

Chapter 1: Goals and Objectives

Overview

The 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) is guided by a set of Goals, Objectives, and Strategies that were recommended by the LRTP Advisory Committee and approved by the Wichita Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (WAMPO).

The Goals and Objectives were developed based upon comments received from the public and other transportation stakeholders in the region. They link the transportation system planning process to the selection and implementation of individual projects. Below each objective is a list of strategies to implement the goal and objective.

Each of the Goals and Objectives is linked to the current federal transportation legislation and seeks to accomplish the following overall purpose:

PURPOSE: *Develop and maintain a multimodal transportation system that serves regional needs, promotes safety, supports economic development, and provides personal choice in the movement of people and goods.*

Goals and Objectives

GOAL 1. Transportation System Mobility and Access:

Improve mobility and provide convenient access to all modes of travel that make up the region's transportation system.

Objectives:

- 1.1 Work with KDOT and local jurisdictions to improve access between cities and from cities to the state highway system.
 - Protect key roadways that link cities and highways from the encroachment and excessive numbers of driveways and intersections in order to maintain high levels of safety and mobility.
 - Support regional highway initiatives that link the Wichita Area with other urban areas.



- 1.2 Integrate and connect all modes of transportation in the overall transportation system.
 - Encourage improvement of the transit system, including expanded opportunities for auto and non-motorized accessibility by considering Park and Ride facilities and connecting bicycle and pedestrian facilities to the transit system.
 - Encourage the provision of equipment on buses, such as bicycle racks, to improve bicycle riders' access to transit.
 - Park and Ride facilities should be considered on major roadway approaches to Wichita.
 - Support the development and increased use of a coordinated network of bicycle and pedestrian transportation facilities.
 - Improve transportation facilities important for the movement of goods, including access to intermodal freight facilities.
- 1.3 Provide a transportation system that meets the needs of all segments of the population.
 - Develop and maintain a transportation system that provides users with accessibility and mobility.
 - Promote a transportation system that provides access to jobs.
 - Enhance the existing system to improve mobility to the transportation disadvantaged.

GOAL 2. Environment, Energy Conservation, and Quality of Life:

Minimize the effects / impacts of transportation on the natural and human environment, promote energy conservation, and improve the quality of life within the region.



Objectives:

- 2.1 Maintain air quality to meet federal and state standards.
 - Monitor the region's air quality to assure the metropolitan planning area is in conformity.
 - Promote activities that educate the community on air quality issues.
- 2.2 Develop a transportation system that avoids or minimizes adverse impacts to the natural and human environment.
 - Develop transportation system improvements that avoid or minimize adverse impacts on environmentally sensitive areas, historic and cultural sites, water quality, agricultural areas, recreational and natural areas, park lands, and other valuable resources.

- 2.3 Encourage the development of Park and Ride facilities and other Transportation Demand Management (TDM) strategies.
- Increase efforts to promote car-pooling to major employment areas by providing space for Park and Ride activities in existing public facilities or other identified areas.
 - Develop a plan for Park and Ride facilities that are served by express buses and frequent fixed route transit.
 - Support a “Ride Share” program for the region.

GOAL 3. Highways, Streets and Roads:

Provide and maintain a roadway network that meets the transportation needs of people and goods in the region and that promotes safety, convenience, and aesthetics.



Objectives:

- 3.1 Maintain, preserve, and optimize the existing roadway network.
- Promote the preservation of the existing roadway network.
 - Develop and implement a comprehensive Access Management Guidelines document for arterial and collector streets that promotes safety and maintains the streets’ capacity to carry traffic.
- 3.2 Reduce traffic congestion on the region’s roadway network.
- Identify and address areas of medium and heavy congestion.
 - Identify and implement Congestion Management Strategies.
 - Improve major expressways to freeway standards.
 - Improve the region’s freeway to freeway interchanges.
 - Relieve east-west travel demand over the Wichita-Valley Center Floodway by constructing one or more additional road crossings.
 - Study future, corridor-specific transportation needs.
- 3.3 Develop a comprehensive roadway network that promotes connectivity between communities, businesses, and residents.
- Promote efficient roadway connections between outlying communities and Wichita.
 - As needed, update the functional classification of the roadway system to provide a balanced transportation network that serves rural and urban areas.
 - Promote connectivity to adjacent subdivisions with local or collector streets.

