

COORDINATION WITH THE STATE LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

SAFETEA-LU requires each state develop a statewide long range transportation plan in coordination with local Metropolitan Planning Organizations MPOs. Upon completion of the plan, any future transportation improvements must be consistent with the plan. As a result of the coordination, Michigan's State Long Range Plan is a broadly oriented document. This also means that the state LRTP is not financially constrained like the MPO Plan. Any future transportation improvements have to coincide with the adopted plan, thus reiterating the importance of coordination with the state, MPO, RPO and local units of government.

State Long Range Plan

Michigan's 2005-2030 Long Range Transportation Plan "Moving Michigan Forward" is projected over a 20-year period that focuses on the important link between transportation and Michigan's economic vitality and quality of life. It presents options to achieve Michigan's goals for the future by providing an efficient, integrated transportation system.

Michigan's State LRTP began with work in 2003. "The Transportation Summit: Connection Michigan" was a process that combined the efforts of hundreds of Michigan residents, dozen of action team meetings, public forums, and two large scale summit meetings. A conceptual vision was created with the help of the public that is stated as the following:

"Michigan will lead the 21st century transportation revolution as it led innovation in the 20th century. We will move people and goods with a safe, integrated, and efficient transportation system that embraces all modes, is equitably and adequately funded, and socially and environmentally responsible. Michigan's transportation community will work together to ensure that resources are in place to deliver the system."

Anticipated future trends and public input were evaluated to come up with the components for the Preferred Vision of the LRTP that includes such qualities as: purposefulness, prioritization, coordination, safety, advanced, integrated choices, appropriateness to the setting, flexibly-funded, and responsive. To make the vision a reality there were four goals identified. They are noted below.

Michigan's Transportation Goals

- Stewardship: Preserve transportation system investments, protect the environment, and utilize public resources in a responsible manner.
- System Improvement: Modernize and enhance the transportation system to improve mobility and accessibility.
- Efficient and Effective Operations: Improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the transportation system and transportation services and expand MDOT's coordination and collaboration with partners.
- Safety and Security: Continue to improve transportation safety and ensure the security of the transportation system.

The goal and focus of the State LRTP is to improve the operation of the total transportation system, which will create jobs, provide elderly with greater mobility, and attract and retain younger workers. It will strengthen and maintain Michigan's status in the global economy, while encouraging inter-modalism, energy efficiency, and a "greener" Michigan.

Metropolitan Long Range Plan

Each Metropolitan Planning Organization is required by Federal legislation to prepare a long range transportation plan based on expected revenues over a twenty year time frame. SAFTEA-LU also requires the articulation of the planning factors to provide a consensus based on the priorities and needs of the transportation system. This plan has been reviewed to assure consistency with the statewide plan, projects and programs. Local goals and objectives are broadly and generally consistent with statewide goals and objectives.

Coordination

The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) is continually involved with TwinCATS planning activities and processes ranging from attending committee meetings, to providing workshops, and being a resource for transportation needs. The TwinCATS planning process seeks to promote consistency between transportation improvements and the state and local patterns for planned growth and economic development. Both are equally important and depend on each other for quality and consistency. There are many coordinated issues that both the state and TwinCATS address in their plans.

MDOT's LRTP goals are synchronized with the TwinCATS 2035 LRTP goals. TwinCATS LRTP goals address stewardship through preserving regional transportation systems, while promoting livable communities. System improvements include enhancing the mobility, accessibility, and equitability of the transportation system. The goals seek to improve efficiency and effectiveness in moving people, goods, and services through the transportation system. Safety and security is promoted through safety conscious planning and system security.

The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is a multi year program of prioritized transportation improvement projects that serves as a management tool to ensure the most effective use of funding. MDOT uses the TwinCATS TIP in their State TIP and as a tool to ensure priorities are articulated in the Michigan transportation LRTP.

The Asset Management process through the Transportation Asset Management Council (TAMC) is an effective way to manage the transportation road network. Both MDOT and the region rate the roads together on an annual basis, with PASER techniques. The combined efforts lead to an effective tool that MDOT and TwinCATS can use to manage transportation assets on both the local, regional, and state level.

MDOT has identified greater Benton Harbor/Southwest Michigan in the economic region corridor portion of its Borders Report as possessing opportunities in tourism, opportunities for Whirlpool and other manufacturing industries for growth, and inter-

city bus services as a viable transportation resource. The report also identifies corridor values including rail freight on CSX lines and I-94 truck freight as a regional asset.

Strategically investing in all modes of transportation to address the needs and to enhance system integrity is a priority that both MDOT and TwinCATS address in their LRTPs. Investment strategies include preservation and expansion of aviation, freight facilities, highways, and multi-modal transportation. MDOT plans to invest in preservation and a modest expansion of Southwestern Regional Airport, high-speed rail along the coast of southwest Michigan, and the St. Joseph harbor. Both MDOT and TwinCATS plan to preserve the highway system through maintenance, rehabilitation, resurfacing, and replacement of pavement and bridges. The investment strategy for Multi-modal transportation is for the preservation and expansion of on-going transit and rail passenger services, carpool, bike, and pedestrian facilities.