

TRANSFORM»» 2045

Long Range Transportation Plan

DRAFT INTRODUCTION – May 2020



1.0 Introduction

1.1 What is Transform 2045?

Led by the Sarasota/Manatee Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), Transform 2045 is the 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) update for Sarasota and Manatee counties. This plan presents the transportation improvements that are needed today, and in the future, to help move people and goods safely and efficiently about the community.

Local governments rely heavily on transportation dollars from the federal and state government for developing a multimodal system that addresses the region's transportation needs and is based on the future vision of the community. While the MPO does not implement transportation projects, it provides oversight in prioritizing funding for transportation projects – especially those receiving federal funds.

Transform 2045 is the culmination of more than 20 months of collaboration and community involvement that relied on technical analysis, community visioning, and public engagement resulting in a list of transportation projects anticipated to be funded through 2045 (*Available July 2020*). Additionally, it is a roadmap to the future for the Sarasota/Manatee MPO that provides insight into what Manatee and Sarasota Counties could become through an evaluation of scenario based planning and the development of a future vision. The resulting plan is built on three foundational building blocks that emerged from the public involvement and outreach: Preserving Environmental Health, Creating Vibrant Places, and Promoting Economic Diversity.

Illustrated in Figure 1-1 are the key milestones that were accomplished. Community workshops, called TransForums were held to inform the public of key assumptions and requirements while also providing an opportunity for feedback followed by an online survey. Transform 2045 provides a framework of goals and objectives consistent with the federal and state requirements and local agency comprehensive plans.



Figure 1-1: Transform 2045 Development Schedule

The first TransForum event, held in January 2019, laid the groundwork for identifying the topics affecting the future of the region. A REGION that includes

- Resilient Environment
- Economic Diversity
- Growing Strategically
- Interdependent Communities
- One Region
- Next Generation Technologies

A separate stand along report, *2045 Long Range Transportation Plan Background Research Report*, includes a detailed review of the assumptions and factors that led to the development of the LRTP along with key takeaways from the January 2019 workshop.

1.2 What is the Role of the Sarasota/Manatee MPO

The MPO planning process is a continuing, comprehensive and cooperative. (“3C”) multimodal transportation planning process required for urbanized areas with a population of 50,000 people (23 CFR 450.310). MPOs are established by state and federal laws and through interlocal agreement to provide a process for local governments within the region to coordinate with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA).

Originally created in 1978, the Sarasota/Manatee MPO is the regional transportation planning entity for Sarasota and Manatee Counties. Today, the Sarasota/Manatee MPO is governed by a 17-member Board comprised of elected officials representing both counties, nine (9) cities, and a representative of the Sarasota Manatee Airport Authority. The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District 1 Secretary serves as a non-voting advisor.

Because of the unique characteristics of the North Port-Port Charlotte Urbanized Areas, the MPO coordinates the development of the LRTP alongside the Charlotte County/Punta Gorda MPO. Coordination beyond the Charlotte County/Punta Gorda MPO includes coordination covering all of Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District 1 to include the Collier MPO, Heartland Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO), Lee County MPO, and Polk TPO. Figure 1-2 identifies the counties of District 1.

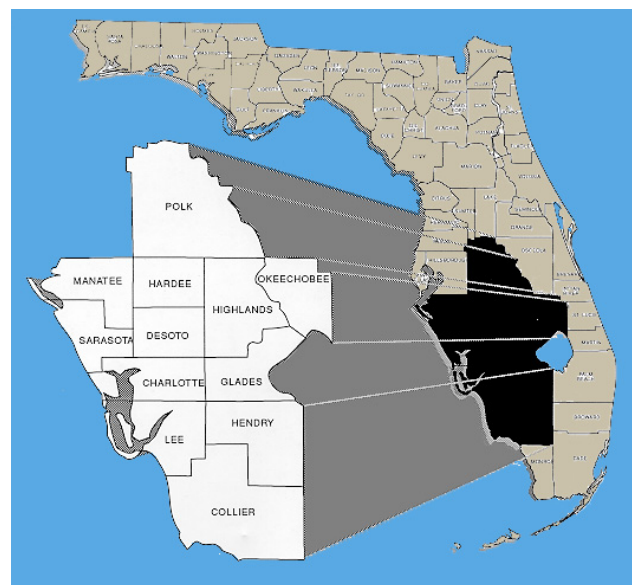


Figure 1-2: Map of FDOT District 1

The Transform 2045 LRTP is one of the core mandates carried out by the MPO and is governed by Federal law and regulations found in Title 23 United States Code (USC) Section 134, Title 49 USC Section 5303, and codified in Title 23 CFR Part 450 as well as Florida Statutes found in Chapter 339.175 and is a requirement for all urbanized areas with a population of greater than 50,000 persons.

