

A guide to preparing the transportation element of a local comprehensive plan

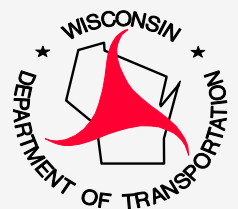
Transportation Planning

resource
guide

Transportation Planning Resource Guide

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What is the Transportation Guide?

Purpose:

To provide basic transportation planning related information to help communities develop the Transportation Element of their Comprehensive Plans

Primary audience:

- ➡ Rural communities
- ➡ Small urban communities



How was the Guide developed?

Steering Committee:

- ➡ Office of Land Information Services
- ➡ FHWA
- ➡ Wisconsin Towns Association
- ➡ Transportation Development Association
- ➡ Citizens for a Better Environment
- ➡ University of Wisconsin-Madison
- ➡ Madison Area MPO
- ➡ East Central Wisconsin RPC
- ➡ Wisconsin Counties Association
- ➡ WisDOT



What topics are discussed in the Guide?

- ➡ Review of Comprehensive Planning Legislation and the Transportation Element
- ➡ Public Involvement
- ➡ Coordination
- ➡ Local Transportation Planning
- ➡ Land Use and Transportation
- ➡ Community and Environmental Issues
- ➡ Implementing and Funding the Plan



Why is public involvement important?

- ➡ Opens up the planning and decision-making process to everyone.
- ➡ Strengthens relationships between your community, neighboring jurisdictions, county, state, general public and other stakeholders.
- ➡ Supports and lends credibility to your plan and its implementation.
- ➡ Serves as an information exchange between community officials and its citizens.





Who should be involved?

- Everyone should have an opportunity to participate.
- Examples of stakeholders may include:
 - Southeast WI RPC (SEWRPC)
 - County Planning Department
 - Adjacent communities
 - Economic development interests
 - Environmental interests
 - Transit agencies
 - Airport owners
 - Elected officials
 - State agencies (e.g., WisDOT District Office)

How extensive should public outreach be?

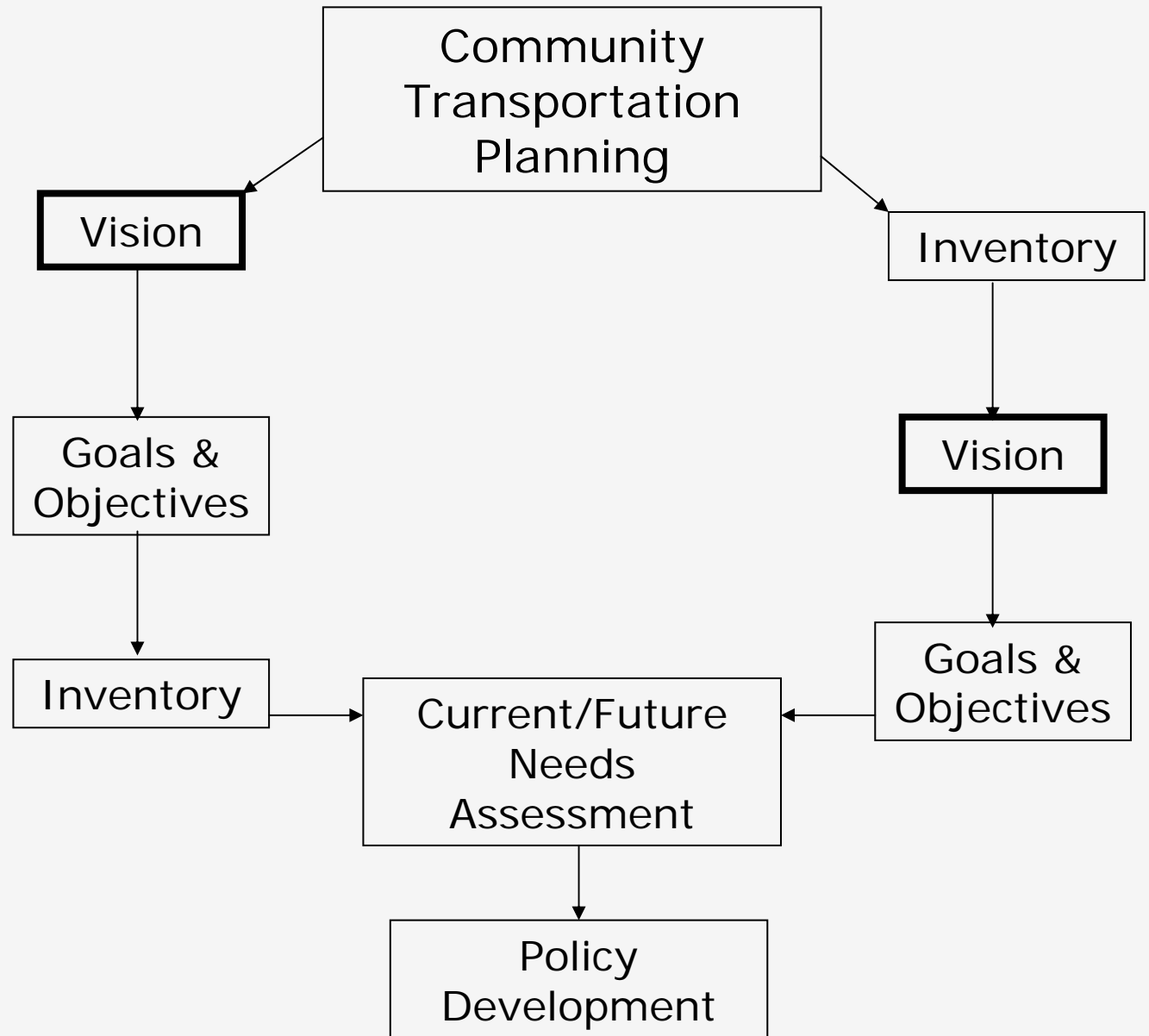
- ➡ The level of public involvement is your decision.
- ➡ At a minimum, one public hearing must be held (required by Comprehensive Planning Law).



