The Okaloosa-Walton TPO (Transportation Planning Organization) is an independent regional transportation planning agency for Okaloosa and Walton counties. The TPO covers an area of over 2,330 square miles and nearly 265,000 citizens. Funding for the TPO comes from federal and state grants, member municipalities, and transportation agencies.

The TPO partners with agencies, governments, and the public to identify and prioritize mobility needs, develop mobility plans and programs, seek and coordinate funding, and assemble resources through outreach and consensus building.

The LRTP is required to have at least a 20-year time horizon and must address major roadway, transit, freight, bicycle, pedestrian, and Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) needs.

Since the 2035 update was completed in 2012, changes in the economy have affected how citizens live, travel, and pay for transportation improvements. Views on how to plan for future growth continue to evolve. By 2040 the region is expected to grow to approximately 314,600 people, and 241,770 jobs. The 2040 update takes these changes into account. Rigorous technical analysis along with multi-faceted comprehensive public involvement processes have been combined to provide mobility alternatives for Northwest Florida’s future.

The LRTP includes a Needs Plan and a Cost Feasible Plan. The 2040 Needs Plan is not constrained by project costs or available funding, and was supported by extensive public outreach and coordination with local and state government agencies.

Development of the 2040 Cost Feasible Plan required an evaluation of overall transportation systems needs within the context of available financial
resources for mobility projects. In addition, the Cost Feasible Plan is required to identify the period in which the expenditure of funds for each project is expected to occur.

The Cost Feasible Plan must consider the amount of funding available for mobility projects through the year 2040. Therefore, the Cost Feasible Plan typically matches the highest priority needs with anticipated future funds. Only those financial resources that can reasonably be expected to be available can be used to identify existing and forecasted revenues.

The process followed for the 2040 Plan Update is below.

**Goals and Objectives**

Defining goals and objectives is an important step in the update of the LRTP. Goals and objectives are the policy statements of the Okaloosa-Walton TPO and serve as guiding principles in the development of the plan update.

In addition, the goals and objectives served as the basis for the Project Evaluation Criteria. These criteria assisted the TPO in the selection and ranking of Needs Plan projects.

The LRTP Steering Committee, made up of Technical Coordinating Committee and Citizens’ Advisory Committee members, met to identify key features in the region. These features ranged from what makes the region unique to what is needed to make the region grow and prosper over the next 20 years.

The input was used to draft the goals and objectives for the update. The goals are the desired outcomes. The objectives are specific, measurable, achievable mileposts used to quantify if the desirable outcomes are being achieved.

To guide the development of the LRTP’s goals and objectives, the Steering Committee developed the following vision and mission statements:
**Vision Statement:** Our vision 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.

**Mission Statement:** To preserve and enhance transportation systems that are safe, efficient, socially and environmentally responsible, technologically advanced, financially constrained, coordinated with land use patterns, and allow for modal choice.

Seven goals were developed in association with the overall mission. The goals were used to guide development of the 2040 LRTP update.

**Goal E**  
A transportation system that is multi-modal, integrated, and connected.

**Goal F**  
A transportation system that is maintained and operated efficiently.

**Goal G**  
A transportation system that includes consistent, continuing, cooperative and comprehensive planning processes.

**Public Involvement**

The TPO reached out to the public through community meetings in order to identify mobility needs for the future. The LRTP update was directed by a Steering Committee that met nine times throughout the plan update to review the goals and objectives, the draft Needs Plan, and the draft Cost Feasible Plan. A series of public workshops were held throughout Okaloosa and Walton counties to solicit input from the general public on the development of the goals and objectives, draft Needs Plan, and the draft Cost Feasible Plan. The information collected is posted on the Okaloosa-Walton TPO web page.
As previously discussed, the Needs Plan is not constrained by funding availability. The first step in the development of the 2040 Needs Plan was an analysis of anticipated mobility demand. This was accomplished by working with local governments in determining where people would be living and working in 2040.

The next step was estimating the demand on the transportation network in 2040 using the regional travel demand model. The analysis provided data as to which roadways would have demands beyond their capacity.

Using the data collected on failing roadways, alternatives for addressing the deficiencies were developed and reviewed by the public, the Steering Committee, and the TPO and its advisory committees. The resulting 2040 multi-modal Needs Plan was adopted by the TPO on August 11, 2016.

Over 60 roadway, ITS, transit, and mobility programs costing nearly $3 billion were identified for the Needs Plan.

Financial Resources

Estimates of federal and state funds available for transportation projects through the year 2040 were provided by the Florida Department of Transportation. These funds are derived from federal and state gas tax revenues and totals approximately $536 million (2016 dollars). This includes more than $316 million in Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) funds that may only be spent on the SIS roadway system, and $70 million that must be designated to transit projects.

2040 Cost Feasible Plan

The development of the Cost Feasible Plan for the Okaloosa-Walton TPO required an evaluation of overall transportation system needs within the context of available funds for mobility projects.

The 2040 Cost Feasible Plan must include revenue in 5-year and 10-year increments as well as project costs updated to reflect inflation. Project costs are then budgeted against forecasted revenues while matching the mobility demands of the periods. Typically, the Cost Feasible Plan matches the highest priority needs with the anticipated revenue.
The 2040 Cost Feasible Plan establishes the priorities for mobility projects and underscores the value the community places on investments in various modes of travel. How an area chooses to spend its limited financial resources presents the clearest picture of its priorities for long-range mobility improvements.

The 2040 Cost Feasible Plan was adopted by the TPO on February 16, 2017. In addition to roadway projects, the Cost Feasible Plan includes corridor management projects, ITS projects, Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan projects, alternative fueling stations, and transit.

Currently, the 2040 Cost Feasible Plan has funding for 18 roadway projects, a new interchange along I-10, two Park and Ride lot projects, and 10 mobility programs (including regional trails and ITS programs) costing just over $720 million in future dollars.

The mobility programs in the 2040 Cost Feasible Plan include the following:

- Regional Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) Program, $24 million to operate and maintain the ITS system
- Public Transportation Capital Program, $6 million to purchase buses, shelters, and other capital improvements
- Bicycle and Pedestrian Program, $10 million to implement projects from the Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan
- Transportation System Management (TSM) improvements, $32 million to make operational improvements
- Alternative Fueling Station partnerships, $1 million to develop alternative fuel infrastructure
More Information

The Okaloosa-Walton Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) welcomes your input, questions, and comments on the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and other planning activities of the TPO. The TPO’s website contains information related to the Plan Update as well as other TPO documents including the various Master Plans referenced here. Visit www.wfrpc.org for more information, find us on Facebook or contact Ms. Jill Lavender, LRTP Project Manager at 850-332-7976, ext. 212.

A project list and map of the 2040 Cost Feasible Plan may be found on the reverse side.