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## **1996 LRTP GOALS AND STRATEGIES**

### **GOAL 1) MOBILITY: Improve Mobility for Mississippi's People, Commerce And Industry**

1. Continue aggressive implementation of Phase I, II and III of the 1987 Four-Lane Highway Program
2. Extend the Four-Lane Highway Program to include Phase IV
3. Continue support for the State-Aid System
4. Initiate a program for widening and paving of shoulders on selected arterial and collector routes
5. Maintain the state's participation in research and implementation of Intelligent Transportation Systems (formerly called Intelligent Vehicle/Highway Systems)
6. Establish coordinated regional public transportation processes that involve the needs of the communities
7. Continue to support airport improvements and development
8. Promote preservation of and increased use of the state's rail system
9. Encourage continued development and use of the state's waterports
10. Provide safe, comfortable travel for pedestrians and bicyclists along corridors and within existing communities and new developments

### **GOAL 2) SAFETY: Ensure High Standards of Safety in the Transportation System**

1. Design and implement a Safety Management System (SMS) that will assist in reducing fatalities, injuries and property damage accidents on the highway system
2. Encourage a secure and safe environment for public transportation that includes operationally safe equipment, facilities and personal security
3. Systematically reduce the number of at-grade rail-highway grade crossings
4. Upgrade existing passively protected rail-highway grade crossings through the systematic installation of electronically activated gates and flashing lights and encourage local communities to improve sight distances at all crossings

5. Develop and implement comprehensive safety awareness, education and training programs for system users
6. Participate in transportation planning relating to protecting existing and future airway corridors for arriving and departing air traffic at airports
7. Support measures to ensure waterway safety and to reduce conflicts between recreational boating and commercial shipping

**GOAL 3) ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: Provide a Transportation System that Encourages and Supports Mississippi's Economic Development**

1. Implement the program for Casino Roads
2. Participate in implementation of the Economic Development Highways Program
3. Complete the Mississippi portions of the Appalachian Corridor V and Corridor X Development Highways and develop applicable access roads
4. Encourage rural intercity and small urban public transportation services to support job development in rural areas of Mississippi
5. Promote a balanced freight transportation system that takes advantage of the inherent efficiencies of each mode
6. Assure effective transportation linkages for freight and passengers to attract a larger share of international trade to the state
7. Attract bicycle tourists by supporting the improvement of bicycle facilities at Mississippi's scenic and recreational areas

**GOAL 4) INTERMODAL EFFICIENCY AND CONNECTIVITY: Improve Intermodal Efficiency and Connectivity in Transportation Systems**

1. Develop an intermodal program for transportation facilities that will encourage transfers between the transportation modes
2. Consider prioritizing transportation system improvements and investments to be based on intermodal connectivity

**GOAL 5) SYSTEM MANAGEMENT: Establish and Maintain Effective Transportation System Management Processes**

1. Develop new management systems and enhance existing management systems
2. Address integration of bicycle and pedestrian concerns into the statewide transportation planning process
3. Ensure that MDOT's staff is technically proficient, professionally qualified, maintained at levels appropriate to program requirements in accordance with

available resources and that MDOT's organizational structure is properly matched with functional and program requirements

4. Require all public transportation systems and operators to provide regular reports on equipment inventory and status, revenues, expenses, and passenger patronage
5. Assist in solving the problems of rapidly increasing traffic at airports that are near casino operations
6. Support development of the Statewide Air Systems Plan
7. Consider and support intermodal studies at specifically selected airports experiencing a rapid increase in air traffic
8. Strengthen the institutional basis of support for waterborne commerce and provide leadership, service and technical assistance to marine transportation by appropriate organization, staffing and budgeting within MDOT

**GOAL 6) MAINTENANCE AND PRESERVATION: Maintain and Preserve Mississippi's Transportation System**

1. Complete reconstruction and relocation of deficient segments of state highways as funding priorities allow
2. Implement capital preventive maintenance in a timely and systematic manner, and at an investment level that minimizes life-cycle costs
3. Aggressively enforce vehicle weight and size regulations so that pavements and bridges are not subjected to loads which would result in premature deterioration
4. Support improved maintenance and planned replacement of public transportation equipment and facilities
5. Preserve and maintain the existing transportation infrastructure in good, safe and useable condition. Preserve railroad rights-of-way, trackage and facilities with near-term future viability, and preserve other abandoned rail lines or rights-of-way for future railroad reuse or other public use, particularly those previously identified for inclusion in the rails-to-trails program
6. Support airport development and maintenance programs
7. Evaluate the emerging problem of competing demands for waterfront land that may be needed for port expansion or other marine transportation functions

**GOAL 7) ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY: Ensure that Transportation System Development is Sensitive to Environmental and Energy Conservation Concerns**

1. Follow procedures set forth in MDOT's Standard Operating Procedures Plan for Environmental, Social and Economic Considerations

2. Continue to comply with air quality standards in making transportation decisions
3. Work with other agencies to encourage environmentally responsible and aesthetically pleasing transportation systems
4. Link public transportation, energy conservation and environmental planning to enhance and preserve the natural resources of Mississippi
5. Work toward resolution of the complex problems surrounding dredging of channels and dredge spoil disposal
6. Support a process to resolve problems caused by the need for replacement mitigation for lands filled or reclaimed for port expansion or dredge spoil disposal
7. Work toward reducing obstacles to needed development and excessive delays in acquiring necessary environmental approvals
8. Encourage land use planning that will incorporate public transportation, walking and bicycles
9. Support actions that will reduce transportation-related energy consumption

**GOAL 8) PARTNERSHIPS AND COOPERATIVE PROCESSES: Create Effective Transportation Partnerships and Cooperative Processes**

1. Work with local governments regarding their transportation needs
2. Maximize benefits from technical and research advancements that may be applied to continued development of high quality transportation systems
3. Encourage more public-private partnerships in the expansion of rural transit services and the connectivity between rural transportation services and intercity
4. Promote effective public-private transportation partnerships. Encourage public-private rail ventures and Class I short line ventures
5. Assist in the promotion of airports for tourism use
6. Continue the partnership between the DECD, the Department of Transportation and providers of transportation for marketing of transport services
7. Continue the advisory group for transportation concerns at the state level

**GOAL 9) FINANCE: Provide a Sound Financial Basis for the Transportation System**

- 1) Establish a balanced funding program to achieve MDOT's objective with the funds made available to the Department
- 2) Cooperate with the Governor and the Legislature in restructuring revenue laws as appropriate

- 3) Alleviate the anticipated shortfall of funds for planned public transportation improvements and maintenance programs and stimulate economic development by improving public transportation networks, and broadening and encouraging use of public transport
- 4) Explore additional funding from nonfederal sources to assist local governments in financing the nonfederal share of the transportation improvement program
- 5) Stimulate further development of the general aviation industry in small communities and the air carrier airports
- 6) Encourage better access for financing of major capital improvement projects for ports