Why is it important to coordinate planning activities?

- ➡ Work toward ensuring no conflicts or inconsistencies exist between plans.
- ➡ Ways to coordinate:
 - Establish partnerships.
 - Work with your RPC, county and neighboring jurisdictions and state agencies in your efforts.
 - Review/incorporate other plans as applicable.
- ➡ Examples of plans to incorporate in your plan include:
 - Transportation corridor plans.
 - County highway functional and jurisdictional studies.
 - Urban area and rural area transportation plans.
 - Airport master plans.
 - Rail plans.







Developing a vision, goals and objectives

- ➡ Vision → What do you want your transportation system to look like in 20 (or 30 or 40) years?
- ➡ Potential areas for goals/objectives:
 - Transportation choices
 - Maintenance and improvements
 - Safety
 - Economic development
 - Environment and aesthetics
 - Accessibility
 - Land use
 - Cost

Conducting an inventory

- ➡ Inventory process has 3 steps:
1. Identify the types of transportation in your community.
 2. Consider any regional services that may impact your community.
 3. Gather data.



Examples of things to consider when conducting an inventory:

Roads & Hwys	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roadway condition • Mileage by functional classification • Average daily traffic • Parking availability • Number of crashes • Maps of roadway network, key traffic generators, crash locations 	Airport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Map of airport location(s) • Type of airport(s) • Airport classification • Description of airport(s): runway(s), activity levels, based aircraft, enplanements, cargo • Approach clearance considerations
Transit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Map of transit routes • Area of service • Ridership • Frequency of service • Type(s) of service • Service hours • Opportunities to develop links/transfers to other transportation choices 	Bike/ Ped	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Map of bike/ped facilities/accommodations • Percentage of population that bikes/walks • Number of bicycle/pedestrian crashes • Total miles of sidewalks • Barriers to bicycling • Street crossing problems

Assessing your current and future needs

- ➡ Need to define when an existing or forecasted need warrants an improvement.
- ➡ Is it a temporary need? (i.e., the result of a seasonal fluctuation, etc.)
- ➡ Think broadly!!! Your plan should address all forms of transportation even if they are not currently present in your community (i.e., transit) or you don't have direct responsibility for them (i.e., a county bike path).





Assessing your current and future needs

- ➡ Document your analysis and assumptions that you used.
- ➡ Try to use data that is measurable (quantitative) rather than data that is speculative/non-measurable (qualitative).
- ➡ Review existing regional and state plans to determine how they will impact your community.
- ➡ Above all, be realistic! Keep financial limitations in mind.

Alternatives analyses

➡ Alternatives analyses are not required by the Comprehensive Planning Law.

➡ Benefits:

- Compare different policies, programs and funding levels.
- Assess how different options can accommodate trips generated.
- Allow the public to be more actively involved in choosing their future.

➡ Three types of analyses:

- Alternative land use/develop scenarios
- Alternative levels of funding
- Alternative transportation choices



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Are transportation and land use decisions connected?