- Develop a comprehensive directional sign program for major public and private attractions, points of interest, and transportation facilities.
- 3.4 Study and preserve corridors for future transportation system development.
- Identify and study selected corridors to determine regional needs and the impacts of transportation improvements on safety, economic development, and the choice of modes for the movement of people and goods.
 - Pursue opportunities for advanced acquisition of needed right-of-way for future transportation improvement projects.

GOAL 4. Public Transportation System:

Provide an effective, efficient, and convenient public transportation system for planning area residents and visitors, which contributes to the economic development and quality of life of the community.



Objectives:

- 4.1 Identify unmet public transportation needs by working with Wichita Transit, human resource agencies, Coordinated Transit District 12, and the general public.
- Meet the public transportation needs of an aging population and persons with disabilities through accessible fixed route transit and complementary paratransit services.
 - Improve the quality of public transportation services by focusing on expanded service delivery and times to key employment, commercial, and other activity centers.
 - Support the update of Wichita Transit's 5-year "Transit Development Plan" which periodically reviews demographic data to evaluate and consider service enhancements of the bus system.
 - Improve the integration of public transportation with other transportation modes.
 - Support Wichita Transit's efforts to develop Park and Ride facilities.
- 4.2 Promote public transportation service for communities in the planning area.
- Study the feasibility of providing public transportation services to outlying communities.
 - Study the feasibility of the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) concept.

- 4.3 Identify long-term financial support for the transit shuttle system serving the Central Business District and surrounding central areas.

GOAL 5. Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation:

Provide a safe, efficient, and convenient bicycle and pedestrian system that is an integrated part of a multimodal transportation system.



Objectives:

- 5.1 Encourage bicycle/pedestrian-oriented facilities and amenities to provide a transportation alternative accessing major destinations in the region.
- Improve bicycle and pedestrian access to and within public institutions, commercial and employment areas.
 - Evaluate pedestrian/bicycle facilities in the Planning Area.
 - Encourage internal connectivity between subdivisions to reduce unnecessary travel by connecting adjacent subdivisions with walkways to enhance bicycle and pedestrian mobility.
 - Consider bicycle and pedestrian needs during the planning phase of major roadway projects.
 - Encourage local units of government to provide suitable pedestrian facilities (sidewalks or separated paths) along all streets and transit facilities.
 - Identify and begin connecting existing gaps in sidewalk facilities.
 - Encourage paved shoulders and/or wider curb lanes based on accepted standards to accommodate bicycles on all new construction and reconstruction projects for arterial and collector roadways.
- 5.2 Implement a comprehensive regional trail plan for the transportation planning area providing integration and connectivity of existing and potential trails.
- Encourage preservation of the existing system.
 - Promote the improvement and expansion of the trail system.
 - Connect existing gaps in trail facilities.
- 5.3 Promote bicycle and pedestrian safety.
- Monitor pedestrian and bicycle crashes through coordination with local Police Departments.
 - Coordinate with Kansas' SAFE KIDS program in developing education programs to encourage helmet use and safe riding techniques.

- Inventory existing traffic signals and develop program to upgrade, as necessary, to accommodate pedestrian/bicycle use.
- When necessary because of high speed, high traffic volumes, or other reasons, separate bicycle/pedestrian trails from motorized traffic through landscape buffering and/or grade separated crossings based on accepted standards.

GOAL 6. Rail Transportation and Freight Movement:

Promote the safe and efficient movement of goods on the region's rail and highway systems.



Objectives:

- 6.1 Encourage improvements to and the expansion of freight facilities and assets to ensure that the Wichita Area remains a leader in effective goods movement.
 - Plan and implement projects to preserve, enhance and promote the movement of goods on existing facilities, such as major truck routes, rail infrastructure and airports.
 - Develop strategies and techniques, such as access management and truck route designation, to direct commercial vehicles to interstates and other major highways.
 - Promote land use patterns that locate freight facilities and assets in areas that ensure safety, economic viability and maximum use of the transportation system.
 - Study the feasibility of establishing intermodal freight facilities to serve regional, national, and international shipments of goods and materials in cooperation with regional railroads, shippers and carriers.
 - Engage the Private Freight Stakeholders in the planning process to better identify and address their transportation issues and challenges.

