

Columbia Area Transportation Study Organization (CATSO) Long-Range Transportation Plan Update – Scope and Action Plan

Outline Scope

1. Baseline data collection and plan coordination.
2. SAFETEA-LU compliance analysis
3. Development of goals and objectives
4. Implementation strategy
5. Plan Approval.

Tentative Schedule of Public Meetings

August 23, 2007 CATSO Coordinating Committee

- Public Participation Plan public hearing
- Long-Range Transportation Plan background public hearing
- authorizes a “working draft” of the plan

September 2007 TBA

- Goals and Objectives work session I

October 2007 TBA

- Goals and Objectives work session II

December 6, 2007 CATSO Coordinating Committee

- Transportation Plan Goals and Objectives Public Hearing
- Authorizes the addition of new and revised goals and objectives to the plan; preparation of a “technical memorandum” to identify and resolve implementation problems

January 2008 Review of Technical Memorandum

- Work Sessions to revise plan into final form

February 28, 2008 CATSO Coordinating Committee

- Public hearing on Long-range Transportation Plan
- Adoption of Plan

Goal of the CATSO Long-Range Transportation Plan Update

Develop for the CATSO metropolitan area a plan that contains *short and long-range actions and strategies “that lead to the development of an integrated multimodal transportation system to facilitate the safe and efficient movement of people and goods in addressing current and future transportation demand.”*

Objectives

Update the CATSO 2025 Long-Range Transportation Plan to:

- establish 2030 as the planning horizon;
- update the plan with projected population, employment, housing, and land use assumptions;
- revise planned facilities and programs;
- coordinate the plan with other city-county-regional-state plans;
- develop new and revised planning goals, objectives and strategies;
- revise the financial plan; and
- amend the plan and CATSO planning processes as necessary to satisfy MPO planning requirements in the SAFETEA-LU federal transportation legislation (August 2005; final rule issued February 2007).

Task 1 Baseline data collection and plan coordination.

This task includes collection, analysis, and interpretation of available data and plans for a comprehensive metropolitan area transportation plan.

The objective of this task is to reach general agreement with interested parties on the essential facts and assumptions to be presented to the public.

Task 1.1 Produce Preliminary Socioeconomic forecasts (land use, employment, housing units) for plan year 2030.

CATSO staff projected land use, employment, housing units and population, by traffic analysis zone, across the metropolitan area.

Status: Complete.

Task 1.2 Calibrate and Validate the CATSO Travel Demand Model from base year 2005 for plan year 2030.

This task involves calibration and validation of the CATSO Travel Demand Model to a base year of 2005. The model is run in iterative fashion until it can project traffic volumes for known traffic counts within an acceptable margin of error for each roadway type. CATSO uses the TransCAD model by Caliper Corporation.

This is the first time the CATSO model has been calibrated and validated. As a sub-task, staff disaggregated data from 5 land use categories to 18 land use categories for purposes of projecting population and employment by 347 traffic analysis zones (TAZs). This figure includes a number of “external” stations; i.e., TAZs that are outside MPO boundaries but contribute to travel demand in the area.

Status: Complete

Task 1.3 Study Map and Index of corridors for further analysis

This task involved the creation of 13 study areas and 171 study corridors for the planning of future transportation facilities. “Study corridors” are generalized routes that are needed to increase system connectivity in response to anticipated growth.

Status: Complete, subject to public review and comment.

Task 1.4 Coordination with Planning Partners

This task involves data collection and coordination the MoDOT District 5, Boone County Public Works, Boone County Planning, City Public Works, and University of Missouri-Columbia (ex-officio membership in CATSO) to coordinate efforts and includes the following discussion topics:

