
2. VISION STATEMENTS

INTRODUCTION

The *community vision* for the future of the metropolitan transportation system was built on the existing goals and objectives in the 2020 LRTP. These goals and objectives in turn were originally articulated by the broader community and channeled through the citizen-based Transportation Task Teams during development of the 2015 LRTP. The Task Teams were provided direct input from the general community through a number of formal and informal conduits, including public meetings and open Task Team committee meetings.

For the 2025 LRTP update process the goals and objectives received a thorough re-evaluation. The LRTP Sub-committee created by the ITCTC Planning Committee reviewed the update process. The first LRTP update public meeting, held September 24, 2003, focused

on the goals and objectives and resulted in numerous comments and changes. This chapter was available to the public at the ITCTC web site throughout the update process. Finally, the Planning Committee of the ITCTC reviewed the evolving Goals and Objectives during preparation of the 2025 LRP update and addressed them at advertised meetings open to the public. The new goals and objectives presented in this plan continue to provide an ambitious agenda for the ITCTC staff and participating agencies.

The Goals and Objectives are organized and presented here under headings that correspond to functional transportation issue areas. The Goals and Objectives are not presented in any priority order, but in simple alphabetic order based on issue area.

The goals and objectives provide the basis for the initial development of detailed implementation plans and the programming of activities. This is generally reflected in the **TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM** and **PROJECTS FOR IMPLEMENTATION** chapters that follow.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

1. Bicycle Issues

Goal I: Make bicycling safer.

An overarching goal that pervades all other goals and objectives.

Goal II: Promote bicycling as a viable form of transportation.

- Objective A: Encourage bicycle use for different trip purposes.
- Objective B: Promote intermodal connectivity.
- Objective C: Promote land use planning and development patterns that will encourage bicycle use.
- Objective D: Promote bicycle storage as a routinely provided amenity in public and private commercial spaces.

Goal III: Create a local transportation system that is bicycle-friendly.

- Objective A: Improve the existing and proposed road network to more safely accommodate bicycling.
- Objective B: Create a countywide system of bikeways utilizing roadway shoulder improvements, repainting shoulder stripes, resizing lane widths, building multi-use trails, dedicated bicycle paths and/or dedicated bicycle lanes.
- Objective C: Acquire data needed to facilitate improved bicycle facilities system planning efforts.
- Objective D: Support implementation of the City of Ithaca Bicycle Plan, and other municipal bicycle plans.
- Objective E: Provide incentives for municipal public works and highway departments to implement bicycle facility improvements during routine highway maintenance in addition to rehabilitation and new construction projects listed on the transportation improvement program.
- Objective F: Include planning for bicycle facilities in all transportation projects.

Goal IV: Promote awareness of and sensitivity to bicycling issues and enhance cyclist skills.

- Objective A: Target information to bicyclists, potential bicyclists, motorists, pedestrians, taxpayers, decision makers and policy implementers.
- Objective B: Work to increase skill levels of bicyclists.

Goal V: Protect people and property while encouraging bicycling.

- Objective A: Increase general levels of knowledge about traffic laws as they pertain to bicycling.
- Objective B: Enforce traffic laws.

2. Community Issues And Transportation

Goal I: Develop a transportation system that enhances the quality of life for Tompkins County residents and visitors.

- Objective A: Integrate transportation concerns and land use planning efforts in Tompkins County in order to protect the reliability of the transportation system through efficient land use development.
- Objective B: Encourage the preparation of land use plans where none exist and the review and update of existing plans.
- Objective C: Link transportation investment with local and regional land use planning.
- Objective D: Increase public participation in the planning process.
- Objective E: Preserve and enhance existing communities and neighborhoods.
- Objective F: Promote transportation plans and programs that are consistent with and protective of expressed community values, cultural heritage and local aesthetics.
- Objective G: Apply Context Sensitive Solutions in the design of transportation projects.
- Objective H: Promote intergovernmental cooperation and legislative initiatives that coordinate land use and transportation infrastructure.
- Objective I: The transportation system and proposed transportation projects should ensure both positive and negative environmental impacts are equitably distributed to all areas and population groups in the community.
- Objective J: Promote the continuing development and maintenance of a countywide comprehensive plan for Tompkins County.
- Objective K: Monitor and prepare plans to address the special needs of the growing elderly population in Tompkins County.

Goal II: Protect and enhance the economic vitality of Tompkins County.

