

# CHAPTER 5: GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

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As part of the planning process, the Regional Transportation Plan establishes goals, objectives, and policies to guide the development and management of the region's transportation systems. The goals, objectives and policies of the Regional Transportation Plan were prepared under the California Transportation Commission Guidelines. EDCTC's goals, objectives and policies were developed to address the regional transportation issues presented in Chapter 1.

**Goals** are general statements of what we want the future to be like. These statements should reflect the region's needs and priorities.

**Objectives** are specific, quantifiable steps towards the realization of those goals.

**Policies** are statements that provide direction for decisions to help attain these goals and objectives.

The goals and objectives are used as guiding principles to choose among various options for transportation improvements. Therefore, they should be attainable and realistic. In addition, the goals should relate to present conditions and expected changes in those conditions. Performance measures are provided for each goal in order to assess the priorities in the Action Element.

## OVERALL GOALS

Preserve and develop an integrated, multi-modal transportation system which facilitates the movement of people, information, goods, and services through and within the region.

- ◆ Maintain and upgrade a safe, efficient, and convenient countywide roadway system that meets the travel needs of people and goods through and within the region.
- ◆ Make the most economical and efficient use of transportation revenues in providing transportation services and facilities, optimizing the movement of people, goods, and information.
- ◆ Provide a safe, convenient and efficient transportation system that meets the mobility needs of people of all incomes, ages, and physical conditions.
- ◆ Support the achievement of state and federal air-quality standards.
- ◆ Provide effective, convenient, coordinated transit service that serves employment centers, activity centers and facilities, and offers a viable option to single occupant vehicle travel.
- ◆ Identify and pursue new sources of funds for expansion and improvement of the overall transportation system.
- ◆ Incorporate public outreach efforts as a component of the planning process and encourage input from all interest groups and individuals.
- ◆ Provide for transportation services, facilities, and vehicles that cause the least amount of environmental damage and yield environmental benefits wherever feasible.
- ◆ Strengthen coordination, cooperation and consistency between agencies to maximize the effective use of transportation resources.

- ◆ Promote a transportation system which facilitates a balance of jobs and housing in El Dorado County.
- ◆ Promote a transportation system which minimizes the dependency of long-distance, single occupant vehicle commute trips.

## **GOAL 1: HIGHWAYS/STREETS/REGIONAL ROADWAYS**

**Provide and maintain a safe, efficient, and convenient countywide roadway system that meets the travel needs of people and goods through and within the region.**

### **Objective A: Identify and prioritize improvements to the roadway system.**

#### **Policies:**

- 1) Identify roadways in need of major upgrading to meet standards for safety, operations and design, in coordination with Caltrans and local jurisdictions, and plan their improvement through capital improvement programming.
- 2) Encourage jurisdictions to develop and implement pavement management systems that identify and prioritize road maintenance projects.
- 3) Implement capacity increasing strategies that encourage the use of alternative modes, such as HOV lanes.
- 4) Incorporate Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) strategies where feasible.
- 5) Develop parallel capacity to US 50 to reduce congestion and the reliance on US 50 for local trip purposes.

### **Objective B: Maintain roadways at acceptable safety standards.**

#### **Policies:**

- 1) Identify and eliminate unsafe conditions on state highways, in coordination with Caltrans and local jurisdictions.
- 2) Prioritize the roadway projects which maintain safety standards, including required maintenance and repair.
- 3) Maintain roads in the most cost effective manner given available resources.

#### **ROADWAYS PERFORMANCE MEASURES:**

- ◆ Improve traffic safety and operations throughout the region.
- ◆ Maintain level of service standards as adopted by Caltrans and jurisdictions.
- ◆ Maintain reliable traffic operations in order to decrease travel time variability.
- ◆ Avoid or mitigate environmental impacts related to highway corridor operation.
- ◆ Ensure adequate funding to maintain regional roadways. In El Dorado County, ensure adequate funding to maintain regional roadways in accordance with the adopted Pavement Management System.