- 6.2 Promote safety and decrease delay between transportation modes.
 - Continue to implement strategies and projects identified in the Wichita/Sedgwick County Railroad Alternative Analysis.
 - Prioritize at-grade rail/roadway crossings and develop a program to improve safety and the movement of goods and people at these locations.
 - Promote grade separations at rail crossings on major corridors.
 - Investigate advance technologies to increase the safety and efficiency of freight transportation services and facilities.

- 6.3 Promote surface transportation linkages between the Wichita Area and other large metropolitan areas.
- Participate in activities promoted by the Southwest Passage Initiative for Regional Interstate Transportation (SPIRIT),, that support linking major markets to enhance the movement of goods on the US 400 corridor.
 - Investigate other regional and national freight initiatives to determine their impacts and benefits to the Wichita Area.
 - Promote the establishment of passenger rail service connections to Wichita.

GOAL 7. Aviation:

Ensure the area is adequately serviced with general and commercial aviation facilities and services, and mitigate any negative operational impacts of the airport activities within the community.



Objectives:

- 7.1 Maximize the travel and freight handling potential of general and commercial airports.
- Continue improvements at Mid-Continent and Jabara airports to maintain them as the most modern air carrier and general airports in the region.
 - Support community initiatives that promote regional air travel.
 - Coordinate the planning of airport operational functions with the planning of the region's surface transportation systems.
 - Improve integration of surface transportation and freight improvements to facilitate future airport expansion projects.
- 7.2 Encourage implementation of land use regulations to prevent the encroachment of incompatible development around airports.
- Encourage compatible development in take-off/landing zones.
 - Encourage appropriate noise-reducing construction.
 - Support the recommended plan for land use surrounding McConnell Air Force Base.

GOAL 8. Safety and Security:

Improve the safety and security of the region's transportation system.



Objectives

- 8.1 Enhance the safe movement of people and goods.
- Promote the safety of pedestrians and bicyclists through sound design practices and public education.
 - Identify high vehicle accident locations and predominant crash types in the region and develop strategies to reduce these crashes.
 - Include safety consideration in the design and implementation of new transportation facilities and services.
 - Encourage standards for arterials in new growth areas to include the use of medians to reduce the number of left turn conflicts.
 - Promote the reduction of rail/auto conflict points through abandonment, grade separation, or realignment of rail corridors and major streets.
 - Encourage the use of Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) technologies to identify and quickly respond to incidents on the region's roadway system.
- 8.2 Enhance the security of all transportation modes.
- Investigate ITS applications that would improve the security of the transportation system.
- 8.3 Support the Major Medical Response System (MMRS) through the development of the transportation system.
- Encourage the coordination of all transportation modes needed to respond to an incident.
 - Encourage the development of a circulation/routing plan to support Major Medical Response System.

GOAL 9. Land Use Coordination:

Ensure an integrated approach to transportation and land use planning.

Objectives:

- 9.1 Coordinate transportation improvements with other infrastructure, service, and facility improvements.
- Encourage local governments to manage land development in coordination with the provision of transportation facilities and services.



- 9.2 Evaluate the transportation impacts of land use and development decisions on the major roadway network.
 - Using traffic counts and travel surveys review the correlation between various types of development and their impact on adjacent roadways.
- 9.3 Promote the use of public transit by encouraging local governments to develop land use regulations that provide transit friendly development at land use activity centers, near transit facilities and along or in proximity to identified transportation corridors.
 - Consider transit needs when reviewing proposed developments that include higher density residential, multi-use developments such as senior citizen complexes, retail centers, medical and service uses, etc.

GOAL 10. Regional Transportation Systems Management and Operations:

Promote deliberate and sustained regional planning and collaboration for transportation system management and operations.



