

RTP 2050 Vision, Goals, and Strategies

The main purpose of a long-range regional transportation plan is to describe a future vision for the region's transportation system. The vision represents the ultimate outcome of what SJTPO, and its residents would like the transportation system to look like and operate in the year 2050. While the vision should attract commitment and reflect the desires and aspirations of the region's constituents, it should also be realistic and attainable. The goals and strategies described below are established to support and achieve the RTP's vision. In addition, all the activities and projects that SJTPO and its subregions engage in within each four-year planning cycle are designed to support the RTP's vision and supporting goals and strategies. Based on the metropolitan planning factors and input from planning partners, SJTPO has established the following vision for RTP 2050.

Our Vision

A transportation system based on regional collaboration that moves people and goods in a safe and efficient manner, inclusive of all modes and users.

Goals and Strategies

1. Promote accessibility and mobility for the movement of people and goods

- a. **Evaluate transit service:** Work with public transportation providers to evaluate transit service availability in all communities, but disadvantaged communities in particular, as those areas are likely to have limited vehicular access.
- b. **Include all users in projects:** Evaluate all transportation projects that receive funding through the SJTPO process for their inclusion of complete streets elements, including bicycle, pedestrian, disabled, transit, and freight accommodation.
- c. **Advance transit for the transportation disadvantaged:** Work with regional partners to advance recommendations of the Access for All Transit Plan, formally referred to as Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan.
- d. **Promote transportation alternates:** Promote public awareness of alternative transportation options and services, such as rideshare, carpooling, electric vehicles, walking, bicycling, transit, etc., and support agencies that provide these alternatives.
- e. **Improve truck routes:** Work with regional partners to identify and evaluate truck routes and other critical freight corridors for accessibility, reliability, safety, and other system performance measures in order to develop and prioritize projects.
- f. **Promote new connections between travel modes:** Identify and promote the development of locations where better intermodal facilities and infrastructure are needed in order to promote intermodal connectivity.

- g. Improve truck routes:** Work with regional partners to identify and evaluate truck routes and other critical freight corridors for accessibility, reliability, safety, and other system performance measures in order to develop and prioritize projects.
- h. Ensure projects have equitable benefits and burdens:** Evaluate all transportation projects that receive funding through the SJTPO process to ensure that the burdens of the transportation network do not fall disproportionately on racial minority, low-income, or other disadvantaged populations and that the system provides equal benefit to these populations.
- i. Inclusiveness of all users:** Identify groups that represent freight, bicycles, pedestrians, and transit, and evaluate ways to expand their representation into the MPO planning process.
- j. Reduce barriers to job access:** Evaluate data from the Ladders of Opportunity effort and other sources to identify transportation barriers to employee access to employment and work with regional partners to reduce or eliminate those barriers.

2. Mitigate traffic congestion and promote efficient system operation

- a. Promote transportation alternatives:** Promote public awareness of alternative transportation options and services, such as rideshare, carpooling, walking, bicycling, transit, etc., and support agencies that provide these alternatives.
- b. Promote technology in transportation:** Promote the implementation and deployment of Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) technologies, such as smart traffic signals, dynamic message signs, vehicle detection systems, and connected vehicle technology.
- c. Measure congestion impact of projects:** Utilize the South Jersey Travel Demand Model (SJTDM) and other tools to evaluate impacts of future projects related to congestion and delay.
- d. Develop congestion/air quality projects:** Work with subregional planning partners to develop projects to be funded through the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) Program.
- e. Identify congested locations:** Utilize the Congestion Management Process (CMP) to identify congested locations and analyze available data to inform project development at the regional level.
- f. Include all users in projects:** Evaluate all transportation projects that receive funding through the SJTPO process for their inclusion of complete streets elements, including bicycle, pedestrian, disabled, transit, and freight accommodation.
- g. Reduce summer congestion/delay:** Collect data that demonstrates the added needs of the region due to unique seasonality of travel patterns and work to identify transportation needs and secure additional funding based upon those needs.