- Objective A: Encourage transportation initiatives that support and foster sustainable economic activity in Tompkins County.
- Objective B: Coordinate transportation initiatives in support of locally sponsored economic development initiatives.
- Objective C: Identify transportation system needs that are specific and unique to agricultural communities and businesses.
- Objective D: Support and encourage intermunicipal cooperation in the provision of services and planning, including sharing of personnel time, equipment, facilities and other resources.

3. Environmental Issues

Goal I: Ensure that the transportation initiatives address air emissions issues in a comprehensive manner with the goal of improving or maintaining air quality.

- Objective A: Implement transportation initiatives that reduce or minimize the production of ozone precursors, carbon monoxide, and small particulate matter.

Goal II: Encourage and implement the development of a transportation system, which uses energy efficiently and reduces traditional transportation related fossil fuel consumption.

- Objective A: Examine existing transportation systems to improve their energy efficiency.
- Objective B: Seek to alleviate traffic congestion and reduce travel time between various geographical sectors of the Ithaca-Tompkins County metropolitan area.
- Objective C: Promote alternative modes of transportation, including public transit, bicycle, and pedestrian modes.
- Objective D: Promote alternative fuels and clean air strategies which can be implemented in public fleets and private vehicles.
- Objective E: Encourage the conservation of energy in transportation.
- Objective F: Promote the efficient and effective movement of people and goods by integrating and linking various modes of transportation.
- Objective G: Consider land use and site design as it relates to efforts to reduce relative number of vehicle trips and vehicle miles of travel.

Goal III: Limit the negative impacts or disruptions to the natural, scenic, or cultural environment.

Objective A: Limit the impacts of transportation projects on ecosystems to ensure their sustainability.

Objective B: Preserve natural, scenic and cultural areas within the Ithaca-Tompkins County metropolitan area.

4. Infrastructure Issues

Goal I: Improve the planning and design of local infrastructure.

Objective A: Support and coordinate general infrastructure planning efforts.

Objective B: Consider safety as the base component of all infrastructure design decisions.

Objective C: Encourage development of local design standards to best meet local needs and concerns.

Objective D: Plan a countywide scenic roads program, including support of the existing Cayuga Lake Scenic Byway.

Objective E: Consider use of alternative pavements in design standards.

Objective F: Consider parking areas to be an integral part of the infrastructure system.

Objective G: Promote infrastructure designs that are sensitive to local environmental issues and preserve or enhance scenic beauty.

Goal II: Address existing & future infrastructure needs.

Objective A: Prioritize maintenance of existing bridge and road infrastructure.

Objective B: Continue development of a seamless multimodal transportation system, including public transit, bicycle and pedestrian facilities and networks, in infrastructure planning, construction and maintenance practices.

Objective C: Promote enhanced analysis and prioritization of maintenance systems.

Objective D: Implement measures within the metropolitan planning process to preserve system capacity.

Objective E: Identify specific bridge crossings that are inadequate for modern farming equipment and freight shipments serving farming enterprises and develop a plan for maintenance and upgrade as appropriate.

Objective F: Continue development and implementation of the Intelligent Transportation System Regional Architecture for Tompkins County.

5. Mobility Issues

Goal I: Develop a transportation system that is accessible to all users.

Objective A: Meet the transportation needs of persons who are "mobility impaired".

Objective B: Facilitate coordination between different transportation service providers.

Goal II: Promote and use design innovations to achieve transportation system diversification and efficient intermodal linkages.

Objective A: Study, develop, and implement feasible transportation alternatives that provide options to and reduce dependence on the private automobile.

Objective B: Reduce barriers and consider incentives for innovative/unique transportation services.

Objective C: Plan for intermodal transportation to maximize the utility and function of each mode.

Objective D: Promote interregional mobility through public transportation links between major points of origin and destination.

Objective E: Identify intermodal facilities, analyze mode use patterns and suggest improvements to enhance intermodal linkages.

Goal III: Achieve and maintain the efficient operation of the transportation system in Tompkins County.

Objective A: Develop a plan that classifies roads according to their function.

Objective B: Reduce roadway congestion and delay.

Objective C: Reduce demand for through-trips in residential areas.

Objective D: Promote trip minimization and vehicle occupancy increases through public planning decisions and by individual behavior.

Objective E: Acquire data needed to facilitate improved transportation system management efforts.

Objective F: Promote transportation system operational improvements to help manage congestion.

Objective G: Promote the coordination of construction projects and detour routes to avoid unnecessary travel delays.

