

# CHAPTER 3 : VISION & GOALS



The Active Transportation Plan is a long-range plan for the active transportation networks in the region. Projects are completed in increments as development and funding allows. Since developing a complete active transportation network takes time, a vision for the future is essential. A strong vision and supporting goals and objectives provide the foundation for all physical and programmatic recommendations in the Plan.

To help achieve this vision, the Active Transportation Plan defines a number of goals and objectives to target specific needs. Goals are broad, value-based expressions of the region's desires, describing the ideal situation that would result in if the plan purpose were fully realized. Goals give direction to the plan as a whole and are concerned with the long-term. Objectives are action-oriented statements that should be undertaken to reach the goals of the plan.

The vision, goals, and objectives provide the basis and framework for recommended active transportation improvements, supporting programs, and implementation strategies in the following chapters of the Active Transportation Plan.

## VISION

**In 2040, the Michiana Region will boast an interconnected, safe, and accessible active transportation network where all residents and visitors can travel from place to place without use of a personal motorized vehicles. Through infrastructure, programs, and policies, walking and bicycling will become a common, enjoyable, and viable transportation and recreation choice that will lead to healthier lives, safer communities, and an economically and socially vibrant region.**



## Goals

The following goals, defined through the planning process, represent six values or ideals that our region should strive to achieve by 2040:

### Goal 1: Connectivity



A regional, interconnected network that allows for efficient transportation to the places residents and visitors want to go through the use of active transportation.

### Goal 2: Accessibility



Active transportation options will be equitably available for all people of all abilities and backgrounds and integrate with all forms of transportation.

### Goal 3: Safety



The transportation network will be safe and comfortable for all users, especially for the most vulnerable.

### Goal 4: Culture



Residents, business owners, and community leaders will foster a change from an automobile-centric culture to an active-living culture.

### Goal 5: Health



Active transportation will be integrated into daily routines in order to support healthy lifestyles for residents and the community-wide environmental benefits.

### Goal 6: Quality of Place



Our region will have sustainable, economically, and socially vibrant communities, that attract and retain people to live, work, and play, through the use of active transportation.

## Objectives

Objectives are statements about what needs to be done to achieve the goals of the plan. While many of these objectives have direct impacts on particular goal, all six goals are influenced indirectly by all listed objectives. The objectives below address a variety of factors including vulnerabilities, capacities, constraints, and expectations of our active transportation network.

1. Make improvements to better connect residents and visitors to each of the major communities and destinations within and surrounding the region
2. Improve connectivity between bicycling, walking, public transit and other modes of transportation.
3. Integrate transportation and land use policies to encourage sustainable growth that encourages walking, bicycling, and transit.
4. Form, maintain, and grow public and private partnerships to encourage development and connectivity of active transportation facilities.
5. Create an active transportation network and programs that will make the Michiana region known as a walk- and bike-friendly destination.
6. Work with partners to ensure that outreach efforts have a consistent message to educate community members on safe and courteous walking, bicycling, and driving habits for children and adults.
7. Utilize national best practice guides in network planning, infrastructure design, project management, and maintenance procedure to ensure that facilities provide an accessible transportation network.
8. Work with partners to build awareness about the personal and community benefits and advantages of using active transportation with public transit, especially for everyday trips
9. Promote the accessibility and availability of destinations using active transportation, particularly in areas with a higher demand for walking, bicycling, and public transit.
10. Provide training and best practice information to law enforcement and public officials to enforce and enact pedestrian and bicycling friendly laws and policies throughout the region.
11. Promote the proper use and installation of safety equipment, such as lights, helmets, and reflective clothing.
12. Organize and support programs and events that promote safe active transportation year-round.