3. Restore, preserve, and maintain the existing transportation system

- a. Infrastructure that supports businesses:** Evaluate needs and support the investment in the infrastructure necessary to serve the region's businesses, including highways, freight rail, transit, ports, and airports.

- b. **Prioritize system maintenance:** Consistent with established project selection criteria, prioritize maintenance of the existing system over the expansion of system facilities.
- c. **Improve pavement conditions:** Assist subregions with pursuing federal funding for pavement preservation projects through funding programs administered by SJTPO.
- d. **Prioritize greatest needs:** Develop systems that assist local governments in prioritizing projects based on greatest need and greatest efficiency in use of funding.

4. Support the regional economy

- a. **Improve truck routes:** Work with regional partners to identify and evaluate truck routes and other critical freight corridors for accessibility, reliability, safety, and other system performance measures in order to develop and prioritize projects.
- b. **Expand role of businesses in MPO process:** Identify major employers and non-profit sectors that represent regional economic interests and expand their representation into the MPO planning process.
- c. **Promote new connections between travel modes:** Identify and promote the development of locations where better intermodal facilities and infrastructure are needed in order to promote intermodal connectivity.
- d. **Infrastructure that supports businesses:** Evaluate needs and support the investment in the infrastructure necessary to serve the region's businesses, including highways, freight rail, transit, ports, and airports.
- e. **Reduce barriers to job access:** Evaluate data from the Ladders of Opportunity effort and other sources to identify transportation barriers to employee access to employment and work with regional partners to reduce or eliminate those barriers.
- f. **Projects that support the economy:** Continue to work extensively with subregions as well as local and regional economic development agencies, to ensure that transportation investments promote conditions conducive to economic activity.
- g. **Projects that enhance tourism:** Continue to work extensively with subregions and allied agencies, to ensure that transportation improvements enhance opportunities for travel and tourism within the SJTPO region.

5. Improve the resiliency and reliability of the transportation infrastructure, particularly along the Atlantic and Delaware Bay shorelines

- a. **Prioritize evacuation projects:** Evaluate evacuation and other critical routes and prioritize roadway maintenance projects on these routes.
- b. **Emergency preparedness plans:** To the maximum extent possible, ensure coordination, as well as appropriate integration with transportation plans of emergency relief and disaster preparedness plans, strategies, and policies amongst SJTPO subregions and planning partners.
- c. **Emergency preparedness education:** Educate the public about emergency preparedness efforts.

- d. **Improve transportation vulnerability:** Analyze the vulnerability of the transportation system to determine where adaptation strategies are most appropriate.
- e. **Resiliency partnerships:** Participate in regional and statewide resiliency planning initiatives.
- f. **Support resiliency funding:** Serve as a technical resource to partner agencies in pursuing funding opportunities to improve resiliency and reliability of transportation infrastructure.
- g. **Resiliency education:** Educate the public on the worsening vulnerabilities of the regional transportation network with the resulting increases in flooding and storm severity.
- h. **Stormwater management:** Assess strategies appropriate to address stormwater management.

6. Increase and enhance opportunities for travel and tourism

- a. **Advance South Jersey Trails:** Continue to advance conversations and build a coalition of regional partners in the public, private, and non-profit sectors to develop and implement a vision for the South Jersey Trails regional trail network to connect major attractions within the region and to neighboring regions.
- b. **Reduce summer congestion/delay:** Collect data that demonstrates the added needs of the region due to unique seasonality of travel patterns and work to identify transportation needs and secure additional funding based upon those needs.
- c. **Projects that support the economy:** Continue to work extensively with subregions as well as local and regional economic development agencies to ensure that transportation investments promote conditions conducive to economic activity.
- d. **Projects that enhance tourism:** Continue to work extensively with subregions and allied agencies, to ensure that transportation improvements enhance opportunities for travel and tourism within the SJTPO region.
- e. **Identify congested locations:** Utilize the Congestion Management Process to identify congested locations and analyze available data to inform project development at the regional level.

