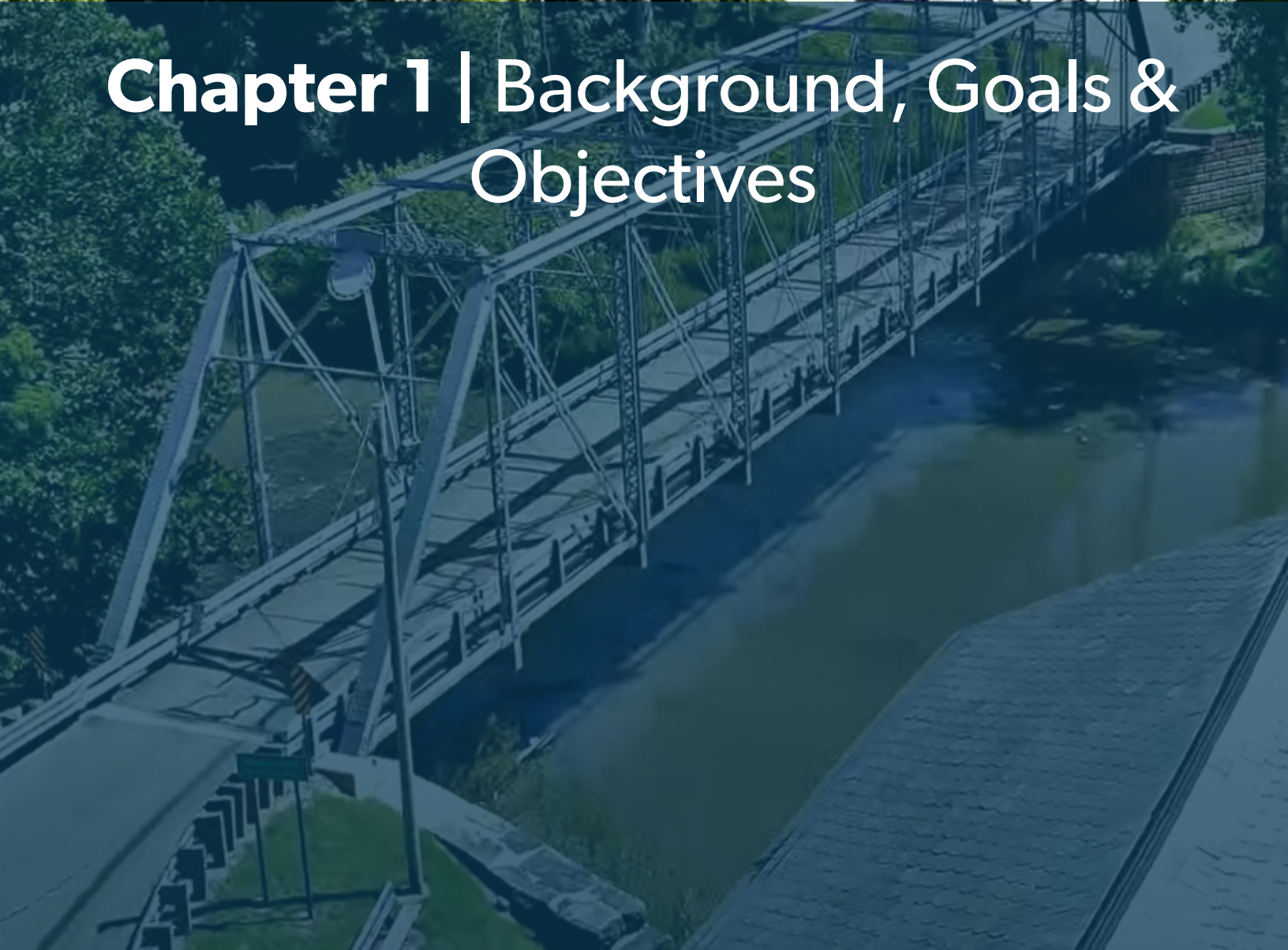




Chapter 1 | Background, Goals & Objectives



Below is a listing of RTPO work products and a summary of the federally required duties.

RTPO Major Work Products

Long-Range Transportation Plan - RTPOs are required to develop long-range transportation plans. The plan should identify the multimodal and intermodal transportation policies and facilities needed to meet the RTPO's travel demand for a minimum twenty-year horizon. This plan is intended to fulfill this requirement for the WORPO RTPO.

Regional Transportation Improvement Program - This requirement is a four-year planning document developed to reflect the investment priorities of the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) for the RTPO region. The document serves to reflect the continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive planning effort to advance the transportation needs of the region. WORPO will create the TIP for 2026-2029 in early 2025 with the completion of this Long-Range Transportation Plan.