## **GOAL 2: PUBLIC TRANSIT**

**Promote effective, convenient and desirable public transit for residents of and visitors to El Dorado County.**

### **Objective A: Tailor transit service provision to the area's population characteristics**

#### **Policies:**

- 1) Prioritize transit services in areas where the greatest operational efficiencies exist (i.e., urbanized areas).
- 2) Encourage the development of new and innovative transit systems, particularly in rural areas.
- 3) Support transit projects which serve visitors and residents for commute and recreation trip purposes.
- 4) Encourage coordination of inter- and intra- county transit service.

### **Objective B: Promote a transit system that is responsive to the needs of transit dependent persons.**

#### **Policies:**

- 1) Update and implement the Social Service Transportation Inventory and Action Plan in coordination with the El Dorado County Transit Authority, social service agencies, and the Consolidated Transportation Service Agency.
- 2) Assist with the ongoing implementation of the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- 3) Promote the provision of discount fares for the elderly, disabled, and students.
- 4) Work with transit operators to assist social service agencies in providing transportation for Access to Jobs clients.

### **Objective C: Develop and encourage the use of public transit as a primary transportation alternative.**

#### **Policies:**

- 1) Encourage transit operators to provide inter- and intra- county transit routes which are responsive to the needs of commuters.
- 2) Promote coordination with regional transit and paratransit systems, including light rail.
- 3) Involve the business and industrial sector of the region in meeting the transportation needs of their employees and clients.
- 4) Develop and implement a multi-lingual marketing program to promote public transit as a primary transportation option, raise public awareness of the various systems, and increase understanding of how to use them.

**Objective D: Provide an effective and efficient transit system that best utilizes available resources.**

**Policies:**

- 1) Establish and maintain a performance monitoring system which evaluates the effectiveness of transit service as outlined in the Transportation Development Act.
- 2) Ensure that transit services continue to meet all state and federal requirements for funding, including those for farebox recovery ratios.
- 3) Promote an effective and efficient transit planning process.
- 4) Incorporate Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) strategies where feasible.

**TRANSIT PERFORMANCE MEASURES:**

- ◆ Maintain public transit ridership productivity that meets the standards established in the adopted Western El Dorado County Short Range and Long Range Transit Plan.
- ◆ Maintain a ratio of public transit fare revenue to operating cost sufficient to meet State and Federal funding requirements.

## **GOAL 3: AVIATION**

**Promote and preserve aviation facilities and services that compliment the regional transportation system.**

**Objective A: Promote the development, operation, and maintenance of a regional system of airports.**

**Policies:**

- 1) Promote the development of aviation system facilities and services necessary to satisfy user requirements.
- 2) Encourage the development of aviation system facilities that serve as a regional economic stimulus.
- 3) Recognize and support the role of public use airports in accommodating the County's general and agricultural aviation needs.
- 4) Participate in Caltrans Division of Aeronautics regional and statewide aviation planning efforts.

**Objective B: Update and revise Airport Master Plans as necessary.**

**Policies:**

- 1) Assist jurisdictions with the development of Airport Master Plans for public airports that address current and forecast conditions.
- 2) Recognize the need for comprehensive, coordinated aviation planning.

**Objective C: Promote and secure adequate air passenger, goods movement, and other aviation and air transportation services as part of a multi-modal transportation system.**

**Policies:**

- 1) Support projects that integrate air transport facilities with other modes of transportation, including street and road access, public transit, and pedestrian and bike paths.
- 2) Integrate air transportation planning and development with other modes of transportation.
- 3) Support projects that facilitate goods movement utilizing the regional system of airports.

**Objective D: Promote the safe, orderly, and efficient use of airports and air space and compatible land uses through the enforcement of comprehensive Land Use Plans.**

**AVIATION PERFORMANCE MEASURES:**

- ♦ Maintain or increase airport operations for business, recreation, and goods movement, within safety and capacity guidelines.

