

Appendix B – Goals and Objectives

Introduction

This appendix outlines the development of the 2050 SJATSO Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) goals and objectives. The MTP goals and objectives are important in defining SJATSO's long-term transportation vision and guiding future multimodal transportation investments.

Federal Planning Requirements

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), enacted as the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, sets federal transportation planning requirements. The BIL continues and expands upon previous legislation, establishing funding and procedural requirements for multimodal transportation planning in metropolitan areas.

Under 23 U.S.C. 134(h)(1), the federal transportation planning requirements for Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) include ten factors that must be considered in developing the MTP. These factors, summarized below, are designed to ensure a comprehensive and forward-thinking approach to transportation planning. Ultimately, these factors are reflected in the SJATSO 2050 MTP goals and objectives.

Support Economic Vitality	Enable global competitiveness, productivity, and efficiency.	Increase Safety	Enhance travel for motorized and non-motorized users of the system.
Increase Security	Enhance travel for motorized and non-motorized users of the system.	Increase Accessibility	Enhance the mobility of people and goods (freight).
Protect Environment	Promote energy conservation, improve quality of life, promote consistency between State and local growth and economic development.	Support Connectivity	Enhance integration across and between modes to better connect people and goods.
Promote System Efficiency	Implement efficient transportation system management and operations.	Promote System Preservation	Emphasize the preservation of existing infrastructure and transportation assets.
Increase Resiliency and Reliability	Reduce and mitigate impacts on the transportation to improve system reliability.	Support Tourism	Encourage projects that promote local and regional tourism.

Statistically Valid Community Survey

Public outreach is vital in the transportation planning process and the use of a statistically valid community survey was used to help confirm the 2050 MTP goals and objectives.

For the past five MTP updates, SJATSO has conducted a statistically valid community survey to inform the planning process. The 2050 MTP survey was conducted by ETC Institute in Spring 2023. A total of 430 households completed the survey. The results for

the random sample of 430 households have a 95% level of confidence with a precision of at least +/-4.7%. The survey was setup to obtain responses from all zip codes within the SJATSO MPA boundary.

Based upon the combined percentage of “critically important” and “very important” responses among residents who had an opinion, 88% indicated that maintenance/preservation of the transportation system over the next 25 years was most important. Other transportation issues that residents felt were “critically important” or “very important” were safety (72%), equal access (69%) and system performance (60%). Based on the sum of the top four choices, the transportation categories that residents indicated should be the top priorities to address over the next 25 years were: 1) maintenance/preservation, 2) economic growth, 3) equal access, and 4) safety.

Statewide LRTP Goals

In 2018, MoDOT updated the Statewide Long Range Transportation Plan (SLRTP), which included extensive input from Missourians and resulted in five goals for the state’s transportation system. These goals are:

1. Take care of the transportation system and services we enjoy today.
2. Keep all travelers safe—no matter the mode of transportation.
3. Invest in projects that spur economic growth and create jobs.
4. Give Missourians better transportation choices.
5. Improve reliability and reduce congestion on Missouri’s transportation system.

The KDOT SLRTP outlines key goals to guide the development and maintenance of the state’s transportation system. The following goals aim to create a modern, efficient, and resilient transportation system that meets the needs of Kansans now and in the future.

1. Addressing modal needs: Ensuring that highways, transit, aviation, rail, biking, and pedestrian infrastructure are adequately supported and funded.
2. Linking planning and programming: Integrating transportation planning with programming to ensure cohesive development.
3. Preparing for connected and automated vehicles: Adapting the transportation network to accommodate emerging technologies.
4. Conducting future scenario needs analysis and resiliency planning: Evaluating potential future scenarios to enhance the system’s resilience.
5. Allocating limited transportation resources: Strategically distributing resources to meet the most critical needs.
6. Setting performance-based objectives: Establishing measurable goals to guide transportation investments and improvements.

SJATSO 2050 MTP Consistency with Statewide LRTP goals

The MoDOT and KDOT SLRTP goals were considered in establishing the SJATSO 2050 MTP goals. In addition to the SJATSO 2050 MTP survey results, feedback from the public and regional stakeholders also demonstrates a desire of area residents to expand transportation alternatives—consistent with the statewide goals to provide better transportation choices and consider alternative modes of transportation. Finally, while traffic congestion (travel delay) is not a significant problem in the SJATSO region, there are isolated areas that will be monitored in the future to continue to maintain a high level of mobility. This is consistent with SJATSO's vision to strategically invest in regional transportation needs, including identifying the most cost efficient and effective ways to achieve this. In conclusion, the 2050 SJATSO MTP goals are consistent with, and support, the MoDOT and KDOT Statewide LRTP goals.

2050 MTP Goals and Objectives

During the previous MTP (2045) development process, SJATSO conducted an extensive review and update of the goals and objectives. As part of the 2050 MTP development process, SJATSO reviewed the 2045 MTP goals and objectives to ensure their continued relevance and effectiveness. This review included the use of a statistically valid survey, which gathered comprehensive feedback from a diverse cross-section of residents living within the SJATSO MPA. The survey results, consistent with results from the 2045 statistically valid community survey, confirmed that the existing goals and objectives remained pertinent and aligned with the current transportation needs and future vision of the region. Furthermore, conversations with area stakeholders also reinforce the 2050 MTP goals and objectives.

