

Introduction



Ohio · Kentucky · Indiana
Regional Council of Governments

PLANNING PRIORITIES

There are three key documents produced by the metropolitan planning process: the Unified Planning Work Program, The Regional Transportation Plan and the Transportation Improvement Program. These and other important activities are discussed below.

Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) (Update Schedule: Yearly; Next Update: May, 2007)

This document, prepared annually by OKI in cooperation with local and state officials, transit agencies and others, documents all planning activities anticipated during the fiscal year regardless of funding sources, while incorporating the comprehensive intermodal planning process. This continuing planning process is responsive to the needs of the local area and to the changes occurring in the region for which current data concerning land use, travel, and transportation facilities must be continuously maintained.

OKI Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) (Update Schedule: every 3 years; Next Update: June, 2007)

The OKI Board of Trustees adopted the OKI 2030 Regional Transportation Plan on June 13, 2001 and subsequently amended it in September and November 2002. The triennial Plan update was adopted on June 10, 2004. The Plan serves as a blueprint for transportation projects in our region through the year 2030. It addresses future needs created by growth and development. At the same time, it responds to Safe Accountable Flexible Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) and Clean Air Act requirements that call for mitigating congestion, addressing air quality and other environmental, social and financial issues.

This Plan meets federal regulations in that it is constrained fiscally and with regard to mobile source emissions (air quality). An expanded section related to community impacts and environmental justice is included. As in the previous Plan, this Plan provides the framework for corridor studies and other initiatives.

Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) (Update Schedule: every 2 years; Next Update: May 2007)

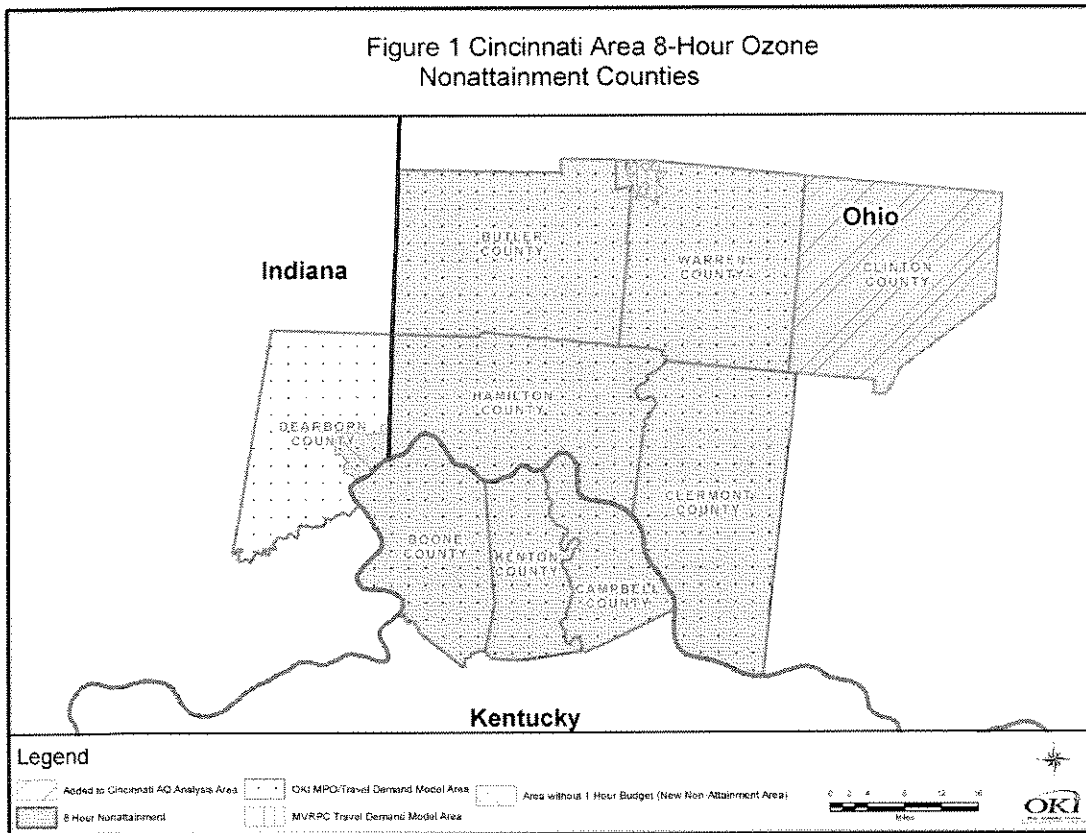
This document is developed every two years and reviewed periodically in cooperation with state and local officials, regional and local transit operators, and other affected transportation, regional planning and implementing agencies. The TIP consists of improvements recommended from the short-range planning process, elements of the long range plan, and the transit development programs of the various transit systems. Specifically, the TIP: 1) identifies transportation improvements recommended for advancement during the four year program period; 2) indicates the area's priorities; 3) groups improvements of similar urgency and anticipated staging into appropriate staging periods; 4) includes realistic estimates of total costs and revenues for the program period; and 5) is financially constrained. The entire TIP is tested to establish its conformity with the State Implementation Plan for air quality.