- Street standards – Incorporation of City standards approved since the last update in the LRTP. The City of Columbia in 2004 amended its subdivision code to create new right-of-way widths, pavement widths, sidewalk, and bicycle lane widths for each classification of street.
- Major Roadway Plan – Incorporation of amendments since the last update; Study Map and Index of corridors for further analysis. CATSO has updated the 2001 Long-Range Plan with approximately 68 revisions to the MRP element during the plan’s term.
- Airport Master Plan – Incorporation of the City of Columbia 2003 Airport Master Plan recommendations in the LRTP. The City of Columbia has identified a number of facility improvements and operational improvements to Columbia Regional Airport. Additional coordination will need to occur with the City of Ashland, which has annexed land adjacent to the airport.
- Transit Master Plan – Coordination with the draft Transit Master Plan (June 2007) and the recently completed Boone County Community Partnership Coordinated Transportation Study (2006), a needs assessment of transportation services in the rural parts of the metro district.
- Pednet Project Infrastructure Working Plan - Coordination with a City of Columbia plan to spend \$22.35 million 2006-2010 on bicycle, pedestrian, disabled and transit access improvements and public education. The City and its stakeholders have produced a Working Infrastructure Plan that identifies facilities and a Promotion and Education Plan that identifies promotional educational strategies to encourage walking and cycling.

- Trail Master Plan - Coordination with the City Parks and recreation Trail Master plan and the Greenbelt and Trail Plan. Any trails or trail segments not on the current CATSO Bicycle and Pedestrian Network Plan need to be added; new policies and trail planning activities need to be discussed.
- Sidewalk Master Plan - Coordination with the City of Columbia highest priority sidewalks identified in plan approved January 2007. The City has identified the sidewalks that are the highest-priority for construction to provide access to Columbia Transit and safe routes to school.
- University of Missouri-Columbia Master Plan – Coordination with the latest plan updated April 2007. The University of Missouri plans transportation facilities and management systems such as parking garages, pedestrian ways, traffic calming measures and street closures which require coordination with CATSO.
- City of Columbia Vision Plan – preliminary strategy for coordination of the final report on *Imagine Columbia's Future*, due fall 2007. The City in 2006 engaged ACP Visioning Inc., a professional planning firm, to prepare a vision plan for the City. Thirteen “citizen topic groups,” including one dedicated to transportation, are producing vision statements, goals and strategies.
- MoDOT Long-range Plan – coordination of the plan approved by the Highway and Transportation Commission March 2007. The State Long-range Transportation Plan contains a state transportation “direction” and identifies a funding gap that will affect the CATSO plan.
- Strategic Highway Safety Plan – coordination with the *Missouri's Blueprint for Safer Roadways*, a comprehensive strategy to improve highway safety performance.
- REDI Economic Development Master Plan – coordination with the 2002 Master Plan. Regional Economic Development, Inc, a public-private partnership of Boone County, the City of Columbia and the private sector, operates from an economic development strategy that includes a position on transportation investments.
- Natural Resources Inventory – Review of the scope for analysis of the high-resolution, “leaf on” imagery shot in June 2007; available December 2007. This is a visualization and analytical tool that CATSO funded in cooperation with the City of Columbia. It will be used to assess environmental impacts of project alternatives; identify mitigation areas; identify and evaluate enhancement project alternatives such as scenic road and trail corridors and stream bank restoration opportunities.
- Public Safety Joint Communications – Review of the Columbia/Boone County Emergency Operations Plan (2006) for goals and procedures related to

transportation; security needs at major transportation facility locations (airport & bus station); collection of data on evacuation routes, incident locations, road closures due to hazards, and other data to support the “safety” and “security” factors.

Status: Ongoing. CATSO staff is calling and meeting individually with the principals for each of the listed plans and data sources.

Task 1.5 Review of plan background by CATSO stakeholders

This task involves preparation and circulation of a draft of the plan background for review and comment by CATSO membership and stakeholders. The period of review will be thirty (30) days.

The background will consist of narrative chapters, forecasts, projects and programs, financial projections, and the most up-to-date maps of transportation improvements already committed.

This is the first stage of the **consultation process** with agencies outside the CATSO area. Agencies will be encouraged to share plans, maps and data relevant to transportation.

Status: Draft chapters and tables complete and ready for circulation for review and comment on July 20, 2007. Review comments will be requested no later than August 19, 2007. CATSO staff will provide a progress report to the Coordinating Committee on August 23, 2007.

Task 2 SAFETEA-LU compliance analysis

This activity assures that the new plan process and content will in all respects comply with the new rules and regulations for MPO planning under SAFETEA-LU. It runs concurrent with Task 1.