Following this validation, the 2050 MTP goals and objectives were presented to the SJATSO Technical and Coordinating Committees. In addition, high-level findings from the regional survey were presented to the committee members to help inform the review and confirmation process. After discussion/consideration, the Technical and Coordinating Committees reaffirmed the goals and objectives without any changes for the 2050 MTP. This decision underscores the enduring relevance of the original goals and regional support for the strategic direction of SJATSO's long-term transportation planning efforts. The approval of the 2050 MTP goals and objectives, and alignment with the MoDOT and KDOT SLRTP goals, is one example of the MPO's compliance with the 3-C (comprehensive, coordinated, and continuing) transportation planning process. The SJATSO goal areas include:

- *Safety*
- *Economic Vitality*
- *Regionalism*
- *Accessibility*
- *Funding*
- *Transportation/Land Use*
- *Environmental Protection*
- *System Management*
- *Public Involvement*

The adopted 2050 MTP goals and objectives are summarized in Table 1.

Table 1. SJATSO 2050 MTP Goals and Objectives

Goal	Objectives
Safety <i>Provide a safe transportation system that balances the travel needs of all users, including the public and area businesses.</i>	1. Improve travel safety within the region by prioritizing transportation improvements that reduce fatalities and serious injuries. 2. Incorporate Complete Streets principles into project designs to accommodate all users of all abilities. 3. Reduce modal conflicts to enhance safety in the movement of people and goods. 4. Utilize innovative design strategies to reduce crash exposure and improve traffic flow along major roadway segments and intersections.
Economic Vitality <i>Ensure the St. Joseph metropolitan area's economic growth and competitiveness by providing a safe, secure, reliable and efficient transportation system.</i>	1. Improve the operating efficiency of the existing infrastructure and transportation assets. 2. Reduce travel time, delays, and traffic hazards. 3. Reduce the amount of vehicle miles traveled on congested roads. 4. Foster strategies that reduce the growth in peak period travel.
Regionalism <i>Support local and regional transportation and land use planning needs.</i>	1. Promote the efficient movement of people and goods by linking the various modes of transportation. 2. Promote connections between transportation modes that support the effective shipment of freight. 3. Preserve and develop corridors for future transportation systems. 4. Ensure compatibility with the transportation facilities of adjacent municipalities and counties. 5. Support statewide transportation initiatives that affect the St. Joseph metropolitan area. 6. Utilize mutual aid agreements to help address transportation needs.
Accessibility <i>Promote alternative transportation options for area residents and employees that are reliable and accessible to all users.</i>	1. Enhance transit services by providing more reliable service, improved passenger information and additional routes to communities outside of the city core. 2. Establish regional transit services by providing intra-regional service to metropolitan area communities and interregional service to areas outside of the metropolitan area. 3. Encourage the development of Complete Streets that accommodate the transportation needs of all users including vehicular traffic, transit, bikes and pedestrians. 4. Strengthen bicycle and pedestrian access to roadways and transit facilities. 5. Promote transit service to major activity and employment centers. 6. Place a high priority on serving the needs of transportation disadvantaged including the elderly and low-income residents.
Funding <i>Develop innovative funding sources and strategies for transportation improvements.</i>	1. Ensure adequate funding to preserve and maintain the integrity of the existing transportation infrastructure. 2. Develop transportation investment decisions that maximize the full benefits of the system while considering the full costs. 3. Give priority to funding those transportation needs identified in state, regional and local transportation system plans. 4. Consider the funding implications of federal and state actions on the regional transportation system and services. 5. Promote public-private partnerships in addressing transportation needs.

Table 1. SJATSO 2045 MTP Goals and Objectives (continued)

Goal	Objectives
Transportation / Land Use <i>Improve transportation and land use coordination.</i>	1. Strengthen the connection between land use and transportation planning to develop a more efficient transportation system. 2. Encourage the concentration of employment and activity sites within transit corridors to maximize transportation efficiency. 3. Encourage local and regional land use planning to promote smart growth. 4. Emphasize the importance of access management in preserving corridor capacity and enhancing travel safety. 5. Focus transportation system improvements to support and promote tourism.
Environmental Protection <i>Protect the environment, promote energy conservation, increase safety and improve the quality of life.</i>	1. Avoid disproportionate adverse impacts on low-income and minority communities. 2. Support alternative transportation modes to improve air quality and community health. 3. Encourage use of alternative fuels and technologies in motor vehicle, fleet and transit applications. 4. Preserve and enhance scenic views of and access to historic, cultural and other attractive features. 5. Minimize impacts to the environment by avoiding sensitive environmental features or by identifying relevant mitigation measures early in corridor development.
System Management <i>Preserve and maintain the existing transportation system.</i>	1. Encourage new programs designed to preserve and maintain the regional infrastructure. 2. Utilize Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) measures to maximize existing transportation system resources. 3. Utilize transportation system management (TSM) improvements when more cost effective than facility expansion. 4. Manage access along corridors to preserve corridor capacity and travel safety.
Public Involvement <i>Support community involvement in the transportation planning process.</i>	1. Inform the public about transportation issues in a clear and concise manner. 2. Involve the public in several ways—early and often—to encourage their participation in the planning process. 3. Conduct the plan in an inclusive manner to ensure the process is fair and open to all individuals. 4. Ensure that plans respond to the diversity of community needs. 5. Encourage local government agencies to formally adopt the MTP recommendations.