

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Technical Memorandum

LAUREL LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN - 2014



Prepared for:
CITY OF LAUREL, MONTANA



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GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The mission of the *Laurel Long Range Transportation Plan* (LRTP) is to plan for a balanced, safe, cost-effective transportation system that ensures adequate mobility to all persons, accommodates planned growth, facilitates economic development, recognizes fiscal reality, and maintains an acceptable standard of livability and safety. To accomplish this mission, a set of goals and objectives is needed for the development of the LRTP. This memorandum outlines the fundamental principles that will guide the transportation planning and development process to achieve the stated mission.

The goals and objectives were developed with the community's vision for the future transportation system in mind. Review of current and developing transportation issues in the study area aided in formulation of these goals and objectives.

2.0 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The goals stated within this memorandum provide all-encompassing statements that are intended to direct the overall direction of the LRTP towards the community's vision. These goals do not specify how these actions would be done. Objectives are more specific statements of measures or procedures that provide steps to how a goal can be attained. Usually, there are several objectives associated with a goal.

Six (6) goals were identified for the LRTP. The individual goals and objectives recognize the need for a balance between safety, mobility, accessibility, cost, and environmental impact.

Goal 1: PRESERVE AND MAINTAIN THE EXISTING TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

The transportation system in the Laurel area is aging while available funding is insufficient for necessary maintenance activities. There is often competition between funding for new projects and maintenance and operations of the existing system. The existing transportation system should be enhanced through preservation and maintenance in order to maximize efficiency and reduce the need for new infrastructure investment.

OBJECTIVES:

- 1.1. Maintain existing roadway systems to optimize their usefulness and minimize life-cycle costs.
- 1.2. Monitor the performance of key facilities and work with regional partners to identify critical deficiencies in the roadway network.
- 1.3. Use transportation project selection criteria to identify and prioritize maintenance activities and project development.
- 1.4. Relieve pressures on the existing transportation system through minor infrastructure improvements, maintenance and system preservation activities rather than expanding the current system.
- 1.5. Encourage reuse and/or redevelopment around existing transportation facilities.

Goal 2: IMPROVE MOBILITY AND ACCESSIBILITY FOR PEOPLE AND GOODS

The transportation system should be developed to allow mobility for all and provide appropriate access to employment, housing, services and recreation areas. An efficient transportation system allows people to

move from place to place in as direct a route as possible while allowing them to reduce the amount of time spent in travel. Increased connectivity allows citizens to make route decisions and mode choices based on traffic and road conditions, or desired destinations.

OBJECTIVES:

- 2.1. Identify and implement critical and cost-effective new capacity and operations investments to improve transportation system throughput and reliability.
- 2.2. Develop and maintain transportation facilities and services that meet the special needs of the elderly, low-income families, residents with hearing, vision, cognitive, or ambulatory difficulties, and those without access to private automobiles.
- 2.3. Encourage projects, designs and initiatives that promote a shared, safe transportation system for all users.

Goal 3: PROVIDE A SAFE AND SECURE TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

The transportation system should be enhanced to improve community safety and security by increasing efficiency and providing a system that is easily accessed by all users. Reducing crashes, improving emergency response times, and providing evacuation routes in the event of a natural disaster will assist in improving the safety and security of the transportation system. Educational programs that help travelers understand the particular safety concerns associated with various travel modes can also help all users travel with increased confidence and security.

OBJECTIVES:

- 3.1. Develop a “Major Street Network” classifying existing roadways within the study area by functional usage.
- 3.2. Reduce the rates of fatalities and crashes occurring on all transportation facilities.
- 3.3. Identify barriers to effective and prompt emergency response.
- 3.4. Implement safety initiatives and educational programs for all modes of transportation.
- 3.5. Coordinate with freight operators and agencies on projects that can enhance the security of the freight transportation system in the region.

Goal 4: ENCOURAGE AND SOLICIT PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Public involvement is an important component in a successful transportation planning process. Public outreach will educate the public on the critical elements of planning for the future of the transportation system. Public involvement will allow the public to voice their interests and concerns, participate in the planning of the community, and will also increase their investment in the transportation plan.

OBJECTIVES:

- 4.1. Develop and carry out a public participation program that includes activities to educate and engage the public.
- 4.2. Actively solicit the participation of the local community, special-interest groups and individual citizens in the transportation planning process.
- 4.3. Reach out to under-represented persons and groups to ensure that decisions are made with their input taken into consideration.
- 4.4. Ensure that community standards and values, such as aesthetics, neighborhood preservation, and community image are incorporated.

Goal 5: PROMOTE A FINANCIALLY SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

A financially sustainable transportation plan is necessary in order to guide the transportation decision-making process in future years. This will help ensure the use of available funds to their maximum potential by implementing feasible improvement projects that have been previously identified. A sound financial base for the transportation system is provided through responsible management of public assets and resources and identification and implementation of funding strategies to ensure long-term balanced investment in the transportation system.

OBJECTIVES:

- 5.1. Identify available funding mechanisms potentially including federal and state gas tax revenue, impact fees, transportation bond issues, local option gas taxes, and other revenue funding sources used in similar cities.
- 5.2. Encourage cooperation between public, private and non-profit organizations in the development, funding, and management of transportation projects.
- 5.3. Promote cost-effective recommendations that balance transportation system needs with available funding and expected expenditures.

Goal 6: LINK TRANSPORTATION AND LAND USE

Linking transportation and land use planning is important to help ensure that the transportation system effectively and efficiently serves existing and future development within the community. This coordination helps ensure that existing and future industrial, commercial, and service centers and housing concentrations are adequately connected to the region's transportation system and appropriately located to preserve the quality of life in the community. Policies and partnerships should be developed to protect the capacity of the transportation system to strengthen the coordination between land use and transportation planning.

OBJECTIVES:

- 6.1. Integrate land use planning and transportation planning to manage and develop the transportation system.
- 6.2. Use transportation project programming to encourage desired development patterns within the community and ensure new development is adequately served.
- 6.3. Develop and implement consistent access management and corridor preservation standards, ordinances and plans appropriate to the roadway network and land use throughout the area.
- 6.4. Ensure an environmentally responsible and sound transportation system that minimizes adverse environmental impacts within the community.