

Reading #4: Citizen Involvement

Again this reading is a Top Down approach of methods to get citizens involved in the planning process. The first method is to educate the citizens on the planning process, there are government available planning books that do this. Next is notification and information mainly supplied by mailings. Next is to group citizens into panel are advisory groups. Thus providing public meetings and workshops such as a design charette. Additionally it is possible to create alternative approaches to planned projects. Once opinions are made, documented and even incorporated, the public hearing is a way to finalize the input on public participation. Then it comes time for accountability techniques such as distributing the wording of project plans to groups or citizens for editing that would be submitted into referendums or for judicial reviews. Finally with alternatives such as formal mediation or arbitration, the use of ombudsman, or with the use of the long-ballot approach.