

Appendix D

Regional Transportation Plan
MPO Policy Framework

Note: The following reproduces the policy framework content from the recently-completed 2030 Long-Range Transportation Plan, executed by the Hot Springs Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (HSA-MPO). It is included here for comparison with transportation comprehensive plan goals and for basic reference; visit the City of Hot Springs website under MPO for the full and most current form.

Long-Range Transportation Goals and Objectives

Goal

Ensure the Hot Springs Area's existing economic vitality and support growth by providing a safe, dependable and efficient multi-modal transportation network for people and goods.

Objectives

- *Continue to maintain and improve the existing transportation network inclusive of highway, transit, rail, air, bicycle and pedestrians*
- *Be proactive with regard to preventing problems due to increased traffic loads on existing roadways by providing and/or improving alternate routes*
- *Ensure that the existing and proposed major roadways provide easy connection between major entertainment areas, commercial centers, business districts and large housing concentrations*
- *Provide roadways and signage that serves the large tourist industry which supports the area's economy*
- *Continue to maintain and update, as necessary, a transportation master plan that provides a high level of service while minimizing the number of accidents*
- *Provide signalization and signing to allow easy access to the area's major commercial, entertainment and business centers*
- *Promote intermodal transportation, including railway, that provides opportunities for economic site development*
- *Support designation of State Scenic Highway 7 to National Scenic Byway*
- *Ensure and promote livable and sustainable communities incorporating active transportation through a multimodal network*

Regionalism

Goal

Continue to provide a dependable local transportation network that efficiently and logically integrates with the transportation needs of the region.

Objectives

- *Encourage the integration of local and regional facilities to provide a more effective transportation network for the region*
- *Support the improvement of existing local and regional roadways to better handle and/or divert increases in traffic flow*
- *Support standardization of roadway construction and design in the area to provide for sufficient, reliable service as regional growth continues*

- *Request and support state-level transportation projects that provide access to and through Hot Springs and the surrounding area*
- *Improve and/or construct roadways in the region to serve as convenient corridors for commerce and personal travel*
- *Support development of rail connection to surrounding cities*
- *Encourage pedestrian and bicycle facilities to regional destinations as identified in the Hot Springs Master Trail Plan*

Accessibility/Safety

Goal

Provide for safe, efficient, and accessible modes of transportation that are consistent with the needs of both local residents and visiting tourists.

Objectives

- *Ensure that the connectivity and capacity of the individual components of the transportation network are consistent with its use*
- *Standardize street signs and signals in accordance with the latest revision of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD)*
- *Improve and/or add signage to provide proper information for both residents and visitors*
- *Improve access to regional airports (Hot Springs and Little Rock)*
- *Continue to provide a transportation network that provides inviting access from surrounding communities*
- *Support the development of major truck routes that will minimize disruption to local travel as well as improve the efficiency for the freight industry*
- *Promote intermodal transportation, including railway where practical, to all major commercial, business and entertainment centers from both within and outside the region*
- *Encourage the effective and proper maintenance of local and state transportation facilities*
- *Encourage the coordination and integration of existing modes of transportation*
- *Utilize Intelligent Transportation Networks (ITS) and other technologies to reduce congestion, improve safety, improve traffic flow and enhance public transportation*
- *Manage access to and from adjacent property on key corridors in order to (1) improve vehicular and pedestrian safety, and (2) safeguard the investment in those facilities by protecting traffic capacity*

Transportation / Land Use Compatibility

Goal

Promote consistency between the transportation network and the use of the area it is designed to serve.

Objectives

- *Improve the planning process to better incorporate an overall street master plan with regards to future growth*
- *Facilitate the location of specific industries in certain areas by providing a transportation network that accommodates development*

- *Continue to promote tourism by improving and constructing efficient, appealing roadways that are easily navigable by those not familiar to the area*
- *Support the development of the transportation network that minimizes the negative impact to the area it serves and enhances the quality of life for residents and visitors alike*
- *Utilize access management techniques to consolidate and limit the number of access points to arterial and major collector streets to reduce congestion and improve traffic flow*
- *Encourage the development of mixed use zoning which allows residents and visitors alike to live, work and play without having to drive a vehicle and which promotes bicycle and pedestrian travel*
- *Encourage local governments and private developers to consider all modes of transportation (pedestrian, transit and bicycle) in the development process)*
- *Encourage more efficient use of the existing transportation network through methods that manage the flow of traffic on existing streets (Transportation Network Management) to optimize performance of the region's transportation network*

Natural and Cultural Environment

Goal

The protection of the area's natural and cultural assets by developing a transportation network that enhances the landscape and provides a friendlier mode of travel.

