

Airport Access – Engagement in Surface Transportation Planning

The following set of airport responsibilities were adapted from [FAA Bulletin 1: Best Practices-Surface Access to Airports](#). The planning process for intermodal access tends to be characterized by complexity in terms of funding and jurisdictional control, and requires planning and analytical approaches that extend beyond the field of aviation into the world of multimodal transportation. This tool, therefore, provides a starting point, only, by introducing the user to the surface transportation planning process as it relates to airport access at a high level.

- ☐ Familiarize yourself with transportation planning and programming processes related to surface transportation projects, including:
 - **Metropolitan Long-Range Transportation Plans (LRTPs)**: 20+ year surface transportation planning documents prepared by MPOs
 - **Transportation Improvement Programs (TIPs)**: Short-term fiscally-constrained programs of priority transportation projects (similar to an individual Airport Capital Improvement Plan)
 - **Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)**: A compilation of MPO TIPs and State DOT projects for areas outside the jurisdiction of an MPO (similar to a FAA regional office Airport Capital Improvement Plan)

For more information, consult USDOT's [A Guide to Transportation Decisionmaking](#).

- ☐ Work to ensure that airport master plan and state/regional aviation system plans identify surface access needs for your airport.
- ☐ Maintain regular channels of communication with MPOs, State DOT regional offices, and State DOT aviation offices. Even if you are not currently advocating for a specific form of airport access improvement, it is important to maintain awareness of planning efforts that may affect your airport and to communicate airport perspectives early-on within specific planning efforts (e.g. corridor studies in the airport area).
- ☐ Consult with State DOTs, local transit operators, and MPOs or local planning bodies to understand the requirements associated with planning and implementing an off-airport surface transportation project. Key determinations to be made include:
 - Jurisdictional control
 - Data and analysis needed to justify the project
 - How to get worthwhile off-airport access projects incorporated into long-range transportation plan or TIP
 - Appropriate funding mechanisms and options
- ☐ Consult with State aviation agencies to determine willingness to support project entry into the TIP/STIP or long-range transportation plan
- ☐ Obtain local support for airport access (and airfield) projects
- ☐ Work with the State DOT and transit operator to get projects on STIP and subsequently implemented