MoDOT District 5 staff will be liaison between CATSO staff and FHWA/FTA staff in determining compliance with SAFETEA-LU provisions.

Task 2.1 Revise Public Involvement Policy (Public Participation Plan)

This task involves a complete update of the Public Involvement Policy, last revised 1994, to make the CATSO public participation policy fully SAFETEA-LU compliant.

The new policy will be drafted, circulated to CATSO members for initial review and comment, revised as necessary, and circulated to all interested parties and made available to the public for review and comment. The duration of the public comment period will be forty-five (45) days.

After all interested parties have been given an opportunity to comment, the draft document and written comments will be submitted to CATSO Coordinating Committee for approval with the plan background public hearing on August 23, 2007.

Status: Draft plan will be ready to circulate for agency and general public comment on July 20, 2007. Public hearing on August 23, 2007. In the staff report for the Coordinating Committee, CATSO staff will respond to agency and public comments received to date and recommend appropriate revisions to the document.

Task 2.2 Complete SAFETEA-LU Assessment and “Gaps” Analysis

This task involves comparison of CATSO’s existing transportation planning processes and products relative to the MPO planning requirements of SAFETEA-LU. Staff will review each process and product, identify the “gaps” between existing practice and SAFETEA-LU requirements, and outline a strategy for elimination of the gaps.

The SAFETEA-LU compliance checklist includes the following items:

- ✓ **Update cycle:** Adherence to a five-year period. The 2030 plan will acknowledge that the plan will be updated as needed and the next comprehensive update must be completed on or before 5-24-2011. See task 5.2 below.
- ✓ **Annual listing of projects:** The TIP will include pedestrian walkways and bicycle transportation facilities. The Long-Range Plan and Public Participation Plan will acknowledge this.
- ✓ **Cooperative development of annual list of projects:** CATSO will work with Columbia Transit and MoDOT to develop a process for development of the annual list of projects.
- ✓ **Safety factor:** CATSO will review its existing goals, objectives and strategies as they relate to safety; include additional safety data; solicit input from safety-related stakeholders; include “Strategic Highway Safety Plan” references in plan; include safety-related projects and safety-related project selection criteria.
- ✓ **Security factor:** Review of existing goals, objectives and strategies; define roles of CATSO, Columbia Transit, State in security provision; identify critical facilities; develop security goals.
- ✓ **Expand environmental factor:** Coordinate transportation plan with known land use and economic development plans; improve or expand coordination where needed; schedule implementation; include consistency review in UPWP and Public Participation Plan.

- ✓ **Environmental mitigation activities:** Add a generalized (not project specific) discussion of mitigation activities; compare plan to available conservation plans, maps, and inventories.
- ✓ **Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan:** Columbia Transit staff will complete the plan as described in SAFETEA-LU and CATSO will approve. The plan has been prepared and will be considered by CATSO at the August 23, 2007 meeting.
- ✓ **Operations and Management Strategies:** Review and evaluate existing strategies and develop or affirm performance measures; develop strategies and their costs to preserve the existing system.
- ✓ **Interested Parties and Participation:** Review existing procedures; insure that stakeholders and the general public are actively involved in the revised participation plan and the transportation plan; make available in electronic format; adopt selected visualization techniques.

Status: Preliminary “gaps” analysis is complete. Upon review by MoDOT, FHWA, and FTA, CATSO staff will revise the analysis as needed. SAFETEA-LU compliance review, including compliance with MPO planning provisions not changed by SAFETEA-LU, will be an ongoing activity.

Task 3 Issues, Goals and Objectives

This phase involves the collaborative identification of transportation issues and the production of new and revised (from the existing 2025 Plan) goals and objectives to address the issues.

This task will be assisted by a transportation planning consultant.

Task 3.1 Publish Plan Background; Solicit Issues, Goals and Objectives

This task involves publication of the “plan background” for the 2030 Transportation Plan and a request for review and comment from stakeholder groups and the general public. The plan background document will allow the public to review and comment on the planning area, existing and projected future conditions, and existing plans related to transportation.

