

Tri-County Regional Planning Commission

2045 Regional Metropolitan Transportation Plan

Goals and Objectives

Adopted March 22, 2017

One of the initial steps in the development of the TCRPC 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) process is to develop goals, objectives, and performance measures. Goals generally define a desired result, or outcome, while objectives support a specific goal and provide additional details, or strategies, on how the goal will be achieved. Performance measures are typically tied to each objective and are used during the project evaluation, or scoring process, to assess the effectiveness of policies and multimodal projects to address future year transportation issues and deficiencies. The results of the evaluation process help prioritize projects that best support the overall MTP vision

Goals and objectives are extremely useful in the planning process as they provide the necessary direction and basic framework upon which future decisions can be made. The goals and objectives of the TCRPC MTP will contribute strongly to the selection and evaluation of alternatives in the transportation system. As goals embody a desired state of affairs to be realized through future efforts, the transportation goals and objectives embraced by TCRPC will affect an overall design for the 2045 MTP. These goals and objectives also influence the development of the short range Transportation Improvement Program, and indeed are meant to guide the entire regional transportation planning process.

The goals and objectives of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan are revisited with each MTP development cycle and are developed by the TCRPC Transportation Committees and adopted by the full TCRPC. Several of the goals and objectives are more specific than the final MTP conclusions can support. However, this specificity will become important during subsequent studies which will be completed after the MTP is adopted. It may appear that some of the goals and objectives compete or conflict with each other. This occurs because the list that is presented below is comprehensive in nature and is designed to accommodate several different types of situations. When applying these goals and objectives to any effort, regional decision-makers will need to find balance between different goals and different objectives. **The goals and objectives are not ranked or listed in order of importance.**

Applicable policy statements related to the goals and objectives will be developed and listed in an Appendix of the final MTP. The policy statements are intended to provide the structure and guidelines for transportation planning in the region. In addition, the

policy statements improve the overall transportation planning practices currently in use in the area. The combination of the MTP goals, objectives, and policies will help guide the implementation of the 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan.

Vision Statement

The 2045 MTP establishes a vision of how the future multimodal transportation system will serve the people and businesses of Clinton, Eaton and Ingham counties. The vision statement, adopted by the TCRPC may appear as follows:

“With an engaged community, equitably provide and maintain a sustainable multi-modal transportation system for the safe and efficient movement of people and goods throughout the Tri-County region. Enhance the connectivity within the region by establishing an economically, environmentally, and socially sustainable transportation system that offers viable travel choices, enhances public health, and fosters regional inter-jurisdictional cooperation.”

To achieve this vision, the transportation system will be well maintained and the region’s agencies and jurisdictions will work cooperatively to develop strategies to effectively distribute transportation funding. As such, the following goals are supported by several measurable objectives that are described in association with specific transportation components. Following the list of goals below is a more detailed outline of full Goals, Objectives and Performance Measures that are to be used in the development of the TCRPC 2045 MTP.

The Goals listed are a vast departure from those adopted for past long range planning efforts. They are crafted in a manner meant to directly address the 10 Federal Planning Factors outlined in various federal transportation bills starting with Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) signed into law in 2005, reemphasized with MAP-21 and most recently the FAST Act. The essence of previous Goals and Objectives have been preserved in the proposed Goals that follow. The changes are being proposed in an effort to provide a format conducive to the implementation of measuring the effectiveness of the plan using performance measures tied directly to the objectives listed below.

2045 TCRPC 2045 MTP Goals List

- Goal 1: Enhance the economic vitality of the region by supporting global competitiveness, productivity, and efficiency.
- Goal 2: Increase the safety of the transportation system for motorized and non-motorized users.
- Goal 3. Increase the security of the transportation system for motorized and non-motorized users.
- Goal 4: Equitably provide enhancements to the accessibility, connectivity and mobility of people and for freight.
- Goal 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.

