

TRANSPORTATION POLICIES

The County will:

DEFINITIONS

12.1 Definition of Streets

Define Streets to include streets, roads, bridges, interchanges used to get to and across highways, bridges, and other portions of the transportation system.

12.2 Definition of Complete Streets

Define Complete Streets as an approach to transportation that describes an integrated, multimodal transportation system which equally supports all types of transportation, including pedestrian, bicycle, and vehicular traffic.

12.3 Definition of Streets Projects

Define Streets Projects as: Planning, design, and implementation process for street construction, reconstruction, retrofit, alteration, or repair of streets; and projects, programs, and practices including but not limited to pavement re-surfacing, restriping, utility projects, signalization operations or modifications, and maintenance of landscaping/related features.

12.4 Definition of Complete Streets Projects

Define Complete Streets Projects as: Including but not limited to sidewalks, shared-use paths, bicycle lanes, bicycle routes, paved shoulders, street trees and landscaping, planting strips, accessible curb ramps, crosswalks, refuge islands, pedestrian signals, signs, street furniture, bicycle parking facilities, transit priority signalization, and other features assisting in the provision of safe travel for all users, such as traffic-calming devices, bulb-outs, curb extensions, chicanes, and road diets.

12.5 Definition of Transportation Users

Define Transportation Users as motorists, movers of commercial goods, users of public transportation, bicyclists, pedestrians of all ages and abilities, children, persons with disabilities, seniors, users and operators of public transportation, youth, and families.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- 12.6 Plan for a transportation system that provides for the safe, efficient, and convenient movement of people and goods in and through San Mateo County.
- 12.7 Create and maintain Complete Streets that serve all categories of transportation users and goods, providing safe, efficient, comfortable, and convenient travel along all streets through an integrated, balanced, multimodal transportation network that meets the needs of all users of streets, roads, and highways for safe and convenient travel in a manner that is suitable to the rural, suburban, or urban context of the General Plan.
- 12.8 To the extent possible, plan for accommodating future transportation demand in the County by using existing transportation facilities more efficiently, or improving and expanding them before building new facilities.
- 12.9 Provide for a balanced and integrated transportation system in the County which allows for travel by various modes and easy transfer between modes.
- 12.10 Plan for increasing the proportion of trips using public transit or ridesharing.
- 12.11 Balance and attempt to minimize adverse environmental impacts resulting from transportation system improvements in the County.
- 12.12 Promote the development of energy-conserving transportation systems in the County.
- 12.13 Coordinate transportation planning with adjacent jurisdictions.

AUTOMOBILE TRAVEL

12.14 Additional Capacity

When providing additional capacity for automobile traffic where needed, give priority to upgrading and expanding existing roads before developing new road alignments.

12.15 Rural Road Improvements

In rural areas, where improvements are needed due to safety or congestion, support improved traffic control measures that balance the needs of all users and provide safe travel, implementing measures such as signing, lane markings, and speed controls, and the construction of operational and safety improvements, such as adequate passing lanes, elimination of sharp curves, lane widening, or paved shoulders.

12.16 Urban Road Improvements

In urban areas, where improvements are needed due to safety concerns or congestion, support the construction of interchange and intersection improvements, additional traffic lanes, turning lanes, redesign of parking, channelization, traffic control signals, or other improvements while enhancing the functionality of travel routes for all transportation users.

12.17 East-West Roads

Work with CalTrans and the cities to provide improved major east-west routes in the County as traffic conditions warrant.

12.18 Recreational Traffic to the Coastside

Seek methods to mitigate the impact of peak recreational traffic to and along the Coastside.

12.19 Circulation East of Highway 101

Encourage the cities and CalTrans to develop an adequate circulation system, including bikeways, and other context-sensitive design features to serve all transportation users and new development east of Highway 101 and which, to the maximum extent feasible, does not adversely affect baylands or wetlands.

12.20 Financing Local Road Improvements

Utilize all available techniques for funding local road improvements in unincorporated areas, including assessment districts, developer contributions, and County road funds. Ensure road improvements are consistent with adopted land use plans and area plans.