Annual RTPO Work Program - RTPOs must develop a work program consistent with federal and state regulations each year that discusses the RTPO's planning priorities as well as transportation-related planning activities expected during the next state fiscal year. WORPO's work program will be created in early 2025 with the completion of this Long-Range Transportation Plan.

RTPO Responsibilities & Activities

Transportation Equity - Title IV of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibits discrimination based on race, color, or national origin in programs that receive federal assistance, including transportation projects (Title VI, 42 U.S.C. § 2000d). Title IV applies to the planning process and planning products produced by RTPOs. Environmental Justice requirements, which are also included in Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, must also be met through the RTPO planning process.

Public Involvement - Each RTPO should have an adopted, proactive, and published public involvement process. The process must provide complete information, timely public notice, full public access to key decisions, and support early and continuing involvement of the public in developing plans and programs.

Technical Assistance - RTPO agencies view their staff as a transportation resource for the region. WORPO staff works with member governments to identify needed transportation improvements and to help their members prepare project funding applications.

Special Studies - RTPOs should engage their member communities in discussions of regional needs and based on the discussions, lead special studies that address needs identified by their member communities.

WORPO Committees and Governance Structure

WORPO is governed by a 21-member Rural Planning Committee (RPC). Each of the seven member counties has three members that serve on this committee on bi-annual terms. Two members from each county are county-appointed members, and they consist of the County Engineer and one County Commissioner. The third member is a county representative nominated by the two county appointed members.

The RPC is the forum for cooperative, regional decision-making that takes the required approval actions as the RTP. The goal of this committee is to enhance the planning, coordination, and implementation of statewide strategic long-range transportation plans and transportation improvement programs, with an emphasis on addressing the needs of non-metropolitan areas of the State.

Each county also administers a County Subcommittee that discusses county-specific transportation priorities, needs, and desires. This committee can consist of a variety of transportation and economic development professionals, county, municipal, and township representatives, and include representatives for all modes of transportation including bicycle/pedestrian, and transit.



Historic Downtown Van Wert, Ohio

Goals & Objectives

In order to prepare a successful long range transportation plan, goals and objectives were developed to be used as a guide for the approach to improving the transportation system over the next 25 years.

Plan goals and objectives were developed by WORPO's Rural Planning Committee and the public and meant to shepherd transportation investments throughout the region in the future.

Goals & Objectives



Improve **Safety** for all users.

- Support and prioritize projects that enhance safety for all modes and all users.
- Reduce the number and rate of fatal and serious injury crashes.
- Reduce the number of fatal and serious injury nonmotorized crashes (including bicycle, pedestrian, and buggy).
- Reduce the number of property damage crashes.
- Improve user education to minimize unsafe driving behaviors such as a lack of seatbelt use, distracted driving, impaired driving, and others.



Maintain the existing transportation network in a **State of Good Repair**.

- Minimize the number of bridges in fair or poor condition.
- Maximize the miles of pavement in good or excellent condition.
- Maximize the utilization of bike and pedestrian paths for recreational purposes.



Enhance the transportation system to be **Environmentally Sustainable and Resilient** to natural disasters.

- Support projects that improve air quality.
- Reduce the environmental impacts of transportation related activities.
- Minimize impacts to the transportation network from flooding.

Goals & Objectives



Expand **Access** to the transportation network for all users.

- Increase multimodal access to employment areas and sites.
- Support incorporation of bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure where possible in new construction projects.
- Increase mobility options to improve accessibility for all population groups.
- Support the development of intermodal and multimodal hubs to facilitate the safe and efficient transfer of people and goods between transportation modes.



Strengthen **Economic Competitiveness** through improvements to the transportation network.

- Identify regional growth and investment areas to coordinate improvements to the transportation network.
- Facilitate the movement of goods into and out of the area and improve the mobility of all freight modes.
- Accommodate the movement of large and sometimes oversize farm equipment and vehicles.
- Enhance connectivity to the statewide Strategic Transportation System to access national and global markets.
- Support projects that create and retain jobs.
- Improve connections to regional job centers and employers.

Goals & Objectives



Increase **Collaboration** between partners throughout the region.

- Increase outreach, coordination and collaboration among local governments, area residents, businesses and other community groups and organizations.
- Incorporate targeted outreach to historically underserved communities and environmental justice populations as part of public engagement efforts.
- Ensure transportation facilities are consistent with land use, economic development, housing, environmental, and sustainability plans.
- Work with JobsOhio Network Partners and local economic development organizations to provide critical transportation infrastructure for catalytic commercial/industrial development sites.