



Transportation Choices 2030 and SAFETEA-LU

This statewide long-range transportation plan is specifically required by federal legislation, as well as by New Jersey law, and its content is mandated. The Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) continues use of statewide transportation planning factors that were originally established in the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (ISTEA) and consolidated into seven general categories under the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21), but SAFETEA-LU separated safety and security and expanded environmental and energy conservation to create the following eight factors:

“Each State shall carry out a transportation planning process that provides for consideration and implementation of projects, strategies and services that will address the following factors:

- (1) Support the economic vitality of the United States, the States, and metropolitan areas, and non-metropolitan areas especially by enabling global competitiveness, productivity, and efficiency;
- (2) Increase the safety of the transportation system for motorized and nonmotorized users;
- (3) Increase the security of the transportation system for motorized and nonmotorized users;
- (4) Increase accessibility and mobility of people and freight;
- (5) Protect and enhance the environment, promote energy conservation, and improve quality of life, and promote the consistency between transportation improvements and State and local planned growth and economic development patterns;
- (6) Enhance the integration and connectivity of the transportation system, across and between modes throughout the State, for people and freight;
- (7) Promote efficient system management and operation; and
- (8) Emphasize the preservation of the existing transportation system.”

The discussion below highlights how each of these factors is addressed in *Transportation Choices 2030*.

Support Economic Vitality

Sound transportation is essential to economic vitality. Workers must be able to get to their jobs, and goods must be transported. Goals 4 (Improve Mobility, Accessibility, Reliability) and 7 (Optimize Freight Movement) are the most directly involved in supporting economic vitality, but the other goals also contribute. Goals, policies, strategies and actions that focus on maintaining and renewing the existing transportation infrastructure, operating roadways and transit systems efficiently, integrating land use and transportation planning, ensuring safety and security, and protecting the environment are all essential to support economic vitality.

Increase Safety

Goal 3 (Increase Safety and Security) directly addresses this aspect for drivers, transit riders, bicyclists and pedestrians. It speaks to reducing injuries, fatalities and property damage.

Increase Security

Goal 3 (Increase Safety and Security) includes preparing for and responding to both man-made and natural emergencies.

Increase Accessibility & Mobility Options for People and Freight

As noted, Goals 4 and 7 directly address these planning factors.

Protect the Environment, Promote Energy Conservation, Improve Quality of Life, and Promote the Consistency between Transportation Improvements and State and Local Planned Growth and Economic Development Patterns

Goal 6 is Respect the Environment, and includes policies to promote environmental stewardship and enhance quality of life. In addition, the plan contains strategies and actions to reduce the number of automobile and truck trips, which will conserve energy, reduce emissions, and contribute to quality of life goals. Goal 2 (Integrate Transportation and Land Use Planning) emphasizes smart growth, which reduces motorized trips and supports healthier lifestyles in mixed-use communities.

Enhance Integration and Connectivity

Goal 2, which focuses on integrating land use and transportation planning, emphasizes roadway connections and bicycle and pedestrian routes, and Goal 7 supports projects such as Portway I which would improve truck connections to Port Newark/Elizabeth. Goal 4 (Improve Mobility, Accessibility, Reliability) has as a policy “Improve Connections,” which applies to all modes.

Promote Efficient System Management and Operation

This planning factor is directly addressed by Goal 5, Operate Efficiently, and is supported indirectly by most of the other goals.

Emphasize Preservation of the Existing System

Goal 1, Maintain and Renew Transportation Infrastructure, has as its first policy “Fix It First,” and includes NJ TRANSIT’s equivalent “Back to Basics.”

SAFETEA-LU Planning Factor	Transportation Choices 2030 Goals
(1) support the economic vitality of the United States, the States, and metropolitan areas, and non-metropolitan areas especially by enabling global competitiveness, productivity, and efficiency	All eight of the Plan’s goals support this planning factor.
(2) increase the safety of the transportation system for motorized and nonmotorized users	Goal 3, Increase Safety and Security
(3) increase the security of the transportation system for motorized and nonmotorized users	Goal 3, Increase Safety and Security
(4) increase the accessibility and mobility of	Goal 4, Improve Mobility, Accessibility,

people and freight	Reliability Goal 7, Optimize Freight Movement
(5) protect and enhance the environment, promote energy conservation, improve quality of life, and promote the consistency between transportation improvements and State and local planned growth and economic development patterns	Goal 6, Respect the Environment Goal 2, Integrate Transportation and Land Use Planning
(6) enhance the integration and connectivity of the transportation system, across and between modes throughout the State, for people and freight	Goal 2, Integrate Transportation and Land Use Planning Goal 4, Improve Mobility, Accessibility, Reliability Goal 7, Optimize Freight Movement
(7) promote efficient system management and operation	Goal 5, Operate Efficiently
(8) emphasize the preservation of the existing transportation system	Goal 1, Maintain and Renew Transportation Infrastructure