

WJCTC LRTP 2050 Update

Public Meeting #1 Summary



Overview

On March 12, 2024, the Watertown Jefferson County Area Transportation Council (WJCTC) held a kick-off public meeting for the Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) 2050 Update. This meeting was held at the Watertown City Council Chambers located on the third floor of 245 Washington Street.

Project Background

The LRTP 2050 Update will develop an integrated multi-modal surface transportation system, giving priority to those elements that serve regional, statewide, and national goals. The WJCTC, Barton and Loguidice, and WSP held this public meeting to introduce the project purpose and goals to community stakeholders that have an interest in the region's existing transportation needs.

Public Meeting (5:00-7:00pm)

Keith Ewald, from Barton & Loguidice, convened the meeting and asked participants to introduce themselves (see Appendix A for a list of attendees). Keith then used a PowerPoint presentation (see Appendix B) to give a brief introduction about what the LRTP is, the role of the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), and the need to update the long-range transportation plan every five years. Keith emphasized the importance of hearing from stakeholders and gathering information for analysis.

The presentation covered the following:

What is the WJCTC?

- Federally designated transportation agency for urbanized areas >50,000 population
- Responsible for transportation planning and programming within the urbanized area

Purpose of the Plan

- Sets regional transportation goals and policy
- Basis for transportation expenditures

The Plan is Multimodal: Transit, roads, rail, pedestrian/bike, air

How Can YOU Help? By providing input on:

- Where do regional transportation challenges exist?
- What are the opportunities to improve regional transportation?

- Where should Federal transportation dollars be focused?
 - Roadways, Freight, Safety, Transit, Bike/Ped, Air/ Rail?

What do YOU think?

- Visit the topic stations
- Ask questions
- Use sticky notes to share ideas about needs, opportunities, programs, etc.

How to Stay Involved

- Take the survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Q8PDVFK>
- Review materials on our website: www.WJCTC.org
- Look for future public involvement opportunities
 - Draft Plan –May 2024
- Provide us with your contact info to get project updates

Keith then asked if there were any questions.

Q&A

- Terrance Cooley:
 - Bike infrastructure is important.
 - Safety concerns from Carthage to Fort Drum for bikes (Route 3, Route 26) – vehicle speeds, narrow shoulder.
 - Pedestrian infrastructure improvements are needed.
 - More public transit is needed.

Stations

After the Q&A was completed, attendees were invited to visit the five stations to ask questions and provide feedback. Photos of this are included in Appendix C. The five station topics with comments received are listed here:

- Trails and Bike Lanes
 - Lack of safety for cyclists on the roads
 - Small shoulders on Route 3 from Carthage to Fort Drum
 - Challenges:
 - Connecting the existing trails
 - More bike lanes within the City
 - More safety for pedestrians/cyclists
- Public Transit
 - Public transportation to and from Carthage – Fort Drum – Watertown
- Safety
- Roads and Traffic
- Freight

APPENDIX A

Public Meeting Attendees

First Name	Last Name	Affiliation/Organization
Terrance	Cooley	JeffCoBiking Facebook Group
Craig	Fox	Watertown Daily News
John	Exford	Volunteer Transportation Center
Brandi	Smith	Volunteer Transportation Center
Kris	Reff	NYSDOT / WJCTC
Goeff	Urda	City of Watertown / WJCTC
Jim	Lawrence	Jefferson County
Barb	Cadwell	NYSDOT / WJCTC
Keith	Ewald	Barton and Loguidice
Katie	O'Sullivan	WSP
Tanya	Zwahlen	Highland Planning
Julie	Boasi	Highland Planning

WATERTOWN // JEFFERSON COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL

2050 Long Range Transportation Plan Update

Public Meeting
March 12, 2024

Today's Topics

- What is the WJCTC?
- What are our transportation needs?

LONG TERM:

What kind of transportation system should we have in place by the year 2050?

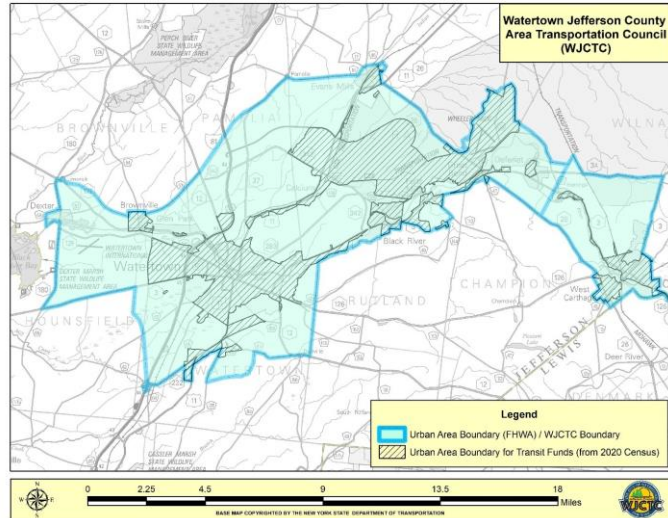
SHORT TERM:

What transportation projects and programs are needed in the next 5 years?



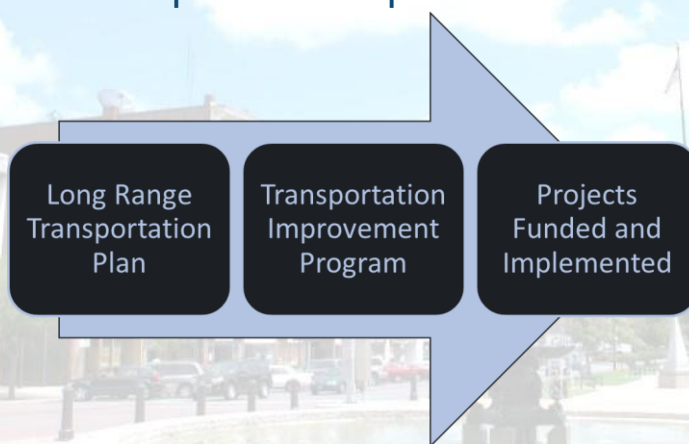
What is the WJCTC?

- ❑ Federally-designated transportation agency for urbanized areas >50,000 population
- ❑ Responsible for transportation planning and programming *within the urbanized area*



Purpose of the Plan

- ❑ Sets regional transportation goals and policy
- ❑ Basis for transportation expenditures



The Plan is Multimodal



How Can YOU Help?

Provide input on:

- Where regional transportation challenges exist?
- What are the opportunities to improve regional transportation?
- Where should Federal transportation dollars be focused?

- ✓ Roadways
- ✓ Transit
- ✓ Freight
- ✓ Bike/Ped
- ✓ Safety
- ✓ Air/ Rail



What do YOU think?

- Visit the topic stations
- Ask questions
- Use sticky notes to share ideas about needs, opportunities, programs, etc.



How to Stay Involved

Take the survey and review materials on our website: WJCTC.org

Look for future public involvement opportunities

- Draft Plan – May 2024

Provide us with your contact info to get project updates.

Thank You!



APPENDIX C

Meeting Photos



