



DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Planning Division

m e m o r a n d u m

TO: Laurel Lunt Prussing, Mayor

FROM: Elizabeth H. Tyler, PhD, FAICP, Community Development Director

DATE: October 29, 2009

SUBJECT: Long Range Transportation Plan presentation

At the November 2, 2009 City Council meeting, a presentation on the draft Long Range Transportation Plan 2035 will be made by Champaign-Urbana Urbanized Transportation Study (CUUATS) staff. A copy of the plan's Executive Summary is attached. To view a copy of the draft document, please access the Long Range Transportation Plan's official web page at: <http://www.ccrpc.org/planning/transportation/lrtp2/documents.html> .

The Long Range Transportation Plan is our urbanized area's official plan for long-term, major investments in our transportation system. The planning area encompasses the Champaign-Urbana-Savoy-Bondville urbanized area as defined by the 2000 census. The plan's scope includes the movement of people and freight within and through the region, whether by automobiles and trucks, buses, trains, walking, or bicycling, over the next 25 years. Implementation of the plan is overseen by the CUUATS Policy Committee with Mayor Prussing serving as the City of Urbana's representative.

The plan is federally mandated for areas receiving federal transportation funds and must be revised every five years. The draft plan under consideration would update the existing Long Range Transportation Plan adopted in 2004.

CUUATS staff is asking member communities to officially endorse the Long Range Transportation Plan. City staff anticipates presenting a draft resolution at the December 7, 2009 Urbana City Council meeting. The Urbana Plan Commission will also review the Long Range Transportation Plan at their November 5th and 19th meetings.

Attachments:

L RTP Executive Summary

cc: Eric Halvorsen, AICP, CUUATS staff

CHOICES



Champaign-Urbana Urbanized Area Transportation Study Long Range Transportation Plan



December 2009

Champaign Urbana Urbanized Area Transportation Study
Champaign County Regional Planning Commission
1776 East Washington Street
Urbana, IL 61802

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Executive Summary

The Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) is a federally mandated document that details how the urbanized area's transportation system will evolve over the next 25 years. The LRTP covers the Champaign-Urbana-Savoy-Bondville urbanized area as determined by the 2000 Census boundaries and looks at the 25 year metropolitan planning area which encompasses areas outside the urbanized area that are likely to grow between the years 2009 and 2035. The LRTP looks at the projected evolution of automobile, bicycle, pedestrian, bus transit, rail, and air travel over the next 25 years. This plan has a regional scope and is not meant to take the place of local transportation plans and comprehensive land use plans. Its main purpose is to identify major regionally beneficial transportation projects which can be targeted for federal funding. While smaller localized transportation projects are reviewed and taken into consideration during the planning process, the LRTP lends itself to a broader regional focus, which attempts to bring multiple jurisdictions together under one common vision.



LRTP Mission

To provide a safe, efficient, and economical transportation system that makes the best use of existing infrastructure, optimizes mobility, promotes environmental sensitivity, sustainability, accessibility, economic development, and enhances quality of life for all users.

A detailed existing conditions analysis was completed for the urbanized area and metropolitan planning area during the winter and spring of 2009. The existing conditions analysis looked at current land use and development patterns, environmental conditions, and the current status of the transportation network as it relates to motorists, bicyclists, pedestrians, transit users, rail, and air travelers. Overall, the transportation network within the urbanized area is performing well in 2009, and has made positive progress since the last LRTP update in 2004.

