



Transportation Element

The Horizon Plan was adopted by the Metropolitan Council in 1992 as the comprehensive land use and development plan for East Baton Rouge Parish. The plan includes numerous Goals, Objectives and Policies within seven different areas of emphasis, called "elements."

The Horizon Plan includes the following seven elements: Land Use; Transportation; Wastewater, Solid Waste and Drainage; Conservation and Environmental Resources; Recreation and Open Space; Housing; and Public Services, Public Buildings, and Health and Human Services. This Information Bulletin examines the Transportation Element of the Horizon Plan.

The purpose of the Horizon Plan's Transportation Element is to provide recommendations that will enhance the development of an efficient transportation system through the year 2010, and that is compatible with the land use patterns and other elements of area development. The goals developed for the Horizon Plan were used as the framework for developing recommendations for the City-Parish transportation system.

The Transportation Element involved extensive public input from the community and appropriate transportation officials and professionals. The transportation issues identified at the public meetings in each of the 16 planning districts provided a basis for the formulation of the Goals and Objectives for the Transportation Element and in the development of recommendations.

Transportation involves many different issues and modes of travel. Therefore, the Transportation Element is divided into 10 sub-categories. Each category is defined by a Goal and the Objectives and Action Items developed to secure the Goal. The 10 categories are: Comprehensive Transportation System Planning and Development; Transportation Relationship to Land Use and Environment; Thoroughfare System Development; Parking; Public Transportation Facilities and Services; Railroad Transportation; Air Transportation and Airports; Bicycling; Pedestrians; and Port and Waterways.

As part of the the 2007 Five-Year Horizon Plan Update Process, extensive updates have been made to the Goals, Objectives, and Action Items of the Transportation Element to keep that aspect of the Plan relevant and current.



Goals, Objectives, and Action Items

Goals are broad and general statements of desired future conditions that aid and guide the decision-making process.

Objectives are specific statements about future conditions or results that should be achieved in order to attain the Goals that have been set. Objectives are worded so that their achievement can be measured.

Action Items are specific recommendations, plans and standards that are used in making decisions about future actions and programs. Policies become the specific guidelines for implementing the Comprehensive Plan.

The Transportation Element includes an "Overall Goal", which "is to provide a transportation system that will accommodate present and future needs for mobility of all people and goods travelling within and through the parish. The transportation system should be safe, efficient, and economically feasible, and should promote efficient land use and development."

The following Goals address specific issues within the 10 transportation categories:

Goal T1: Provide a system of convenient and safe transportation facilities throughout the city and parish through comprehensive, cooperative, and continuing transportation planning.

Goal T2: Perform transportation planning within the framework of comprehensive regional planning to (1) support the area's growth and development goals, (2) utilize all feasible and applicable travel modes, (3) serve all segments of the population, and (4) optimize energy efficiency and environmental quality.

Goal T3: Plan and develop a unified roadway system of thoroughfares based on function and relative importance, providing a proper balance of interstates, arterials, collectors and local streets.

Goal T4: Identify and provide adequate parking for development, taking into consideration all forms of automobile parking and alternative transportation modes.

Goal T5: Design the overall transportation system to include integrated mass transit, carpools, bicycles, and pedestrians, and encourage the use of alternative modes of travel to support a balanced transportation system.

Goal T6: Promote maintenance and improvement of railroad facilities and service that will enhance the availability of adequate rail service for people and goods.

Goal T7: Continue to develop and promote aviation services of the Greater Baton Rouge Airport District that meet existing and future air transportation needs, and minimize adverse impacts on the airport environs.

Goal T8: Develop bikeways and pedestrian/hiking trails to foster alternative modes of transportation.

Goal T9: Provide safe and convenient infrastructure for pedestrian movement in public and private development and improvements.

Goal T10: Continue to develop water transportation infrastructure that meets existing and future needs for intermodal transportation and commerce and contributes to the parish's economic development.

Action Items

Action Items serve as strategies for implementation of the comprehensive plan. They are assigned to various City-Parish Lead Agencies that use them as a method for addressing the Goals, Objectives and Action Items of the Horizon Plan.

There are 29 Action Items within the Transportation Element. To provide an example of Action Items in the transportation element, an example from each category is listed below along with the number of Action Items within each category and the Lead Agencies responsible for them.

Comprehensive Transportation System Planning and Development

- Lead Agencies: Planning Commission, Office of the Mayor-President, Capital Region Planning Commission (CRPC), and Department of Public Works (DPW)
- *T1.C* Maintain coordination and consistency among the Capital Improvements Program (CIP), the regional Transportation Improvements Program, and the Unified Planning Work Program for the Baton Rouge Area Transportation Study.

Transportation Relationship to Land Use and Environment

- Lead Agencies: Planning Commission and Capital Region Planning Commission (CRPC)
- *T2.D* Review planned transportation improvements to consider potential impacts on air quality and noise.

Thoroughfare System Development

- Lead Agencies: Planning Commission, CRPC, Planning Commission, and DPW

- *T3.J* Implement, maintain and update the Computerized Traffic Signal Synchronization system recommended for the Baton Rouge area to provide efficient progression of traffic on arterials.

Parking Requirements

- Lead Agencies: Planning Commission, DPW, and CRPC
- *T4.D* Maintain administrative procedures for effective review and approval of planned off-street parking improvements proposed by developers, including centralized responsibilities.

Public Transportation Facilities and Services

- Lead Agencies: CRPC, Capital Area Transit System (CATS), and Planning Commission
- *T5.D* Develop and implement an effective Transit Marketing Program that promotes the use of transit and its benefits, and informs the public of routes, schedules, and other transit operations and services

Railroad Transportation

- Lead Agency: DPW, CRPC, and Downtown Development District
- *T6.C* Include implementation of railroad grade crossing improvement projects in the 5-year CIP.

Air Transportation and Airports

- Lead Agencies: Greater Baton Rouge Airport District and Planning Commission
- *T7.A* Implement the Baton Rouge Metropolitan Airport Master Plan to provide airport facilities needed to meet future air transport demands.

Bicycling

- Lead Agencies: Planning Commission, CRPC, DPW, and Baton Rouge Recreation and Parks Commission
- *T8.C* Include right-of-way provisions for bikeways as identified in the Comprehensive Short-Range Pedestrian and Bikeway Plan in developing the major street system and in designing street improvements.

Pedestrians

- Lead Agencies: DPW and CRPC
- *T9.A* Develop and implement requirements and standards for the provision of sidewalks that provide for safe and convenient use, including appropriate facilities for the physically handicapped, as part of street construction.

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