

## **LONG-RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLANNING PROCESS**

The Long Range Transportation Planning process begins immediately after the approval of the LRTP. The last LRTP was approved April of 2005 and the development of the 2035 LRTP soon began after that. The LRTP is constantly being updated and amended to keep it as current as possible and to prepare for the next LRTP. The following is a time line of the preparation and development of the LRTP that took place in the construction of the 2035 LRTP.

- **Develop Long Range Plan Table of Contents**
  - Summer 2007
- **Base year Socioeconomic (SE) data**
  - At the same time as the previous LRTP review, base year SE data review began.
  - Received SE data from Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT).
  - SWMPC completed employment location verifications “on the ground”.
  - SWMPC surveyed large employers to verify number of employees
  - Staff compiled data into tables and maps and distributed to locals to verify.
  - Received committee approval January 2008.
- **Write plan text**
  - Composed updates to sections of text beginning after base year SE data work was completed and continued until document was approved.
- **Future year SE data review**
  - Received data from MDOT
  - Separated data into Traffic Analysis Zones (TAZ)
  - Compiled data into tables and maps for distribution
  - Received committee approval in May 2008
- **Goals and objectives**
  - Subcommittees were formed in spring 2008 and met several times to review and revise goals.
  - TAC and Policy approved draft goals in June 2008
  - Public comment on goals was sought; comment period was announced in local media and meetings were held in July and August of 2008.

- **Deficiencies produced**
  - MDOT completed modeling work and provided deficiency findings (congested road segments/corridors).
  - Subcommittees were formed to review deficiencies and identify solutions (projects).
  - Subcommittees met in August 2008.
  - Deficiencies were reviewed by TAC and Policy Committees.
- **Financial plan**
  - The financial analysis was completed with estimates given to SWMPC from MDOT the month of February 2009.
- **Environmental mitigation**
  - Environmental mitigation maps were worked on from December 2008 to January 2009. Analysis of the maps took place in February of 2009. Based on guidance from local Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) representatives (through a manual entitled: *Addressing Consultation and Environmental Mitigation SAFTEA-LU Requirements in Plan & TIP Updates*), a list of projects from the LRTP was sent to each agency that submitted a project (February of 2009). Agency contacts were asked to review each of their projects and determine responses to the following four questions:
    - Will this project add capacity?
    - Will this project alter traffic patterns?
    - Are all proposed improvements in the existing right-of-way?
    - Is the project resurfacing, safety, bus replacement, etc.?
- **Environmental Justice**
  - Environmental Justice maps were prepared from December 2008 to January 2009.
  - Analysis of the maps took place in February of 2009.
- **Air quality**
  - November 25, 2008 an Inter-Agency Work Group (IAWG), consisting of representatives from EPA, FHWA, FTA, MDOT, MDEQ, and the SWMPC, met to discuss potential capacity expansion and/or regionally significant projects. Projects that may be subject to air quality conformity modeling are not exclusive to Federal aid eligible roads.

- January 2009 selected projects were submitted to MDOT for air quality analysis.
- February 2009 air quality selection was finished and analysis took place.
- **Public input**
  - February 23, 2009 the LRTP draft was submitted to committees and a legal notice was sent out for public comment.
- **Committee approval**
  - March 16, 2009 the LRTP was submitted for approval
- **SWMPC approval**
  - April 21, 2009 the LRTP was submitted to the SWMPC for approval