

Chapter 2: The Vision

The Vision Statement represents the view of the MPO region that today's residents would like to achieve. This vision was originally developed based upon a composite set of opinions expressed during the 1995-96 public participation process. The updated vision includes recent community opinions along with additional priority clarification and emphasis. This chapter describes the updated vision and goals and objectives, organized by vision themes. These updates provide the basis for change to facilitate successful coordination of all planning partners and integration of land use with transportation planning in order to implement "*Moving Forward Together*." The vision also provides the foundation upon which the Plan's recommendations are based.

2030 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. A transportation system that serves the public's needs while reinforcing the unique character and quality of life of each community while preserving the region and natural resources.

The Vision is categorized in five major themes or principles:

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

Themes ➤ Goals ➤ Objectives

For each theme or planning principle, a goal has been established. Each goal is supported by several objectives. It is these themes, goals and objectives that provide the basis for development of fundamental strategies and actions to support implementation of the plan.

Theme 1 ➤ Economic Development

Goal ➤ To strengthen the local economy.

Objectives ➤

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

Goal ➤ To improve 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, biking, transit and use of alternatively-fueled and low emission vehicles.

Themes ➤ Goals ➤ Objectives *(continued)*

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 and Mobility

Goal ➤ To improve access and mobility while ensuring the safety 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 of 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.

Themes ➤ Goals ➤ Objectives (continued)

Theme 5 ➤ Transportation Network (Infrastructure)

Goal ➤ To 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 lifecycle.
- **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.

Themes ➤ Goals ➤ Objectives ➤ Strategies ➤ Actions

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.