

1.3 Goals and Objectives

The Erie County 2040 LRTP

This update to the Long Range Transportation Plan for 2040 will serve as a policy statement and a guide for decision-making for Erie County elected officials, funding agencies, stakeholders, and transportation partners. The plan includes an inventory of needs and deficiencies of Erie County’s transportation network. Additionally, it establishes priorities for allocation of federal funds and directs transportation improvement programming. The 2040 LRTP shifts its focus to respond to new state and federal initiatives and guidance, and to position Erie County to respond to anticipated trends of new federal legislation governing transportation funding and investments.

Linking Planning and NEPA

The most prominent of these new initiatives from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and PennDOT is ‘Linking Planning and NEPA’. The goal of this effort is to integrate the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act with the transportation planning process by:

- “Establishing a clear link from existing/planned land use in municipalities, counties, and regions to the transportation planning and programming process”
- “Establishing a clear understanding of the types of information to be collected, activities to be conducted, the time of both, and documenting each to appropriate levels, so that documentation meets standards to be used in state and federal environmental documentation.”

To address these objectives the 2040 LRTP includes a comprehensive evaluation of local transportation & land use studies, municipal comprehensive plans, & the county comprehensive plan, as well as coordination with key municipal and economic development officials. These efforts combined contributed to the establishment of land use projections spanning the life of the plan in order to predict future land use impacts to the transportation system and vice-versa.



The Plan also utilizes the PennDOT 'Linking Planning & NEPA Screening Forms', PennDOT's regional Air Quality Conformity Model, and Erie County GIS data to identify potential impacts to both air quality and the physical environment, both natural and constructed. These efforts and additional public outreach contribute to an understanding of community context and needs in order to best preserve the natural and cultural resources of Erie County.

Themes, Goals, and Objectives

The 2040 LRTP will serve many purposes including setting the stage for the MPO's Transportation Improvement Program. Additionally, it will be used to evaluate infrastructure investments and consistency with local, county, and regional land use and development goals. Understanding this as a basis, this plan includes the following goals and objectives. These goals were developed to encompass the array of users, conditions, needs, and potential solutions exclusive to the overall transportation system within Erie County. Objectives were then developed for each goal that could be used to evaluate the value of individual projects and also measure the success of the plan as a whole. In this manner, the 2040 LRTP goals and objectives are organized into six primary themes that are consistent with the required federal planning factors and statewide guidance:

1. Economic Vitality

Goal: Ensure that transportation investments support the economic vitality of Erie County, and enable global competitiveness, productivity and efficiency.

Objectives:

- Improve access to targeted investment areas and planned development
- Improve access to the interstate
- Improve access to major attractions
- Improve intermodal goods movement

2. Multimodal Transportation Safety

Goal: Increase the safety of the transportation system for all users

Objectives:

- Reduce the number of motorized and non-motorized crashes
- Reduce the hazard potential for roadway-rail crossings
- Improve the safety of school zones and enhance sidewalk connectivity to surrounding neighborhoods

3. Multimodal Transportation Security

Goal: Increase the security of the transportation system for all users

Objectives:

- Improve emergency detour routes
- Improve emergency response time and access
- Address transportation concerns associated with critical facilities

4. Multimodal Choices and Connections

Goal: Increase the integration and connectivity of the transportation system across modes to increase accessibility and mobility options for people and freight

Objectives:

- Improve access and facilities for cyclists and pedestrians
- Improve access to public transportation and ride-share opportunities
- Improve passenger and freight services for air, rail, waterborne transportation

5. System Sustainability and Livability

Goal: Ensure that transportation investments protect and enhance the environment, promote energy conservation, improve quality of life, and promote consistency with state and local planned growth and economic development

Objectives:

- Improve access to employment and recreational opportunities
- Reduce impacts to environmental, natural, and cultural resources
- Support locally derived land use planning initiatives
- Incorporate Smart Transportation principles into project designs

6. System Efficiency and Preservation

Goal: Ensure efficient system management and operations that emphasize preservation of the existing transportation system

Objectives:

- Improve and maintain pavement quality
- Reduce the number of structurally deficient bridges
- Improve traffic signal system operations
- Improve LOS on congested corridors and intersections



