

Schedule of Events

A project schedule of the major milestones is provided below:

Task	Projected Date
Project Kickoff.....	February 19, 2009
Public Involvement Program.....	April 2009 – November 2010
Traffic Model Development/Validation.....	September 2009 – March 2010
Workshop #1.....	June 17, 2009
Newsletter #1.....	September 2009
Develop Needs Plan.....	March 2010 – June 2010
Workshop #2.....	Spring 2010
Develop Cost Feasible Plan.....	July 2010 – September 2010
Newsletter #2.....	August 2010
Workshop #3.....	October 2010
Present the Year 2035 LRTP to Collier & Lee MPO Boards.....	November 2010

Did You Know?

Collier County

Total Area:
2,305 square miles
2,025 square miles is land
280 square miles is water

Current Population:
333,032 residents

2035 Projected Population:
597,400 residents

Lee County

Total Area:
1,212 square miles
804 square miles is land
408 square miles is water

Current Population:
615,124 residents

2035 Projected Population:
1,034,000 residents

Source: Bureau of Economical Business Research (BEBR) Population Projections from 2008.

2035 LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

COLLIER & LEE COUNTIES

UPDATE

Issue No. 1

Project Description

The Collier and Lee Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) are in the process of developing their respective 2035 Regional Long Range Transportation Plans (LRTPs). The LRTP represents a long-term vision of the counties' transportation systems, in essence, a blueprint for the future. The plans represent the transportation planning process of each county, including ways to efficiently manage and operate these systems. All modes of transportation are considered, including roadway, bus, rail, bicycle, pedestrian and air. The LRTPs also complement regional planning initiatives.

Coordination among the various transportation and environmental agencies and ongoing proactive community outreach efforts are an integral part of the planning process. Your voice is important in helping each MPO identify the counties' mobility issues and transportation needs.

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Why Now and Where Do We Start?

Federal law requires that the LRTP address a minimum 20-year planning horizon from the last LRTP adoption. Collier MPO completed their 2030 LRTP in January 2006 (amended June 2007), while the Lee County MPO completed their plan in December 2005 (amended June 2007). Both of these existing documents will set the foundation for the 2035 Update.

The update process allows each MPO to reassess existing and projected travel conditions and needed transportation improvements based on the most recent economic, population, and socioeconomic data.

YOUR Opinion Matters

Both MPOs are committed to working with agencies and the public to promote participation in every aspect of their planning processes. The ultimate vision is to have a multi-jurisdictional, integrated multi-modal transportation system that safely and efficiently moves people and goods to, through, and within the area, and enables both counties to flourish in the global marketplace. All citizens are encouraged to participate and provide input. You can make your voices heard in several ways, including the following:

- Attend the public workshop tentatively scheduled for spring 2010
- Visit the Joint Collier/Lee MPO website at www.mpo-swfl.org/CollierLeeMPO.shtml to:
 - Review project information
 - E-mail us your comments (select the *Public Comment* icon)
 - Request a meeting/presentation (select the *Meeting Request* icon)

It is the MPOs objective to obtain as many comments and suggestions as possible so that the final recommendations are a result of our citizens' collective input. **Help us shape Collier and Lee Counties' transportation vision for 2035!**

