



NASHVILLE AREA

Metropolitan Planning Organization

2040 Regional Transportation Plan Policy Framework

Endorsed by the MPO Executive Board on November 12, 2014

Mission

The Nashville Area MPO facilitates strategic planning for the region's multi-modal transportation system by serving as a forum for collaboration among local communities and state leaders. The vision of the MPO is to develop policies and programs that direct public funds to transportation projects that increase access to opportunity and prosperity, while promoting the health and wellness of Middle Tennesseans and their environment.

Core Values

Inclusive, Transparent, Innovative, Accountable

Guiding Principles

Livability

Enhance quality of life by prioritizing initiatives that increase opportunities for housing, learning, employment, recreation, and civic involvement while maintaining affordability.

Sustainability

Encourage growth and prosperity without sacrificing the health, natural environment, historical and cultural assets, or financial stability of this or future generations.

Prosperity

Contribute to the region's economic well-being by targeting solutions that attract talent, connect workforce with jobs, reduce the cost of doing business, and leverage additional investment.

Diversity

Respect the multitude of backgrounds and the variety of perspectives of Middle Tennesseans by pursuing an array of strategies that are customized to local community needs and character.

Regional Goals & Objectives

Maintain a Safe and Reliable Transportation System for People and Goods

- Integrate a "fix-it-first" mentality to keep existing infrastructure in a state of good repair.
- Reduce the number and severity of crashes by designing roadways to accommodate all users.
- Incorporate information technologies to improve traffic operations and help optimize traveler decisions.
- Manage the negative impact of traffic congestion by providing alternatives to driving.

- Designate and implement a regional freight network to efficiently move goods and minimize negative impacts to local communities.

Help Local Communities Grow in a Healthy and Sustainable Way

- Align transportation decisions with economic development initiatives, land use planning, and open space conservation efforts.
- Integrate healthy community design strategies and promote active transportation to improve the public health outcomes of the built environment.
- Encourage the deployment of context-sensitive solutions to ensure that community values are not sacrificed for a mobility improvement.
- Incorporate the arts and creative placemaking into planning and public works projects to foster innovative solutions and to enhance the sense of place and belonging.
- Pursue solutions that promote social equity and contain costs for transportation and housing.
- Minimize the vulnerability of transportation assets to extreme weather events.

Enhance Economic Competitiveness to Attract Private Investment

- Recognize major shifts in demographics and market preferences for transportation and housing and respond with solutions that keep Middle Tennessee an attractive place to live and do business.
- Improve the connectivity between workforce and jobs by offering a range of options to manage commuting distances and travel times.
- Improve mobility within and between centers of commerce across the region by providing a diversified transportation system, rather than relying solely on roadway capacity.
- Keep the region connected to national and global markets by improving travel times on US Interstates, upgrading intermodal connections to water, air, and rail freight systems, and by ensuring Middle Tennessee is included in plans for national high speed passenger rail.

Spend Public Funds Wisely by Ensuring a Return on Investment

- Increase public ownership in the planning process to help identify the most significant problems.
- Foster regional interdisciplinary collaboration to prioritize the most effective solutions.
- Evaluate the full costs and benefits of public investment in infrastructure.
- Strive for quality over quantity by implementing all elements of priority projects to maximize value.
- Consider public-private partnerships to encourage innovative approaches to project design and delivery.
- Accelerate project delivery schedules by involving the public early and often, minimizing bureaucratic delay, and ensuring that funding is available to implement projects once designed.
- Monitor and track the performance of public investments to demonstrate accountability.
- Find ways to bridge the gap between revenue shortfalls and the growing cost of transportation needs.

Major Strategies to Achieve Goals

Fund and Implement the Regional Vision for Mass Transit: Expand and modernize the region's mass transit system in preparation for an increasingly competitive global economy, and to proactively address growing concerns about traffic congestion, increasing energy costs, public health outcomes, and encroachment upon the area's rural countryside.

Develop Active Transportation Options for Walkable Communities: Improve connectivity between people and places to improve the health of Middle Tennesseans, and to serve as the backbone of investments in mass transit.

Reinvest in Strategic Roadway Corridors: Repair aging roadways and bridges to ensure the safety of the traveling public and freight carriers, improve operations through the integration of new technologies, and implement complete streets to provide a balanced system that works for all users.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Michael Skipper - Skipper@NashvilleMPO.org