Creating a Regional Culture of Community Engagement

International Association of Public Participation's Public Participation Spectrum

by Department of Environment and Primary Industries

The International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) has developed a spectrum model displaying a 5-stage route from Inform to Empower which can be applied to all kinds of community and stakeholder engagement. The following stages are outlined in the following order: Inform, Consult, Involve, Collaborate, and Empower. IAP2 breaks down each stage into the following sections: Public Participation Goal, Promise to the Public, and Example Tools.

IAP2 asserts that while informing the public and stakeholders of various issues, policies and developments is key to community engagement, simply informing yields low levels of public impact. By completing the steps through the spectrum individuals, communities, and stakeholders served have an opportunity to witness their ideas, feedback, and goals come into fruition.

INCREASING LEVEL OF PUBLIC IMPACT ➤

Inform	Consult	Involve	Collaborate	Empower
Public Participation Goal				
To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the issues, alternatives and/or solutions.	To obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decisions.	To work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered.	To partner with the public in each aspect of the decision, including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution.	To place final decision-making in the hands of the public.
Promise to Public				
We will keep you informed.	We will keep you informed, listen to and acknowledge concerns and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will work with you to ensure that your concerns and aspirations are directly reflected in the alternatives developed and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will look to you for direct advice and innovation in formulating solutions and incorporate your advice and recommendations into the decisions to the maximum extent possible.	We will implement what you decide.
Example Tools				
• Fact sheets • Websites • Open houses • Town halls (to report out)	• Public comment • Focus groups • Surveys • Public meetings (for input)	• Workshops • Deliberate polling	• Citizen advisory committees • Consensus-building • participatory decision-making	• citizen juries • ballots • delegated decisions

Adapted from IAP2's Public Participation Spectrum

British Columbia Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform

In 2004, 160 citizens were selected at random throughout British Columbia, Canada, to produce and recommend changes to their current electoral system, forming the Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform. This group met every other weekend for a year and collectively created a new system based on the values of fair results, local representation, and voter choice. On May 17, 2005, British Columbians were asked to vote on whether or not, "British Columbia should change to the BC-STV electoral system as recommended by the Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform?" Although the STV proposal did not pass, it highlighted a major move to involved citizens in the political process.

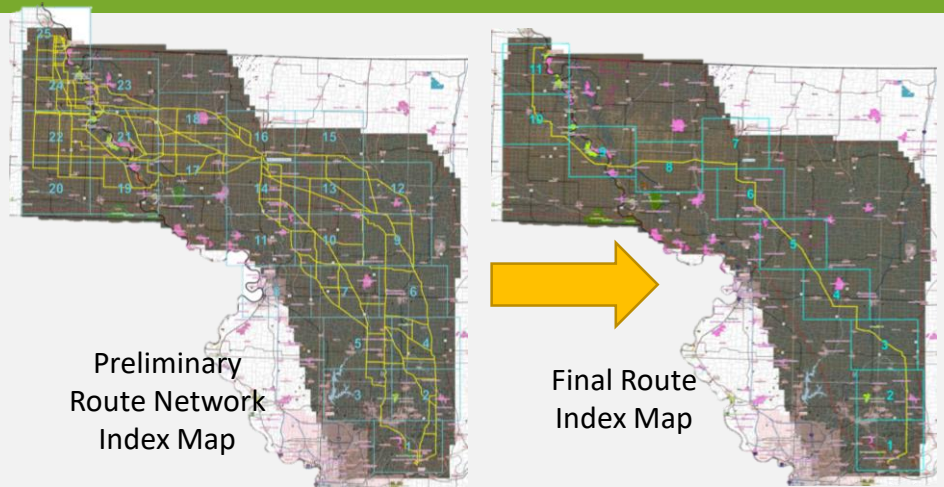## Variations of Institutional Design for Empowered Deliberation   *by Carolina Johnson and John Gastil*

This article describes what it looks like to engage and empower deliberation by opening up discussion within a decision-making body to the general public as opposed to containing the conversation within a select few elite. This method allows the public to weigh in on policy decisions, ideally implementing arrangements which will make a lasting impact. By providing opportunities for the general public to voice opinions, concerns and ideals leading to impactful policy decisions. The four main categories include:

- Embedded authority takes place when deliberation is existing and integrated within current established networks, jurisdictions, and agents.
- Autonomous authority exists in an area where established authorities are limited, and the space of deliberation is non elite and representative of the general public.
- Provisional authority is an agreement reached by a deliberative body that requires subsequent approval in order to become law or formal policy.
- Final authority is a decision made by a deliberative body that needs no further approval, therefore can be immediately implemented after the decision has come to fruition.

The Midwest Transmission Project

The Midwest Transmission Project was established to provide the region with an alternate route for efficient delivery and reduce the current amount of congestion. The project team created a list of routing criteria that was presented to members of the impacted areas where potential routes would be built. The project received zero interveners at the Missouri Public Service Commission hearing. The preliminary and final route is pictured to the right.

Preliminary Route Network Index Map

Final Route Index Map

LOCAL SPOTLIGHT

Participatory Budgeting in St. Louis's Sixth Ward

Participatory budgeting allows community members to decide how they want to spend parts of public budget on varying project proposals that they create. St. Louis is just the third city in America to utilize this process, and Alderwoman Christine Ingrassia first introduced it to the 6th ward. Project proposals have included funding for the following: mobile security cameras, additional streetlights, restroom renovations, additional bike lanes, new landscaping, new medians, and so on.

http://www.stltoday.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/st-louis-ward-residents-to-decide-how-to-spend/article_7a54ed73-78e4-5f34-b369-c88ef8e74964.html