



Looking Ahead 2050 Updates

One of the key responsibilities of the APO is to develop a regional multimodal surface transportation plan. Known as the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), this document outlines a transportation vision for the future along with recommendations for transportation projects to improve our existing network over the next 25 years.

The last MTP – MAPPING 2045 – was approved by the APO’s Policy Board in October 2019 but the plan must be updated at least every five years. Work is currently underway on the next version of the long-range plan, Looking Ahead 2050.

In 2021, APO staff had asked the community to share their thoughts about the local transportation system. Staff received nearly 2,000 responses which were reviewed and sorted into six main visioning themes.

- **System and Environmental Stewardship:** Protecting and preserving our existing infrastructure and environmental assets.
- **Multimodal Connections:** Providing a safe and equitable multimodal transportation network affordable for people of all ages and abilities to travel using their preferred modal choice.
- **Congestion Management:** Mindfully planning, developing, and operating an innovative transportation network to minimize unnecessary travel delays.

- **Transportation Safety:** Reducing fatalities and serious injuries by planning, designing, and building safe infrastructure and improving driving behavior.
- **Interregional Connections:** Supporting an economically vibrant region through developing and preserving vital connections to other state, national, and global centers of commerce.
- **Technological Advancements:** Understanding and planning for future innovative transportation technologies and encouraging their presence and incorporation into the region's existing transportation network.

Throughout the summer, APO staff have been gathering information on the region and the existing transportation network – including population demographics, traffic volumes, crash rates, and transit ridership. In addition, APO staff have been working with consultants to forecast future regional growth/development as well as develop the 2050 Travel Demand Model (TDM) which will identify future areas of concern IF no changes are made to the existing transportation system.

Within the next month, APO staff will be launching another round of public engagement. This time, we will be seeking feedback on those six proposed visioning themes as we “Look Ahead” to 2050? In other words, did we hear you correctly? Are we missing anything?

If you have comments you would like to share now, ahead of the official public comment period, feel free to email your thoughts to APO Senior Transportation Planner Vicki Johnson (ikeogu@stcloudapo.org). Otherwise, check out lookingahead2050.org in the coming weeks for more information on each of these themes and additional ways to share your thoughts!

LOOKING AHEAD 2050



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