

4 Goals & Objectives

INTRODUCTION

The 2015-2040 MTP preserves and promotes the quality of life and economic prosperity of the MAB by providing a transportation system consistent with the regional goals.

For each adopted goal, there are a number of measurable objectives that the HSBMPO intends to achieve over the course of this plan. Many of these objectives are associated with performance measures that track the progress that the HSBMPO has made in achieving its objectives that ultimately lead to the completion of its goals. Transportation projects funded by the HSBMPO should be selected based on system needs and to the extent that they help achieve the established goals and objectives.

Continuous tracking of performance measures through measures of effectiveness will inform the HSBMPO of the progress it is making in achieving its goals, and will provide insight into the effectiveness of various projects and strategies. While this plan will provide a general listing of projects the HSBMPO plans to implement, one must understand that these projects might change based upon their perceived effectiveness towards meeting the region's goals. As new information becomes available, or as regional goals evolve, amendments may occur to the projects listed in this plan to effectively accommodate the HSBMPO's needs.

The Policies section will also provide guidance and short range policies in order to accomplish the goals and objectives.

VISION STATEMENT

This plan aims to preserve and promote the quality of life and economic vitality of the HSBMPO metropolitan area by providing an accessible, integrated, efficient, safe, and environmentally responsible multimodal transportation system that supports balanced growth by encouraging economic development in all areas of the metropolitan region.

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

The transportation system provides workers access to their jobs from their residences and vice versa, as well to other services and amenities. Accessibility offers people access to goods and services that allows them to use different modes of transportation to reach different destinations. The transportation system provides connectivity, which is the completeness of a transportation system. A transportation system offers mobility, defined as ease in which a user is able to make a trip, and is closely tied to travel times and congestion. The HSBMPO considered FHWA's eight planning factors, identified in Chapter 1, when developing the goals for the 2015-2040 MTP.

Goals are defined as broad long-range intentions the HSBMPO strives to accomplish over the course of the plan. The HSBMPO has adopted the following goals for the transportation system:

Goal 1

Maintain and improve the regional transportation system

Objective 1.1 Improve the physical/structural integrity of the existing arterial roadway system

Objective 1.2 Improve transit system services and facilities:

- Maintain quality of benches and shelters
- Preserve bus routes that meet a minimum performance standards to include services the HSBMPO area with the most dire need.

Goal 2

Improve the accessibility, connectivity, and mobility of the transportation system, for people and freight, for all modes of transportation in and through the region.

Objective 2.1 Identify and preserve regional intermodal street and highway corridors for the future transportation system

Objective 2.2 Improve transit facilities infrastructure:

- Identify possible park and ride areas that will allow better access to transit services and carpools;
- Require that all new transit vehicles purchased include bicycle carrying capacity; and
- Identify a transfer station location within the HSBMPO area.
- Increase the number of bus stops without paved/marked platforms.

Objective 2.3 Improve existing transit system operations:

- Increase the hours and days of operation;
- Increase service coverage;
- Increase service frequencies along each flexible route.
- Maintain current and newly developed routes within the HSBMPO

Objective 2.4 Improve the connection of multiple modes of transportation:

- Secure or build a park and ride facility for express route bus services;
- Secure or build a new community transit transfer station with the HSBMPO area that will serve as a hub for integration with the existing transit services, intercity buses, and airport shuttles;
- Provide opportunities for covered bicycle racks and/or lockers at transit facilities and/or vehicles;
- Increase the sidewalks and pedestrian facilities infrastructure leading to bus stops;
- Increase the proportion of multimodal access points that are ADA compliant; and

- Increase the service coordination with transportation providers to actively support the public transportation regional transit connectivity.