The TIP includes project-by-project listings which are modified periodically and contain: 1) sufficient descriptive material of work, termini, and length to identify the project; 2) estimated total cost and the amount of federal funds proposed to be obligated during the program year; 3) proposed source of federal and non-federal funds; and 4) identification of the recipient and state and local agencies responsible for carrying out the project.

Mobile Source Emissions Analysis

Pursuant to provisions of the CAAA of 1990, U.S. EPA designated a nine county area in the Cincinnati area as a basic nonattainment area for ozone under the eight-hour ozone standard in April 2004. In December 2004, U.S. EPA designated an eight county Cincinnati area as nonattainment under the annual fine particulate matter (PM2.5) standard. The Cincinnati ozone nonattainment area includes Lawrenceburg Township in Dearborn County Indiana, the Kentucky counties of Boone, Campbell and Kenton, and the Ohio counties of Butler, Clermont, Clinton, Hamilton and Warren (Figure 1). The PM2.5 nonattainment area is identical except for the exclusion of Clinton County. The OKI Regional Council of Governments, as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), consists of Dearborn, Boone, Campbell, Kenton, Butler, Clermont, Hamilton and Warren counties. *OKI's Regional Transportation Plan* and *Transportation Improvement Program* address the MPO area only. The cities of Franklin and Carlisle in Warren County are part of the Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission (MVRPC) planning area. Projects within this portion of Warren County are included in OKI's conformity analysis. Clinton County is outside of the OKI region, but is part of the nonattainment area. The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) is the lead planning agency for Clinton County and prepares the emissions analysis for the Clinton County portion of the air quality conformity determination.

All states with nonattainment areas are required to revise their State Implementation Plans (SIPs) to demonstrate future compliance with the federal air quality standards. In 2004, OKI established a Clean Air Consortium of local business and government leaders to prioritize emission reduction strategies and provide these recommendations to the state air agencies. The Consortium recommendations for compliance with the ozone standard were completed in 2005. Strategies for attaining the PM2.5 standard will be developed and prioritized in 2006



Corridor Studies

OKI has been a leader both regionally and nationally in Corridor Studies. As of February 2005, ten corridor studies or Major Investment Studies (MIS) have been completed and five are ongoing. These studies, a major component of the Long Range Plan, permit detailed evaluation of problems and potential. In addition, OKI has overseen county transportation plans or studies for Boone, Campbell Kenton and Dearborn counties.

Transportation System Management (TSM)

The TSM element is included as part of the OKI Transportation Improvement Program. Inclusion of the TSM activities in the TIP and specific reference to both the TIP and TSM in one resolution of adoption are intended to be indicative of the close relationship between these two activities. In addition, TSM is addressed in OKI's transportation plan.