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- Objective H: Promote the use of Travel Demand Management techniques in order to achieve objectives such as reduced traffic congestion, road and parking cost savings, increased safety, improved mobility for non-drivers, energy conservation and pollution emission reductions.
- Objective I: Support enforcement of traffic laws by facilitating the use of advanced technologies and interagency cooperation.

Goal IV: Enhance the movement of freight in the Ithaca-Tompkins County metropolitan area.

- Objective A: Enhance the movement of freight throughout the Ithaca-Tompkins County metropolitan area by increasing safety and efficiency and minimizing the negative impacts of freight transport.
- Objective B: Facilitate development of an integrated countywide system of preferred truck routes in Tompkins County.
- Objective C: Encourage expansion in the use of rail for freight movement.
- Objective D: Work cooperatively with freight haulers to identify opportunities to improve the movement of freight within and through Tompkins County.

6. Pedestrian Issues

Goal I: Create a safe and efficient network for pedestrian travel.

- Objective A: Create incentives for bridge and road maintenance and construction projects to build new or rehabilitate existing pedestrian facilities to ADA standards.
- Objective B: Create a pedestrian facilities plan for Tompkins County and provide incentives for its implementation when evaluating projects listed on the transportation improvement program.
- Objective C: Utilize sidewalks, multiuse trails and paths, pedestrian bridges, roadway shoulder improvements, and other pedestrian facilities to provide needed pedestrian network links.
- Objective D: Support enforcement of pedestrian safety and traffic laws.
- Objective E: Address special needs to make the transportation network usable for all persons.
- Objective F: Target high-risk (crash) areas and propose improvements to ensure a safe environment for all pedestrians.

Goal II: Urge pedestrian oriented land use development.

- Objective A: Encourage local municipalities to link new and existing development to pedestrian nodes.
- Objective B: Promote mixed land use development.
- Objective C: Promote land use planning and development patterns that will encourage pedestrian activity.
- Objective D: Encourage municipalities to include sidewalks and lighting in local plans, site plan reviews and development projects.

Goal III: Promote walking as a viable mode of transportation.

- Objective A: Promote benefits of walking, including participation in promotional activities to encourage the increased use of walking as a mode of transportation.
- Objective B: Develop amenities/aesthetics for pedestrian environment.

7. Public Transportation Issues

Goal I: Identify existing and emerging markets and provide a package of public transportation services capable of capturing those markets.

- Objective A: Conduct market research on an ongoing basis for fixed route , paratransit and other services.
- Objective B: Provide services oriented to meet work trip demand beyond currently scheduled bus service.
- Objective C: Provide services to support tourism and group travel needs.
- Objective D: Provide regional connections for people traveling by bus.
- Objective E: Invite all public transportation providers operating in Tompkins County to develop intermodal and multimodal projects
- Objective F: Promote mobility management practices among employers.
- Objective G: Provide services for seniors, youth and persons with special mobility needs.

Goal II: Operate safe, comfortable, accessible, environmentally friendly, transit vehicles.

- Objective A: Provide safe and comfortable environments for employees and passengers on vehicles and at shelters and bus stops
- Objective B: Provide signs and information at bus stops and shelters.
- Objective C: Replace the diesel bus fleet with progressively cleaner and more energy efficient bus technologies.

Goal III: Exceed customer expectations for transit system convenience.

- Objective A: Provide real-time system information to customers.
- Objective B: Ensure adequate customer support including providing system route information, individual assistance via telephone, lost and found service, and handling complaints and incidents.
- Objective C: Explore fare collection technologies that enhance customer convenience.
- Objective D: Offer volume discount fare plans to employers or other parties.
- Objective E: Provide safe passenger facilities capable of operating in emergency conditions.

Goal IV: Develop infrastructure resources to support public transportation.

- Objective A: Identify future maintenance, storage, administrative, informational, intermodal, and vehicle needs, in order to meet stated goals.
- Objective B: Identify future customer facility needs in order to meet stated goals.
- Objective C: Develop and implement performance standards for facilities, shelters, and bus stops.

Goal V: Promote comprehensive public transportation services to improve quality of life, and encourage economic revitalization

- Objective A: Improve accessibility to/from the Ithaca Urbanized area for the labor force living in rural areas throughout Tompkins County and surrounding counties.
- Objective B: Provide increased level of transit service within urbanized areas to encourage a modal shift to transit.
- Objective C: Participate in community-based discussions involving economic development and revitalization, affordable housing, and community planning.
- Objective D: Improve accessibility to recreational, commercial, educational, and cultural activities for all area residents.
- Objective E: Review land use plans and site designs to ensure the accommodation of public transit, pedestrians and bicyclists where appropriate.