12.21 Local Circulation Policies

In unincorporated communities, plan for providing:

- a. Maximum freedom of movement for all transportation users and adequate access to various land uses;
- b. Improved streets, sidewalks, bicycle routes, landscaping, shared-use paths, and other site-appropriate design features that enhance the safety and usability of transportation networks in developed areas;
- c. Minimal through traffic in residential areas;

- d. Routes for truck traffic which avoid residential areas and are structurally designed to accommodate trucks;
- e. Access for emergency vehicles;
- f. Safe and efficient bicycle and pedestrian travel;
- g. Access by all transportation users, including persons with disabilities, seniors, children, and youth, to public buildings, shopping areas, hospitals, offices, and schools;
- h. Prioritization of accessibility to transit services and to routes and turnouts for public transit;
- i. Parking areas for ridesharing; and
- j. Coordination of transportation improvement with adjacent jurisdictions.

12.22 Local Road Standards

Allow for modification of road standards for sub-areas of the County, which respond to local needs and conditions as identified in area plans.

12.23 Vacation of County Streets and Easements

In reviewing requests for sale, vacation, or abandonment of County streets, rights-of-way, or easements, consider the following:

- a. whether access is available to existing parcels and developed areas adjacent to the subject area, or possible future development based on adopted area plans;
- b. whether the area to be vacated is not required for public transit use based on adopted plans; and
- c. whether the area to be vacated is not suitable for non-motorized use.

12.24 Official Plan Lines

Review official plan lines to assure they are current and conform to County road standards. Delete plan lines on streets which have already been improved to County standards or which have become incorporated within city boundaries.

12.25 Parking Standards

Review and update the County's off-street and on-street parking standards in order to reflect current conditions and requirements. Consider the needs of each individual land use, the potential for joint use of parking areas, fees in lieu of parking, spaces for smaller cars, and parking management strategies that support project needs while reducing an overabundance of surface parking to the detriment of other categories of transportation users or other land uses.

12.26 Funding for Road Maintenance

Utilize all funds available for roadway repair and maintenance, and seek additional funding, if necessary, to prevent further deterioration of the County's road system.

12.27 Off-Peak Operations

Encourage freight carriers (rail and truck) and roadway construction crews to operate during off-peak periods.

12.28 Seaport Boulevard

Encourage the Port of Redwood City to improve Seaport Boulevard in conjunction with the development of the port area.

COMPLETE STREETS

12.29 Context-Sensitive Street Design

Coordinate with stakeholders during street planning and design to maintain sensitivity to local conditions and ensure a strong sense of place that meets the needs of transit users, including consideration of a diversity of Complete Streets projects.

12.30 Integration with Regional Complete Streets Planning

Coordinate transportation and street projects with local and regional plans for bicycle, pedestrian, transit, and related multimodal plans designed to support Complete Streets.

12.31 Existing Street and Network Connectivity

Incorporate Complete Streets infrastructure into existing streets to improve the safety and convenience of users, accommodate all transportation users, and increase connectivity across jurisdictional boundaries and for existing and anticipated areas of development.

PUBLIC TRANSIT AND RIDESHARING

12.32 SamTrans Service

Encourage SamTrans to continue to work toward improving service levels on both local and mainline routes through reevaluation and expansion of routes, increased service to the Coastside, provision of more satellite parking facilities, and evaluation of smaller buses for local routes.

12.33 Recreational Service

Encourage increased transit service between the Bayside and the Coastside during summer months and special events in order to help meet recreational travel demand.

12.34 Caltrain Service

Support the continued upgrading of the Peninsula Train Service by CalTrans, including relocation of the station in San Francisco to a more central location, more frequent service, acquisition of new rolling stock, refurbishing of stations, and track rehabilitation.

12.35 Transit Marketing

Encourage transit providers in San Mateo County to expand their marketing and promotional programs in order to keep the public informed about the availability of transit service.

12.36 BART Extension

Cooperate with BART, SamTrans, and MTC in any planning involving an extension of BART service into San Mateo County.