## **GOAL 4: GOODS MOVEMENT**

**Provide for the safe and efficient movement of goods through and within El Dorado County.**

**Objective A: Promote a balance of roads and airports for the improvement of goods transport.**

**Policies:**

- 1) Support projects that facilitate interregional, multi-modal goods transport to commercial and industrial areas wherever feasible.
- 2) Support projects that facilitate interregional goods movement utilizing the regional system of airports.
- 3) Support projects that address the timely movement of goods and service throughout the region.

**Objective B: Mitigate conditions that transporters of goods deem dangerous or unacceptable.**

**Policies:**

- 1) Encourage jurisdictions to develop pavement management systems that identify and prioritize road maintenance projects.
- 2) Encourage jurisdictions to provide proper road geometry on roadways intended to accommodate truck traffic.
- 3) Improve US 50 in order to facilitate goods movement and access to jobs.

**GOODS MOVEMENT PERFORMANCE MEASURES**

- ♦ Improve operations for commercial/agricultural vehicles.
- ♦ Maintain reliable travel times for freight mobility.

## **GOAL 5: NON-MOTORIZED TRANSPORTATION**

Promote a safe, convenient, and efficient non-motorized transportation system which is part of a balanced overall transportation system.

### **Objective A: Plan and develop a continuous and easily-accessible pedestrian and bikeway system within the region.**

#### **Policies:**

- 1) Ensure that jurisdictions have current Bikeway Master Plans that comply with state standards.
- 2) Encourage the completion of existing non-motorized systems and facilities, with an emphasis on closing gaps.
- 3) Consider Class I and II bikeways as preferred linkages in the bicycle facilities network. Use Class III bike routes as connectors only when necessary.
- 4) Develop a visually clear, simple, and recognizable bicycle route map.
- 5) Encourage the development of abandoned railroad right-of-way, irrigation ditches and utility easements for non-motorized facilities.
- 6) Ensure accessibility to non-motorized facilities within new developments.
- 7) Pursue alternative funding mechanisms for the development of bicycle and pedestrian facilities.

### **Objective B: Provide a pedestrian and bikeway system that emphasizes the safety of people and property.**

#### **Policies:**

- 1) Encourage the adoption of local bicycle ordinances.
- 2) Encourage secure facilities for bicycle storage at industrial, governmental, commercial, recreational, and educational locations.
- 3) Require all bicycle facilities funded through the Transportation Development Act to be designed in accordance with the State Bikeway Design Criteria, Chapter 1000 of the Highway Design Manual.

### **Objective C: Integrate pedestrian and bicycle facilities into a multi-modal transportation system.**

#### **Policies:**

- 1) Incorporate non-motorized facilities when implementing improvements or new developments to the existing roadway network.
- 2) Prioritize roadway and street designs that avoid bicycle-auto, pedestrian-auto, and bicycle-pedestrian conflicts.
- 3) Promote the public use of abandoned railroad corridors for pedestrian and bikeway or other transportation or recreational uses.

### **PEDESTRIAN AND BIKEWAYS PERFORMANCE MEASURES:**

- ◆ Improve bicycle and pedestrian options for commuter and recreational travel.
- ◆ Add facilities, such as bike lockers, to support bicycling in El Dorado County.
- ◆ Close gaps in the bicycle network.
- ◆ Maintain accident rates at statewide average or better.

## **GOAL 6: TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT**

**Promote the use of alternative transportation to reduce the negative impacts of single-occupant vehicle travel.**

**Objective A: Create a multi-modal and multi-jurisdictional transportation network between major residential areas, educational and recreational facilities, and employment centers.**

### **Policies:**

- 1) Prepare and distribute transit service information to educational, commercial, recreational, employment, and civic centers.
- 2) Consider proximity to major travel origins and destinations in siting of new multi-modal transportation facilities.
- 3) Encourage jurisdictions to consider multi-modal transit facility proximity when siting educational, social service, and major employment and commercial facilities.

