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Transportation Planning Goals

2012

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN

3 Transportation Planning Goals

The following goals were identified through an extensive public outreach process and have been the guiding concepts for transportation planning in Franklin County for the last ten years. During this update, these goals were again validated through public outreach, including surveys and public forums.

➤ **Enhance the mobility of people and goods traveling to, from, and through Franklin County.**

Ensure that people, goods, and freight are able to travel freely and efficiently and that intermodal transportation options are available. The road and bridge improvements recommended in this RTP will help ensure high-quality mobility in the region.

➤ **Ensure that the transportation planning process is inclusive and objective.**

Continue to expand outreach activities to public stakeholders and special needs populations. Include consideration of the objective evaluation criteria and financial constraints in decision-making and the prioritization of future projects. It is important that all voices are heard during the planning process so that the transportation needs of all residents are met.

➤ **Improve transportation safety.**

Ensure that Franklin County roadways, bridges, railroads, airports, and other transportation facilities are safe. Safety improvement projects have, and will continue to have, priority in the region. The recommendations in this RTP have been evaluated on this basis.

➤ **Promote economic development.**

Enhance and encourage economic development by creating a safe, efficient,

comprehensive, intermodal, and multimodal transportation network.

➤ **Maintain rural character.**

Ensure that transportation improvements are designed and constructed to enhance mobility while maintaining the historic and rural character of roadways, bridges, and communities. The scenic nature of the county helps contribute to the region's economic development through the tourism and recreation industries. The recommendations regarding Franklin County's scenic byways help preserve and promote this rural and scenic character.

➤ **Support the preservation of existing transportation infrastructure.**

Promote cost-effective policies that encourage the upgrading and maintenance of current transportation facilities over new construction. Many of the recommendations of the RTP, particularly the Pavement Management System, promote the maintenance of the current transportation infrastructure.

➤ **Enhance the security of the transportation network.**

Promote increased security at transportation facilities, and expand the region's ability to protect the transportation network from potential hazards and threats. This will become more important in the future as a result of climate change and its related natural hazard threats such as the potential of increased flooding.

➤ **Encourage integrated planning activities that support sustainable development patterns.**

Recognize and support the link between an efficient multimodal transportation network and balanced sustainable land development. A more sustainable transportation system benefits not only the region's environmental health, but also provides economic benefits to

residents as they drive less or use more affordable means of transportation.

➤ **Eliminate and/or mitigate environmental degradation due to construction, repair, maintenance, or use of transportation facilities.**

Ensure that water quality and soil stability and integrity are not compromised by the provision or existence of transportation facilities.

➤ **Promote transportation activities and technologies which conserve energy and reduce travel congestion and vehicle emissions.**

Support commute options, alternative fuel use, Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) infrastructure, and other means of reducing motorized vehicle usage and greenhouse gases. Many projects have already been implemented or begun that work towards this goal. There are also many recommendations in this RTP that further this effort.

➤ **Provide and preserve access to natural, scenic, cultural, and historic resources.**

Ensure that the general public has access to public water bodies, natural resource areas, historic structures, and scenic and cultural resources. It is also important that all members of the general public have equal access to these resources.

The recommendations found in this RTP all work towards the realization of these goals. They will be implemented through coordinated regional planning and, in part, specifically through the Franklin County Transportation Planning Organization's (FCTPO) Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and its Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). These shorter-term planning documents reflect the priorities of the Regional Transportation Plan, while guiding how and when projects should be implemented within the financial constraints of anticipated Federal and State Funding.

The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is a prioritized, four-year program for implementation of transportation improvement projects in Franklin County that receive federal funds. It is updated annually and is adjusted to the changing fiscal environment, but always reflects the RTP's goals and priorities. The Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) is also an annual document that describes the work tasks to be conducted during the year by the transportation planning staff of the FRCOG on behalf of the FCTPO. Like the TIP, the UPWP is based upon the priorities that have been identified in the RTP and work towards implementing those goals.

