



The Connection

Ohio Department of Transportation

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WHAT IS ACCESS OHIO?

Access Ohio is a long-range transportation plan that will guide, inform, and support future transportation decisions.

ODOT Initiates Update of Access Ohio

Defining the direction, soliciting input and sharing project information are the first of many steps being taken by the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) to update Ohio's long-range transportation plan, Access Ohio 2040 (AO40).

The process of updating AO40 began in the summer of 2011 and has been ongoing over the past year. The new plan, with a horizon year of 2040, will include a comprehensive inventory, forecast, and analysis of the trends and issues affecting transportation throughout Ohio. Special attention will be given to ensure the plan supports existing and future economic development opportunities and changing land use while considering the challenges of transportation funding (see AO40 chapter outline on [page 2](#) for plan content details).

The study team is currently working on Goals and Objectives and Setting the Stage. To ensure the Plan incorporates the desires, expectations, and preferences of the public, ODOT developed and convened a Steering Committee in late May 2012 (see [page 3](#) for more details). Studies and public outreach efforts completed to date are available for public review on the study website, www.access.ohio.gov.

Three Outcomes of AO40

1

AO40 will guide transportation decisions by:

- Providing an overview of the transportation, economic, social, and environmental trends affecting Ohio;
- Establishing a framework for multimodal transportation system investments that will influence and respond to these trends; and
- Identifying corridors where transportation system needs converge to guide future project decisions.

2

AO40 will inform transportation decisions by:

- Providing an inventory of Ohio's transportation assets;
- Forecasting transportation conditions, needs, and costs;
- Identifying existing revenue streams and fiscal challenges in meeting transportation needs; and
- Developing innovative funding strategies to meet future challenges.

3

AO40 will support transportation decisions by:

- Documenting current ODOT programs, policies, and procedures for improving Ohio's transportation network; and
- Building upon performance measures for core ODOT programs.

WHY DO WE NEED A LONG-RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN?



AO40 is a realistic and achievable vision of Ohio's transportation system in the year 2040; and as such, will help to ensure that ODOT accomplishes its mission, "to provide easy movement of people and goods from place to place."

The long term forecast is necessary because:

- Ohio's economy depends on a robust multi-modal transportation infrastructure;
- Times have changed since the boom years of infrastructure construction in the 50's, 60's and 70's;
- Investments last for more than 50 to 60 years;
- Ohio's infrastructure is rapidly aging;
- There is a funding crisis to maintain existing infrastructure across the nation; and
- We need a plan now, more than ever, to establish macro transportation priorities for Ohio.

Setting the Stage - Chapter 3

An Overview of What the Plan will Consider

Setting the Stage will provide a profile of transportation in Ohio and will serve two main purposes:

- Improve the understanding of the complexity of the existing transportation system, and
- Illustrate the trends that influence and are influenced by transportation decisions.

The content for Chapter 3 will be derived from a technical memo currently in development and will include:

- Transportation System Overview (roadways – road miles, bridges, vehicle miles traveled, transit, safety, and intelligent transportation systems; railroads; freight and passenger rail; airports; inland waterways; and active transportation – bicycle lanes, multi-use paths, and trails),
- Demographics (population growth, location, and density; age distribution; automobile ownership; income; race and ethnicity; English language proficiency; and travel trends and mode choice),
- Land Use (land use changes and the relationship between land use and transportation),
- Environmental Overview (communities and the human environment, water quality, air quality and climate adaptation),
- Economic Profile (Gross State Product, employment, major employers and locations, exports, policy and program support, and emerging trends), and
- Fiscal Overview (challenges impacting funding levels and costs, revenue sources and funding trends).

The technical memo is anticipated to be finalized in July 2012. Following the approval of the technical memo, Chapter 3 will be completed in September 2012. [Click here to view the draft technical memo.](#)



WHAT WILL THE AO40 PLAN CONTAIN?

ODOT strives to create a sustainable transportation system for Ohio. A system that balances Ohio's social, environmental, and economic needs. Our goal for AO40 is to build on our focus of achieving long-reaching solutions for Ohio.

AO40 will include the following chapters:

- Introduction
- Goals & Objectives
- Setting the Stage
- Freight Transportation
- Passenger Transportation
- Safety & Security
- Jobs & Commerce
- MPOs
- Finance
- Corridors
- Environmental Overview
- Environmental Justice
- Conclusions

Performance-Based Planning

AO40 will follow a strategic planning process referred to as performance based planning. The first step in performance based planning involves establishing goals and objectives for the plan. The goals and objectives define the vision for the plan and identify measurable criteria for evaluating plan options, recommendations, and implementation strategies. Critical Success Factors (CSF) will be developed for each goal area. [Existing CSFs](#) will be incorporated in the Plan.

The study team is currently establishing the goals and objectives for AO40. The framework of the goals and objectives will be influenced by several strategic drivers such as stakeholder input, federal policy, national best practices, existing ODOT priorities and direction. The goals are developed first to provide overall direction; while objectives are more targeted and will be refined as the plan progresses. To date, the study team has identified the following potential goal areas:

- System preservation
- Safety
- Mobility & Efficiency
- Accessibility and Connectivity
- Stewardship
- Economic Development

The draft list of goals & objectives will be published on the AO40 website for public comment.

Steering Committee Spearheads Public Involvement Effort

ODOT recently kicked-off a key component of its public involvement strategy for AO40 with the formation of a statewide Steering Committee. The Steering Committee met for the first time on May 30, 2012. Members represent various stakeholder segments across Ohio, including:

- Public agencies;
- Freight transportation services;
- Economic development groups;
- Users of public transportation;
- Non-motorized transportation;
- Local and regional planning officials;
- ODOT representatives; and
- Environmental Justice (EJ) populations including minorities, low-income, elderly and disabled persons.

These individuals have a clear understanding of the needs of their constituent groups and can represent those needs to ODOT. The Steering Committee will provide ODOT with a comprehensive understanding of the transportation needs of all Ohioans and will assist ODOT in the dissemination of study information. The complete list of Steering Committee members is available on the project website, www.access.ohio.gov. ODOT intends for the Steering Committee to serve as ambassadors of the AO40 Plan by sharing information with other people and gathering thoughts and ideas to bring to future meetings. ODOT anticipates holding five (5) regional meetings with the Steering Committee later this summer and then convening the entire committee again this fall, and in the spring of 2013.



HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED IN THE AO40 PLAN?

As of May 2012, project information is available at the AO40 website, www.access.ohio.gov and updates will be regularly provided on the ODOT Statewide Twitter and Facebook pages.

Numerous informational outposts will be made available across the state to enable citizens to view Access Ohio information on the study website. Outpost locations will include ODOT District offices and community centers within Environmental Justice communities. Visitors to these sites will have the ability to download materials and make printouts at these locations. Exact locations to be determined.

Finally, ODOT will hold Electronic Public Meetings to allow us to effectively reach people across Ohio. These web-based meetings will be held in late 2012 and in the spring of 2013. Through these meetings, the citizens of the state will have the opportunity to review and comment on information at key points in the plan's development.

In the meantime, you can provide your input by completing the online Customer Preference Survey. The survey will help explain the transportation issues that are of importance to Ohioans and assist with the development of AO40.

[Click here to take the survey.](#)



Access Ohio 2040
www.access.ohio.gov



http://twitter.com/#!/ODOT_Statewide



www.facebook.com/OhioDepartmentOfTransportation

Comments and questions can be directed to a local Steering Committee member (available on our website) or you may contact:

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