

Chapter 2

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The development and refinement of the goals and objectives was an important first step in the preparation of the 2035 Metropolitan Transportation Plan. The goals and objectives serve as a broad framework to guide the planning process in the identification of efficient and effective short and long range transportation strategies, decisions, and investments. Described goals and objectives may also be used as measures of the effectiveness of the transportation plan.

It should be noted that some of the stated goals and objectives may conflict with one another. This situation is to be expected and reflects the realistic conflicts, trade-offs and choices which must be weighed by policy makers in the course of the transportation decision process.

The goals and objectives were developed using the 2030 Metropolitan Transportation Plan objectives and the SAFETEA-LU planning factors in a consultation process involving Technical Committee, Policy Committee, and Citizen Advisory Committee input. To keep the planning process dynamic, the 2035 Metropolitan Transportation Plan will be updated or amended as needed every four years as required by the current federal transportation legislation. Under SAFETEA-LU and continuing legislation, the metropolitan planning process shall be continuous, cooperative, and comprehensive, and provide for consideration and implementation of projects, strategies, and services that will address the following factors:⁴

1. Provide a Surface Transportation System Which Promotes the Efficient Movement of People, Goods, and Services, While Enhancing Economic Development.
2. Provide a Safe and Secure Transportation System.
3. Increase the Accessibility and Mobility Options Available for People, Freight and Services.
4. Improve Quality of Life of All Citizens by Protecting and Enhancing the Environment; Promote Sustainability and Livability Through Consistency Between Transportation Improvement and Local Planned Growth, Land Use, and Economic Development Patterns.
5. Enhance the Integration and Connectivity of Different Transportation Modes for People and Freight.
6. Promote Efficient System Management and Operations of a Multimodal Transportation System.
7. Emphasize the Preservation of the Existing Transportation System.

⁴ Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users, 49 CFR Part 613 Title 23 Sec. 450.306: Scope of the metropolitan transportation planning process.

1. Goal: Provide a Surface Transportation System Which Promotes the Efficient Movement of People, Goods, and Services, While Enhancing Economic Development.

Objectives:

- Provide for the efficient and effective movement of people, industrial, commercial and agricultural goods and services.
- Encourage transportation system improvements that support employment opportunities.
- Account for existing and planned land use impacts on transportation network.

2. Goal: Provide a Safe and Secure Transportation System.

Objectives:

- Provide a surface transportation system that is safe through best engineering practices.
- Include appropriate methods to enhance the security of the surface transportation system.
- Improve public transit system safety and security.
- Encourage educational efforts to improve motorized and non-motorized user behavior and the joint use of the transportation system.
- Support the enforcement of laws that promote a safe transportation system.
- Develop and maintain programs that identify and respond to transportation safety issues.
- Reduce response time for emergency service vehicles.

3. Goal: Increase the Accessibility and Mobility Options Available for People, Freight and Services.

Objectives:

- Provide transportation opportunities to people who are transportation disadvantaged.
- Maintain and expand public transportation components of the transportation system.
- Improve/expand bikeway/pedestrian facilities on the transportation system.
- Reduce the number of restricted bridges and culverts that connect to industrial/commercial/agricultural centers.
- Increase the number of all-season roads that connect to industrial/commercial/agricultural centers and routes.
- Accommodate freight movers in transporting materials and finished products while minimizing adverse impacts to residential areas.
- Encourage the development of freight centers that interconnect rail and truck movements.

4. Goal: Improve Quality of Life of All Citizens by Protecting and Enhancing the Environment; Promote Sustainability and Livability Through Consistency Between Transportation Improvement and Local Planned Growth, Land Use, and Economic Development Patterns.

Objectives:

- Minimize increases in vehicle miles of travel.
- Increase use of modes other than single occupant motor vehicles through public transit, ridesharing, and nonmotorized usage.
- Minimize the impact of transportation projects on historic/archaeological sites and/or districts, sensitive habitat for flora and fauna, prime agricultural lands, woodlands, wetlands, and other natural resource areas.
- Reduce on-road mobile source emissions affecting air quality.
- Incorporate methods to improve the water quality of direct storm sewer discharge into natural surface waters (streams, rivers, lakes, ponds, and wetlands).
- Provide accessibility to cultural, educational, historic, and recreational facilities.
- Minimize and/or mitigate any disproportionate impact of transportation projects on the transportation system within residential areas and to traditionally transportation disadvantaged populations.
- Encourage the development of policies and programs (Complete Streets) that promote context-sensitive highway design that preserves communities and scenic, aesthetic, and other human and natural resources.
- Promote livability best practices by incorporating all users in the transportation system.

5. Goal: Enhance the Integration and Connectivity of Different Transportation Modes for People and Freight.

Objectives:

- Increase connectivity between all modes of the transportation network.
- Provide linkages to inter/multimodal transportation components.

6. Goal: Promote Efficient System Management and Operations of a Multimodal Transportation System.

Objectives:

- Minimize the capital and operational cost of transportation projects.
- Include provisions for non-motorized facilities where appropriate for road and other transportation projects.

- Encourage congestion management techniques to reduce congestion and delays.
- Encourage coordinated countywide land use planning that is integrated with the planning of transportation projects.

7. Goal: *Emphasize the Preservation of the Existing Transportation System.*

Objectives:

- Preserve functional integrity and capacity of the transportation network.
- Maintain non-motorized facilities so that they may be used effectively.
- Preserve the structural integrity of the transportation system through the management systems.
- Provide an adequate capital equipment replacement program to assure reliability and minimize maintenance costs for the public transportation service providers.