

The Power of Public Participation

Paul L. Burgé

Acentech Incorporated - Cambridge Massachusetts

Phone: (617) 499-8012

E-mail: pburge@acentech.com

This presentation discusses the significance of the public participation process in transportation projects, with a particular emphasis on noise issues. It presents various strategies and tools used in public involvement tasks to gauge public opinion effectively, and to inform and educate concerned citizens, neighbors and policy makers. The goal is to allow these parties to understand project objectives and constraints better and to play more effective roles in the public decision-making process. The specific tools discussed include informational materials, geographic information systems, tutorial sessions, and acoustical demonstrations.