Objective 2.5 Improve the bicycle and pedestrian facilities infrastructure;:

- Decrease the number of gaps among sidewalks, trails, and bike pathways;
- Increase miles of sidewalk, trails, and on street bike pathways;

Objective 2.6 Increase the connectivity to regions beyond the HSBMPO metropolitan area:

- Connect the HSBMPO metropolitan area to a regional public transportation system;
- Increase the number of intercity bus trips departing HSBMPO;
- Continue the service coordination of public and private passenger transportation services inside and outside the HSBMPO area;

Objective 2.7 Develop a strategy for construction and reconstruction of existing roads and bridges.

Objective 2.8 Improve freight infrastructures

Objective 2.9 Increase opportunities for metropolitan area businesses to ship freight via air, rail, and truck transportation;

Objective 2.10 Identify obstacles impeding for rail and truck freight;

Objective 2.11 Increase the capacity for air, rail, and truck freight.

Goal 3

Maintain quality performance of the regional transportation system through efficient congestion management and operation techniques.

Object 3.1 Maintain acceptable levels of travel on the street and highway system:

- Reduce regional annual vehicle miles traveled;
- Maintain level of service D during peak hour travel on the freeway system;
- Promote the use of alternative modes of transportation;

Objective 3.2 Utilize intelligent transportation system technologies and other traffic operational improvements to alleviate congestion before considering capital-intensive improvements.

Objective 3.3 Improve existing transit system performance:

- Implement intelligent transportation systems solutions, including automatic vehicle location and variable message sign technology to provide customers with real time transit travel time information;

Goal 4

Improve the safety and security of the regional transportation system for all users.

Objective 4.1 Decrease emergency services response times on the freeway system and arterial roadways;

Objective 4.2 Decrease the number of overall crashes/accidents for all modes of transportation;

Objective 4.4 Provide the public with information regarding evacuation/traffic diversion routes and the coordination of emergency management procedures;

Objective 4.5 Provide security features on bicycle, pedestrian, transit, and parking facilities, and at multimodal crossings:

Objective 4.6 Provide Safety features on bicycle, pedestrian, transit facilities, buses, and multimodal crossings:

- Increase number of marked crosswalks;
- Increase miles of marked bicycle lanes;
- Identify shared lanes and ensure markings and/or signage is provided;
- Increase the number of improved signal enhancements that benefit pedestrians and bicyclists by 5%;

Goal 5

Preserve, protect, and enhance the natural and human environment.

Objective 5.1 Avoid, minimize, or mitigate transportation impacts to the environmentally sensitive natural resources, if practicable.

Objective 5.2 Avoid, minimize, or mitigate transportation impacts to the social, cultural and historic resources, if practicable.

Objective 5.3 Avoid, minimize, or mitigate transportation disproportionately high and adverse human health and environmental effects, including social and economic effects, on all populations, including minority and low income populations.

Objective 5.4 Allow for the full and fair participation of all potentially affected communities in the transportation decision-making process.

Objective 5.5 Prevent the denial of, reduction in, or significant delay in the receipt of benefits by all populations, including minority and low income populations.

Objective 5.6 HSBMPO will maintain commitment to a transportation system that promotes air and water quality and noise control; and meets all federal, state, and local standards.

Goal 6

Establish performance goals as the national performance goals for the Federal-aid Highway program in seven areas:

Objective 6.1 To achieve a significant reduction in traffic fatalities and serious injuries on all public roads;

Objective 6.2 To maintain the highway infrastructure asset system in a state of good repair;

Objective 6.3 To achieve a significant reduction in congestion on the National Highway System;

Objective 6.4 To improve the efficiency of the surface transportation system;

Objective 6.5 To improve the national freight network, strengthen the ability of rural communities to access national and international trade markets, and support regional economic development;

Objective 6.6 To enhance the performance of the transportation system while protecting and enhancing the natural environment;

Objective 6.6 To reduce project costs, promote jobs and the economy, and expedite the movement of people and goods by accelerating project completion through eliminating delays in the project development and delivery process, including reducing regulatory burdens and improving agencies' work practices

The 2015-2040 MTP goals and objectives will serve as a guide for analyzing the transportation system and for identifying projects to improve the system. The goals and objectives cover all transportation modes and help meet FHWA's eight planning factors.