

Gadsden-Etowah Long Range Transportation Plan Fact Sheet

Background Information

Federal law requires Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) to maintain and periodically update a Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) that assesses community transportation needs and establishes strategic solutions to meet those needs. The Gadsden-Etowah MPO (GEMPO) is responsible for fulfilling the transportation planning requirements for the Gadsden urbanized area (see map on back page). The Long Range Transportation Plan, which was adopted in January 2005, outlines a multimodal transportation plan through the year 2030. The long range transportation plan must be updated every five years. The consulting firm of JACOBS, a transportation planning and engineering firm based in Atlanta, Georgia is conducting the update of the Gadsden-Etowah area's travel demand model and LRTP to the year 2035.

The purpose of updating the LRTP is to ensure the efficient movement of people and goods while supporting the community's land use and economic development goals. With continued growth and development in the Gadsden-Etowah area, it is important to assess transportation goals, objectives and performance to ensure the transportation system meets current and future community needs.

Study Process

The study is organized into three main tasks:

- **Task 1** of the study will focus on establishing the LRTP process and collecting data to examine existing and future conditions. The region's travel demand model will be updated to reflect population and employment projections through year 2035.
- **Task 2**, existing and future travel demands within the Gadsden-Etowah area will be evaluated. The study team will meet with MPO Committees and the public to determine the area's existing and future transportation needs.
- Once needs are identified, a long range plan of projects to address needs will be developed in **Task 3**. This process will assess how projects address future travel demand, the effectiveness of transportation strategies, estimated implementation, and project costs. A program of recommended projects and strategies will be developed and presented to MPO Committees and citizens for review and comment.

What's Happening Now?

- Data collection and travel demand forecast model development is underway. The consultant team and GEMPO will collect transportation, land use, and demographic data, as well as review previous studies. The data and findings from previous studies will be used to develop the model and assess needs.
- Public involvement and community outreach are important elements of the study. Ongoing public input will provide valuable insight into needs identification and assessment. On August 27, 2009 the first series of public information meetings will be held in the study area in the Conference Room at the Chamber, 1 Commerce Square in Gadsden from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and the in the ALACO Room at the Senior Activity Center, 623 Broad Street in Gadsden from 4 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. These meetings will follow an open house format, so we encourage you to attend any time during the period scheduled and provide your input.

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