

8. UPDATE ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN (RTP)

Background

The current 2045 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) is a strategy that targets federal, state, and local funding resources to use towards transportation investments for the region. This programming document was last updated on August 2, 2019 and must be updated every four (4) years per federal statute. It contains a framework of existing and forecasted conditions along with regional goals and objectives that guide the prioritization of projects and programs included a fiscally constrained action plan for at least the next 20 years.

Projects and programs must first be listed in the RTP prior to receipt of federal transportation funding and must also demonstrate consideration of ten (10) federally prescribed planning factors and various performance measures that track the system's safety, reliability, and condition. Once listed in the RTP, these projects and programs can then be further studied or designed as part of the biannual Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) or included in the four-year Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) schedule.

Current Situation

The current RTP and Air Quality Conformity are set to expire on August 2, 2023. To ensure time for the Air Quality Conformity review of investment impacts on air quality, the draft RTP should be available for public review in February 2023 and approved by the Transportation Policy Council (TPC) in April 2023. The development of a draft RTP for public review includes the following steps:

1. Update the inventory of demographic conditions and forecasts
2. Review vision and goals with performance measures to identify critical needs
3. Evaluate alternative investment scenarios on the system's anticipated performance
4. Align investments with anticipated funding sources to demonstrate fiscal constraint
5. Complete an Air Quality Conformity review of investment impacts
6. Consult with federally prescribed stakeholders and public throughout the planning process

The near-term tasks include:

1. Establish a public outreach strategy to ensure ability of critical stakeholders and the general public to participate in the planning process. This includes opportunities to participate in surveying, reviewing content, and commenting on needs and priorities.
2. Reviewing the current vision and goals with stakeholders and the general public. Current guidance from the RTP Subcommittee suggests a more succinct vision statement with supporting goals for achieving that vision.
3. Utilizing the latest 2020 Census data (to be released in March 2022) to revise regional forecast for size and location of the population and employment.
4. Incorporating the latest information from Subregional and Livable Center studies and the statistics on utilization and condition of various transportation facilities.

Action Requested

Information only.