

2. The Vision

2.1 2040 Vision — “Moving Forward Together”

The vision statement has remained fundamentally unchanged since the MPO’s first plan was adopted in 1996. Most changes have evolved from federal requirements rather than shifts in community vision. The vision still revolves around safety and security, quality of life, economic development, and access and mobility.

The MTP vision statement was reviewed in light of the Kent County Comprehensive Plan’s vision statement, just as the areas of emphasis and policy recommendations provided in the Comprehensive Plan were considered as the MTP recommendations were updated. Both plans focus on creating and maintaining sustainable communities and preserving the natural resources that contribute to the county’s unique character. When considered together, both plans serve to direct public investment in infrastructure in a manner that protects resources while allowing for economic opportunity.

2040 Vision — “Moving Forward Together”

The future transportation system in the Dover/Kent County metropolitan region is safe, supports economic development, allows easy access and mobility for people and goods to reach their destinations, and serves desired growth patterns. The transportation system serves the public’s needs, simultaneously reinforcing the unique character and quality of life of each community while preserving the region and its natural resources.

The MTP’s Vision is categorized into five major themes or principles around which the goals and objectives are based:

- Economic Development
- Quality of Life
- Growth Management/Land Use Coordination
- Access, Safety, Security, and Mobility
- Transportation Network (Infrastructure)

2.2 Themes, Goals, Objectives

Theme 1: Economic Development

Goal: Strengthen the local economy

Objectives:

- Support business retention and creation of high quality employment by investing in transportation improvements.
- Provide businesses with adequate access to labor by encouraging affordable, multimodal transportation options.

- **Reduce the expense and time delays of shipping and receiving freight** by enhancing access to retail and industrial areas and improving the interconnectivity of all modes of the transportation network.
- **Ensure community cohesion** by appropriately connecting developed areas with target growth areas for new development.

Theme 2: Quality of Life

Objectives:

- **Protect, preserve, and enhance natural, historic, and cultural resources** by managing the existing transportation system and making transportation investments that protect, preserve, and enhance these valued community resources.
- **Support healthy lifestyles, choices, and opportunities** by providing facilities such as sidewalks, multi-use paths, and bikeways as part of both transportation and land development projects.
- **Promote context sensitivity** by developing transportation improvements that minimize environmental impacts and promote improved quality of the environment.
- **Provide aesthetic value** by incorporating aesthetic and non-vehicular improvements in transportation investments.
- **Reduce air, water, and noise pollution** by accommodating less-polluting travel options such as walking, bicycling, transit, and use of alternatively-fueled and low emission vehicles.

Theme 3: Growth Management/Land Use Coordination

Goal: Support desired land use and effective growth management.

Objectives:

- **Identify desired land use patterns** by developing and routinely updating comprehensive land use plans that identify regional growth boundaries.
- **Integrate land use with transportation** by improving coordination between land use and transportation planning and project development in order to establish and maintain a transportation network that supports anticipated needs within growth areas.
- **Foster growth and development** by providing a variety of safe, convenient, and affordable transportation alternatives that support preservation of agricultural lands, open space, and other valued community resources.
- **Provide transportation alternatives** by planning, designing, and implementing an integrated transportation network.

Theme 4: Access, Safety, Security, and Mobility

Goal: Improve access and mobility while ensuring the safety and security of all citizens.

Objectives:

- **Improve mobility** by reducing dependence on a single mode of transportation.
- **Provide an integrated transportation system, enhancing accessibility and mobility** by including interconnected modes of travel including transit, pedestrian and bicycle facilities, car, truck, commuter rail, and freight.
- **Provide access to transportation services for people with special needs** (*disabled, elderly, etc.*) by making system enhancements and expanding services.
- **Improve accessibility, mobility, and safety** by prioritizing the maintenance and improvement of heavily-utilized corridors to enhance the free flow of goods and people.
- **Improve safety** by expanding driver training and safety awareness.
- **Enhance security** by taking actions to ensure the uninterrupted operation of vital transportation services.

Theme 5: Transportation Network (Infrastructure)**Goal: Safely and efficiently transport people and goods.****Objectives:**

- **Preserve and expand the existing transportation infrastructure** by focusing on facility maintenance and expansion to maximize its performance, capacity, and life cycle.
- **Promote the use of technology to enhance the transportation system** by planning, designing, and implementing innovative transportation solutions.
- **Ensure adequate transportation facilities** by making safety improvements an essential aspect and prioritizing maintenance of the transportation network.
- **Establish aesthetically pleasing and cost-effective transportation facilities** by utilizing innovative techniques and materials that result in context-sensitive solutions that require minimal maintenance.
- **Improve efficiency and safety of the existing system** by the use of technology, maintenance, and management.
- **Direct or focus transportation investments** in a manner that promotes sustainable development within designated areas.
- **Direct or focus transportation investments** by using Transportation Improvement Districts (TIDs) to promote sustainable development within these designated areas.

These themes or principles provide the basis for a regional vision of a safe, efficient, and affordable transportation system. The vision, supported by regional goals and objectives, provides a description of a desired setting for the future of the region. This setting provides the basis for decision-making in the metropolitan area with respect to transportation and land use. **Exhibit 2.1** illustrates how the vision, themes, goals, objectives, strategies, and actions are linked to each other.

Exhibit 2.1: MTP 2040 Vision