As an MPO planning for the North Port-Sarasota-Bradenton metropolitan area, requirements for the Sarasota/Manatee MPO are further defined in Federal law as a Transportation Management Area (TMA) when the urbanized area population exceeds 200,000.

Coordination in developing the 2045 LRTP also includes local government partners that contribute to the creation and validation of future growth patterns. Addressing these growth patterns, which are reflected in the local government comprehensive plans, helps to determine the necessary transportation investments. These investments are prioritized through the 2045 LRTP based on the vision and adopted goals of the MPO.

1.3 *What are the requirements of Transform 2045?*

The Transform 2045 LRTP was developed to be consistent with the requirements of the FAST Act, which was signed into law on December 4, 2015. The FAST Act is the first federal law passed in more than a decade that provides long-term funding for surface transportation planning and investment. As with previous transportation laws, the FAST Act includes a series of metropolitan planning factors that ensure that the work of the MPO is based on a continuous, cooperative, and comprehensive (3C) process. Appendix 1-A includes a checklist outlining the completed LRTP requirements of the LRTP to aid in the LRTP review and compliance determination.

1.3.1 Federal Requirements

1.3.1.1 National Goals and Performance Measures

Guiding the development and funding of the nation's transportation system are a series of goals that have been developed for the purposes of accountability in transportation investments and improved decision making (23 USC 150). These seven goals include

- 1) safety
- 2) infrastructure condition
- 3) congestion reduction
- 4) system reliability
- 5) freight movement and economic vitality
- 6) environmental sustainability
- 7) reduced project delivery delays

Furthering the importance of these goals, the FAST Act continued the requirements for MPOs and State DOTs to evaluate, track, and assess certain performance measures. Performance Based Planning was formally introduced into the Metropolitan Planning Process through the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21). Since MAP-21 was signed into law on July 6, 2012, passage of the FAST Act continues to emphasize the importance of performance-based metrics and the establishment of targets to guide future transportation

investments. Through rule-making activities, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) have identified performance measures related to the core program areas identified in Table 1-1.

Appendix 1B includes an assessment of the current transportation conditions of the federally required performance measures.

Table 1-1: Federal Planning Programs and Performance Measures

Core Federal Program	Performance Measures
Highway Safety	Number of fatalities Rate of fatalities Number of serious injuries Rate of serious injuries Number of non-motorized fatalities and serious injuries
Transit Asset Management	Equipment, rolling stock, Infrastructure and Facilities meeting good repair standards.
System Preservation	Percent of pavement in good condition based on roadway type Percent of bridges in good condition
System Performance	Level of travel time reliability - person miles Level of travel time reliability – truck travel Peak hour excessive delay per capita* Non-single occupant vehicle travel* Reduction of on-road mobile source emissions*
Transit Safety	Reportable fatalities Reportable fatalities per vehicle revenue miles Reportable injuries Reportable injuries per vehicle revenue miles Reportable safety events Rate of reportable events per vehicle revenue miles System reliability

* - reporting of these measures is not required by the Sarasota/Manatee MPO as a metropolitan area that meets current air quality conformity standards.

1.3.1.2 LRTP Planning Factors

With the passage of the FAST Act, two additional planning factors have been added to the Metropolitan Planning Process. Following are the ten planning factors that were applied to the development of the Transform 2045 LRTP.