**Objective B: Advance the use of Transportation Demand Management (TDM) in a thorough, cost-effective manner.**

### **Policies:**

- 1) Support the use of public transportation as a transportation control measure to reduce traffic congestion and vehicle emissions.
- 2) Work with Caltrans and local jurisdictions to locate and develop park-and-ride lots.
- 3) Work with the Regional Rideshare Task Force and appropriate agencies to coordinate ridesharing activities and goals.
- 4) Provide outreach to media, employers, and the general public to promote awareness of alternative transportation.

### **ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORTATION PERFORMANCE MEASURES**

- ◆ Implement strategies to offset any future emissions increases due to population and employment growth and expected increases in vehicle miles traveled.
- ◆ Support transportation projects which are consistent with the motor vehicle emissions budget in the State Implementation Plan.

## **GOAL 7: INTEGRATED LAND USE, AIR QUALITY AND TRANSPORTATION PLANNING**

Integrate land, air and transportation planning in order to facilitate the development of the most efficient and effective transportation system possible.

### **Objective A: Provide information and support services to jurisdictions regarding the countywide transportation impacts of local land use decisions.**

#### **Policies:**

- 1) Encourage jurisdictions to maintain their adopted Level of Service (LOS) on local streets and roads in accordance with the applicable general plan Circulation Element.
- 2) Encourage jurisdictions to seek a balance of housing and employment land uses within their communities to reduce trips and trip lengths and to encourage alternative transportation modes.
- 3) Encourage jurisdictions to protect corridors and rights-of-way, when identified, for future transportation facilities through the adoption of specific plans and general plans.
- 4) Support continued review of development proposals in order to encourage alternative transportation modes.

### **Objective B: Provide transportation infrastructure that meets existing and future needs.**

#### **Policies:**

- 1) Encourage jurisdictions to develop roadways that complement planned growth patterns, economic development programs, and requirements of infrastructure to support those land uses.
- 2) Encourage jurisdictions to review and assess the impact of new development proposals on transit system demand.
- 3) Encourage jurisdictions to require street patterns for new roadways, especially in commercial, industrial, and high-density residential areas, to take into consideration the requirements of public transit.

### **Objective C: Ensure that transportation projects do not contribute to increased vehicle emissions.**

#### **Policies:**

- 1) Prioritize and recommend transportation projects that minimize vehicle emissions while providing cost effective movement of people and goods.
- 2) Promote projects that can be demonstrated to reduce air pollution, such as alternative fuel programs.
- 3) Develop plans that meet the standards of the California Clean Air Act and the Federal Clean Air Act Amendments in coordination with the El Dorado County Air Pollution Control District.
- 4) Evaluate the impacts of each transportation plan and program on the timely attainment of ambient air quality standards in coordination with the Sacramento Area Council of Governments.

- 5) Solicit the input of the El Dorado County Air Pollution Control District on all transportation plans.

**Objective D: Work with local jurisdictions, Tribal Governments, the Sacramento Area Council of Governments, Caltrans, the California Transportation Commission, and other transportation agencies to develop a regional planning and programming process to ensure that El Dorado County jurisdictions have maximum participation and control in the transportation decision-making process.**

**Policies:**

- 1) Develop mechanisms such as Memorandums of Understanding and Joint Powers Agreements between jurisdictions to accomplish planning and implementation of multi-jurisdictional transportation projects and programs.
- 2) Facilitate the coordination and implementation of local and regional transportation programs to improve mobility and air quality.
- 3) Coordinate transportation planning with local jurisdictions.
- 4) Coordinate transportation planning with the Shingle Springs Rancheria.

**Objective E: Participate in state, regional, and local transportation planning efforts to insure coordination of transportation system expansion and improvements.**

**Policies:**

- 1) Ensure coordination, cooperation and consistency among all level of transportation planning efforts.
- 2) Build coalitions with key private sector and community groups to develop transportation solutions.
- 3) Ensure coordination of interjurisdictional transportation projects in coordination with Caltrans and other appropriate agencies.

**INTEGRATED LAND USE COORDINATION PERFORMANCE MEASURES:**

- ◆ Utilize land use forecasts consistent with adopted general plans as the basis for multi-modal transportation planning.