- ➡ YES!!! Making this link in the plan is essential to helping your community to meet its desired future outcome.
- ➡ Transportation decisions impact land use decisions and vice versa.
- ➡ 3 types of impacts
 - Direct
 - Indirect
 - Cumulative
- ➡ Tools
 - Access management
 - Corridor planning
 - Comprehensive planning

Community and environmental impacts

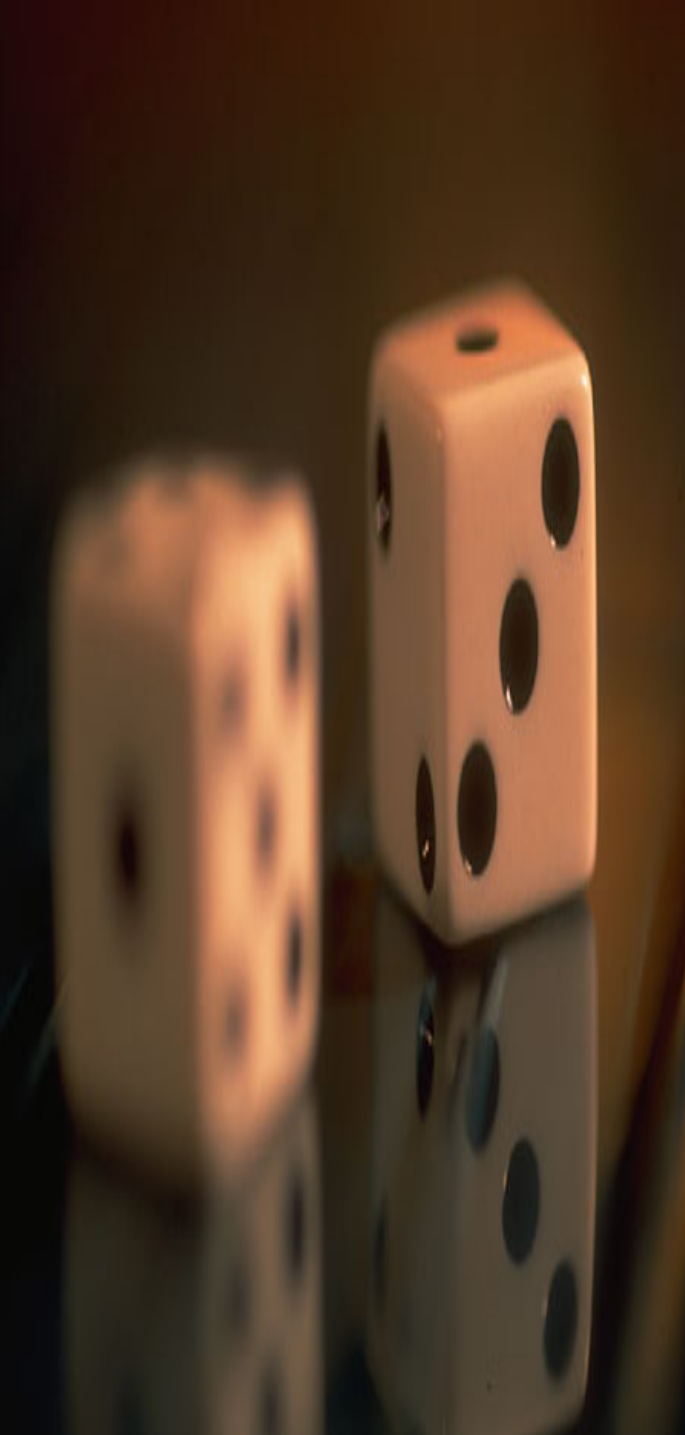
- ➡ Transportation Guide focuses on how transportation impacts the community and environment.
 - What are the impacts on wetlands? Noise? Natural areas?
 - What are the impacts on access to businesses? Neighborhoods?
- ➡ Natural resources element guide prepared by Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources is a helpful resource.





Funding your plan's recommendations

- ➡ Two key points for implementing transportation element:
 - Include the costs of operating and maintaining if new facilities are being considered.
 - Include any transportation costs related to development (e.g., new roads to maintain, plow, etc.).



Implementing and monitoring the plan

➡ Implementation tools:

- Zoning ordinances
- Subdivision and land division regulations
- Official mapping
- Inter-governmental agreements

➡ By law, you will need to review and update the plan at least every 10 years (more often if necessary).

- Is the proposed action or decision consistent with the plan?
- Are growth trends consistent with forecasts used in the plan?



Additional resources

- Key contacts include:
 - MPO and RPC in your area (SEWRPC)
 - WisDOT District Office
 - County planning department
 - County highway department

- Transportation Guide:
 - includes a list of publications and additional agency contacts by topic area.
 - includes a list of local programs administered by WisDOT.



Key Points

- ➡ There is no “one-size-fits-all” formula.
- ➡ It is important to involve the public and various stakeholders.
- ➡ Transportation and land use decisions are linked together. Your plan will help determine your future for both.

Key Points

➡ Copies of the Guide are available by:

Phone: 608.264.7266

Email: bobbi.retzlaff@dot.state.wi.us

Web: [www.dot.state.wi.us/dtim/bop/
planning-index.htm](http://www.dot.state.wi.us/dtim/bop/planning-index.htm)