- 1) Economic Vitality: Support the economic vitality of the metropolitan area, especially by enabling global competitiveness, productivity, and efficiency.
- 2) Safety: Increase the safety of the transportation system for motorized and non-motorized users.
- 3) Security: Increase the security of the transportation system for motorized and non-

- motorized users.
- 4) Accessibility: Increase accessibility and mobility of people and freight.
- 5) Environment: Protect and enhance the environment, promote energy conservation, improve the quality of life, and promote consistency between transportation improvements and State and local planned growth and economic development patterns.
- 6) Connectivity: Enhance the integration and connectivity of the transportation system, across and between modes, for people and freight.
- 7) Efficient Management: Promote efficient system management and operation.
- 8) Preservation: Emphasize the preservation of the existing transportation system.
- 9) Resiliency: Improve the resiliency and reliability of the transportation system and reduce or mitigate stormwater impacts of surface transportation.
- 10) Enhance Travel: Enhance travel and tourism.

1.3.2 State Requirements

The Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council (MPOAC) and Florida's MPOs have worked with the Federal planning partners (FHWA and FTA) and the FDOT to identify and document expectations relating to meeting federal long range planning requirements. *The Federal Strategies for Implementation Requirements for LRTP Updates for the Florida Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs)*, which can be found in Appendix 1C, outlines a series of topics including stakeholder coordination, fiscal constraint, emerging issues, and a series of technical topics.

1.3.3 Local Agency Comprehensive Plans

A key to developing the LRTP is ensuring consistency with local comprehensive plans and identifying consistent themes within the region. The second TransForum event presented a summary of local agency plans and current projects. Four key themes emerged from the comprehensive plans that were relevant for the MPO's LRTP update. These included.

- Accessibility – Access to affordable housing options near employment and transit service connecting affordable housing with employment
- Reliability – Technology strategies for incident management
- Congestion – Implementing congestion management strategies and encouraging non-auto modes to reduce vehicle miles traveled
- Resiliency – Mitigation and adaptation strategies including limiting new development in coastal high hazard areas

At the conclusion of the event, participants were asked to invest \$19 million MPO Bucks in the seven transportation related program areas. Shown in Figure 1-3, the top three priorities were Safety/Security/Preparedness, Equity/Livability, and Mobility/Congestion/Reliability. A full summary of the information presented at the TransForum event and the results of the prioritization activity can be found in the stand alone report, *2045 LRTP TransForum Meeting Summary April 22, 2019*.

Public priorities for spending through 2045

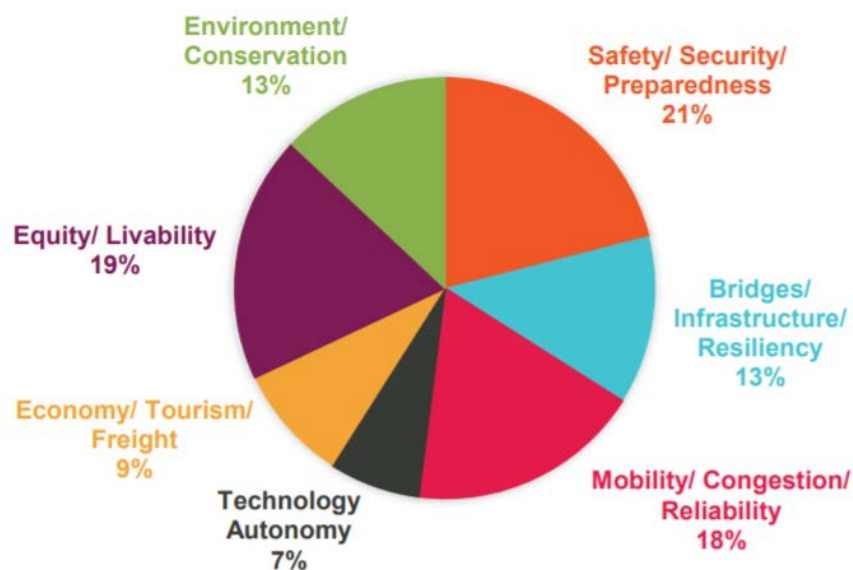


Figure 1-3 Investment Priorities from the April 22, 2019 TransForum Event

1.4 How was Transform 2045 Developed?

The key to this LRTP update is a focus on developing goals that are supported by performance measures and built on the guiding factors listed in the state and federal governing documents. Figure 1-4 illustrates how the Goals of the LRTP create a bridge between the National Planning Goals and the State Planning Emphasis Areas. These Goals guided the development of the LRTP technical analysis, public outreach, scenario planning, and project funding decisions.

