

What if we imagined our future differently?

These scenarios are not meant to be either-or-choices.

Our future will likely be some combination of each of these scenarios. These scenarios are meant to help us understand how the transportation decisions we make today about how to grow could affect our economy, environment, and community in the future.

Business As Usual

This scenario presents a future in which investments and policies continue the current land use and transportation trends. Residents still rely on personal vehicles for day-to-day travel along with some alternative transportation, such as biking and public transit. Transportation investment strategies focus on the operation and management of the existing transportation system. This scenario assumes no new types of growth strategies or development patterns would be implemented.



Continued Trends

The population and economy continuing to grow at current rates.



Suburban Growth

Development occurs along outer edge of existing municipal service areas (e.g. fire, water, and waste).



Maintenance & Preservation

Primary focus on maintenance of existing transportation facilities and regional asset management over new facilities.



Increased Commute Times

Development patterns lead to longer commute/travel times.



Auto-Oriented

Only incremental improvements to the alternative transportation network (i.e. public transit, bicycle, pedestrian, etc.)

Green Infrastructure

This scenario presents a future in which there is an increased desire for green infrastructure (e.g. permeable pavement, bioswales, etc.) due to environmental considerations nationwide such as climate change. As a result, emphasis is put on increased alternative transportation and increased connectivity of the multimodal system. Investments and policies are concentrated on creating a resilient and robust transportation network as well as encouraging development within existing urban cores. There is a transition from diesel fleets to alternative fuel sources such as electric or hydrogen.



Multimodal Transportation

Focus on expanded alternative transportation facilities with increased first & last mile connectivity.



Environmental Regulations

Restrictions become stricter on a national level in response to extreme weather events & changes in environmental conditions.



Alternative Fuel

Electric charging infrastructure & other alternative fuel sources are available along key corridors and urban cores.



System Resiliency

A multimodal transportation strategy is developed that emphasizes maintenance & resiliency.



Intelligent Transportation Systems

Investments in connected/autonomous vehicle technology for transit that is implemented with a robust Intelligent Transportation System (ITS).

Business is Booming

This scenario presents a future in which there is growth of key economic sectors within the region, (i.e. manufacturing sector, healthcare sector, etc.) at a stronger rate in the upcoming years. The growing economy results in increased freight traffic and roadway system usage, becoming the driving force in the regional changes in land use and roadway management. Some vehicles, both passenger and freight, are autonomous (AV), however the majority of personal vehicles are connected vehicles (CV) as AVs have not yet fully penetrated the market. Due to the increased energy needs of the community, there is a regional push for alternative energy systems.



Employment Growth

High employment growth in key economic sectors drive the region.



Freight & Auto-Oriented

Freight and auto-oriented development lead to increased vehicle miles traveled (VMT) in the region.



Increased Technology

Investment in ITS and smart corridors to reduce congestion & promote system efficiency.



Increased Energy Needs

To offset the energy needs of the community, there is a regional push for alternative energy systems.



Market-Driven Sprawl

Market-driven growth for new development outside of existing service areas.



Air Quality Considerations

Potential air quality considerations & increased system maintenance costs

Urban Centers & Corridors

This scenario presents a future in which there is increased investment in technological advancements to improve transportation system efficiency and policies that emphasize redevelopment of urban centers and major corridors. The changes to development patterns and the transportation network would require higher upfront infrastructure costs but would lead to lower long-term maintenance needs. Technological advancements such as Intelligent Information Systems (ITS) create a better connected network both for automobiles, freight, and alternative transportation options.



Connected Vehicles

More connected network for personal vehicles, freight, & alternative transportation options.



Revitalization

Mixed-use development encouraged in urban centers and other strategic areas along major corridors.



Development Strategies

Transit-oriented development & strategic policies encourage infill in existing areas.



System Resiliency

Pursuit of transportation system resiliency & maintenance instead of expansion.



Multimodal Transportation

Increased alternative transportation options due to housing, employment, and commercial densities.



Employment Growth

High employment growth in key economic sectors drive the region.

Shifting Demographics

This scenario presents a future in which the region faces financial hardships due to major shifts in demographics and environment (both locally and statewide). A decrease in population and workforce statewide leads to decline in the local tax base, revenues, and workforce. This lack of funding results in minimal expansion of roadways and instead focuses on the maintenance of the existing transportation network. Regionally, the population is stagnant due to declining birth rates, aging populations, and influx of migration. The workforce, however, decreases due to less working age adults. The changing population is more likely to carpool, walk, use transit, or ride a bicycle than the previous.



Shifting Demographics

Regional population remains at current levels due to declining birth rates and influx of migration.



Workforce Changes

Shift in workforce demographics due to "brain drain" and aging populations.



Flooding Mitigation

Due to increasing flooding potential, construction in the flood plains is discouraged & increasing mitigation is required.



Alternative Transportation

The changing population is more likely to carpool, walk, use transit, or ride a bicycle than the previous generations.



Limited Funds

Growth outside of the existing municipal service area (fire, water, etc.) is limited due to limited funds.



Maintenance & Preservation

Minimal expansion of transportation facilities & maintenance of only strategic assets.