The solicitation for comments refers the public to the eight SAFETEA-LU planning factors and asks the public: **a) to define and describe transportation issues in the metropolitan area and: b) to describe *how* transportation planning in the CATSO metropolitan area can address the issues.**

CATSO staff will publish notices inviting public and stakeholder comments and facilitate workshops to engage the public. Workshops will include both policy planning

(recommended practices to improve transportation performance) and physical planning (recommended general locations of investments).

In keeping with the *Public Participation Plan*, the plan background and solicitation for comments will be publicized using press releases, published notices, written invitations, e-mails to registered interested parties, web site and community facility bulletin boards. Comments will be received on an open cycle as well as at work sessions; and at a public hearing on the goals and objectives.

Status: Assuming CATSO Coordinating Committee approves the Plan Background, CATSO staff will solicit comments for a period of 45 days beginning September 1, 2007 and ending October 15, 2007.

Task 3.2 Write Goals and Objectives

After receiving comments from interested parties and the general public, CATSO staff and the consultant will draft goals and objectives for CATSO Coordinating Committee review.

Status: To be completed in October-November 2007.

Task 3.3 Public hearing on CATSO 2030 transportation plan goal and objectives statements

The draft goals and objectives will be on the CATSO Coordinating Committee agenda for action December 6, 2007. The staff report will include a “responsiveness summary” that includes all comments made on the plan background and staff/consultant’s suggested response to comments.

Status: If the committee concurs, it may direct staff to include the goals and objectives in the draft plan on December 6, 2007.

Status: Tentatively scheduled for December 6, 2007.

Task 4 Develop an Implementation Strategy

This task consists of the production of final goals, objectives, and strategies in the transportation plan.

Task 4.1 Technical memorandum

Within 45 days of the goals and objectives public hearing, the consultant and CATSO staff will prepare a technical memorandum outlining the problems identified in the public review and comment phase and suggest alternative solutions. The technical memorandum will be distributed to stakeholders for comment.

Status: To be completed by January 18, 2008. To be circulated to stakeholders and posted for the general public for 30-day review and comment.

Task 4.2 Update of plans and projects.

Based on stakeholder and public comments and the tentative goals and objectives, staff will make revisions to the plan including the list and maps of projects and programs, cost estimates, and recommended policies and techniques. As necessary, staff will schedule work sessions with the affected stakeholders to facilitate revisions.

Status: Concurrent with Task 4.1

Task 5 Final draft of Plan; Adoption.

Task 5.1 Final plan public hearing

This task involves the publication of the completed “public hearing draft” of the plan including goals, objectives and implementation strategies. The public hearing will recapitulate the process: 1) Development of the plan background; 2) SAFETEA-LU compliance measures; 3) Development of goals and objectives; and 4) Development of a proposed implementation strategy.

Criteria for approval: CATSO staff will ask the coordinating committee and the public if: 1) The public hearing draft is representative of commitments made at earlier stages of the process; 2) It is an achievable vision for the next 20 years and it is consistent with the overall goal: a plan that contains *short and long-range actions and strategies “that lead to the development of an integrated multimodal transportation system to facilitate the safe and efficient movement of people and goods in addressing current and future transportation demand;”* and 3) The document is free of significant errors or discrepancies. If the answer is “yes,” then the committee may take action on the plan. If the answer is “no,” the committee may request specific revisions with a 30-day or 60-day period, and schedule a special meeting for adoption of the plan as modified.

Status: Publication of public hearing draft and initiation of a 30-day review period scheduled for January 30, 2008. Hearing tentatively scheduled for February 28, 2008.

Task 5.2 Timeliness policy

To restore CATSO to a proper 5-year plan update cycle, the following schedule is suggested to be adopted, concurrent with the Long Range Transportation Plan, by the CATSO Coordinating Committee as a “timeliness policy”:

- ✓ Begin the process of public participation in the next update *no later* than November, 2009. Assuming the new LRTP is adopted in February 2008, CATSO will commit to start the next update

- ✓ Approve the next update to the Long-Range Transportation Plan no later than May 24, 2011. This will make the average time between plans (2001-2008-2011 no greater than 5 years).
- ✓ Monitor and participate in any changes to MPO planning requirements in the next federal transportation funding reauthorization.