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Vision, Goals, Objectives & Strategies

Goals, Objectives and Strategies

Introduction

To inform, guide and improve the MPO decision making process, the development of a Vision Statement and a series of Goals, Objectives and Strategies (GO&S) was undertaken. These updated statements were based on the prior Regional Transportation Plan and refined over a series of meetings and discussions with the MPO, members of the Montachusett Joint Transportation Committee (MJTC) and the general public. The establishment of these GO&S help to define and guide the scenarios, analysis and recommendations that encompass this RTP.

Vision Statement

“ The Montachusett Metropolitan Planning Organization seeks to provide a multimodal and inclusionary transportation system that is safe, secure, efficient and affordable to all individuals while supporting and encouraging environmentally-sustainable economic development, growth, and revitalization in the Montachusett Region..”

Vision Statement: Aspirational view of the regional transportation system in 2050

Goals: General statements of what we wish to accomplish

Objectives: Specific items to help achieve goals

Strategies: Actions taken to accomplish goals and objectives

Goals, Objectives and Strategies

Goal 1 - Improve and Maintain Safety and Security

Objectives

i. Reduce the number and severity of vehicular crashes within the region across all modes.

Strategies

- * Promote and identify projects that are designed to address high crash locations and prioritize their implementation.
- * Promote and encourage education outreach programs to drivers, pedestrians and bicyclists regarding rules and responsibilities.
- * Encourage community involvement with federal and state programs and education initiatives.
- * Specifically, seek funding through the Safe Streets for All (SS4A) program through the BIL to develop a Safety Action Plan for the regions and eventual funding for the implementation of projects.
- * Seek to improve user awareness along all transportation networks through better identification, pavement markings and signage with an emphasis on bicycle and pedestrian routes.
- * Seek to expand the number and use of Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) technologies such as variable message signs along major roads such as Route 2 and I-190 to inform drivers of potential unsafe conditions and important alerts.

ii. Improve access and mobility along identified emergency and evacuation routes in the Region.

Strategies

- * Promote projects that address key identified emergency and evacuation routes in order to maintain effectiveness.

iii. Promote traffic calming and safety measures where appropriate for all modes.

Strategies

- * Offer truck exclusion studies and advice for communities in the region, where appropriate.
- * Consider specific improvements encouraging safe use of local roadways by heavy vehicles.

Goal 2 - Reduce Congestion and Improve Mobility

Objectives

i. Monitor and promote and identify projects that address congested roadways within the Region.

Strategies

- * Support programs that efficiently address deficiencies across all modes including freight, heavy vehicle and rail crossings.
- * Expand and improve analysis on freight, heavy vehicle and rail activities, including remaining active in state led data and analysis initiatives.

ii. Increase travel options within the region through the promotion of trails, Complete Streets, transit, land use and their interactions.

Strategies

- * Encourage communities to address local mobility issues in order to promote mode shift options in congested areas.

Goal 3 – Promote and Seek Equitable Transportation for All

Objectives

Increase access to transit options through improved dissemination of available service information.

Strategies

- * Improve outreach and partnerships between RTA’s and social service agencies, schools, health centers, neighborhood organizations, major employers etc.
- * Actively seek and identify organizations and agencies of Title VI and Environmental Justice populations and conduct direct outreach to encourage involvement and participation in the planning process.

ii. Improve transit service operations for all trip destinations/ purposes and users.

Strategies

- * Promote the development of improvements and options across all modes for areas that serve Title VI and Environmental Justice populations.
- * Monitor fee options in order to maintain equitability for all users.
- * Conduct benefits/burdens review of federal aid projects identified through the TIP process on an annual basis.
- * Actively examine options such as microtransit, Transportation Management Associations, etc. that can expand services to more remote areas.

Goal 4 – Improve System Preservation and Maintenance for All Modes

Objectives

i. Support and prioritize preservation projects in order to maintain a state of good repair for all modes.

Strategies

- * Continue to monitor, and revise as needed, the Transportation Evaluation Criteria (TEC) to promote those projects that help to maintain a state of good repair.
- * Monitor overall conditions of infrastructure elements including pavement, sidewalks, drainage, stormwater, culverts, bridges and others in the region and support improvement efforts.
- * Encourage communities to maintain trails that provide transportation options throughout the year.
- * Support continued operation, maintenance, state of good repair and improvement of the transit system.

ii. Encourage communities to seek funding and implementation of projects through the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) process as well as other applicable federal and state programs.

Strategies

- * Encourage additional funds for the maintenance and preservation of all aspects of the transportation network in the region.

Goal 5 – Improve Economic Vitality

Objectives

i. Promote the economic advantages of the region across all modes.

Strategies

- * Establish and prioritize major trail connections for commuter and recreational purposes throughout the region and beyond.
- * Promote transit and commuter rail options.
- * Improve freight, heavy vehicle and rail mobility for both rail and highways, where appropriate.
- * Improve access to job clusters and employment centers and economic development priority areas.
- * Assist communities in identifying preferred freight traffic routing.

Goal 6 – Improve and Promote Healthy Modes and Transportation Options

Objectives

i. Expand travel options and modes across the region through improved connections and services.

Strategies

- * Improve and maintain infrastructure and bicycle/pedestrian facilities for transit centers and transit vehicles, as well as at other applicable public and commercial facilities/locations.
- * Promote state and federal programs related to Complete Streets, Safe Routes to School (SRTS), trail development, sidewalks and ADA mobility improvements.
- * Promote and encourage a shift from single occupant vehicles to transit, bicycle and pedestrian modes through improved transit, van/car pool and trail options.
- * Promote and encourage small communities to examine and implement applicable programs such as ride share, sidewalk development and connections, etc. that would improve healthy travel options locally.

Goal 7 – Reduce Green House Gas and Promote Environmental Practices and Sustainability

Objectives

i. Reduce Greenhouse Gas emissions through support and implementation of all applicable state and federal programs and projects.

Strategies

- * Prioritize vehicle replacement in the transit fleet with applicable and cost-effective alternative fuel vehicles.
- * Encourage and support the use of alternative fuel vehicles by the public with infrastructure support services, such as the development of electric vehicle charging stations.
- * Promote programs and projects that support the reduction of single occupant vehicles.
- * Promote stormwater drainage improvements in order to meet state and federal guidelines.