Objectives

- *Support the development of a transportation network that preserves and enhances the historic and recreational resources of the area*
- *Preserve the natural resources of the area through protection of existing resources and mitigation of any that are removed or affected as a result of improvements*
- *Support the design of transportation improvements that least impacts the natural environment while providing an effective and aesthetically pleasing means of transportation*
- *Preserve and enhance scenic views of historic cultural and other attractive features*
- *Improve and/or provide alternate sources of transportation such as bike lanes, sidewalks, trails, etc. to promote reduction in traffic and improved health and enjoyment for residents and visitors*
- *Improve the functionality and aesthetics of existing roadway crossings to encourage pedestrian traffic while providing a safe environment at such crossings*
- *Promote additional crosswalks that provide for the safe crossing of pedestrians that are elderly, disabled, visually impaired, etc.*
- *Encourage alternate fuel sources for city operated fleets and transit services and other vehicles to minimize impact to the environment*
- *Advocate the preservation and enhancement of cultural, historic and recreational resources in developing a transportation network*
- *Encourage the protection of wetlands and other natural resources in the planning and design of new transportation facilities with appropriate mitigation to be required for unavoidable impacts*

Public Participation

Goal

Provide the area the opportunity for participation and ensure transparency in the planning and modification of the regional transportation network.

Objectives

- *Operate transparently in considering proposed changes or additions to the transportation network through publications and public meetings and provide them with an efficient means to respond*
- *Promote neighborhood meetings when changes or additions to the transportation network will directly or indirectly affect the area*
- *Consider the individual needs of the area based on public comment when developing a network to serve that area*
- *Promote the development of citizen committees that bring ideas and requests to the proper planning authorities*
- *Promote the development of a network that is mutually beneficial to all those who utilize it, regardless of social or economic class*

System Management

Goal

Provide direction for the preservation of existing transportation network and planning of future improvements.

Objectives

- *Support the development of programs to facilitate the maintenance of the existing transportation network*
- *Support state agencies responsible for implementing programs to assist the region with much needed transportation improvements*
- *Continue to work with local and county officials regarding the promoting, planning, funding and construction of all area improvements to the transportation network*
- *Promote the safety and security of the transit network*
- *Promote the development of intermodal facilities for easy movement of people and goods*
- *Ensure that roadways and the public transportation network adequately connect existing employment, educational institutions, commercial centers and housing*
- *Encourage improved access to more and better transportation choices and serve special needs for all people, including the people of all ages and abilities*
- *Enhance mobility and support the use of alternative transportation modes by encouraging improved accessibility to public transportation, carpooling, bicycling and walking*

Complete Streets

Goal

Design streets to accommodate all users, including motorists, pedestrians, cyclists, transit riders and people of all ages and abilities.

Objectives

- *Recognize that auto, transit and bicycle users are all pedestrians at either end of every trip. Provide aesthetically pleasant and diverse experience for pedestrians*
- *Promote pedestrian friendly design and the inclusion of pedestrian facilities within land development and redevelopment*
- *Encourage compact and mixed land uses*
- *Encourage neighborhood oriented commercial uses, parks and schools within safe and easy bicycling or walking distance from residential areas*
- *Ensure that identified functional classification and capacity of streets are consistent with adjacent land use patterns*
- *Design local street network to complement planned land uses and reduce dependence on major streets for local circulation and on local streets for regional travel*
- *Utilize traffic calming techniques, where appropriate, to mitigate the impact of increasing traffic volumes and speeds on local streets*
- *Encourage street connectivity to create a comprehensive, integrated, connected network for all modes*
- *Encourage non-motorized (active) transportation to promote livable and sustainable neighborhoods*

Transit

Goal

Provide safe, reliable, comfortable, clean, efficient public transportation to the citizens and visitors to the Hot Springs metropolitan area.

Objectives

- *Be the best small transit operation in the five-state region—Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana and New Mexico—through constant training, updating of the operation, developing a modern, updated look and updated routing*
- *Expand the operation to serve as many people as possible*
- *Improve efficiency of operation through combining Paratransit with Fixed Route*
- *Be an active proponent for high-speed transportation from Little Rock*
- *Explore methods of providing downtown and National Park transportation for visitors and Hot Springs citizens*
- *Employ Intelligent Transportation Systems as they are developed and as funding becomes available. Present examples are; talking buses, electric fareboxes, on-board cameras and swipe cards*
- *Interconnect transit system with other modes of transportation*
- *Major commercial and governmental buildings should be positioned on transit routes*
- *To identify opportunities and implement strategies that encourage coordination among public and human service providers*

Non-motorized Modes

Goal

Ensure safe, accessible and convenient mobility for pedestrians and bicyclists through an interconnected network.

Objectives

- *Coordinate local (City of Hot Springs Master Trails Plan), regional and interstate bicycle routes*
- *Pursue the development of utility corridors as off road non-motorized transportation route*
- *Develop interconnected trails network*
- *Encourage construction of sidewalks for all new developments*
- *Amend Street Specification Standards to incorporate pedestrian and bicycle facilities*
- *Encourage bicycling and walking as safe and viable modes of transportation*
- *Encourage community participation and support of federal and state programs which promote trails, transit and safe routes to school*
- *Encourage compact mixed use land use to promote active transportation and sustainable communities*
- *Add or improve sidewalks, create safe crossings, add ADA-compliant ramps and modify signalization at intersections where needed*
- *Provide safe pedestrian crossings to existing major barriers to walking, such as drainage ditches, where no pedestrian amenities exist*
- *Improve and install adequate signage and markings of all bike routes to minimize potential conflicts;*
- *Encourage facilities for bicycle storage*
- *Encourage employers to provide shower facilities*

