

Chapter 2. Plan Goals and Objectives

2.1 Overview

The following plan goals and objectives will help shape transportation development in the ERPC MPO region through the Year 2050 and will aid decision makers by providing policy direction. Goals are defined as the desired end condition reflecting the concerns and needs in better managing the transportation system. These goals will strengthen interrelationships between transportation modes and will achieve a more integrated network. Objectives are broad action statements that will aid in accomplishing targeted goals. Together these goals and objectives provide a policy platform for the 2050 Long-Range Plan.

The general goals for the Long-Range Plan Update are set forth in the federal legislation for funding transportation improvements. This legislation governs the planning, funding and implementation of transportation improvements throughout the County. The latest version is titled Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Act (IIJA) and was signed into law November 15, 2021. It builds on previous federal transportation legislation and is designed to deal with the transportation challenges in today's environment. It places a strengthens the emphasis on areas related to safety, infrastructure condition, congestion reduction, system reliability, freight movement and economic vitality, environmental sustainability and reduced project delivery times. The IIJA also has incorporated program evaluation requirements through the use of national performance-based planning. Performance-based planning utilizes performance measures and targets where a performance measure is a metric used to assess progress toward meeting an objective and a target is a specific level of performance that is desired to be achieved within a certain timeframe. The goals and objectives for this update of the 2050 Transportation Plan were developed with addressing FAST Act requirements in mind.

2.2 Goals and Objectives

ERPC's first Long-Range Transportation Plan was adopted in 2005 with five year updates conducted in 2010, 2015, and 2020. The 2005 and the 2010 approved plans were passed under previous transportation bills. Planning factors for the 2015 and 2020 plan updates were developed under MAP-21. For the 2025 plan update, current federal regulation requires ten planning factors be considered:

- (1) Support the economic vitality of the metropolitan area, especially by enabling global competitiveness, productivity, and efficiency;
- (2) Increase the safety of the transportation system for motorized and non-motorized users;
- (3) Increase the security of the transportation system for motorized and non-motorized users;
- (4) Increase accessibility and mobility of people and freight;
- (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;
- (6) Enhance the integration and connectivity of the transportation system, across and between modes, for people and freight;
- (7) Promote efficient system management and operation;

- (8) Emphasize the preservation of the existing transportation system;
- (9) Improve the resiliency and reliability of the transportation system and reduce or mitigate storm water impacts of surface transportation; and
- (10) Enhance travel and tourism.

Also, ODOT's Access Ohio 2045 (AO 45) long-range transportation plan was considered to ensure compatibility of transportation priorities. As many MPO planning efforts coincide with statewide system level considerations, ERPC collaborated with ODOT to ensure that its long-range transportation plan aligned with transportation priorities identified in AO 2045. Critical topics identified between both plans included system preservation, safety, freight, non-motorized, transit, and system efficiency and were also used to guide the development of plan goals and objectives. During ODOT's plan development, ERPC acted as a conduit for local government and public/stakeholder involvement. ERPC attended various ODOT presentations/public meetings, completed plan update draft reviews and prepared comments for inclusion into AO 2045. Additionally, implementation of performance measure based planning and the importance of establishing good working relationships contributed to shared regional and statewide transportation goals.

As a component of performance measure based planning, under the FAST Act, ERPC must also ensure the Long-Range Transportation Plan incorporates a system performance report. The system performance report is included as an appendix in this document. The report strives to provide an overview of the impact of transportation investment funding upon the region's transportation network. Key performance measures, as prescribed in the FAST Act, are listed and reported out in the system performance report.

All of the above factors were utilized in the 2050 plan as a base, the goals and objectives were developed through an internal process involving public input, MPO Policy and Technical Committee oversight, a review of existing conditions data, an identification of transportation system deficiencies and a review of state and regional goals and objectives. The following Goals and Objectives will also assist with the evaluation of potential transportation improvements throughout the ERPC MPO region.

Goal	Goal Statement	Objectives
Safety	In the ERPC's transportation network achieve a reduction in fatalities & serious roadway injuries for motorized and non-motorized users	<p>Encourage clear signage on roadways throughout the MPO area</p> <p>Improve hazardous intersections</p> <p>Support projects that increase safety</p> <p>Use transportation project selection criteria to accentuate projects that encourage safety</p> <p>Promote educational safety programs</p>
Goal	Goal Statement	Objectives
Infrastructure Condition	Maintain the existing transportation infrastructure assets in a state of good repair	<p>Use transportation project selection criteria to accentuate system preservation projects</p> <p>Support efforts for the proper maintenance of the existing transportation system & the use of non-motorized methods of transportation to reduce stress on the current system</p>
Goal	Goal Statement	Objectives
System Reliability	Improve the efficiency of the local surface transportation system	<p>Use transportation project selection criteria to accentuate projects that improve the efficiency of the local transportation system</p> <p>Reduce travel time & delays when feasible</p> <p>Implement measures to mitigate traffic congestion during peak tourism season</p> <p>Support improved east-west travel through the MPO, and interregional north-south connections to Erie and Ottawa County</p> <p>Identify developing & expanding corridors & implement appropriate regulations prior to development occurring</p> <p>Encourage alternative modes for transport for persons and goods.</p>

Goal	Goal Statement	Objectives
Freight Movement & Economic Vitality	Improve the local freight network & support the economic vitality of the MPO area	<p>Integrate land use and freight transportation planning processes</p> <p>Invest in and promote region's multimodal and intermodal capabilities</p> <p>Improve freight mobility, safety, and operations</p> <p>Expand regional freight planning capabilities</p> <p>Increase freight awareness among all stakeholders, including the public</p> <p>Foster strategic partnerships and alliances for enhanced freight movement</p>
Goal	Goal Statement	Objectives
Environmental Sustainability	Protect the environment in the MPO system & enhance the transportation system's performance simultaneously	<p>Use transportation project selection criteria to promote alternative transportation methods &/or projects that protect & enhance the environment</p> <p>Maintain a planning process that integrates & coordinates transportation planning with land use, water & natural resource conservation</p> <p>Minimize, avoid &/or mitigate environmental impacts of transportation improvements by preservation of the existing transportation network</p> <p>Provide equitable & environmentally just transportation facilities & services</p> <p>Promote consistency between transportation improvements, local planned growth & economic development patterns</p> <p>Support energy conservation initiatives with special emphasis on those being undertaken in the MPO region related to wind energy, biofuels & other alternative fuels</p>

Goal	Goal Statement	Objectives
Reduced Project Delivery Times	Reduce project costs, promote jobs & the economy, & expedite the movement of people & goods by accelerating local project completion through the elimination of delays in the process	<p>Support efforts that coordinate local policies & projects with those at regional & state levels</p> <p>Encourage expedited project delivery</p> <p>Use transportation project selection criteria to promote reduced project delivery times that expedite the movement of people & goods</p>
Goal	Goal Statement	Objectives
Congestion Reduction	Reduce congestion in the MPO area	<p>Use transportation project selection criteria to promote alternative transportation & other congestion relief methods</p> <p>Enhance transit services to promote service to major employment centers, educational facilities, medical offices, commercial developments & tourist destinations</p> <p>Maximize bicycle & pedestrian connections to roadways, transit services & area amenities such as the waterfront & regional parks</p> <p>Encourage communities to incorporate bicycle & pedestrian facilities within major new residential & commercial developments</p>