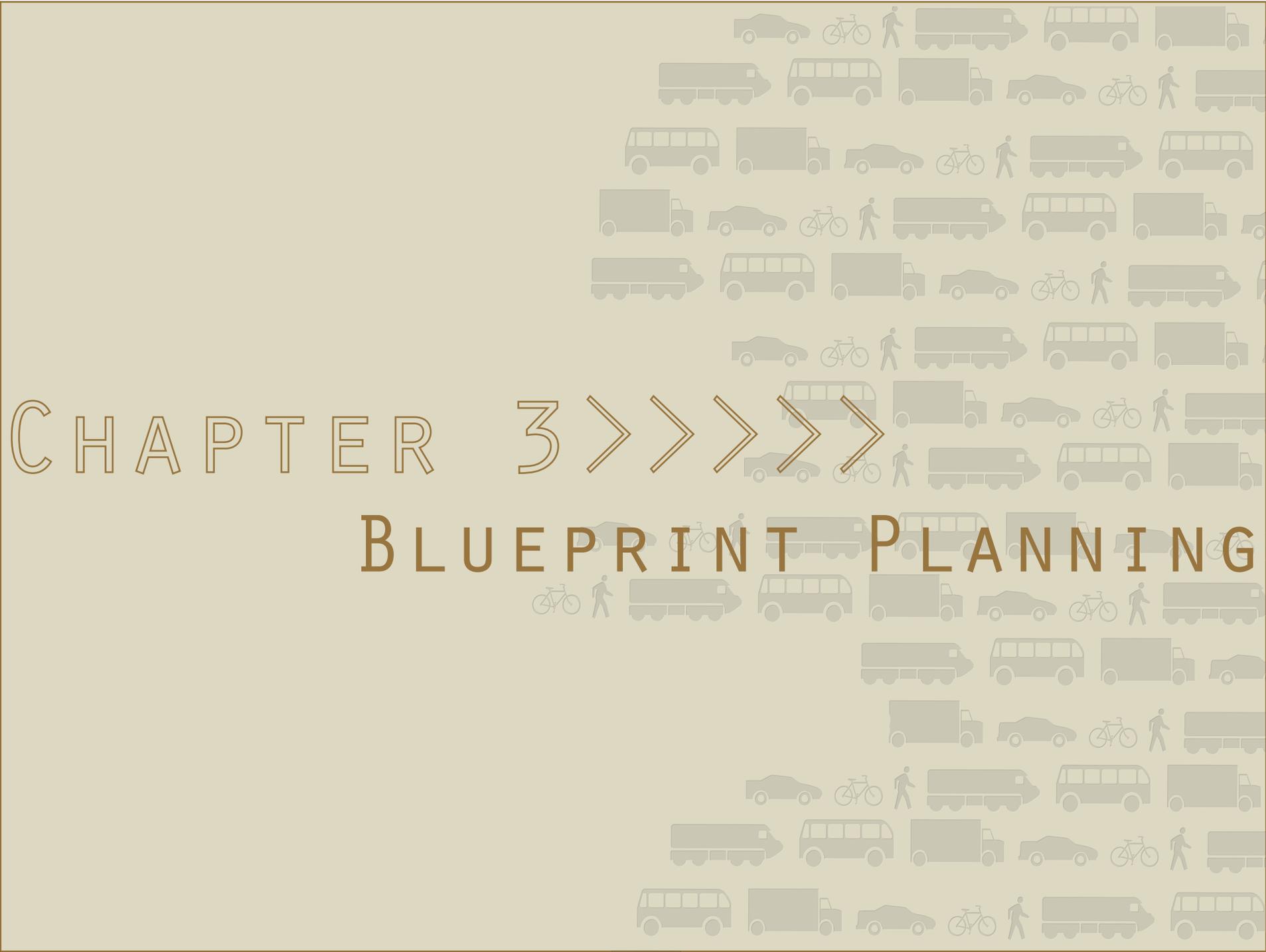


CHAPTER

3



BLUEPRINT PLANNING



3.1 Overview

Current state and federal guidance for long range plans emphasize that a successful approach should include collaborative and coordinated planning efforts. The Erie County MPO has fulfilled both throughout the development of this 2040 LRTP. Collaboration has included meetings, surveys, and related outreach with the general public, local officials, and numerous targeted stakeholder groups. Coordination has included extensive document reviews of existing plans and studies; municipal input through screening of their individual comprehensive plans; insight from critical planning documents and programs such as the TIP, the 12-Year Program, the Regional Operations Plan, and the Strategic Highway Safety Plan; and a direct tie to the Federal Planning Factors.

Blueprint Planning is the process that builds upon the success of the collaborative and coordinated planning efforts by putting the two together and shaping their findings into a tangible set of projects, programs, and aspirations to address Erie County's needs and deficiencies. Potential solutions are fiscally-constrained; assessed in terms of their individual merits versus other projects; evaluated at a systems level to determine how well projects work together to achieve the plan's goals; and ultimately prioritized in a manner that will be beneficial to Erie County's future.

The end result of Blueprint Planning is a plan that meets state and federal guidelines by being locally-derived, multimodal from a personal and freight transportation perspective, and focused on many issues beyond traditional traffic congestion, such as economic development and quality of life. The plan emphasizes Smart Transportation principles, incorporates the Linking Planning & NEPA project delivery process, is performance-based with measurable benefits, and considers multiple future "what-if" scenarios. To that end, this chapter summarizes Blueprint Planning efforts that includes:

- Financial Planning
- Project Evaluation Criteria
- Project and Scenario Development
- Scenario Analysis

Blueprint Planning for Erie MPO's 2040 LRTP will include three major steps in project selection and prioritization:

The first step rates and ranks candidate projects on their individual merits using a Decision Lens software tool supported by PennDOT.

The second step compares how well projects work together at a systems level using the County's Travel Demand Model and a Scenario Analysis approach. Scenarios test different "what-if" changes in policy focus, funding, or growth.

The final step is a more detailed and fiscally-constrained prioritization by the MPO of the best set of projects resulting from the scenario analysis.