The remainder of this report discusses each of the Goals of the 2045 LRTP along with the assessment undertaken by the MPO to address the key elements and develop a vision for the area.

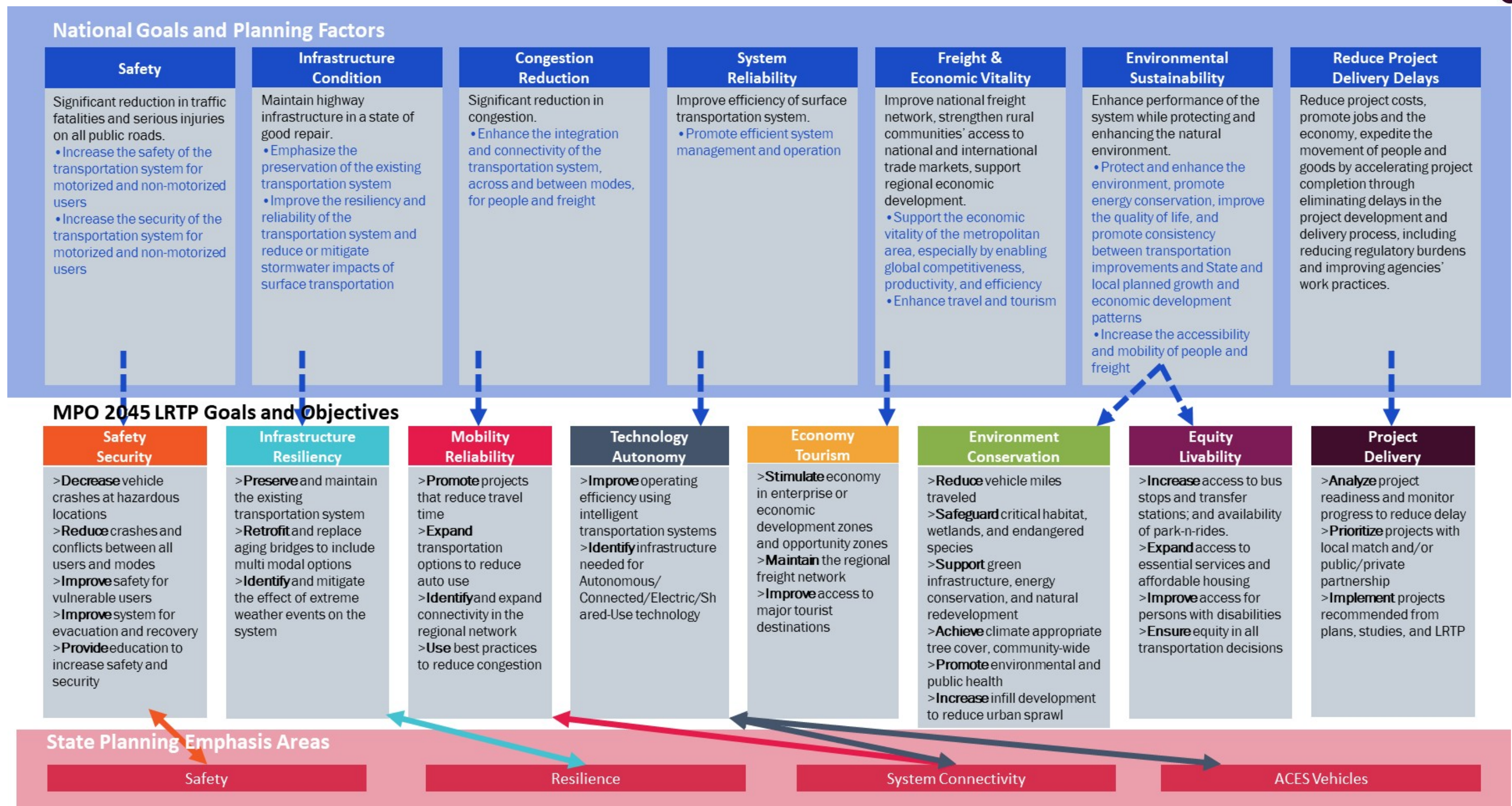


Figure 1-4: Matrix of Goals and Factors