7. Improve transportation safety

- a. **Promote safety countermeasures:** Educate the public and stakeholders about the benefits of the Federal Highway Administration's Proven Safety Countermeasures, including roundabouts, road diets, and others that offer major safety benefits, but may be subject to misinformation and work to include them in SJTPO projects.
- b. **Safety in all projects:** Evaluate all transportation projects that receive funding through the SJTPO process to ensure they identify and address the safety needs of all roadway users.
- c. **Bicycle and pedestrian safety projects:** Work with regional partners to develop and prioritize projects that improve safety on the bicycle and pedestrian network.
- d. **Reduce barriers to safety:** Continue and expand state and regional partnerships to identify and reduce barriers to safety project advancement, including offering design assistance support to better ensure projects reach construction.

- e. **Align safety with state priorities:** Ensure that safety investments are aligned with priorities established with the State's Strategic Highway Safety Plan, which was developed in collaboration with New Jersey's MPOs and other statewide partners.
- f. **Safety outreach and education:** Improve the safety of roadway user behavior through the continued dissemination and development of safety education programs.
- g. **No roadway death is acceptable:** Guide all transportation decision-making to incorporate the Vision Zero philosophy, which states that any loss of life on our roadways is unacceptable and preventable.

8. Enhance the integration and connectivity of the transportation system

- a. **Evaluate transit service:** Work with public transportation providers to evaluate transit service availability in all communities, but disadvantaged communities in particular, as those areas are likely to have limited vehicular access.
- b. **Advance transit for the transportation disadvantaged:** Work with regional partners to advance recommendations of the Access for All Transit Plan, formerly referred to as the Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan.
- c. **Promote new connections between travel modes:** Identify and promote the development of locations where better intermodal facilities and infrastructure are needed in order to promote intermodal connectivity.
- d. **Evaluate connections between travel modes:** Evaluate the performance of existing intermodal connections within the region to ensure they are still functioning effectively and evaluate the existing gaps within and between modes to identify and plan for projects that make new intermodal connections.
- e. **Transit oriented development:** Investigate and establish an appropriate role for SJTPO in supporting the NJDOT Transit Village Initiative as well as Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) in the region.
- f. **Include all users in projects:** Evaluate all transportation projects that receive funding through the SJTPO process for their inclusion of complete streets elements, including bicycle, pedestrian, disabled, transit, and freight accommodation.
- g. **Support connectivity projects:** Serve as a technical resource to partner agencies in pursuing funding opportunities for improving the connectivity of the transportation system.
- h. **Advance South Jersey Trails:** Continue to advance conversations and build a coalition of regional partners in the public, private, and non-profit sectors to develop and implement a vision for the South Jersey Trails regional trail network to connect major attractions within the region and to neighboring regions.

9. Protect and enhance the environment and complement land use planning

- a. **Promote transportation alternatives:** Promote public awareness of alternative transportation options and services, such as rideshare, carpooling, electric vehicles, walking, bicycling, transit, etc., and support agencies that provide these alternatives.
- b. **Educate about environmental impacts:** Educate the public about the impacts of transportation on the environment and provide information on how to mitigate those impacts through changes in daily behavior.
- c. **Projects that reduce emissions:** Promote projects that reduce emissions on the roadway, such as ITS, signal optimization, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, public transit, or roundabouts.
- d. **Incorporate land use in transportation:** Work to incorporate existing land use and livability plans, policies, and principles throughout the region into the MPO planning process.
- e. **Transit oriented development:** Investigate and establish an appropriate role for SJTPO in supporting the NJDOT Transit Village Initiative as well as Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) in the region.

10. Improve security

- a. **Prioritize evacuation projects:** Evaluate evacuation and other critical routes and prioritize roadway maintenance projects on these routes.
- b. **Emergency preparedness plans:** To the maximum extent possible, ensure coordination, as well as appropriate integration with transportation plans of emergency relief and disaster preparedness plans, strategies, and policies amongst SJTPO subregions and planning partners.
- c. **Emergency preparedness education:** Educate the public about emergency preparedness efforts.
- d. **Advance security planning:** Promote conversations among federal, state, and regional partners to define what transportation security means in the SJTPO region and how SJTPO can work to advance security planning.