ABSTRACT

The United States government process is open to the public, allowing the public to be involved with decisions that will shape their lives. Professionals still dominate the planning process and make the final decisions which shape government policy. Citizens who participate in the planning process would like to feel as if the final decisions are shaped by their input.

The research design for this study was a cross sectional, relationship study to determine the relationships between perceived effectiveness of public input, access and availability of information, understanding of the process, setting and timing, fairness of the process and onsite participation. The results of this study prove that the public who participate in master planning processes feel as if their input is used by the professionals who make the final decisions.