

Chapter 2

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The development of goals and objectives was an important first step in the preparation of the 2030 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 2025 Transportation Plan goals, objectives, and SAFETEA-LU planning factors in a consultation process involving Technical Committee, Policy Committee, and Citizen Advisory Committee input. In order to assure that the planning process serves a more dynamic function reflecting a current framework to guide this process, the 2030 Transportation Plan will be updated every four years as required by the current federal transportation legislation. Under SAFETEA-LU, 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) Support the economic vitality of the metropolitan area, especially by enabling global competitiveness, productivity, and efficiency;
- (2) Increase the safety of the transportation system for motorized and non-motorized users;
- (3) Increase the security of the transportation system for motorized and non-motorized users;
- (4) Increase accessibility and mobility of people and freight;
- (5) Protect and enhance the environment, promote energy conservation, improve the quality of life, and promote consistency between transportation improvements and State and local planned growth and economic development patterns;
- (6) Enhance the integration and connectivity of the transportation system, across and between modes, for people and freight;
- (7) Promote efficient system management and operation; and
- (8) 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.

The 2030 Transportation Plan's Goals and Objectives were modified from the 2015 and 2025 Long Range Plans for the Kalamazoo metropolitan area to reflect Environmental Justice and non-motorized issues that have gained increasing importance in Kalamazoo County. KATS will continue to work so that the various elements of Environmental Justice are addressed during the implementation of this plan. Involving non-motorized users in the planning process of roadway improvements gives another point-of-view to the development of a better transportation system.

The following goals and objectives were adopted by the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study Policy Committee in November, 2004. These goals and objectives address the SAFETEA-LU planning factors.

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 nonmotorized 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 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: Protect and Enhance the Environment, Promote Energy Conservation, and Improve Quality of Life of All Citizens.

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 that promote context-sensitive highway design that preserves communities and scenic, aesthetic, and other human and natural resources.

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.
- Consider land use development changes and its impacts on the transportation network.
- 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.
- Maintenance of 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.

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