12.37 Intermodal Transportation Terminal

If an extension of BART service to the San Francisco International Airport is agreed upon, encourage the sponsoring agency, CalTrans, and/or SamTrans to develop an intermodal ground transportation station at the Airport.

12.38 Transit Coordination

- a. Encourage transit providers to coordinate their service both within the County and with adjacent counties through common stations, coordination of scheduling, and honoring of transfers.

- b. Encourage SamTrans to coordinate its local service with cities and school districts.

12.39 Population Groups with Special Needs

Encourage and support SamTrans and the Paratransit Coordinating Council to work toward meeting the transportation needs of the mobility-impaired, the young, and the elderly.

12.40 Weekend Bus Service

Request that SamTrans maintain a minimal level of local service on weekends for the benefit of all transit dependents.

12.41 Park and Ride Lots

Encourage CalTrans and SamTrans to identify and acquire sites for additional park and ride lots at convenient locations along Highway 101 and Interstate 280 and provide for transit service and ridesharing at these facilities.

12.42 Preferential Treatment for High Occupancy Vehicles

Consider preferential treatment for high occupancy vehicles, including buses, vanpools, carpools through techniques such as exclusive lanes and preference at traffic signals in areas where warranted by recurrent traffic congestion.

BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN TRAVEL

12.43 Bicycle Routes

Encourage the cities to develop local bikeway plans, obtain funding, and construct and maintain a system of local bikeways that is consistent with the County Bikeways Plan.

12.44 Bicycle Trails in Rural Areas

Support the development of bicycle trails in rural and Coastal areas.

12.45 Bicycle Storage Facilities

Promote the provision of bicycle lockers and other storage facilities at transit stops, schools, shopping areas and other activity centers.

12.46 Bicycles on Transit

Encourage SamTrans and CalTrans to make provision for bicycles on transit vehicles at a minimum during off peak periods and in off-peak directions.

12.47 Facilities for Bicyclists

Encourage large employers to provide shower and locker facilities for their employees who bike to work as part of a commute alternative program.

12.48 Pedestrian Paths

Encourage the provision of safe and adequate pedestrian paths in new development connecting to activity centers, schools, transit stops, and shopping centers.

12.49 Pedestrian Bridges

Encourage CalTrans to provide pedestrian bridges and connections in areas where State highways have divided communities.

AIR TRANSPORTATION

12.50 Growth of San Francisco International Airport

Support the policy of MTC's Regional Airport Plan, regarding growth at San Francisco International Airport until such time as adequate ground transportation facilities are developed to accommodate larger passenger volumes.

12.51 Transit Trips to Airport

Recommend that San Francisco International Airport reevaluate its goal of accommodating 25% of daily trips to and from the airport by transit and work toward continually increasing the proportion of airport trips using transit and ridesharing.

12.52 Ground Transportation Information System

Encourage San Francisco International Airport to expand its ground transportation information system to provide assistance to those seeking to travel to the airport as well as from the airport.

12.53 Ground Transportation Facility at Airport

Request San Francisco International Airport to study the development of a ground transportation facility which would provide interconnections between the airport terminal, the CalTrans/SP Caltrain, SamTrans bus routes, and any future extension of the BART System.

PROGRAM RESPONSIBILITIES

ROLE OF THE COUNTY

12.54 County Participation in Countywide and Regional Transportation Planning

- a. Provide a leadership role in coordinating countywide transportation issues with the cities of San Mateo County.
- b. Continue County participation in the regional transportation planning activities of MTC, SamTrans, RPC, and the City County Engineers Association.
- c. Strengthen County participation in the regional transportation planning structure by using the policy framework of this chapter and the area plans to provide input for decision-making.
- d. Provide staff support in transportation planning to assist County decision-makers; coordinate with MTC, SamTrans, and CalTrans; maintain a transportation planning database; review and comment on transportation plans and programs affecting the County; and periodically review and update the Transportation Chapter of the General Plan.
- e. Support consultation with local and regional bicycle, pedestrian, transit, and other multimodal relevant plans to achieve Complete Streets and support connectivity across jurisdictional boundaries.
- f. Departments and agencies of San Mateo County addressing transportation issues shall work toward making Complete Streets practices a routine aspect of everyday operations and integrate Complete Streets planning into all long-term street projects, as feasible.
- g. County staff will use a standardized process to document the integration of Complete Streets into street projects, which shall also allow for documentation of reasons the project could not accommodate all modes of transportation.

