What Types of Transportation Projects are Needed in 2040?

To provide some background, the Okaloosa-Walton TPO began this LRTP process in October 2015. This process will take about a year and a half to complete. Now that the goals have been established, the next step is to develop the “Needs Plan.” The 2040 LRTP will include a list of needed transportation projects and strategies that are not limited by funding availability. The list includes improvements needed through the year 2040 to accommodate future growth. The Needs Plan will include the development of a map with all the transportation needs for the Okaloosa-Walton TPO region. The map will indicate where new and improved roads are needed, where bus transit and rail need to be provided, and where the bicycle and pedestrian traffic (sidewalks, pathways) should be provided. Projects chosen for funding must be included in the Needs Plan. The Needs Plan does not mean that there is money to build it; rather, it indicates what is needed by the year 2040.

The 2040 LRTP will be developed through a collaborative process that involves multiple stakeholders including cities, counties, transit agencies, stakeholder advocates, private companies, and the traveling public. There are public workshops scheduled throughout the process to seek your input. Join fellow citizens, business and community leaders in discussing transportation needs, priorities, and funding options.

NEEDS PLAN PUBLIC WORKSHOP

When: Thursday, June 9, 2016
Time: 5:30 p.m.
Where: Fort Walton Beach Council Chambers located at 107 Miracle Strip Parkway

Traffic on US98 in Destin
Prior to identifying potential needs for the year 2040, a multi-modal deficiency analysis is conducted to identify future congested corridors. This is accomplished by obtaining population and employment projections from Okaloosa and Walton counties as well as the municipalities located within each county. This data is included in the 2040 travel demand model. In addition, transportation projects funded to be constructed within the next five years are coded into the model, creating an Existing + Committed Transportation Network.

Future mobility deficiencies were identified through an evaluation of anticipated levels of congestion using the 2040 travel demand model and input from local agencies. Congestion is assessed on an average daily basis through volume-to-capacity (v/c) ratios. A v/c of 1.0 or above generally indicates a congested condition where projected volume exceeds available capacity. For this study, .09 to 1.1 v/c were flagged as borderline congested, roads with v/c 1.1 to 1.3 are considered congested, while roads greater than 1.3 indicate a severe level of congestion.

The 2040 deficiency analysis yielded a number of corridors expected to experience some congestion if no additional modifications are made through the year 2040. Minimizing congestion on these corridors, through multi-modal modification projects, is the focus of the needs assessment now being conducted.

**Major Congested Corridors Include:**
- US98
- SR85
- Eglin Parkway
- SR20 through Niceville
- Beal Parkway

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There are six elements to the LRTP:

1. **Vision** – How and where do we want to grow, live, and travel?
2. **Goals and Objectives** – What do we want the Plan to achieve?
3. **Needs Plan** – What projects are needed to fulfill the vision?
4. **Financial Resources** – What funding will be available and what new sources will be needed?
5. **Cost Feasible Plan** – How do we set priorities within funding constraints?
6. **Plan Adoption** – How do we reach consensus and formally adopt the Plan to obtain future funding?
How You Can Get Involved

Website
Visit www.wfrpc.org/o-w-tpo/long-range-plan to learn more about the TPO, the LRTP, project schedule, events, and projects under consideration. You may also provide feedback, let us know your needs and priorities, submit comments, ask questions, and sign up to receive newsletters.

Presentations
Would your civic, business, or community group like to learn more about the TPQ or the plan update and share your thoughts? We’ll come to you! Call or e-mail us to let us know about your group.

Public Workshops
Join fellow citizens, businesses, and community leaders in discussing transportation needs, priorities, and funding options. Dates, times, and locations will be published in the newspaper, on the website, on the WFRPC Facebook page, and in the newsletters.

Newsletters
Outlook 2040 newsletters are distributed and posted on the website. They contain the latest happenings and information on upcoming workshops. Call or e-mail if you would like to receive the newsletter.

Defining goals is the cornerstone of the LRTP. The remaining components of the plan are measured against the goals. Guiding the goals is the vision statement. The vision statement for the 2040 LRTP is to provide a high quality, safe, efficient, and cost-effective multi-modal transportation system that enhances economic vitality, military missions, and quality of life while protecting the environment and promoting efficient system management and operation. There are seven goals that will guide the 2040 LRTP:

Goal 1: A transportation system that is safe and secure.

Goal 2: A transportation system that is user-friendly and maximizes mobility.

Goal 3: A transportation system that provides for the effective movement of goods and people.

Goal 4: A transportation system that supports a high quality of life respectful of the environment, public health and vulnerable users.

Goal 5: A transportation system that is multimodal, integrated and connected.

Goal 6: A transportation system that is maintained and operated efficiently.

Goal 7: A transportation system that includes consistent, continuing, cooperative and comprehensive planning processes.

Guiding Principles
The Okaloosa-Walton TPO is updating the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). The purpose of the 2040 LRTP is to provide a safe, efficient, and comprehensive transportation system. The transportation system includes all modes (multi-modal) of transportation for the movement of people and goods. The LRTP addresses mobility needs for the next 25 years in Okaloosa and Walton counties. The 2040 LRTP will become a blueprint for the region’s transportation system.

Want to help shape the way we travel in 2040? Attend the June 9, 2016 Needs Plan Public Workshop to be held at the Fort Walton Beach Council Chambers beginning at 5:30 p.m. The Council Chambers are located at 107 Miracle Strip Parkway SW, Fort Walton Beach, FL.

Transportation Planners will be on hand to discuss projects and mobility programs as well as to get your input on which projects should be included in the Plan. So make plans to join the TPO and let your voice be heard.

For more information, please contact LRTP Project Manager, Jill Lavender at 850.332.7976 x212
**Who is the Transportation Planning Organization?**

The Okaloosa-Walton Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) is the local, intergovernmental transportation policy board for the urbanized areas of Okaloosa and Walton counties in Florida. The board is comprised of local government officials who make decisions regarding transportation at the regional level. The Okaloosa-Walton TPO is required by federal and state legislation to establish a continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive planning process. The TPO also works to increase safety, security, accessibility, mobility, and connectivity for people and goods.

In addition to the TPO board, the Okaloosa-Walton TPO has a Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) and a Citizens' Advisory Committee (CAC). These committees provide input and recommendations to the board from a technical standpoint and from the citizen's point of view.

Want to get involved? The Okaloosa-Walton TPO is accepting applications for citizens to serve on the CAC. To request an application, please contact our Public Involvement Coordinator, Kathy Saldana.

Information on the TPO meetings may be found on-line here: [http://www.wfrpc.org/programs/o-w-tpo/calendar](http://www.wfrpc.org/programs/o-w-tpo/calendar)

**Where Do We Go From Here?**

A typical LRTP planning process involves projecting future growth patterns and transportation needs based on historical trends and the most recent data available. Understanding our region’s past, envisioning our future, projecting our transportation needs, and identifying how to fund these needs will be studied. The 2040 LRTP will create a list of transportation projects. The list will include needed road, transit, bicycle, and pedestrian improvements. It will also include how they may be funded through 2040. This will become a direction for maintaining and enhancing the area’s transportation system.

Over the summer the Okaloosa-Walton TPO will begin development of the 2040 Needs Plan. With your input, the next step will be to identify which transportation projects and programs should be included in the 2040 Needs Plan.

The schedule for plan development and approval is as follows:

- Needs Plan: Summer 2016
- Financial Resources: Summer 2016
- Cost Feasible Plan: Fall/Winter 2016
- Plan Adoption: February/March 2017