



## *2 Vision, Goals, Objectives & Strategies*

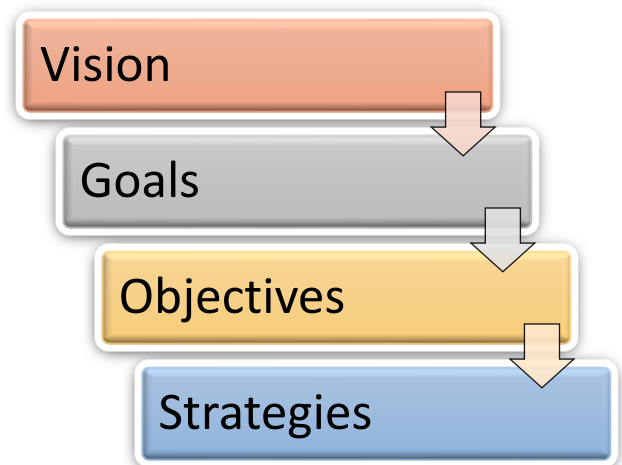


## VISION, GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES

In order 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 multi-modal transportation system that is safe, secure, efficient and affordable to all individuals while maintaining support and encouragement for economic development, growth and revitalization while simultaneously promoting a sustainable, healthy, livable and environmentally sensitive region.”**



### 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 such as Safe Routes to School.
  - 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 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.

### 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 and rail locations.

- 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*

- i. 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, 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.

### [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 railroad and other restricted bridges in order to enhance freight mobility.
- Improve freight and general vehicle access and connection to Route 2 and other major highways across the region.
- Improve access to job clusters and employment centers and economic development priority areas.

### Goal 6 – Improve and Promote Healthy Modes and Transportation Options

#### *Objectives*

- 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, to encourage commuter options and increased usage of healthy travel modes.
- Promote 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*

- 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 communities to promote and support Green Streets and other state and federal initiatives through Low Impact (LID), Transit Oriented (TOD) and Smart Growth Developments.
- Encourage and support the use of alternative fuel vehicles by the public with



infrastructure support services.

- Promote programs and projects that support the State Mode Shift Goals.
- Promote stormwater drainage improvements in order to meet state and federal guidelines.