



St. Joseph Area Transportation Study Organization (SJATSO) 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan

MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 13, 2008
TO: SJATSO Steering Committee
FROM: URS Corporation
RE: Update on Data Collection and Existing Conditions Analysis

The following provides an update on the data collection and existing conditions analysis for the 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). A draft of the existing conditions technical memorandum will be distributed in early August 2008. We will present an overview of the existing conditions at the next steering committee meeting (August 2008). Please take special note of the last two pages of this memorandum as we are looking for your input regarding the draft base map and existing conditions.

Data Collection

We have been in the process of gathering data for the existing conditions analysis. We recently received pavement condition data, structure data, transit data, and land use data. We will continue to gather data as needed to complete the existing conditions data analysis. If you have local data (i.e., plans, studies, developments, specific projects, etc.) that you feel would be beneficial to the study please provide that information to us as soon as possible.

Mapping

Attached to the end of this memo are two copies of the draft LRTP base map. Generally speaking, this graphic will serve as our primary base map to display existing and future conditions within the SJATSO study area. Prior to the May 21, 2008 Steering Committee Meeting, please take a few minutes to review the base map. Please do the following:

1. Use one of the attached base maps to review the map content (i.e., accuracy, labeling, colors/shading, etc.). Please write any changes, edits, or comments directly on one copy of the base map. We will take all the comments and revise the draft base map accordingly to develop the final LRTP base map.
2. Use the second base map to note the location of any specific issues, concerns, or deficiencies that we should be aware of as we evaluate the existing land use and transportation conditions throughout the SJATSO study area. Comments can range from very general (such as general land use/growth concerns) to very specific (such as identifying problem intersections). Please consider all transportation modes including roadways, transit, bicycle, pedestrian, rail, and aviation when identifying any concerns.

Please return these two base maps to URS at the May 21, 2008 Steering Committee Meeting. We will have time during the meeting to discuss any issues or questions regarding the base map and existing conditions.

Existing Conditions

The following sections are taken from Chapter 6 of the 2030 LRTP. These sections will serve as the primary sections for the 2035 Existing Conditions analysis. Some of the sections below have information regarding what the 2030 LRTP covered and what additional analysis will be completed for the 2035 LRTP. Please let us know if you have any comments or questions regarding these sections.

6.0 EXISTING SURFACE TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

6.1 OVERVIEW

6.2 STREET AND HIGHWAY NETWORK

This section will include an overview of roads, bridges, traffic volumes, safety, functional classification, roadway capacity, level of service, connectivity, and access management. The 2035 LRTP will also include an analysis of pavement condition ratings. We will plan to use the same volume-to-capacity (V/C) ratio thresholds as used in the 2030 LRTP to be consistent between plans. The following summarizes the proposed V/C ratio criteria that will be used in accessing capacity deficiencies.

- No deficiency: V/C ratio < 0.80
- Approaching the limits of acceptable capacity: V/C 0.81-0.99
- Minor capacity deficiency. V/C 1.00-1.19
- Significant capacity deficiency. V/C >1.20

6.3 TRANSIT

The 2035 LRTP will include additional analysis of the transit system. Specifically, we plan to utilize GIS mapping to estimate current population and employment living/working within the transit service area of each route. We will utilize a ½ to ¾-mile buffer around bus stops, or the entire bus route, to estimate the current population that could use transit. We will then use this same analysis to evaluate projected future conditions within the SJATSO area.

6.4 BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN FACILITIES

6.5 RAILROADS

6.6 FREIGHT (TRUCK) TRAFFIC

6.7 PUBLIC PORTS

6.8 AVIATION

The Rosecrans Memorial Airport Master Plan Update (prepared May 2006) will serve as the primary source for updating the aviation section of the LRTP.

6.9 COMMUNICATION/PIPELINES

6.10 INTELLIGENT TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS (ITS)