Congestion Management (CMS)

For the purpose of monitoring system performance, OKI has identified a regional Congestion Management Network. It includes the roadways for which data is collected for identifying congestion problems and needed improvements, and for assessing the effectiveness of implemented actions. The congestion management network includes about 1,600 road miles and carries nearly 75% of the total regional traffic.

Ongoing system monitoring is accomplished through various data acquisition techniques including: 1) data-base management of traffic count data performed by OKI and its partners; (2) travel time surveys on the congestion management network beginning with the NHS (this UPWP commits to year three of the second three year cycle); (3) real-time travel data from ARTIMIS; (4) acquisition of transit ridership data from transit operators; (5) transit operational data from transit operators; (6) periodic inventory of freight operations in the region; (7) periodic field review of the region's highway system attributes; (8) detailed travel data in ongoing transportation corridor study areas; and (9) a framework for evaluating the effects of system improvements.

Specialized Transportation

OKI is actively involved in the review of Specialized Transportation Program applications from private, nonprofit agencies in Butler, Clermont, Hamilton and Warren counties. Each year, the OKI Intermodal Coordinating Committee establishes a subcommittee which hears and scores oral presentations from qualified applicants.

Transit Planning Assistance

OKI has provided transit planning assistance to all federally-funded of public transit systems in the region: Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority (SORTA), Transit Authority of Northern Kentucky (TANK), the Middletown Transit System, Clermont Transportation Connection, and the Warren County Transit Service.

Transportation Enhancements (TE)

Beginning with ISTEA and continuing with TEA-21 and SAFETEA-LU, the Ohio Department of Transportation has annually allocated a portion of the state's Transportation Enhancement (TE) funding to the 16 Metropolitan Planning Organizations in Ohio for distribution within their respective counties. OKI awarded three million dollars in funding to 15 local applicants in May 2000. During 2002-03, the award procedures were revised, and a second program cycle was initiated in early 2003. Since 2003, awards have been made on a project-by-project basis, as they advance to become eligible for funding. By the end of 2005, a total of 13 projects utilizing \$3.94 million in TE funding had been completed, five more (\$2.67 million) were let to construction, one (\$480,000) was scheduled for sale late in FY06, and five more (\$2.83 million) are programmed for FY07 and beyond.

Technical Services

OKI has for many years allocated a portion of its resources to the provision of technical assistance to units of local government in the areas of transportation planning, traffic engineering, and process consultation. While this does not constitute a major element of the agency's overall mission, it is a service which is greatly appreciated by local governments, many of which do not have either the staffing or the financial resources to have access to these types of services on their own. Specifically, OKI has provided technical services and acted in an umbrella capacity for three multi-jurisdictional trail system development efforts in recent years.

RideShare

OKI's RideShare service has been operational for thirty years. RideShare is a voluntary, employer-oriented activity to increase vehicle occupancy, decrease miles of travel, and improve air quality. A full-time staff is devoted to promoting and operating RideShare. The strategies utilized include direct marketing to major employers, their employees, the general public, and community groups. Promotional tools include freeway and arterial signing bearing the 241-RIDE telephone number, brochures, posters, calendars, radio advertising including drive time reports, and bus signs.

GENERAL COORDINATION EFFORTS BETWEEN OKI, STATE DOTs, FHWA, FTA, RTAs

OKI has worked closely with the ODOT, KYTC, INDOT, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Transit Administration (FTA), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), SORTA, TANK, Middletown Transit Service, Clermont Transportation Connection, and Warren County Transit in developing the multimodal approach to planning for the region. These agencies provide data, technical assistance and participate actively in the region's planning process. OKI is grateful for their assistance.

