



## HORIZON 2040 POLICY FRAMEWORK

Federal and state planning factors, goals and policies clearly illustrate the need for long range transportation plans to recognize and address the interrelationship of transportation, land use and economic development planning. Horizon 2040 addresses each of the planning factors and policy goals, as well as federal livability principles and other regional planning policies, in the Policy Framework.

The Guiding Principles were crafted and accepted by the Board and represent the first step in creating a policy framework for Horizon 2040. From there, policy language was developed based on the Guiding Principles. The policies are specific statements to guide decision- making in order to reach the envisioned future. Additional work such as strategies and performance measures in relationship to the policies completes the framework.

Horizon 2040 provides an opportunity to test and analyze regional transportation policies. The Guiding Principles and Policies are the foundation for the Horizon 2040 evaluation framework. The performance measures in the framework allow for a thorough evaluation of our progress as a region in meeting the established policies. The following pages provide detail about each of the Guiding Principles and Policies.

## GUIDING PRINCIPLE 1: ECONOMIC VITALITY

Investments and improvements in the regional transportation system will promote economic vitality by focusing on moving people, freight and goods to enhance the global competitiveness of the regional economy. Major transportation facilities, and the mobility they provide to, between and within major economic activity centers, will stimulate commerce. Horizon 2040 should prioritize and coordinate regional transportation investments aimed toward the development of a multimodal system that provides transportation opportunities that enhance accessibility and connections among city centers, regional service centers and attractions, towns, and areas of regional employment.

### POLICIES - To promote economic vitality and prioritize transportation investments, Horizon 2040 will:

- 1a. Prioritize transportation investments by mode that enhance accessibility and connections between city centers, regional centers, attractions, towns and areas of regional employment.
- 1b. Support areas of potential economic development.
- 1c. Support the efficiency of freight movement.

## GUIDING PRINCIPLE 2: COOPERATION AND LEADERSHIP

Horizon 2040 will provide the forum to develop regional transportation priorities, to identify transportation funding needs and to develop strategies to acquire funding in accordance with federal and state planning requirements. Horizon 2040 will help coordinate efforts to communicate with business and community groups and give the public sufficient time to review and comment at key milestones in the transportation planning process. These efforts will bring together all community stakeholders and transportation planning partners including Tribes in order to present a unified voice in support of the region's transportation needs.

### POLICIES - To provide a regional forum for transportation planning and funding, Horizon 2040 will:

- 2a. Provide leadership by facilitating coordinated, cooperative and comprehensive transportation planning.
- 2b. Incorporate public processes in significant planning efforts.
- 2c. Promote regional transportation interests, plans and projects to federal, state and local public, and private entities.
- 2d. Coordinate transportation relevant data for shared use among regional stakeholders.
- 2e. Strengthen avenues of involvement for all people including those considered underserved regardless of race, national origin or income in the decision-making process.

### **GUIDING PRINCIPLE 3: STEWARDSHIP**

Transportation decisions should maximize a positive impact on the human environment while minimizing negative impacts to the natural environment. Investments will follow federal, state and local transportation, environmental and land use plans and policies. This is in addition to following and federal, state and local goals as adopted by statute, ordinance, resolution or executive order. Horizon 2040 will use performance measures to ensure coordinated regional policies make progress towards established objectives. SRTC and project proponents should demonstrate that projected revenues will sustain current facilities and services, and ensure sufficient population demand is anticipated such that new facilities are a prudent application of fiscal resources.

#### **POLICIES - To protect the environment and minimize impacts from transportation, Horizon 2040 will:**

- 3a. Ensure transportation decisions minimize impacts to natural resources and conserve non-renewable resources.
- 3b. Make investments that maximize transportation benefits and support federal, state and local goals and maintain a federally compliant Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
- 3c. Ensure plans provide for the responsible use of public and private funds while demonstrating financial constraint.
- 3d. Encourage evaluating shared-use of infrastructure for stakeholders and all transportation users.
- 3e. Use performance measures to evaluate how policies and investments support key transportation objectives.

### **GUIDING PRINCIPLE 4: SYSTEM OPERATIONS, MAINTENANCE AND PRESERVATION**

Horizon 2040 will strive to provide adequate funding for projects that address documented transportation needs, reduce lifecycle operation and maintenance costs, conserve energy, and preserve and prolong the life of existing infrastructure. SRTC and project proponents will use performance-based plans that provide for efficient system management.

#### **POLICIES - Maximizing the operations and physical condition of the transportation network will require strategic investments. To accomplish this Horizon 2040 will put a priority on programs and projects that:**

- 4a. Develop cost-effective strategies; pursue alternative funding sources and mechanisms.
- 4b. During winter weather conditions, ensure snow and ice removal and snow storage is regularly maintained and designed for roadways and sidewalks to improve user safety and mobility and to keep the transportation system operational.
- 4c. Maintain a Congestion Management Process to reduce and monitor congestion and improve operations through ITS technologies, transportation demand management, and transportation system management, rather than through physical expansion of facilities.
- 4d. Support maintenance and preservation of the transportation system.

## **GUIDING PRINCIPLE 5: SAFETY AND SECURITY**

The regional transportation system will be designed, constructed, operated and maintained to enable the healthy, safe, and secure movement of people and goods. The system will enhance safe and secure choices, access and usage among all modes of transportation through best-practice design, operational improvements, education and outreach, and technological strategies. Increased emphasis should be placed on maintenance activities and education of all users as means of making the system safer.

**POLICIES –To provide for maximum transportation safety and support security in the region, Horizon 2040 will put a priority on programs, services and projects that:**

- 5a. Support improvements to roadway safety deficiencies in order to reduce crashes within all modes of transportation.
- 5b. Protect critical infrastructure from natural and human threats.
- 5c. Promote safety through supporting education, outreach and enforcement of rules of the road for all modes that use the roadways.
- 5e. Support transportation infrastructure and operational strategies for emergency response.

## **GUIDING PRINCIPLE 6: QUALITY OF LIFE**

Quality of life issues will be considered in transportation decision-making. The community will strive to have urban, suburban and rural neighborhoods offer safe and convenient forms of healthy, active transportation options for people of all abilities. Decision-making will work toward creating viable transportation choices through increased availability and improved service. Strengthening existing connections and creating new connections will improve mobility for all users. This includes connections within street networks, to port, rail and airport facilities; and within transit, pedestrian, and bicycle modes. The provision of shared-use infrastructure will increase transportation choices and maximize returns for investments by increasing multi-modal connectivity. Through context sensitive design, the community will strive to support social, cultural and commercial activity and protect unique or indigenous cultural and landscape features.

**POLICIES - To improve quality of life, Horizon 2040 will put a priority on programs, services and projects that:**

- 6a. Incorporate complete streets policies into transportation planning that enhance and expand bike, walk and transit networks and their connectivity.
- 6b. Improve access and the quality of access to transit for all people including those considered underserved, regardless of race, age, national origin, income or ability.

6c. Implement transit that improves frequency, span and reliability of transit services with a variety of service levels and transit modalities within the region.

6d. Support health-promoting transportation options for users of all abilities to increase opportunities for physical activity while improving demand-management strategies to reduce Single Occupant Vehicle (SOC) trips.

6e. Support transportation projects that protect culture, value unique characteristics of communities and contribute to sense of place.



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For more information on Horizon 2040, please go to:

[www.srtc.org/mtp\\_2040.html](http://www.srtc.org/mtp_2040.html)