12.55 Cooperation with Cities

Work with the cities of San Mateo County and with adjacent cities and counties on transportation issues of countywide concern, including east-west arterial roads, implementation of the Bikeways Plan, development of truck routes through adjoining jurisdictions, pavement maintenance of bike routes.

12.56 Traffic Mitigation Programs

Cooperate with the cities, transit operators and employers in the development and implementation of traffic mitigation programs, which lessen the cumulative effects of new development on existing transportation systems, including (1) auto commute alternatives programs; (2) establishing a network of traffic coordinators; (3) parking management strategies; and (4) incorporation of transit improvements into new developments.

12.57 Primary Road System in Unincorporated Areas

Delineate a system of primary through roads in unincorporated areas to serve as a guide for future improvements. Allocate County funds for improvements to these primary roads according to the criteria of Policy 12.14.

12.58 Review of Capital Improvement Programs

Require County departments to submit their annual Capital Improvements Programs for transportation improvements to the Planning Commission for review and comment in accordance with Section 65401 of the California Government Code.

12.59 Modification of Road Standards

Continue existing policy as set forth in the Creative Road Design Guide and area plans allowing selective modification of County road standards in order to protect the natural environment, conserve natural resources and preserve neighborhood quality.

12.60 County Bikeways Plan

Review, adopt, and maintain the Bikeway Plan map as the County's policy regarding a future bikeways system in San Mateo County.

12.61 Staff Bikeways Coordinator

The County staff Bikeways Coordinator shall: (1) plan and develop bikeway facilities in the unincorporated areas; (2) develop requirements for bike facilities in new developments in unincorporated areas; (3) provide staff services to the

County Bikeways Advisory Committee; (4) work with the cities and monitor progress toward implementation of the County Bikeways Plan; (5) assist cities without active bikeways programs to develop and implement programs for their cities; and (6) coordinate with bicycle organizations.

ROLE OF OTHER AGENCIES

12.62 Coordinate Planning

Request CalTrans, SamTrans, RPC and the cities to coordinate planning for improvements to roads, highways, and transit service to accommodate growing transportation demand, particularly that resulting from newly developing areas east of Highway 101 and the growing southbound commute to Santa Clara County.

12.63 Role of MTC

Support the role of MTC as the regional transportation planning agency for the Bay Area.

12.64 Monitor Development

Request MTC to periodically monitor development trends in the County as they affect the demand for transportation and to work with transit agencies, CalTrans, and local jurisdictions to ensure that transportation improvements are coordinated with future land development.

12.65 Role of Regional Planning Committee

Continue the role of the Regional Planning Committee in evaluating and ranking the countywide significance of candidate projects for Federal and State transportation funding, and use the RPC as a mechanism to resolve interjurisdictional conflicts involving transportation and to achieve countywide consensus on other important transportation issues.

12.66 Role of City County Engineers Association

Continue and support the role of the City County Engineers Association as the technical advisory committee for reviewing and ranking (with the participation of the Regional Planning Committee) road improvement projects competing for State and Federal funding under the City County Transportation Improvement Program.

12.67 Task Force on Transportation Systems Management

Request the City County Engineers Association to act as a countywide task force on Transportation Systems Management (TSM) along with transit agencies and CalTrans, to identify and implement TSM measures that will improve the efficiency and capacity of the existing transportation system.

12.68 Role of RIDES for Bay Area Commuters, Inc.

Support the efforts of RIDES to expand ridesharing by San Mateo County commuters and encourage employers in the County to provide ridesharing among their employees.