

CHAPTER 2—GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS

In 2005 the Federal Government passed the bill known as the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act-A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU). This bill identified eight planning factors that need to be considered when doing regional transportation planning at the metropolitan level.

- 1) Support the economic vitality of the metropolitan area, especially by enabling global competitiveness, productivity, and efficiency.
- 2) Increase the safety of the transportation system for motorized and non-motorized users.
- 3) Increase the security of the transportation system for motorized and non-motorized users.
- 4) Increase the accessibility and mobility of people and for freight.
- 5) Protect and enhance the environment, promote energy conservation, improve the quality of life, and promote consistency between transportation improvements and State and local planned growth and economic development patterns.
- 6) Enhance the integration and connectivity of the transportation system, across and between modes, for people and freight.
- 7) Promote efficient system management and operation.
- 8) Emphasize the preservation of the existing transportation system.

ENVISION CACHE VALLEY- QUALITY GROWTH PRINCIPLES

The following principles were developed as overarching goals to guide the implementation of the Cache Valley Vision developed through the Envision Cache Valley Process. Inclusion of these goals in the RTP indicates general endorsement of these principles in terms of guiding of transportation planning and prioritization on the part of the CMPO's Technical Advisory Committee and Executive Council.

- 1) Enhance existing towns and cities and maintain individual community identity by encouraging inward growth and more compact development and buffering community boundaries with agrarian and natural lands.
- 2) Encourage mixed-use neighborhoods and town centers that include a variety of housing options and that allow individuals and families to live close to where they shop, obtain services, go to school, work and play.
- 3) Develop clean and sustainable industry and good-paying jobs close to home.
- 4) Provide a balanced transportation network with improved roadway connections, enhanced public transportation options, and streets that encourage bicyclist and pedestrian mobility.
- 5) Invest in efficient infrastructure systems to serve existing communities and future growth. These systems manage such services as water, sewer, waste disposal, and energy.
- 6) Protect, preserve and improve air quality, water quality, wildlife habitat, agricultural land and the scenic beauty of Cache Valley.
- 7) Maintain and improve access to recreation by connecting local recreational amenities to a regional network.
- 8) Expand local recreation systems, providing small parks located near where people live and linked by trails for walking and biking.
- 9) Encourage close coordination among local governments, school districts, universities, businesses, and places of worship to address growth issues and implement the Cache Valley Vision.

2035 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN GOALS & OBJECTIVES

In addition to the goals and guiding principles already described, the CMPO endorses the following goals and objectives as a guide to development of this plan and future planning efforts.

CMPO 2035 RTP GOALS

Goal # 1: Provide increased mobility for persons and freight through a balanced and inter-connected transportation system.

Objective 1.a Roadway Capacity

Maintain regional vehicle hours of delay at present level as inflated by population growth rate.

Objective 1.b Complete Streets

Build arterial and collector streets as “complete streets”, accommodating automobiles, bikes, buses and sidewalks (See Figure 4).

Objective 1.c Transportation Choice

Develop and maintain a public transit system that enhances mobility choices and increases per capita ridership. Develop and maintain a system of safe and efficient pedestrian and bikeways connecting neighborhoods with activity centers.

Goal # 2: Increase transportation safety for all modes

Goal # 3: Protect and preserve existing transportation systems and opportunities.

Objective 3.a Access Management

Manage access to major facilities to maintain throughput and encourage compatible land uses.

Objective 3.b Corridor Preservation

Preserve needed future transportation corridors early.

Goal # 4: Provide a transportation system that protects the environment and improves the quality of life.

Objective 4.a Neighborhood Impact

Roadway widening that may impact existing neighborhoods should be avoided to the extent possible.

Objective 4.b Vehicle Miles Traveled

Implement projects and policies that help reduce the growth rate of vehicle miles traveled (VMT) to be more consistent with the rate of population growth.

Figure 4: Example of Arterial “Complete Street”



Graphic by Chris Harrild