

Loudoun County Project Selection Process

Comprehensive Plan

The Loudoun County Comprehensive Plan (Comprehensive Plan) provides policy guidance on land and infrastructure development. The Loudoun County Countywide Transportation Plan (CTP) is a volume of the County's Comprehensive Plan, alongside other volumes such as the General Plan (General Plan), both of which were last revised in 2019 and which have a current horizon year of 2040. The Comprehensive Plan forms the policy foundation for the County's various regulatory documents. The CTP provides the policy foundation for the County's transportation network; policies are included for each mode of transportation and geographic policy area; mitigating impacts of development; regional, state and local coordination; environmental and heritage resources; and prioritization, funding, and implementation. The CTP is guided by a set of goals developed based upon public input and affirmed by the Board of Supervisors.

CTP Vision and Goals

1. Enhanced multimodal safety for all system users.
2. A reliable and efficient multimodal transportation network that manages the travel demands of the County while maintaining fiscal and environmental sustainability.
3. Transportation choices that connect people to their communities, employment centers, educational institutions, activity centers, and other amenities.
4. Integration with neighboring jurisdictions to improve regional and statewide connectivity and to attract residents and businesses to Loudoun County.
5. Support the growth and potential of enhanced national and international connectivity including consideration of Washington Dulles International Airport and the Silver Line Metrorail stations.
6. Context-sensitive planning and design that addresses the different characteristics and needs of the Urban, Suburban, Transition, Towns, County/Town Joint Land Management Areas, and Rural environments.
7. A transportation network supportive of the County's overall vision to support economic development, create vibrant, safe communities and public spaces, and protect natural and heritage resources.

Prioritization

The County sets priorities for its planned transportation improvements to be able to efficiently focus public and private resources on projects needed in both the short- and long-term. The CTP includes policies that call for the County to base transportation decisions in part on its land use policies contained in the General Plan and the CTP and its transportation model outputs. Road and other transportation infrastructure improvements will promote traffic, pedestrian, and bicycle safety and mobility. Priorities outlined in the CTP are given to:

- Projects that complete missing segments of arterial and major collector corridors
- Projects within the County's Intersection Improvement Program
- Projects to provide connectivity in and around the County's Metrorail stations
- Projects that provide significant economic development benefits to the County
- Projects within the County's Sidewalk and Trail Program
- Projects that incorporate "complete streets" concepts and features

Projects are reviewed each year as part of County's Capital Improvement Program (CIP) and VDOT's Six-Year Improvement Program (SYIP). Public involvement and participation are encouraged through public hearings on both program documents.

Funding

The funding of transportation infrastructure requires significant expenditure of capital, typically beyond the resources of local government. Traditionally, the County has depended on State and Federal funds for the design and construction of transportation projects, augmented by private sector contributions, known as proffers. In recent years, the County has also committed to greater local funding options for transportation, including the sale of bonds and the use of innovative financing options, along with use of regional funds administered by NVTA. The County's CIP identifies projects with programmed and approved funding, with an emphasis on setting priorities through the annual CIP process and project review.