

The Daily Citizen, Dalton, GA

May 8, 2009

MPO begins long range transportation planning, public meeting set

Submitted by the North Georgia Regional Development Center

The Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for Dalton-Whitfield County has initiated the preparation of a Long Range Transportation Plan for the year 2035. Essential to the development of this plan is the collection of opinions, issues and concerns of local citizens regarding traffic flow and other transportation concerns within the metropolitan area.

Before the adoption of the transportation plan, the MPO will hold the first of a series of three public meetings on Tuesday, May 19, at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of Dalton City Hall.

To effectively inform citizens and obtain citizen input during this approximate one-hour meeting, facilitators will provide map displays, information handouts and survey forms regarding the plan. After a brief presentation of the purpose and scope of the plan, a question and answer session will be conducted to provide an opportunity for attendees to express their concerns.

This meeting will be followed by a progress report meeting in October 2009 and a public hearing in March 2010 to review a draft of the plan prior to MPO approval in the spring of 2010.

The plan, with a horizon year of 2035, sets a primary goal of promoting the effective movement of people and goods while supporting land use and economic goals of the region. The plan will outline proposed improvements for roads, transit, bikeways, sidewalks, air transportation and freight movement.

For more information, contact Matt Tucker, transportation planning coordinator, at (706) 272-2300. Information will be available on the NGRDC Web site, www.ngrdc.org, about this meeting.