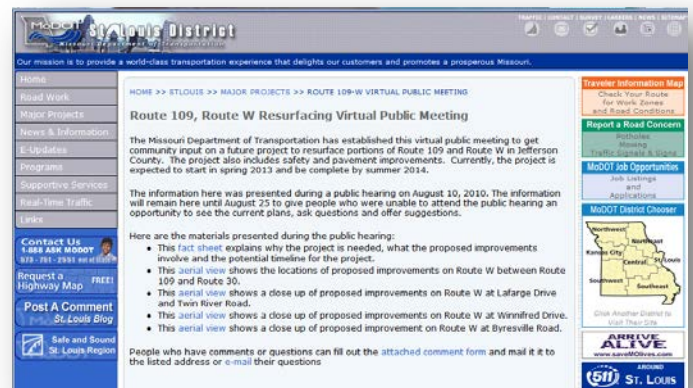
This outreach method is effective during all phases of a project or program when coupled with regular public meetings. Virtual public meetings extend the reach of citizen engagement by enabling individuals to access meeting materials at their convenience. The information provided in a virtual public meeting setting should be consistent with the information provided at a regular public meeting.

## How Will This Help?

- Provides an opportunity for a large number of individuals to participate at the same time.
- Allows individuals to anonymously participate in the decision-making process.

## Success Story

Missouri Department of Transportation is one of the first public agencies to successfully host virtual public meetings. They are used in addition to regular public meetings as a means to engage a larger audience, as well as provide an opportunity for public comments.



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## Implementation Issues

Virtual public meetings must be closely monitored by project staff to ensure that comments received are of real value and that questions are answered in a timely manner. It is necessary to ensure participants feel their comments are valid and will be heard. Current administrative procedures may limit the recording of comments received through a website or virtual public meeting.

For more information, please refer to: <http://mobility.tamu.edu/mip/strategies.php>.