- Goal 6: Enhance the integration and connectivity of the transportation system, across and between modes, jurisdictions, people and freight.
- Goal 7: Promote efficient system management and operation.
- Goal 8: Emphasize the preservation of the existing transportation system.
- Goal 9: Improve the resiliency and reliability of the region's transportation system and reduce or mitigate stormwater impacts of surface transportation.
- Goal 10: Enhance travel and tourism.

2045 TCRPC 2045 MTP Goals, Objectives and Actions in detail

Goal 1: Enhance the economic vitality of the region by supporting global competitiveness, productivity, and efficiency.

- Objective 1: Maintain, improve, and integrate a multi-modal transportation system that fosters and supports job creation, retention, and investment.
- Objective 2: Provide transportation services and intermodal connectivity that helps retain and expand existing businesses and attracts new businesses.
- Objective 3: Foster regional cooperation and transportation management that reduces business costs, increases investments, and improve opportunities.
- Objective 4: Improve operations by prioritizing projects that enhance all modes and provide balance to the transportation system.
- Objective 5: Promote the efficient transportation of people, goods and services by supporting the development, maintenance and improvement of multi-modal infrastructure connections between transportation facilities including airports, rail facilities and highways.

Action 1: Consider amending the TCRPC Project Prioritization Process to include emphasis on projects that contribute to enhancing economic vitality

Action 2: Consider increasing the presence of representation from the economic development community on TCRPC transportation committees

Goal 2: Increase the safety of the transportation system for motorized and non-motorized users.

- Objective 1: Design, manage and maintain transportation systems consistent with safety standards, community character, and the "Regional Growth" plan goals.
- Objective 2: Encourage traffic control measures and Intelligent Transportation Systems applications, lighting, signage, and innovative construction and design solutions to improve safety for all modes of travelers.
- Objective 3: Use safety programs to minimize conflicts between modes with traffic calming, pedestrian and rail crossings, paved shoulders, bicycle lanes, safety education, and enforcement.
- Objective 4: Use accepted management systems to evaluate, prioritize, and develop cost

effective strategies to address traffic safety.

Action 1: Conduct safety audits for areas of high concentrations of crashes or non-motorized activity.

Action 2: Enact the recommendations of the TCRPC Regional Safety Plan through increased emphasis on potential safety improvements within the scope of infrastructure improvements.

Action 3: Initiate regional "safe routes to school" program

Goal 3: Increase the security of the transportation system for motorized and non-motorized users.

Objective 1: Identify and maintain appropriate capacity along evacuation corridors

Objective 2: Improve transportation security for facilities and in operations

Objective 3: Ensure transportation options are available during declared emergencies for the elderly and persons with disabilities

Objective 4: Ensure security at airports, and major intermodal centers/terminals

Action 1: Coordinate planning activities with MDOT and other regional emergency management entities to ensure proper coordination of resources and technology.

Goal 4: Equitably provide enhancements to the accessibility, connectivity and mobility of all people and for freight.

Objective 1: Develop a multi-modal transportation system that maximizes accessibility and offers choices for efficient movements of all and address special needs of persons regardless of economic, physical and social characteristics.

Objective 2: Encourage land use planning techniques such as mixed use, infill, and transit-oriented-development that enhance access.

Objective 3: Encourage connectivity within and across jurisdictions and with statewide systems. Provide a system that serves high travel demand corridors and centers.

Objective 4: Offer various opportunities and venues for participation in planning

Objective 5: Involve social service and health agencies, underrepresented and minority groups, and other stakeholders to help meet regional goals of inclusion and environmental justice.

Action 1: Prioritize projects that improve access to intermodal facilities

Action 2: Work with economic development entities to develop a regional Freight Advisory Committee as an improved communications line to the freight sector

Action 3: Continue efforts to integrate land use planning into transportation planning efforts

Action 4: Use modern communications media including social media, email, and websites along with standard methods to solicit input and feedback.

Goal 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.

