

## MEMO

**TO:** Transportation Technical Committee  
Scott Smith, CVPDC Transportation Planning Director  
**FROM:** Will Cockrell, EPR-PC  
**DATE:** October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019

**RE:** Setting Goals and Performance Measures for Connect Central Virginia 2045

**PURPOSE:** The Transportation Technical Committee (TTC) will meet on October 10<sup>th</sup>, for the first of two discussions on *Goals, Performance Measures and Targets* for the newest Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), called Connect Central Virginia 2045. The second TTC meeting on this topic is tentatively scheduled for the end of the calendar year, where the Committee will be asked to formally recommend *2045 Goals and Performance Measures* or reaffirm the same framework from the 2040 LRTP.

**BACKGROUND:** EPR is currently under contract to conduct CVMPO's five-year update of its LRTP, which will include elements of the Rural Long Range Plan (RLRP) and Lynchburg Connectivity Study. The process includes four milestones, each associated with completion of a planning phase. The State of the System Report (Chapter 3 of the Plan) marked the end of the first milestone. The current phase (Task 3 in the scope of work) will be completed at the end of Calendar Year 2019, once the CVMPO Policy Board officially approves the *2045 Goals and Performance Measures*. Following that approval, phase three will begin and the goals and measures will be used to evaluate projects for the Long Range Plan's Constrained List of Projects, called the Constrained Long Range Plan (CLRP).

Since the 2040 LRTP update, there have been several changes to requirements, funding processes and guidelines for MPO planning. On the Federal side, recent transportation laws, such as the FAST Act changed how states and MPOs are required to evaluate projects and set targets. There are two additional Federal Planning Factors, which MPOs shall address in their LRTPs. The Federal Code also requires that states and MPOs set Transportation Targets, which CVMPO adopted in the fall of 2018. During the 2040 LRTP update, the State's new funding process was referred to as HB2 (for House Bill 2) – that funding process is now called Smart Scale. In 2015, the HB2 (Smartscale) scoring factors were being defined while the CVMPO 2040 update was occurring. Throughout the update process, the scoring factor development was being monitored while the LRTP prioritization tool, also using scoring factors, was being developed. Since then, the State processed three rounds of the program and MPOs have become more fluent with project selection and funding applications.

**ISSUES:** With changes to codes, processes and targets, the MPO will need to re-evaluate its 2040 goals and performance measures. EPR conducted an analysis of this 2040 framework and identified opportunities for improvements, based on changes at the Federal and State levels, mentioned above. This analysis included a charted matrix that compares the 2040 *Vision Themes* and goals with the Federal Factors and the 2040 performance measures with Smart Scale scoring methods.

**Goals:** In staff's review of the 2040 goals, there is still consistency with the Federal and State guidance documents. In its review, the TTC may determine areas for improvement. Regardless of any updates, the Committee should provide guidance on how to prioritize these goals, to help determine how performance measures should be weighted in the project evaluation process. In the review of LRTP goals, the Committee should attempt to fulfill the following objectives:

- Reflect local and regional needs and priorities,
- Reflect Federal planning factors and goals, to be consistent with enabling codes,
- Position the Central Virginia region for successful funding of transportation projects.

**Performance Measures:** While the 2040 goals appear to remain relevant and consistent with requirements and guidelines, there are opportunities to update the MPO's performance measures. These measures are critical to the process, as they will form the scoring methodology for ranking and selecting projects for the CLRP. An effective scoring process will help determine a prioritized project listing that not only meets local needs but is also more likely to receive funding.

Staff developed a matrix to compare MPO and Smart Scale scoring methods. In the following table, CVMPO's performance measures are on the left side, referred to as *Transportation Elements* in the 2040 Plan, organized by goal and vision theme. At the bottom, the table lists the State's funding criteria for any capacity building projects, which would likely be the most common funding avenue for L RTP projects. Consistency between 2040 and Smart Scale performance measures is indicated with an "x." While the CVMPO opted out of the State's Land Use measures, they are included here for reference.

**2040 LRTP/Smart Scale Performance Measures Matrix**

Vision Theme	Goal	Transportation Element	Matrix													
Mobility and accessibility	Make it Flow	Congestion														
		Traffic Volume	x													
		Freight Volume								x						
	Make it Accessible	Alternative Transportation Facilities					x									
Safety	Make it Safe	Traffic Accidents														
		Safety Features														
Economy	Promote Vitality	Economic Development Plans								x						
	Make it Efficient	Regional Commuter Travel									x					
		Surrounding Employment Density														
Community and Nature	Sustain Quality	Social and Environmental Resources											x			
		Corridor Beautification														
		Right of Way Sufficiency														
Operational Efficiency	Make it Function	Road Functional Classification														
	Coordinate Investments	Plan Coordination													x	
	Balance Priorities	Distribution of Benefits														
		Measure Name	Person Throughput	Person Hours of Delay	Access to Jobs	Access to Jobs (disadvantaged Persons)	Access to Multimodal Choices	EPDO of Fatal & Injury Crashes	EPDO Rate of Fatal & Injury Crashes	Project Support Economic Development	Intermodal Access and Efficiency	Travel Time Reliability	Air Quality and Effects	Natural and Cultural Impacts	Transportation-Efficient Land Use	Increase Efficient Land Use
		Factor Areas	Congestion Mitigation		Accessibility			Safety		Economic Development		Environmental Quality			Land Use	

**ACTIONS NEEDED:** At the October 10<sup>th</sup> TTC Meeting, EPR will present these and other findings, to help identify or reaffirm *2045 Goals and Performance Measures*. With transportation targets already adopted, these will serve as a reference that will help guide the discussion. As this is the first of two meetings on this topic, the TTC is not expected to take any formal actions. The October 10<sup>th</sup> discussion is intended to prepare for the second meeting, where the Committee will recommend official goals and measures. While comments should be forward to MPO staff, other questions may be directed to Will Cockrell, at [w.cockrell@epr-pc.com](mailto:w.cockrell@epr-pc.com).