Objectives:

- 10.1 Promote regional transportation planning and investment decision making.
 - Coordinate with transportation agencies and local jurisdictions to jointly implement the applications of Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) technologies.
- 10.2 Implement the recommendations of the ITS Early Deployment Study.
 - Administer and maintain the Regional ITS Architecture.
 - Promote traffic signal coordination.
 - Promote systems to provide real-time traveler information.
 - Improve incident/emergency management.
- 10.3 Use intelligent transportation technologies for scheduling, dispatching, maintaining, and monitoring public transportation activities, as well as customer service enhancements.
 - Support the development of ITS applications including transit monitoring, automatic vehicle location, and other technologies.
 - Support development of an internet-based passenger transit route scheduling program.

Federal Planning Factors

Federal law requires each metropolitan planning organization (MPO) to consider seven planning factors in the development of a LRTP.

The seven federal planning factors are as follows:

1. To support the economic vitality of the metropolitan area, especially by enabling global competitiveness, productivity, and efficiency.
2. Increase the safety and security of the transportation system for motorized and non-motorized users.
3. Increase the accessibility and mobility options available to people and for freight.
4. Protect and enhance the environment, promote energy conservation, and improve the quality of life.
5. Enhance the integration and connectivity of the transportation system, across and between modes, for people and freight.
6. Promote efficient system management and operation.
7. Emphasize the preservation of the existing transportation system.

Table 1.1 shows how each of the Goals and Objectives is linked to current federal transportation legislation.

LRTP Goals/Objectives Related to Federal Planning Factors

Federal Planning Factors →	Economic Vitality	Safety & Security	Access & Mobility	Environment	Integration & Connectivity	Management & Operation	System Preservation
Goal 1. Transportation System Mobility and Access							
1.1 Improve access for cities	✓		✓	✓	✓		
1.2 Integrate & connect transportation modes				✓	✓		
1.3 Provide a system that meets people's needs	✓		✓	✓			✓
Goal 2. Environment, Energy Conservation and Quality of Life							
2.1 Maintain air quality				✓			
2.2 Minimize impacts to the environment				✓			
2.3 Encourage development of Park & Ride facilities			✓	✓	✓	✓	
Goal 3. Highways, Streets, and Roads							
3.1 Maintain & optimize existing roadways	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
3.2 Reduce traffic congestion	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
3.3 Develop a network that promotes connectivity	✓	✓		✓	✓		
3.4 Study & preserve corridors for future roadways	✓		✓		✓		✓
Goal 4. Public Transportation System							
4.1 Identify unmet public transportation needs			✓	✓	✓		
4.2 Promote public transportation for all communities	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
4.3 Identify long-term funding for transit shuttle			✓	✓		✓	
Goal 5. Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation							
5.1 Encourage alternate transportation networks		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
5.2 Implement a regional trail plan		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
5.3 Promote bicycle & pedestrian safety		✓		✓			
Goal 6. Rail and Freight Transportation							
6.1 Improve & expand freight facilities	✓		✓		✓		✓
6.2 Improve safety & reduce delay at crossings		✓	✓			✓	
6.3 Promote links to other metropolitan areas	✓		✓		✓		
Goal 7. Aviation							
7.1 Maximize air travel & freight potential	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
7.2 Encourage land use regulations near airports		✓		✓			
Goal 8. Safety and Security							
8.1 Enhance the safe movement of people and goods		✓		✓		✓	
8.2 Enhance security for all transportation modes		✓		✓		✓	
8.3 Support the Major Medical Response System		✓		✓		✓	
Goal 9. Land Use Coordination							
9.1 Coordinate transportation & other infrastructure	✓			✓	✓		
9.2 Evaluate transp. impacts of land use decisions	✓	✓	✓	✓			
9.3 Promote transit-friendly development			✓	✓	✓		
Goal 10. Regional Transportation Systems Management and Operations							
10.1 Coordinate planning & decision making activities		✓	✓	✓		✓	
10.2 Implement ITS Early Deployment Study		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
10.3 ITS applications for public transportation service		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

Table 1.1: Relationship of LRTP Goals & Objectives to Federal Planning Factors