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Area Plan Commission of Tippecanoe County

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Roland Winger, President
Sallie Dell Fahey, Executive Director

Adoption:
Jurisdiction Resolution Date
APC T-12-05 June 20, 2012
Lafayette
West Lafayette
Tippecanoe County
Battle Ground
Dayton
Clarks Hill

Prepared by the Metropolitan Planning Organization Staff in cooperation with Tippecanoe County, Lafayette, West Lafayette, Battle Ground, Dayton, Clarks Hill, Purdue University, Indiana Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The transportation plan is one of the cornerstones of the adopted Comprehensive Plan for Tippecanoe County; it supports, and is supported by its other components. Transportation planning has its origin in the 1960’s when initial planning studies culminated in the first adopted Plan in 1978 that documented needs through the year 2000. The Metropolitan Transportation Plan for 2040—Completing Our Streets (2040MTP) is the sixth since the original 1978 Plan and documents community needs to the year 2040. A new focus in this Plan is the inclusion of recommendations for other modes of transportation than just the automobile.

METHODOLOGY

The methodology for this Plan is different from past plans. For the recommended highway improvements it is similar to the Transportation Plan for 2030. It builds closely on the analysis and recommendations of the community’s previous transportation plans without creating new traffic forecasts. The list of highway projects in this Plan comes from project recommendations from previous plans that have not yet been implemented as well as recommendations from the Citizen and Technical Committees. The recommendations are based on historic trends, current and future needs, and updates forecasts of dwelling units and employment growth areas. For the first time this Plan includes bicycling and walking in meaningful ways and requires their consideration in all federally funded highway designs. These recommendations have been developed through extensive input by the Citizen and Technical Committees as well as suggestions from the general public.

Forecasts of future population and employment growth were developed by the APC staff after reviewing Census data, past forecasts and other current estimates, and in consultations with community leaders (Table 1, Socioeconomic Data Summary). Overall growth is expected to continue based on current trends. Current residential development patterns show major growth has occurred to the south and east of Lafayette, and to the north and northwest of West Lafayette. This pattern has been directed by the long established Comprehensive Plan for Tippecanoe County can accommodate the projected growth.

Table 1. Socioeconomic Data Summary

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Population</td>
<td>109,378</td>
<td>121,702</td>
<td>130,598</td>
<td>148,955</td>
<td>172,780</td>
<td>250,851</td>
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<td>Total # of Dwelling Units</td>
<td>34,197</td>
<td>43,130</td>
<td>48,134</td>
<td>58,343</td>
<td>71,096</td>
<td>98,596</td>
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<td>Number of Households</td>
<td>32,320</td>
<td>40,681</td>
<td>45,618</td>
<td>55,266</td>
<td>65,532</td>
<td>93,173</td>
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<tr>
<td>Persons per Household</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>2.59</td>
<td>2.50</td>
<td>2.42</td>
<td>2.42</td>
<td>2.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Employment</td>
<td>52,015</td>
<td>64,915</td>
<td>80,290</td>
<td>99,143</td>
<td>94,911</td>
<td>144,418</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce: Bureau of the Census, Census of Population and Housing, and Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Information Systems; Division of Housing and Food Services, Purdue University, APC Land Use Survey; and APC Staff Analysis.

THE PLAN

This community is at a crossroads. Long awaited major highway improvements that will fundamentally change the fabric of our community and make new demands on our roads and development patterns are currently under construction. The 2040MTP documents where highway needs are greatest. Additionally, it takes the next steps to focus more on efficiency and sustainable forms of transportation such as transit and contains specific project recommendations for bicycle facilities, sidewalks and trails. It also includes a Complete Streets Policy for all federally funded projects. Only by providing complete streets for all users will the community attain the quality of life it desires.

The Plan is a joint effort by the staffs of the Area Plan Commission (APC), Tippecanoe County, the cities of Lafayette and West Lafayette, with input from local citizens, Purdue University, the local transit provider (CityBus) and the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT). The Plan was reviewed by the APC's
Citizen Participation Committee and recommended for adoption by the Technical and Administrative Committees. It is scheduled for recommendation by those committees and the Administrative Committee in May with adoption by the Area Plan Commission on June 20, 2012.

COSTS AND FEDERAL FUNDING

Obtaining the financial resources to implement the projects in the Plan will be the greatest challenge facing the community. The plan documents the need for more than $1.6 billion in highway improvements by 2040 with state highways accounting for 57% and local roads 43% of the total. However, there are insufficient funds to address all these needs. With the uncertainties in Federal funding beyond SAFETEA-LU, we can only estimate the amount of Federal funds available over the next 28 years. The list of locally sponsored highway projects is financially constrained to reflect what this community might reasonably expect to receive from the Federal Highway Trust Fund (Table 23). Local and other sources of funding will be used to meet many of the needs not funded with Federal funds.

The 2040MTP is a comprehensive assessment of the community’s needs and proposes solutions to meet our major transportation problems. This Plan is a tool that prepares the community to make the necessary improvements to our road network as funds become available.
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