## **GOAL 8: FUNDING**

**Secure maximum available funding and pursue new sources of funds for maintenance, expansion, and improvement of transportation facilities and services.**

**Objective A: Obtain funding for vital transportation needs through all conventional sources.**

**Policies:**

- 1) Ensure that required planning documents are current, meet planning regulations and guidelines, and qualify for federal and state transportation funding sources.
- 2) Maximize use of federal and state transportation funding sources.
- 3) Assist jurisdictions to identify and obtain grant funding.

- 4) Seek funding for public transportation implemented to serve social service programs from the agencies responsible for the programs.
- 5) Maximize allocations of statewide funds, such as State Highway Operation Protection Program and Interregional Transportation Improvement Program, for El Dorado County projects, in coordination with the California Transportation Commission and Caltrans, jurisdictions, and other regional agencies.
- 6) Promote the funding of operational improvements that will improve traffic flows and increase the capacity of person trips at relatively low cost.
- 7) Promote the funding of operational improvements, maintenance, and modernization of public transit services and facilities.
- 8) Promote funding of maintenance for existing infrastructure as a top priority.
- 9) Promote the funding of non-motorized projects which are part of a regional or community-wide plan.
- 10) Promote the funding of non-motorized projects which increase accessibility to recreational, commercial, or educational facilities.
- 11) Prioritize transportation projects according to regional transportation system benefit rather than funding source.
- 12) Promote funding of transportation projects consistent with provisions included in adopted general plans and Measure Y.

**Objective B: Develop innovative funding sources for vital transportation needs where conventional funding sources are insufficient to do so.**

**Policies:**

- 1) Encourage jurisdictions to implement user charges which link the financing of new or expanded facilities and services to the development which creates or increases the need for such facilities.
- 2) Consider viable alternative fund sources such as a local transportation sales tax, local option motor vehicle fuel tax, public/private partnerships, peak hour congestion pricing, and bond measures in the event funding shortfalls for needed projects occur.
- 3) Develop new sources of funding for road rehabilitation and maintenance in coordination with the League of California Cities, California State Association of Counties, legislators, transportation groups, and other interested parties.
- 4) Explore the feasibility of implementing a local option sales tax for transportation purposes.

**FUNDING PERFORMANCE MEASURES:**

- ◆ Pursue all funding opportunities for transportation facilities and services in El Dorado County.
- ◆ Pursue development and implementation of new funding sources.

## PROJECT CONSISTENCY

The eligibility criteria for many funding programs includes a requirement that the project be consistent with the goals, objectives, and policies of the Regional Transportation Plan. The following list of project categories are consistent with this RTP document:

(in no priority order)

- ◆ Projects that meet the needs of persons whose mobility is limited by inaccessible transportation systems.
- ◆ Transportation maintenance and preservation projects.
- ◆ Capacity increasing projects only where alternative solutions would not be practical or cost-effective in resolving the problem.
- ◆ Connections between different urbanized areas of the county of at least highway standard roads and reasonable public transit service to meet demand.
- ◆ Projects to enhance the movement of agricultural, commercial, and industrial goods.
- ◆ Projects that maintain the interregional integrity of the state highway system.
- ◆ Projects to enhance surface connections to airports.
- ◆ System management, demand management, and other transportation control measures included in trip reduction ordinances and/or air quality attainment plans.
- ◆ Multi-occupant vehicle systems, such as public transit, ridesharing projects, and park-and-ride facilities.
- ◆ Bicycle and pedestrian projects.
- ◆ Transportation projects that facilitate higher density or mixed-use development, to the extent desired by local communities.
- ◆ Other projects that are shown to reduce congestion without construction of new facilities for single-occupant vehicles.
- ◆ Projects that reduce mobile source emissions without construction of new facilities for single-occupant vehicles.
- ◆ Proposals to improve transportation safety.
- ◆ Transportation enhancement proposals, to integrate transportation facilities into surrounding communities in an environmentally sensitive way.

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