INTRODUCTION TO 2020–2050 COLUMBUS AREA METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN

As the metropolitan planning organization (MPO) for the metropolitan Columbus area, the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) conducts a continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive transportation planning process. Every four years, the results of the process produce a Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) that looks at least 20 years into the future.

The plan provides the basis for how federal transportation funding is spent to improve highways, transit, freight, bikeways, and pedestrian facilities.

As our region continues to grow and funding availability becomes more limited, Central Ohio must be prepared with innovative transportation solutions to address increasing infrastructure needs. The MTP is a long-range planning document that brings together local governments from around Central Ohio and other local, state, and federal agencies to identify and coordinate transportation goals and policies over the next three decades.

The MTP will identify transportation needs, strategies and projects, and provide the basis for how federal transportation funding will be spent to improve highways, transit, freight, bikeways, and pedestrian facilities.

The current MTP planning area includes: Franklin and Delaware and Franklin counties; Bloom and Violet townships in Fairfield County; New Albany, Pataskala and Etna Township in Licking County; and Jerome Township in Union County.

Planning for the 2020–2050 MTP is guided by federal legislation, the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation (FAST) Act. The federal legislation sets a framework for the MTP to:

- Reflect a balance between regulations and state and local plans
- Involve a comprehensive, coordinated, continuous planning process
- Be performance-driven, outcome-based
- Consider all modes of transportation
- Address environmental mitigation
- Result in a fiscally balanced plan
- Meet air quality conformity
- Avoid negatively impacting transportation-disadvantaged populations
- Be accomplished through an open and transparent public process
The MTP will be developed around a set of goals that give direction to making regionally based investments in the transportation system. The six goals, which were adopted by MORPC advisory and Transportation Policy committees following a public comment period, are listed here. Objectives and measures will also be developed to monitor the performance of the transportation system in achieving these goals.

GOALS OF THE METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN

- Reduce per capita energy consumption and promote alternative fuel resources to increase affordability and resilience of regional energy supplies
- Protect natural resources and mitigate infrastructure vulnerabilities to maintain a healthy ecosystem and community
- Position Central Ohio to attract and retain economic opportunity to prosper as a region and compete globally
- Create sustainable neighborhoods to improve residents’ quality of life
- Increase regional collaboration and employ innovative transportation solutions to maximize the return on public expenditures
- Use public investments to benefit the health, safety, and welfare of people

WHAT'S NEXT

Objectives, measures, and targets will be established for the purpose of monitoring progress in advancing the established goals.

The MTP will be available for public comment beginning October 1 through October 31, 2018 and can be viewed at morpc.org/mtp2050.

Comments can be submitted by email to mtp@morpc.org or in writing to MORPC, 111 Liberty Street, Suite 100, Columbus, OH 43215, Attn: MTP.

For more information or to sign up for updates on the MTP, visit morpc.org/mtp.