

CHAPTER 2: VISION & GOALS

Our Vision

Community outreach efforts for this plan were broad based, inclusive, and encouraged active participation in identifying the vision, goals, and needs of the area. To create a vision that reflects the needs and desires of the residents of the Kalamazoo urbanized area, KATS reached out to thousands of stakeholders across the region through internet surveys, open houses, stakeholder meetings, and many other means. Many agencies participated in the development of this plan, as did local transit, MDOT, and many community-based organizations and advocacy groups representing the diverse interests of the Kalamazoo area.

Public Engagement

Considering the needs and desires of all populations is critical to the development of a transportation plan that creates access to opportunity for people of all ages, incomes, and abilities. Public engagement lays the foundation for the development and implementation of an integrated multimodal transportation system that supports community development and furthers the region's cultural, environmental and social goals.

Equity

The Kalamazoo MPO made a concerted effort in this planning process to consider the impacts and benefits of the transportation plan on often-times underserved populations, such as the socioeconomically disadvantaged, people with disabilities, and racial and ethnic minorities. Equity is a theme throughout this plan; from setting performance measures that consider the impacts of the transportation system on vulnerable populations to considering the need of the transportation system to provide mobility options that allow access to affordable housing, healthy food, jobs, recreation, and social opportunities.

Further details on public engagement efforts are outlined in Chapter 5.

Goals

The creation of a performance framework for the transportation plan allows us to better understand how different projects and policies might affect our region’s future. The goals listed below are formulated to represent our community’s vision and the desired state for our region’s transportation system. These five goals are the foundation for performance measures, performance targets, recommended policy, and project implementation actions described in later chapters of this MTP.

	<p>Goal 1 Safety – a safe and secure transportation system for all users.</p>
	<p>Goal 2 System Preservation - a well maintained transportation system.</p>
	<p>Goal 3 Multimodal Mobility & Accessibility – an accessible, equitable, and integrated transportation system.</p>
	<p>Goal 4 Partnership & Funding – regional collaboration in transportation planning, funding, and implementation.</p>
	<p>Goal 5 Environmental Stewardship – a transportation system that protects and enhances the natural, cultural, and built environment.</p>

Goal 1: a safe and secure transportation system for all users.

Objectives:

- Enhance safety by integrating and connecting the transportation system, across and between modes, for people and freight.
- Promote a balanced transportation system that stimulates and supports long-term economic vitality, travel and tourism, global competitiveness, productivity, and efficiency through directed investments across modes.

- Implement strategies to promote efficient and reliable system management and operation that result in the reliable and safe movement of people and freight.
- Increase security of the transportation system by incorporating applicable emergency relief and disaster preparedness plans, strategies and policies that support homeland security, as appropriate, to safeguard the security of all motorized and nonmotorized users.

Measures:

- 5 year rolling average of the total number and rate of fatal and serious (type A) injuries for the number of serious car crashes.
- 5 year rolling average of the total number and rate of fatal and serious (type A) bicycle and pedestrian crashes for the number of serious nonmotorized crashes.

Goal 2: a well-maintained transportation system.

Objectives:

- Apply transportation asset management principles and techniques to identify, assess, and maintain existing transportation infrastructure in support of federal performance measures.
- Support the State of Good Repair federal performance measures and the priorities established by local transit agencies.
- Identify strategies and recommend investments that preserve and enhance regional transit systems.

Measures:

- Percent of National Highway System bridge deck areas in “good” and “poor” condition using established International Roughness Index (IRI) measures.
- Percent of interstate pavement in “good” and “poor” condition using established IRI measures.
- Percent of non-interstate pavement in “good” and “poor” condition using established IRI measures.
- Increase the percentage of transit vehicles operating within their remaining service life.

Goal 3: an accessible, equitable, and integrated transportation system.

Objectives:

- Provide access to employment, education, medical facilities, housing, services, neighborhoods, recreation and fresh food for all people, regardless of age, ability, or economic status.
- Foster Environmental Justice through the maintenance of a planning process that does not unfairly affect any one segment of our community.
- Implement improvements for all transportation system users that foster increased accessibility, economic development and vitality.

Measures:

- Percentage of population within walking distance of fixed route transit. Updated with changes to fixed route transit systems.
- Increase in annual transit ridership.
- Level of travel time reliability of the interstate, non-interstate and freight on the interstate. Travel time reliability is a measure of travel time consistency over a period of time.

