

CUUATS CHAMPAIGN URBANA URBANIZED AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

1776 East Washington Street Urbana, IL 61802

Phone217.328.3313Fax217.328.2426

www.ccrpc.org

# Long Range Transportation Plan: Sustainable<sup>1</sup> Choices 2040

## What is the LRTP?

The Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) is a document that details how the local area transportation system should evolve over the next 20 years. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) requires its update every five years in order for communities in urbanized areas to receive federal and state funding for transportation projects. The Champaign Urbana Urbanized Area Transportation Study<sup>2</sup> (CUUATS), a program of the CCRPC, is the agency responsible for updating the LRTP.

The Champaign-Urbana Long Range Transportation Plan: Sustainable Choices 2040 will anticipate future conditions and outline issues that should be considered when confronting those conditions. The CUUATS LRTP planning process helps coordinate how the region will address future transportation needs with the end-goal to foster an efficient, convenient, safe, secure, and sustainable transportation system. In addition, the LRTP will identify broad policy goals and objectives associated with strategic actions and performance measures to improve regional mobility and support sustainability and economic growth in the Champaign-Urbana region. As a community transportation policy document, Sustainable Choices 2040 sets the direction for future investments and enhances the findings of Choices 2035, Champaign-Urbana's previous LRTP.

## What goes into the LRTP?

LRTP: Sustainable Choices 2040 uses many different types of data to clearly define the region's transportation issues and identify strategies to address them:

- Traffic counts and existing traffic conditions
- Traffic control device inventories (stop signs, traffic signals, etc.)
- Intersection and roadway segment geometries (number of lanes, lane widths, etc.)
- Transportation infrastructure performance data
- Land use inventories
- Current population and other demographic data and projections through 2040
- Current employment data and projections through 2040
- Publically available data (US Census Bureau, US/IL DOT, local municipalities, and more)
- Statistical modelling tools (land use, air quality, livability, public health, and more)
- Public input (20+ outreach events, 1,200 comments and counting)
- Anticipated future land use information (from local planning departments)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> "Sustainability is defined as balancing the economic, environmental, and social aspects of urban growth and development to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." United Nations. 1987. Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The Champaign County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC) is the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Champaign- Urbana urbanized area. Within the CCRPC, the Champaign-Urbana Urbanized Area Transportation Study (CUUATS) has been designated the transportation planning entity. CUUATS staff is responsible for updating the LRTP as well as other federally mandated transportation planning documents. The member agencies of CUUATS are the City of Champaign, the City of Urbana, the Village of Savoy, the University of Illinois, the Champaign Urbana Mass Transit District (CUMTD), the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), and CCRPC.

### What is in the LRTP?

LRTP: Sustainable Choices 2040 will contain information on our existing transportation system; goals, objectives, and performance measures for implementation; budgeted transportation projects; and illustrative or "wish list" transportation projects that local agencies would like to see implemented in the future; as well as an overall vision for the future transportation system. Since 2004, CUUATS has been tracking data-driven performance measures to monitor progress towards the attainment of specific goals and objectives delineated in previous LRTP documents related to transportation, land use development, safety, multi-modalism, accessibility, connectivity, air quality, and other planning factors. With that foundation, CUUATS staff has identified new performance measures and associated targets to reflect the vision and goals of the LRTP: Sustainable Choices 2040. The performance-based investment decisions and targets that will be included in the plan are coordinated with those of relevant national, state, and local agencies, including IDOT and public transportation providers, as well as local planning studies and comments received from the public.

#### What is the vision for our future transportation system?

The LRTP: Sustainable Choices 2040 has an overall mission to offer sustainable transportation choices within the region that will help balance the economic, environmental, and social aspects of urban growth and development. This overall mission has been developed around six major themes, (see box to the right), that are a result of extensive research and data collection (LRTP 2040, Chapters 2-7) and an ambitious and innovative public outreach campaign (LRTP 2040, Chapter 8). This includes understanding the use and maintenance of the existing regional transportation system as well as its relationship with issues such as fluctuating energy costs, climate change, environmental preservation, and public health. This overarching vision of sustainability is supported in the transportation realm by planning goals that federal, state, and local area transportation and land use plans share.

#### What does this mean to the average resident?

The LRTP: Sustainable Choices 2040 will serve as a blueprint to development in both transportation and land use over the next 20 years. Residents might experience shorter travel times, fewer cars on the roads, more people using transit, riding bicycles, or walking to do every day errands or commute to work. Residents and visitors might also take advantage of high speed rail to travel to Chicago, St. Louis, or Indianapolis for work, education, family, shopping, or recreation. Our goal is to increase mobility and overall quality of life in the region while decreasing traffic crashes and congestion as we implement the activities and projects detailed in the plan.



For more information on the LRTP and other CUUATS initiatives, our website is a great place to start: www.cuuats.org. A draft of the LRTP 2040: Sustainable Choices plan is available there: www.cuuats.org/lrtp/documents/lrtp-2040-draft.