FY 2007 Unified Planning Work Program Highlights

- 1) **601 Short Range Planning:** Assistance to local jurisdictions in development of pedestrian and bike planning activities including Safe Routes to School programs, access management plans and the continuation of an active transportation enhancement (TE) program.
- 2) **602 Transportation Improvement Program:** The FY 2008 – 2011 TIP will be prepared according to ODOT's outline and timeline. Work will begin to make the electronic version of the TIP shown on the OKI website interactive.
- 3) **605 Surveillance:** GIS system is functional, additional data being acquired and developed. Continued refinement of travel model techniques and procedures. Census Transportation Planning Package commuting data will be incorporated into the model. Conversion of the model to Cube/Voyager will be completed. Traffic simulation for portions of Uptown will be developed. Traffic count data will be collected and processed. Visualization techniques required in SAFETEA-LU will be further developed.
- 4) **610 Long Range Planning:** Continue an aggressive congestion management (CMS) program. The OKI planning processes and Plan will be reviewed for SAFETEA-LU compliance. The Land Use Commission will continue its work to implement a voluntary strategic regional policy plan for growth and development.
- 5) **625.2 Transportation Services-Public Involvement Planning:** Update the public involvement process as necessary to incorporate the new and revised SAFETEA-LU regulations related to environmental justice (EJ) and Title VI.
- 6) **665.4 – Regional Ozone Reduction Program:** The program will conduct education and outreach activities aimed at protecting public health and the local economy while working towards the attainment of the national ozone and particulate matter standards.
- 7) **667.1 – Commuter Assistance Services: RideShare:** Continue to provide transportation alternatives to commuters within the Tri-State area, thereby providing energy conservation, traffic and pollution reduction and preserving the quality of life in the OKI region.
- 8) **684.5 – Uptown Transportation Study:** The study which was initiated in late 2004 will be completed. This study will develop a comprehensive transportation plan for improving connectivity, accessibility, transit and parking in the Uptown area.
- 9) **684.9 – Western Corridor Study:** The major investment study of Western Hamilton Co. will be completed.
- 10) **685.1 – Indiana Exclusive: Dearborn County Transportation Planning:** The object of this work element is to implement elements of the 3C planning process for Dearborn County.
- 11) **685.2 – Indiana Exclusive: Dearborn County Transportation Planning:** This work element will supplement the activities listed in 685.1 and 685.3 as necessary.
- 12) **685.3 - Indiana Exclusive: US 50 Corridor Study:** Involves finding solutions to the chronic traffic congestion on segments of US 50 that retain the vitality of the current businesses in the corridor and enhance economic development opportunities. Study will be completed in FY2007.
- 13) **686.1 – Kentucky Exclusive – I-471 Corridor Study:** Complete a study to identify transportation solutions for the I-471 corridor from the Ohio River to Cold Spring.

- 14) **686.3 - Kentucky Exclusive – Safety and Operations Studies:** Hands Pike in Kenton County will be the first study. Others will follow depending on resources and needs of KYTC-D6.
- 15) **710.1 – Local Water Quality Activities:** Provide technical support for local agencies as time and resources permit.
- 16) **710.2 - Great Miami Drinking Water Protection Project:** Nine project partners will help OKI improve drinking water source protection in the lower Great Miami River watershed.
- 17) **710.3 Mill Creek Headwaters Project:** A dozen project partners will help OKI implement programs that stabilize stream banks and restore floodplains.
- 18) **710.4 - Great Miami Water Runoff Reduction Project:** OKI and project partners will complete construction of the pervious parking spaces and rain gardens in a new park in the Big Bend of the Great Miami River in Colerain Township, Hamilton County.
- 19) **710.6 - Water Quality Program:** As the federally-designated regional water quality planning agency, OKI will continue to refine the base information and recommendations in the Regional Water Quality Management Plan. As part of those activities, OKI is heightening awareness of water quality issues through public education, and its involvement in groundwater projects and watershed initiatives.
- 20) **720.1 – Mobile Source Emissions Planning:** Major activities will be conformity analysis for transportation planning and coordination with state and federal agencies regarding impacts of the 8-hour standard and PM 2.5.
- 21) **800.1 – Regional Planning Activities:** Key items of focus are green space conservation and an analysis of economic development trends and issues.