

STEP 6

PRIORITIZATION AND IMPLEMENTATION

The transportation plan should include strategies for funding and implementation as well as for legislative and/or regulatory changes to facilitate project implementation. Priority for each recommended project should also be included to guide the implementing agencies in preparing their capital improvement programs. Preparing a financial plan is a major activity that is very important but is often overlooked.

The plan should have a strategic element that addresses specific actions necessary to implement the recommendations of the transportation plan. The specific actions for near-term recommendations will be quite detailed as to the schedules and responsibilities for those actions.

The longer-term program should identify the actions requiring considerable lead-times including legislative, regulatory, policy, and institutional changes. Both the near- and longer-term programs should provide explicitly for actions needed prior to funding or implementation.

PRIORITIZATION LIST

- Based on the identified needs, work with the Steering Committee to develop a prioritized list of recommendations. To establish priorities, determine the areas of greatest need from severity, demand, and/or funding availability perspectives.
- Revisit the list of recommendations and identify near- and longer-term recommendations.
- Develop an implementation plan for the near- and longer-term recommendations which is coordinated with other planned or expected changes in the community, as well as the implementation of the comprehensive plan. Determine key development thresholds or milestones that would trigger implementation of each recommendation.
- Investigate possible funding strategies and sources for the recommendations. Public funds, developer mitigation programs, and other methods should be explored. There are numerous other funding options available including both public and private sources.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Recommend appropriate roles and responsibilities for various municipal boards or committees, and county, state, or regional agencies for implementing the recommendations. Assess who should take the lead role and who should monitor the progress of the implementation process.

Long-term evaluation should take place when the comprehensive plan is updated.

If the implementing agency is not on the Steering Committee, it is recommended that they be consulted during the development alternatives to ensure their support for the recommendation that they will be responsible for.

FOLLOW-ON ACTIVITIES

Developing a transportation plan for a community is a complex and involved undertaking. The formal plan development process may be finished when the transportation plan is approved, but the responsibility of implementing the recommendations is ongoing.

In order to facilitate the implementation of the recommendations, the transportation plan should include:

- Identification of specific and achievable follow-on activities and schedules that are needed to advance the findings of the transportation plan, including potential sources of funding to conduct these activities.
- Identification of specific important factors that were not able to be examined within the transportation plan scope/budget and should be addressed through follow-on activities.
- Establishment of a timeline to re-evaluate the assumptions and recommendations made and update or modify the transportation plan as needed.

REFERENCES

1. Transportation Research Board, Highway Capacity Manual, 2000.
2. Institute of Transportation Engineers, Manual of Transportation Engineering Studies, 2000.