

New Visions Update for 2010

An update of the New Visions Plan will be needed by the October 2011. This short time frame will not allow an in-depth, comprehensive update to the plan. It will be a maintenance update that should extend the plan horizon to 2031 or 2035 to reaffirm the New Visions Plan and meet the federal requirements. It will also draft the game plan for the next phase, which will be a more in-depth update with a 2040 horizon; that could be completed as late as 2015. The timing of the 2040 plan update will allow for more comprehensive analysis and more extensive discussions with regional stakeholders, and will also afford us the opportunity to make the plan consistent with a new federal transportation reauthorization act, which is not expected until after 2011.

The maintenance plan effort will conclude by October 2011. The 2040 plan update will begin after October 2011 and will be a multi year effort that should be completed no later than by 2015. Although the HUD sustainability grant application submitted by CDRPC was not approved, CDTC will explore aspects of the sustainability grant application that can be further developed in the more in-depth 2040 plan update.

Maintenance Plan

CDTC staff proposes that we pursue a maintenance plan update consisting of staff work to produce brief status reports on all key aspects of the New Visions 2030 Plan; opportunities for Planning and Policy members and other interested parties to comment on the assessments and contribute ideas for consideration in scoping out the subsequent plan update; extension of the horizon and conformity determination, and adoption. Tasks for the maintenance plan include:

- Select a horizon date—perhaps 2035.
- Explore and verify that issues have not changed substantially, even with the new horizon date.
- Update conditions, including infrastructure and funding.
- Outline what will be included in the in-depth update, and start discussions about what will be included.
- Examine the New Visions 2030 funding assumptions.
- Produce a two page summary for each major subject area in the Plan. Document the level of change in each subject since the New Visions 2030 adoption in 2007 and discuss how the maintenance plan addresses that change. Propose further treatment for each subject in the in-depth update.
- Complete a conclusion that sums up all of the subject areas.
- Present this document to the public well in advance of October 2011. Reach out regular ways, partners; internet; other. The public summary will include a summary of New Visions; one or more paragraphs on the status of each subject area; and ask for a response to our take on each subject.

- Incorporate public comments as appropriate.
- Develop a proposal for the subsequent major update (??) for Planning Committee to review in September 2011 prior to policy action on the maintenance plan update in October 2011.

Major Subjects to Address in the Maintenance Plan Effort

In some fashion, the 20+ subjects found on CDTC's "What Does New Visions Say About?..." web page must be covered in the maintenance plan effort. These subjects are:

- Traffic congestion
- Bridge and Road conditions
- Safety
- Uncertainty
- Arterial Management
- The TIP
- Public Participation
- Elderly & Disabled (incl ADA)
- Security
- Transit
- Funding
- Growth Futures
- Air Quality
- Equitable Treatment (incl social equity)
- Quality Communities / Quality Region
- Land Use
- Bike / Pedestrian transportation
- Freight
- Expressways
- Big Ideas
- Urban Challenges
- Local Decisions
- Environmental Impacts / Sustainability

"Covering" these subjects means describing the successes achieved in implementing the New Visions 2030 plan since its adoption; identifying emerging challenges to the long-range assumptions incorporated into the 2030 plan; confirming that the basic policy stance of the New Visions 2030 plan is still valid; and listing the questions that should be pursued (at the appropriate time) in the next, major plan update. These discussions are anticipated to be handled through a handful of short (one-to-three-page) summary documents that address one or more related subjects. The public outreach summary will highlight the material from these documents.

The CDTC New Visions Plan continues to enjoy strong support in the Capital District region and has been the subject of a number of national case studies demonstrating how

regional transportation plans can be supportive of the new US DOT livability principles. The maintenance plan is expected to reaffirm the New Visions Plan. One area expected to require serious discussion, however, is the impact of persistent flat (and reduced) funding levels on the New Visions 2030 fiscal plan.