- Objective 1: Develop a transportation system that reduces energy consumption, greenhouse gas emissions and encourages sustainable development
- Objective 2: Coordinate transportation projects with capital improvement projects to minimize disruption in affected communities.
- Objective 3: Emphasize context-sensitive designs that preserve historic character.
- Objective 4: Resize facilities with excess vehicle capacity to achieve community character goals (i.e. road diets).
- Objective 5: Minimize transportation-generated noise.

Action 1: Evaluate projects for their impacts on greenhouse gases, vehicle miles of travel and energy sustainability.

Action 2: Promote use of cleaner fuels and sustainable energy technologies.

Action 3: Consider the context of land uses and human activity in review and development of transportation project proposals and planning products.

Goal 6: Enhance the integration and connectivity of the transportation system, across and between modes, jurisdictions, people and freight

- Objective 1: Better integrate aeronautics and rail facilities and services into the regional transportation network. Increase intermodal passenger and freight transportation connections.
- Objective 2: Encourage passenger and freight facilities and services that provide multi-modal connections. Encourage efficiency in freight movement.
- Objective 3: Support airports and rail station services and improvements.
- Objective 4: Improve intermodal access to the region's air and rail facilities
- Objective 5: Increase intermodal linkages between transit, auto, rail, air, and non-motorized travel modes. Provide stronger connections between all transit services.

Action 1: Prioritize projects that improve access to intermodal facilities

Action 2: Pursue balanced regional funding for Capital Region International Airport

Goal 7: Promote efficient system management and operation.

- Objective 1: Maximize the transportation system's efficiency by balancing its multi-modal performance and by using integrated management systems
- Objective 2: Improve operations by prioritizing projects that enhance all modes and provide balance to the transportation system
- Objective 3: Improve transportation system management during peak periods, special events, incidents, and poor weather.
- Objective 4: Enhance public transit service and attractiveness with ITS systems

Action 1: Form regional traffic operations and safety committee with the charge of coordinating regional traffic operations and ITS implementation

Goal 8: Emphasize the preservation of the existing transportation system.

- Objective 1: Allocate highest funding priority to preserving, enhancing, and wise management of the existing multi-modal system
- Objective 2: Use accepted management systems to evaluate, prioritize, and develop cost effective strategies to address pavement conditions
- Objective 3: Consider life cycle costs to maximize long term benefits of transportation improvements.
- Objective 4: Coordinate transportation projects with capital improvement projects to minimize disruption in affected communities

Action 1: Prioritize roadway projects that improve existing facilities over those that develop new roadways and encourage the use of existing right-of-ways for the development and expansion of the transportation system for all users.

Action 2: Cooperatively work with local, state, and federal officials to educate decision-makers and constituents about transportation funding needs

Goal 9: Improve the resiliency and reliability of the region's transportation system and reduce or mitigate stormwater impacts of surface transportation.

- Objective 1: Minimize air, noise, and water pollutant emissions and concentrations.
- Objective 2: Encourage projects and programs that use low-polluting fuels and alternative fuel and engine technology in vehicles and vehicle fleets.
- Objective 3: Develop the transportation system to minimize disruption of existing neighborhoods, households, prime farmlands, natural habitats, and open spaces.
- Objective 4: Prioritize transportation projects which reduce the frequency and length of trips, minimize the energy resources consumed for transportation, and promote a reliable and sustainable transportation system.

Action 1: Prioritize projects and programs that contribute to the achievement of federal air and water quality standards

Action 2: Develop report outlining impacts of highway runoff on local water quality

Goal 10: Enhance travel and tourism

- Objective 1: Support cultural travel, tourism and our regional transportation history
- Objective 2: Minimize negative effects of improvements to the transportation system on historic sites and recreational, cultural, religious and educational activities.
- Objective 3: Emphasize context-sensitive designs that preserve historic character
- Objective 4: Provide and maintain economical bicycle, pedestrian and shared-use path facilities in rural, suburban and urban areas that may transform the region into a non-motorized travel destination
- Objective 5: Integrate water trails into the transportation framework as a means for promoting travel and tourism in the region.

Action 1: Strengthen relationship with regional travel and tourism industry.