

1.4 Stakeholders and Roles

Since the ultimate goal is to establish a locally-derived plan that reflects the transportation needs of all stakeholders – residential, municipal, regional, industrial, recreational, and educational - the Erie County 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan involved the input of a large number of organizations, agencies, and individuals.

The Erie MPO Role

The Federal Aid Highway Act of 1962 required that all urbanized areas having a population of 50,000 or more designate a single agency to administer federal transportation funds. The agencies that were established are called Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO). According to the federal law, the activities of an MPO must provide a continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive (3-C) transportation planning process. The MPO has the primary role and responsibility in ensuring that the transportation planning process is being carried out in accordance with current federal and state regulations. The primary planning responsibilities of the MPO include creating a Long Range (20 year) Transportation Plan, a shorter range (4 year) Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), and an annual Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).

The Erie Area Transportation Study Metropolitan Planning Organization (Erie MPO) was established August 24, 1964 to guide the 3-C planning process in the urbanized area of Erie County surrounding the City of Erie. However, as growth expanded throughout the County, so did the need for coordinated transportation planning for the entire region. In 1978, the boundary of the planning jurisdiction of the Erie MPO was expanded to include the entire County of Erie.

The Erie MPO is comprised of representatives from municipalities and organizations throughout the Erie urban area and Erie County, as well as state and federal representation. The role of the Erie MPO Committee members is to provide representation for their municipality / organization in order to facilitate an integrated and informed decision-making process which incorporates all concerns and issues into the development of policies and actions. The Erie MPO planning and program management functions are administered by the Erie County Department of Planning (ECDP), which provides staff, technical, and clerical support, and serves as the designated Erie MPO Secretary.





The Project Advisory Committee (PAC)

The Project Advisory Committee is the steering committee for the LRTP Update project, and includes representatives from the following organizations:

- The Erie County Metropolitan Planning Organization (Erie MPO)
- The Erie County Department of Planning (ECDP);
- The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT);
- The Erie Metropolitan Transit Authority (EMTA);
- The Erie Regional Airport Authority (ERAA); and
- The Erie-Western PA Port Authority (EWPPA)

The Erie County 2040 LRTP was also developed in coordination with:

- The City of Erie;
- The City of Corry;
- Township and borough municipal officials throughout the county;
- Area transportation and planning agencies;
- Stakeholder organizations; and
- The residents of Erie County.

