

**Madison Athens-Clarke Oconee Regional
Transportation Study (MACORTS) / ACC Transit Department
Limited English Proficiency Plan & MACORTS Participation Plan Amendment
Frequently Asked Questions**

What is the purpose of this public comment period ?

MACORTS is asking for public input on the Draft Limited English Proficiency Plan for MACORTS and the Athens-Clarke County Transit Department (ACC Transit) and the MACORTS Participation Plan Amendment. The Limited English Proficiency Plan provides an analysis of the non-English speaking populations in Athens-Clarke County and the MACORTS region. It outlines measures taken to ensure that non-English speakers are not excluded from the transportation planning process or from the services provided by the Athens Transit System. The Participation Plan outlines how MACORTS will interact with the public in general.

What does it mean to have ‘Limited English Proficiency’ ?

It means that a person does not possess the ability to read, write, speak, or understand English.

Why does the Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Plan have to be done ?

Under federal legislation, the LEP Plan is required for MACORTS, the local governments of the member counties, and the ACC Transit to remain eligible for federal transportation funding. Agencies that receive federal funding must demonstrate and document that MACORTS and ACC Transit have considered the needs of those in their jurisdiction that have limited English proficiency. This plan will show that reasonable steps have been taken to ensure LEP persons have not been denied service, benefit, or participation in agency activities.

What has changed in the MACORTS Participation Plan?

In the Introduction (p.1), some of the federally mandated language was updated to read “The MACORTS public participation process for the development of the TIP meets the Federal Transit Administration’s (FTA) public participation requirements related to the development of the Section 5307 Program of Projects.”

How long is the public comment period ?

Comments will be taken for 45 days, from December 3, 2018 – January 16, 2019.

How do I comment on the Draft Limited English Proficiency Plan and/or the Draft Participation Plan ?

Copies of the public materials can be found at the Planning Department offices in Athens, Watkinsville, Danielsville, on the MACORTS website (www.macorts.org), and on the ACC Transit Department's website (www.accgov.com/transit). Comments will be taken in person, at the public meetings, by e-mail, U.S. mail, or through the MACORTS website.

Address:

Athens-Clarke County Planning Dept.
Attn: MACORTS
120 W. Dougherty Street
Athens, GA 30601

Phone: 706-613-3515
(Sherry McDuffie or Cherie Varnum)
Email: macorts@accgov.com

Are there any public meetings associated with this public comment period ?

Yes, there will be 3 public meetings conducted concerning these documents. These meetings will be open format with staff available to answer questions and receive public comment. There will not be a formal presentation. They are listed below:

Madison County, Danielsville Public Library – Public Room
Tuesday, December 4, 2018 – 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm

Athens-Clarke County Multimodal Transportation Center
Monday, December 10, 2018 – 4pm to 6pm

Oconee County Veterans Park – Meeting Room
Tuesday, December 11, 2018 - 5pm to 7pm

What will happen to my comments ?

They will be reviewed by both the MACORTS Technical Coordinating Committee and Policy Committee and incorporated into the documents, where possible. The Policy Committee makes the final determination on the approval and content of the Limited English Proficiency Plan and Participation Plan.

Will the public see the Final Limited English Proficiency Plan and/or the Final Participation Plan ?

Yes, after the Policy Committee approves the documents, they will be available at the Athens-Clarke County Planning Dept. or on the MACORTS website (www.macorts.org). There is a translation button on the MACORTS website that will allow translation into several languages.