Goal 4: regional collaboration in transportation planning, funding, and implementation.

Objectives:

- Provide continual and transparent opportunities for stakeholders and the public to actively participate in the transportation decision making process.
- Employ the Congestion Management Process to systematically monitor, measure, diagnose, and recommend travel management alternatives for current and future congestion on our region's multimodal transportation system.
- Encourage agencies to plan and coordinate projects to maximize funding opportunities and reduce overall project costs.

Measures:

- Views across social media platforms to show public engagement success.

- Percent of funding spent on roads, transit and non-motorized transportation for projects in the Metropolitan Transportation Plan and the Transportation Improvement Program.
- Number of projects that are tied with other infrastructure work.

Goal 5: a transportation system that protects and enhances the natural, cultural, and built environment.

Objectives:

- Increase the availability of modes other than single occupant motor vehicles through public transit, ridesharing and non-motorized usage.
- Reduce on-road mobile source emission affecting air quality.
- Encourage the development of policies and programs that promote context sensitive roadway design that preserves a community’s aesthetic and natural resources.

Measures:

- Increase percentage of work trips using alternative modes such as transit, bicycling and walking.
- Increase percentage of total federal funds invested in environmental justice tracts.

Relating Planning Factors to MTP Goals

The table below shows how the goals and objectives for the 2050 MTP support FAST Act planning factors.

FAST Act Planning Factors	Related MTP Goal(s)	Incorporation of FAST Act Planning Factors
1). Support the economic vitality of the metropolitan area, especially by enabling global competitiveness, productivity, and efficiency	Goal 1 Goal 2 Goal 3 Goal 4	The projects contained in this plan preserve and enhance access by all modes to employment centers.
2). Increase the safety of the transportation system for all users	Goal 1	In support of federal performance measures, safety improvements for all modes are encouraged in this plan.

<p>3). Increase the security of the transportation system or all users</p>	<p>Goal 1 Goal 3</p>	<p>Employ strategies and collaborate with other agencies to increase the security of the transportation system.</p>
<p>4). Increase the accessibility and mobility of people and freight</p>	<p>Goal 1 Goal 2 Goal 3 Goal 4</p>	<p>Mobility options for nonmotorized, transit, and roadway users are increased under this plan. Accessibility is improved, but it is also recognized that additional activities should be considered to increase the accessibility of the transportation system for all users.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>Goal 1 Goal 2 Goal 3 Goal 4 Goal 5</p>	<p>The MTP seeks to minimize any negative environmental impacts as a result of programs/projects. The implementation of the programs/projects contained in this plan will reduce gaps in the system and a reduction in the number of congested miles. Consistency is achieved by developing the MTP in conjunction with KATS members, road agencies, Metro, and MDOT, and by increasing the accuracy of socio-economic data input into the Transportation Model.</p>
<p>6). Enhance the integration and connectivity of the transportation system, across and between modes, for people and freight</p>	<p>Goal 1 Goal 2 Goal 3</p>	<p>The programs/projects in the plan seek to enhance connectivity and integration between modes, for example transit and nonmotorized.</p>
<p>7). Promote efficient system management and operation</p>	<p>Goal 2 Goal 3 Goal 4</p>	<p>The programs/projects in this plan were developed with KATS members, state and local transportation providers, and the general public. Such input helps ensure that the system is efficiently managed and operated and the projects proposed support the continuation of a system that is efficiently managed and operated.</p>
<p>8). Emphasize the preservation of the existing transportation system</p>	<p>Goal 2</p>	<p>The MTP considered preservation of the existing transportation system through the financial analysis; maintaining the system in a state of good repair is a federal performance</p>

		measure and a high priority for our members.
9). Improve the resiliency and reliability of the transportation system and reduce or mitigate stormwater impacts of surface transportation	Goal 1 Goal 2 Goal 3 Goal 5	System reliability is a federal performance measure and therefore a high priority. Reduce congestion through the congestion management process, and the projects in this plan must be congestion-deficient to be eligible for federal funding.
10). Enhance travel and tourism	Goal 1 Goal 2 Goal 3 Goal 4 Goal 5	Enhancing and preserving the system, including our environmental resources, leads to a much more appealing travel destination. Strengthening land use and transportation decisions with the economy and tourism in mind can increase the desirability of our area as a must visit location.