

Environmental Mitigation and Consultation Technical Report *Summary*



Overview

The current federal legislation contains a requirement that the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) include “a discussion of types of potential environmental mitigation activities and potential areas to carry out these activities, including activities that may have the greatest potential to restore and maintain the environmental functions affected by the metropolitan transportation plan. ...This discussion shall be developed in consultation with Federal, State and Tribal land management, wildlife, and regulatory agencies.” A three-step process was used to help address this Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) requirement:

- Define and inventory the environmentally sensitive species and resources
- Identify and assess likely impacts on these species and areas from transportation projects
- Address possible mitigation at the system-wide level through consultation with other agencies.

Environmental Mitigation Process

While preparing this environmental report for the LRTP, staff consulted with agencies that are responsible for environmental protection, historical preservation, natural resource management, transportation services, economic development, human services, and land use planning. See Appendix B of the full report for a list of agencies that were contacted for this section. Through these consultation efforts, staff hopes to take into account potential system-wide environmental impacts of transportation improvements and how such impacts, if they affect environmentally sensitive areas, might be mitigated.

Project Type (Number of Planned Projects)	Number of Projects that Could Potentially Impact Resources										
	Water Resources (1)	Wetlands	Floodplains	Groundwater Resources (2)	Woodlands	Parks and Recreation Areas	Historic Sites	Cemeteries	Heritage Route	Historic Bridges	Non-motorized Facilities
Bridge (12 projects)	9	3	8	0	9	1	2	0	0	0	1
Congestion (Capacity) (19 projects)	19	17	15	6	19	2	2	4	1	0	6
Safety (9 projects)	7	6	3	1	9	2	0	0	0	0	0
Non- motorized (3 projects)	3	2	3	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	3
Pavement (23 projects)	20	21	19	4	23	5	2	2	1	1	5
Study (1 projects)	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Transit (1 Project)	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
Maintenance (3 Projects)	1	1	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0

Consultation

The process that staff used for consultation was based on the recommendations of the Federal Highway Administration. The consultation process had some similarities to the environmental mitigation notification process and because of that, some crossover was used between the two processes. The Public Participation List that the Genesee County Metropolitan Planning Commission (GCMPC) uses for transportation planning outreach was used as a starting point for the consultation process. The participation list encompasses many of the types of agencies and contacts targeted in the environmental mitigation process.

For those agencies targeted strictly for consultation, a process of notification and information was chosen. A letter explaining the consultation process was provided to those agencies in the participation list that fit the criteria set forth in MAP-21. A sample of this letter as well as the environmental mitigation letter is listed in Appendix B of the full report. An explanation of the long range transportation planning process along with information about how that process is utilized in the Flint/Genesee

County Metropolitan Area and the role of the Genesee County Metropolitan Alliance was included in the mailing. Finally, a listing of the proposed 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan projects was also provided along with directions on how to provide input on the planning process, how to submit comments on the project list and how to contact GCMPC staff if direct interaction was preferred. Those agencies targeted through the Environmental Mitigation process received a web link to the full environmental narrative including the maps and GIS data that highlighted potentially affected environmentally sensitive areas.

On September 29, 2014 staff held an open meeting to provide an opportunity for consultation with other agencies. Staff provided copies of this report, all maps, and digital copies of the GIS files used. Although it was not required for consultation agencies to attend, it did provide an opportunity to engage in person-to-person discussion regarding the proposed projects as well as answer any questions an agency may have. Agencies were also able to send written comments if unable to attend.