Achieving an Efficient Transportation Management System

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Why Plan?

Basis for local policy development and evaluation

- Technical, Professional, and Administrative Staff are not policy-makers
- Provides guidance and technical documentation for those who are (Council)
Why Plan?

**Basis for local policy development and evaluation**
- Ensures that the “Topic, Issue, or Problem of the Day” does not detract from long-term transportation programming and daily demands of operation and maintenance
- Allows for public participation

Why Plan?

**Effective decision-making**
- Provides a roadmap (*no pun intended*) for day-to-day decision-making concerning transportation improvements
- Provides clear direction when many alternatives exist
Why Plan?

**Effective decision-making**
- Can provide a central source of data or information to address new problems when they arise
- Provides standards for capital improvements

Why Plan?

**Ease political demands**
- Involves citizens and elected officials
- Helps keep emphasis on data and defined needs rather than politics
- Helps to streamline annual capital budgeting process
Why Plan?

Increased access to capital project funding

- Identifies preferred funding sources
- Shows state and federal funding agencies that a need and a local commitment exist for a given project

Why Plan?

Increased levels of service

- Resurfacing/reconstruction
- Snow removal
- Sidewalk/ramp maintenance and reconstruction
- Striping and signage maintenance
**Why Plan?**

- **Overall asset management**
  - GASB 34 compliance
  - Life-cycle costing
  - Proactive maintenance saves taxpayer money

**Opportunities for Local Transportation Planning**

- **Project Planning - new construction**
  - Complete a planning phase prior to the start of design
  - May not be necessary if some type of overall transportation planning has been completed
  - What are the project objectives?
Opportunities for Local Transportation Planning

Project Planning - new construction
- How will the project be funded, and what are the budget constraints?
- Impacts of construction timing?
- How will the negative impacts of construction be minimized or mitigated?

Comprehensive Plans / Thoroughfare Plans
- Establishes policies for future land use and thoroughfare development
- Provides a link between new development and transportation needs
- Confirms or recommends changes to functional classifications
- May be much more detailed
Opportunities for Local Transportation Planning

- **Capital Improvement Plans**
  - Identifies specific capital projects, costs, and relative priorities over a time-certain period
  - May be based upon the Comprehensive Plan, Thoroughfare Plan, or other overall planning document

Opportunities for Local Transportation Planning

- **Capital Improvement Plans**
  - Helps to identify probable funding shortfalls so that additional revenues or funding sources can be sought over a multi-year capital planning period
Opportunities for Local Transportation Planning

- **Area Plans**
  - Downtown areas
  - Target areas for annexation or new growth and development
  - TIF districts

- **Emergency Response Plans**
  - Evacuation routes
  - Emergency response procedures
  - Railroad considerations
  - Promotion & public awareness
Opportunities for Local Transportation Planning

Specific Inventories and Management Plans
- Pavement management
- Pedestrian facilities
- Bridges
- Drainage

The Basics of Data Collection and Management for Planning and Reporting

System Mapping
- Consolidate Maps

Database
- Track Different Sets of Data

Keep It Current
- Data Inventory Form

Interactive Mapping Option
- Photos and Video Documentation
Pro - Professional Research of Operations and Systems

Cedar Lake

Valparaiso
Typical Questions

- How long does the mapping and inventory take?
- How much does the mapping and inventory process cost?
- Does the mapping and inventory process need to be done at the same time?

Typical Questions

- If I have some of the data already collected, can we use it?
- How do I update the information?
- Can the municipality’s staff help in the process?
- What is the benefit to the community?
- Can the data be used for a GIS?
For more information:

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