



NASHVILLE AREA

**Metropolitan Planning Organization**

**2035 Regional Transportation Plan**  
**Guiding Principles, Regional Goals, and Major Objectives**  
Endorsed by the MPO Executive Board, March 17, 2010

**Guiding Principles**

Guiding principles direct how the Nashville Area MPO -- working as part of a larger regional context comprised of the interests of local governments, non-profit organizations, the business community, and public citizens -- will contribute to overall quality of life for the region.

**Guiding Principle #1: *Livability***

MPO plans and programs will work to enhance the quality of life in the region by supporting initiatives that increase opportunities for affordable housing, education, jobs, recreation, and civic involvement without increasing the burden on citizens to enjoy their community.

**Guiding Principle #2: *Sustainability***

MPO plans and programs will strive to support growth and prosperity without sacrificing the health, environment, natural and socio-cultural resources, or financial stability of this or future generations.

**Guiding Principle #3: *Prosperity***

MPO plans and programs will contribute to the continued economic well-being of the greater Nashville area by investing in transportation solutions that increase access to education, jobs, and amenities, reduce the cost of living and doing business, and attract new investment to the region.

**Guiding Principle #4: *Diversity***

MPO plans and programs will recognize the multitude of needs and the variety of perspectives and backgrounds of the people that live and work in the greater Nashville area by promoting a range of transportation choices that are designed with sensitivity to the desired context.

**Regional Goals**

The regional goals embody a general set of strategies by which the Nashville Area MPO will seek to help the region in its pursuit of quality growth as directed by the overarching guiding principles.

- Goal # 1:** Maintain and Preserve the Efficiency, Safety, and Security of the Region's Existing Transportation Infrastructure.
- Goal # 2:** Manage Congestion to Keep People and Goods Moving.
- Goal # 3:** Encourage Quality Growth and Sustainable Land Development Practices.
- Goal # 4:** Protect the Region's Health & Environment.
- Goal # 5:** Support the Economic Competitiveness of the Greater Nashville Area.
- Goal # 6:** Offer Meaningful Transportation Choices for a Diverse Population including the Aging.
- Goal # 7:** Encourage Regional Coordination, Cooperation, & Decision-Making.
- Goal # 8:** Practice Thoughtful, Transparent Financial Stewardship by Ensuring that Transportation Improvements meet Regional Goals.

## Major Objectives

The major objectives represent specific strategies and actions that the MPO wishes to implement en route to achieving the regional goals of the 2035 Regional Transportation Plan.

- Objective #1:** Adopt a “fix-it-first” mentality in directing transportation funding. Initial focus should always be on the maintenance or improvement of existing facilities.
- Objective #2:** Strive for quality over quantity. Build out all elements of priority projects or phases rather than stringing funding out over several incomplete projects or incomplete phases.
- Objective #3:** Shift investment strategies towards providing a diversification of modes, rather than solely on strategies focused on roadway capacity.
- Objective #4:** Improve marketing and promotion of successful existing transportation services. It is acceptable to use federal transportation funds to do this.
- Objective #5:** Provide opportunities and define roles for all types of organizations and/or individuals (public or private) to assist in the implementation of programs and projects.
- Objective #6:** Improve the coordination of land use, urban design, transportation, rural and environmental feature preservation, and economic development policies and decisions through incentives and/or policies.
- Objective #7:** Encourage the development of context sensitive solutions to ensure that community values are not sacrificed for a mobility improvement.
- Objective #8:** Increase efforts to improve the form and function of transportation corridors in order to contribute to the “sense of place.” Such investments can: improve attractiveness to visitors or prospective businesses or residents; compliment existing natural and cultural resources; improve the function of the road for a variety of users; and foster civic pride toward public investments in infrastructure.
- Objective #9:** Consider how transportation policies, programs, and investment strategies affect the overall health of people and the environment including air quality, physical activity, biodiversity, and the natural resources.
- Objective #10:** Invest in the development of walkable communities that offer citizens the ability to access residences, jobs, retail, recreation, and other community amenities without the need to rely on an automobile.
- Objective #11:** Invest in a modern regional mass transit system to maintain the region’s economic competitiveness with other metropolitan regions, and to ensure continued economic prosperity in the face of growing energy costs, environmental concerns, and increasingly expensive automobile traffic.
- Objective #12:** Work to ensure that Middle Tennessee is given priority consideration in proposed national plans for high-speed rail. Identify opportunities to coordinate regional mass transit planning efforts with super-regional and national efforts to invest in rail infrastructure.
- Objective #13:** Provide proper guidance to the region for how to bridge the gap between the MPO's "cost-feasible" plan and the ultimate vision for how transportation will shape the future of the region.