

# Transportation Program Overview

## **METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO)**

The West Michigan Metropolitan Planning Program (WestPlan) is the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for Muskegon County and northern Ottawa County.

WestPlan is a program of the West Michigan

Shoreline Regional Development Commission (WMSRDC). The Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act requires that an MPO be designated for each urbanized area with a population of more than 50,000 people. The MPO carries out the metropolitan transportation planning process as a condition to receive federal transportation aid.

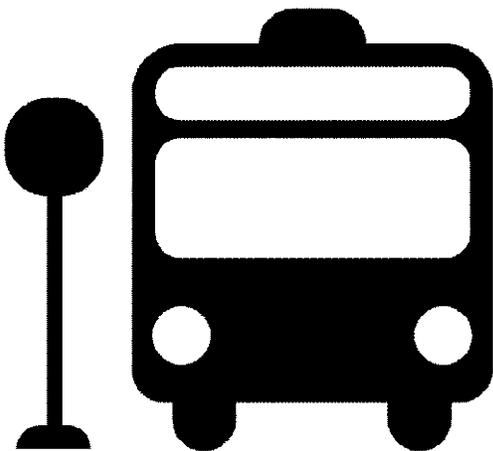


Every MPO, including WestPlan, consists of a Policy Committee and a Technical Committee. The Technical Committee recommends decisions to the Policy Committee. The Policy Committee is responsible for all final decisions regarding the MPO transportation planning process.

The following local communities and/or transportation agencies and providers are members of WestPlan:

- Muskegon County
- Muskegon County Road Commission
- City of Muskegon
- City of Muskegon Heights
- City of North Muskegon
- City of Norton Shores

- City of Roosevelt Park
- City of Whitehall
- City of Montague
- Village of Fruitport
- Muskegon Area Transit System
- Muskegon County Urban Townships (one representative for all)
- Muskegon County Rural Townships (one representative for all)
- Ottawa County
- Ottawa County Road Commission
- City of Grand Haven
- City of Ferrysburg
- Village of Spring Lake
- Ottawa County Urban Townships (one representative for all)
- Ottawa County Rural Townships (one representative for all)
- Harbor Transit Multi-Modal Transit System
- Federal Highway Administration
- Michigan Department of Transportation



### **LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN**

Every MPO, including WestPlan, prepares a Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) in accordance with federal regulations that provides for a multi-jurisdictional, multi-year look at the Muskegon/Northern Ottawa area's future transportation system. The LRTP is updated every four years and outlines the transportation needs and resources for the evaluated 25 year period

with constrained finances. The plan also includes the use of local, state, and federal

transportation goals and objectives to guide transportation plans and projects. The WestPlan LRTP, in its continual development, is a cooperative effort of the MPO, the state, local communities, public transit agencies, transportation stakeholders, and the public.

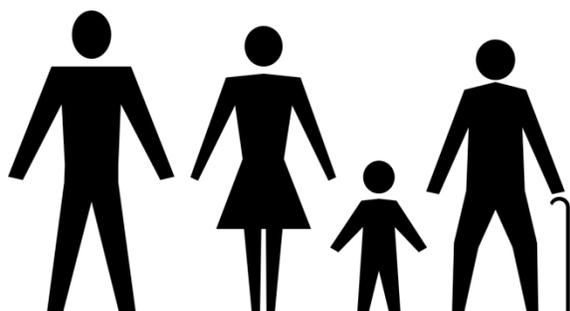
## **TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**



MPOs are also required to prepare a Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The TIP is a cooperative effort between federal, state, and local officials and serves as the final link in the planning process. Its primary purpose is to identify programs and projects to be funded with federal aid, in accordance with federal law and the regulations of the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration over the next four year period. Projects for the TIP are selected based on several factors, including need, local initiative, and requirements of the federal government through federal transportation regulations. Other considerations for project selection include impact on air quality and availability of funds. The TIP is amended continually and includes a detailed list of projects which are funded and scheduled for the upcoming four year (fiscal years) period. The development of the TIP facilitates the required “3-C” (Continuous, Comprehensive, and Cooperative) planning process. The TIP is a product of a *continuous* process on the part of local and state government to improve the regional transportation system. The TIP is *comprehensive* because it encompasses all modes of transportation. In addition, the TIP demonstrates a *cooperative* intergovernmental working relationship between local officials to mutually agree upon priorities and needs. The TIP project list is edited frequently and can be found on the WMSRDC website at [www.wmsrdc.org](http://www.wmsrdc.org).

## **UNIFIED WORK PROGRAM**

WestPlan develops a required Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) in cooperation with the state, local communities, public transit agencies, transportation stakeholders, and the public. The UWP includes a discussion of the planning priorities facing the region and serves as the core budget for the urban transportation planning activities of WestPlan's transportation program. It identifies the work proposed for the upcoming fiscal year by major activity and task in sufficient detail to indicate who will perform the work, the schedule for completing the work, the resulting products, the proposed funding by activity/task, and a summary of the total amounts and sources of federal and matching funds.



## **PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT**

WestPlan is committed to ensuring that citizen input will figure prominently throughout the planning processes and contribute to transportation issue identification through public comment

periods, public meetings, open houses, review of draft documents, and other methods. WestPlan is also federally required to explicitly set forth public participation policies that meet federal standards and guidelines. These policies are laid out in the Public Participation Plan in Transportation Decision Making which can be found on the WMSRDC website at [www.wmsrdc.org](http://www.wmsrdc.org).

## **MORE INFORMATION**

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