

## NATS and TwinCATS

### Long Range Transportation Plan

#### **What Moves you Berrien County: How will we arrive in 2040?**

##### Goal Development

2013-2040

##### Vision

By 2040, the TwinCATS and NATS regions transportation system will make strides to provide for a safer, more efficient, and more convenient movement of people and goods to support a robust and growing local and regional economy.

The transportation system will offer a variety of mode choices to all people for intra- and inter-regional travel. Consideration of the impact of these modes on the natural and built environment must be well balanced with the provision of an acceptable level of mobility and accessibility. A multimodal system conserves natural resources and helps promote the integrity of neighborhoods and the entire region.

The goals, objectives, and performance measures that follow are those that the jurisdictions within the MPO find the most pressing, with performance measures developed to achieve success within the years of the plan, 2013-2040.

Goals-Generalized statements which broadly relate the physical environment to values

Objectives-Specific, measurable statements related to the attainment of goals

Performance Measures- the use of evidence (data) to determine progress toward specific defined objectives.

How will performance be measured-we state where the data for each measure will be derived from.

With the newly passed MAP-21 legislation, in July 2012, the focus on national performance measures has gained much attention. US DOT will have 18 months after the start of the MAP-21 in October 2012 to develop national performance measures. The state DOTs will then develop state performance measures to meet the national standards set forth. As TwinCATS and NATS watch the development of these actions, we will incorporate changes into the long range plan to meet the newly developed state measures. The goals and performance measures that are outlined in this section seek to address the local issues that should be monitored given the vision of the long range plan.

#### **LOCAL PERFORMANCE MEASURES-WHAT DO WE WANT TO ACHIEVE (pm)/what can we manage**

##### **1. ENHANCE THE ECONOMIC VITALITY OF SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN**

-Improve competitiveness of the regional economy through efficient and improved multi-modal facilities, modes, and linkages.

- PM 1: Increase the total amount of commercial products shipped by rail, air, and water transport by 10% by 2040.
  - How to measure-inventory the total commercial products that are shipped via rail, air, and water currently with the development of a regional freight study.
- PM :Decrease by 1 minute, the amount of time that idling cars and trucks have within the transportation system
  - How to measure-obtain data to show how much, average idle time and develop projects like signal optimization-see how many signals are optimized and could demonstrate the Ozone and Particulate matter decreases

## **2. INCREASE SAFE MOBILITY OPTIONS WITHIN THE TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM**

- Develop a transportation system in the MPO regions to provide for a range of passenger and commercial transportation choices that are safe, secure, efficient, and sustainable.

- PM 1: Increase the number of transportation projects constructed that connect people to transportation options (rail, walking/biking, transit) by 10% by 2040
  - How to measure-how many multimodal connections are available
- PM 2: Decrease the total number of pedestrian/bicycling traffic accidents in the TwinCATS and NATS MPO by 10% by 2040
  - How to measure-Use data from the TwinCATS and NATS Walk and Roll plans to see how many crashes there were from 2000-2010.

## **3. PRODUCE A REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM THAT CONNECTS PEOPLE WITH THEIR DESTINATIONS**

Provide a system to access to a variety of destinations such as: cultural attractions, recreational facilities, open spaces, employment, and housing to fulfill needs for a healthful, satisfying living environment.

- PM 3: Provide county wide transit service to communities that are not currently served by transit throughout Berrien County by 2040.
  - How to measure-list communities that has service and those without, when do they get serviced by transit.
- PM : Increase connectivity to key destinations by 10% by 2040
  - How to measure-list key destination areas that are highly sought after, Hollywood Road, Mall Drive, Exit 23 and see what is available through transit and non-motor

## **4. INCORPORATE QUALITY OF LIFE ELEMENTS THROUGHOUT THE TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM**

Contribute to continued economic well-being of the region under the jurisdiction of the MPOs by investing in transportation solutions that increase access to education, jobs, and amenities. These solutions should reduce the cost of living and doing business in the region.

- PM :Preserving the rural and agricultural food base (sustainable food systems)
  - How to measure-number of acres in growth of agricultural products

**5. ENVIRONMENT**-Provide an environment with attractive, convenient living and working conditions that minimize air and water quality impacts to the region.

- PM: Increase the use of mixed use development practices in zoning ordinances throughout the region by 15% by 2040.
  - How to measure-we can inventory the communities that have mixed use zoning written into their existing zoning ordinance and also the number of residences/businesses that are currently using this practice.
- PM : Reduce the amount of impervious surfaces in the planning region 10% by 2040.
  - How to measure-amount of miles of paved roadways throughout Berrien County and

## **6. PRESERVE AND MAINTAIN THE TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM**

Preserve the regional transportation system by utilizing best management practices.

- PM: Increase the incorporation of asset management practices into community master plans by 10% by 2040.
  - How to measure-list of communities where asset management is a specific plan or incorporated into master plan.

## **7. PRODUCE TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS THAT PROMOTE A SAFE AND SECURE SYSTEM**

Promote access management plans for major corridors within and leading into the urban area

- PM: Increase the number of access management best practices along major corridors within the MPO region
  - How to measure-adoption of access management plans on key corridors such as M-139, M-51, Red Arrow Highway, (other corridors to list)
- PM : Host access management workshop to increase awareness of the benefits to economic development professionals and traffic safety officials.

## **8. ENSURE THE EQUITABILITY AND ACCESSIBILITY OF THE SYSTEM**

Promote greater accessibility to transportation for individuals of all backgrounds and all abilities.

- PM: Increase number of miles covered by transit by xx by 2040/ area one can safely travel without using an automobile by xx sq miles.

- How to measure- Use Walk and Roll plans and transit maps to look at areas that are currently deemed “unsafe” for ped/bike or outside ¼ mile/ ½ mile walking radius of transit
- PM: Ensure that all (or xx% of) new roadways (and complementary pedestrian infrastructure) comply with ADA standards, and retrofit existing roadways to be compliant.
  - How to measure: find ADA standard; find out which roadways/ped infrastructure are non-compliant right now; ensure that standard is met in future plans.

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