CONTACT INFORMATION

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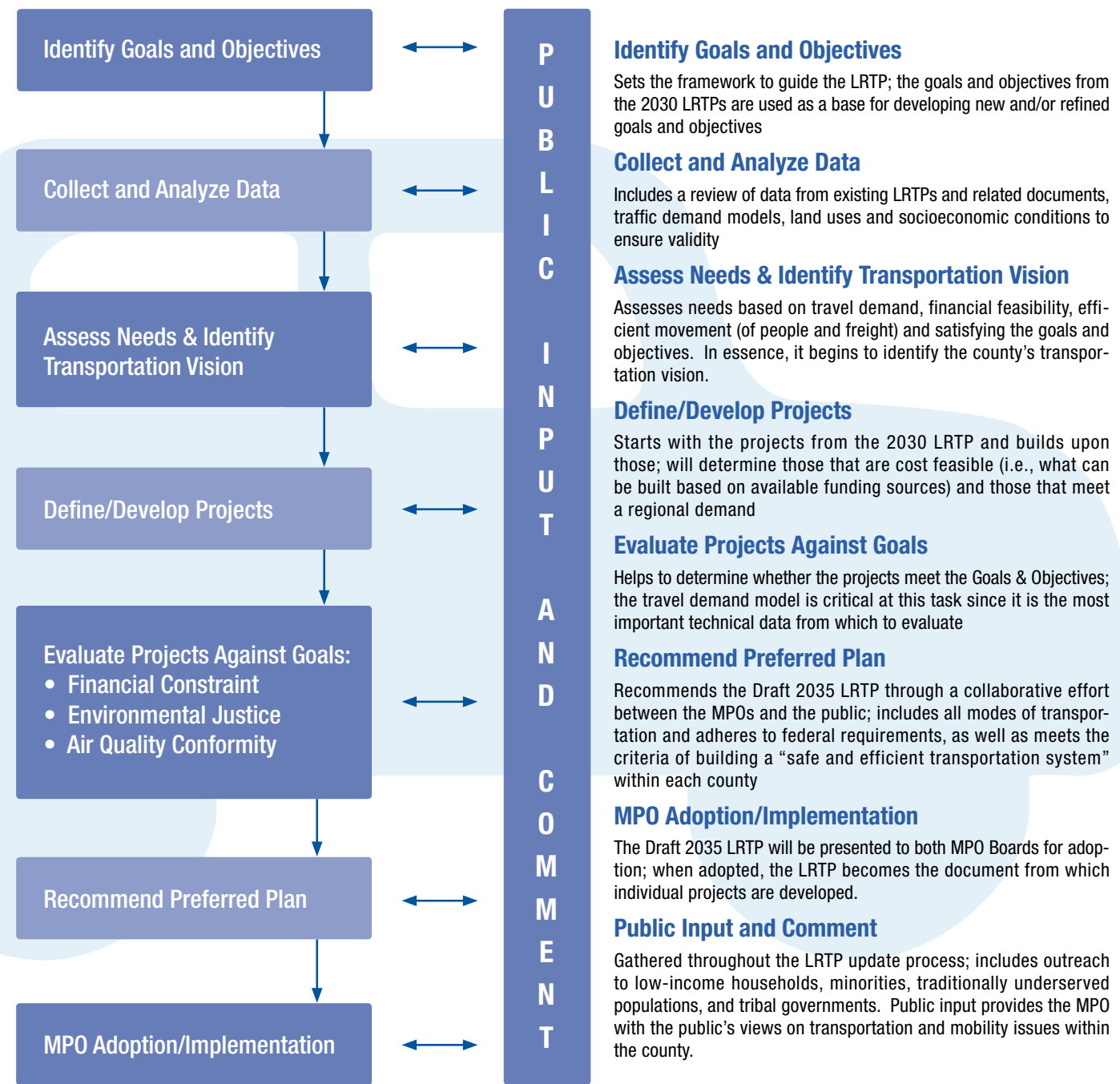
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What is the Planning Process?

The LRTP planning process is a very systematic approach to creating a unified and successful transportation **blueprint** for each county. As shown below, a series of tasks must occur during the planning process to ensure that all transportation components are accurately analyzed and that specific projects (the **Needs**) are identified and included in the final plan. Equally as important is that the public has a significant voice throughout the entire process and that the process demonstrates how public feedback and input help shape the final plan. The final outcome is then recommended to the Metropolitan Planning Organization Boards for approval.

LRTP Process



Public Workshop Held on June 17, 2009 Three Oaks Banquet and Conference Center, Estero, FL

Collier and Lee County MPOs hosted a workshop to explain the LRTP process and expectations, traffic demand model, current project schedule, communication network and project contact information. This was the first workshop since the project began and is one of three that will be held.



Both MPO Directors, along with their staff and consultant team members, were among the facilitators/coordinators of the workshop. A detailed slide presentation highlighted the LRTP process, reviewed processes and timelines, identified how to get involved, and opened up the session with questions. A copy of the presentation can be found on the Joint Collier/Lee MPO website at www.mpo-swfl.org/CollierLeeMPO.shtml.



Several recurring concerns and comments were heard by participants, including the following:

County-wide Issues/Concerns

- Recommend land use changes in Lee County – ecology, water, and environmental concerns
- Consider implementing a rail system in Collier County
- Consider human aspects when planning for the future – inevitable growth in both counties
- Population and regional changes must be accurate
- Due to a slowing population growth rate in Collier County, reevaluate how the county and MPO plan for future transportation needs

- Incorporate transit into the model
- Improve inefficiencies in road networks
- Encourage more growth in the urbanized areas and less growth in the rural areas
- Ensure that alternative transportation modes, mass transit and smart growth are included to meet the LRTP goals
- Review the costs of environmental impacts when assessing future needs; attempt to reduce costs by avoiding or minimizing environmental impacts

These comments will be considered and incorporated, as applicable, into the planning process. However, we know there are other concerns – you may be thinking of some now! We encourage you to share your comments via the Joint Collier/Lee MPO website or e-mail to the MPOs (refer to the back page for Contact Information).

Regional Issues/Concerns

- Develop walkable communities
- Update bike/pedestrian elements in both LRTPs
- Entertain multimodal transportation

Special Topic of Interest – Transit is Needed More than Ever!

As our counties continue to grow and change, we need to re-think how we will provide sufficient and affordable transportation to all of our communities. Although all modes are considered in the LRTP process, previous LRTPs did not contain a transit modeling component. The travel demand model (a transportation

forecasting tool that estimates the number of vehicles or travelers that will use a specific transportation facility in the future) will be used to develop the 2035 LRTP. It will include transit as one of its components. In the past, the modeling tool analyzed the highway component, however, policies such as those found in the proposed Clean

Low-Emissions Affordable New Transportation Equity Act (CLEAN-TEA) will change the way bus and rail transit are analyzed. CLEAN-TEA is geared towards alternative modes of transportation, and will allocate funding towards transit projects and intelligent transportation systems to maximize the capacity of existing roadways.