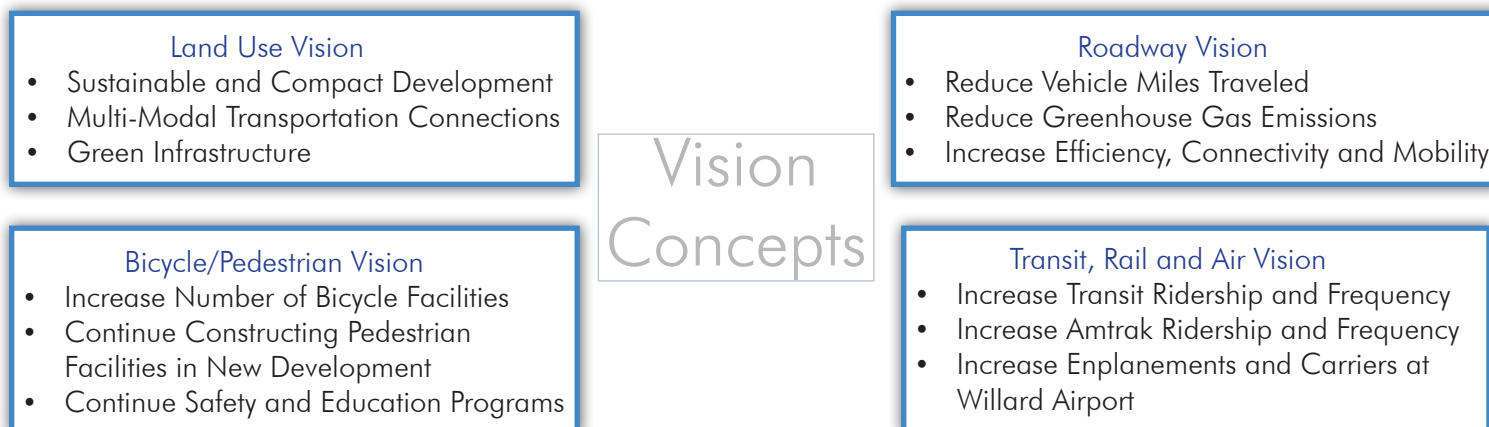
Existing Conditions Findings

- Land development patterns between 2004 and 2009 have shown lower densities and expanding land areas.
- The urbanized area continues to have good air quality.
- Water quality in rivers and streams has declined in the urbanized area.
- The total number of crashes in the urbanized area decreased between 2004 and 2007.
- The total mileage of bicycle facilities rose by over 40% in the urbanized area.
- CU-MTD operates over 48 weekday and weeknight routes in 2009 compared to only 27 in 2004.
- Amtrak ridership from Illinois Terminal rose by over 98% between 2004 and 2008.

Goals, objectives, strategies, and measures of effectiveness (MOEs) were created to direct the vision of the LRTP and the plan's implementation process. The goals provide a general statement about the end state of the LRTP. Objectives refer to sub-goals necessary for the completion of the broader goals. Strategies are specific action items that can be taken to complete each objective. Finally, measurements of effectiveness are data sets and tracking measures to see how the urbanized area performs over the five year periods between plan updates. The measurements are based on real data collected during the LRTP update process.

During this update of the LRTP, the vision for the urbanized area was reflected in three regional vision maps: one for roadway projects, one for bicycle and pedestrian projects, and one for transit, rail and air travel. The regional vision is meant to convey large over-arching ideas that will be complemented in more detail by local plans such as municipal comprehensive plans or municipal transportation plans. The vision looks at broad concepts such as compact and sustainable growth, multi-modal transportation facilities, increasing mode share in the urbanized area, expanding connectivity for all transportation

network users, and improving the efficiency of the current transportation network. A complementary future conditions chapter is included in this plan to discuss in more detail the projected evolution of the transportation network and how each mode may function in the year 2035. The future conditions chapter also touches on linking land use decisions to the transportation network, and analyzing multi-modal options for new development.



In order to comply with federal mandates for the LRTP, projects which are “fiscally constrained” have been noted separate from the overall vision for the future. The term fiscally constrained refers to regionally significant projects which are fully funded or have a reasonably guaranteed source of funding for future implementation. The projects considered fiscally constrained as part of this LRTP update are as follows:

- I-74 widening from IL-47 to Prospect Avenue
- Olympian Drive extension from Apollo Drive to US 45
- Olympian Drive extension from east of Duncan Road to I-74
- Olympian Drive grade separation over CN railroad tracks
- IL-130 widening with medians from University Avenue to Windsor Road
- Florida Avenue extension to IL-130
- Windsor Road reconstruction from Philo Road to IL-130
- Curtis Road improvements between Wesley Avenue and Wynstone Drive
- High Capacity Transit Network

Funding projections were completed for transportation projects using federal, state and local funding sources. Due to the expiration of the current federal transportation bill (SAFETEA-LU), future federal funding sources are difficult to predict. Therefore, an average was used to project federal and state funding based on the amount of transportation funding between fiscal years 2005 and 2009. Local funding projections were completed with help from local agencies including the City of Champaign, City of Urbana, Village of Savoy, and CU-MTD. Funding projections for Champaign County and the University of Illinois were completed using the current 2010-2013 Transportation Improvement Program for the urbanized area.

The regional vision and implementation of the LRTP is dependent on strong coordination between all local agencies in the urbanized area. The successful implementation of the LRTP will result in a well connected, efficient and safe transportation network for all users. The need for “Choices” in transportation is more important than ever with transportation costs increasing and the affordability of personal vehicles becoming out of reach for more and more urbanized area residents. This plan provides a regional vision for offering more travel choices to residents.