

Vision Commission Report on Topic 13. Transportation

January 2015

The Vision Commission began in January 2009 with the charge to track, measure and report on progress of vision implementation to the community. Beginning November of 2013, the Commission will deliver reports on one of the thirteen Vision Topics using at least three ways to track and measure progress on the Vision:

1. Report the scope of **Implementation Efforts** taken to address strategies and objectives in the Vision document.
2. Recognize **Significant Events** that could have an impact on one or more of the 13 Visions.
3. Develop a set of **Progress Indicators** that will help the community see whether the 13 Visions and their related goals are being fulfilled.

Vision: Columbia and central Missouri, a growing urban community, will have a modern transportation system, which allows its citizens to move about freely within the region using whatever means are desired - automobile, bus, bicycle, walking - and to do so safely, within a reasonable time frame, and without encountering needless congestion.

13.1 Non-motorized Transportation - Columbia will enjoy a safe, interconnected, non-motorized transportation (NMTN) network. It will be culturally supported by the citizens as it will encourage social interaction and healthy lifestyles. The roadway, sidewalk, public transit and trail systems will all tie together into an effective integrated transportation network.

13.2 Advance Planning and Development - Columbia will have diverse travel options that allow for safe and efficient travel to and through destination points. Travel options will be compatible with adjacent land uses and coordinated with the transportation timing needs of the community.

13.3 Road Network and Traffic Management - A network of safe roadways in and around the city will provide sustainable, efficient mobility to vehicular travel and other modes in a complementary manner.

13.4 Public and Human Services Transportation - An efficient, innovative, accessible public and human services transportation system will be fully integrated with all other forms of transportation in Columbia and surrounding communities. It will be possible for all residents to live easily in Columbia without a vehicle.

This report has been reviewed and commented on by:

Implementation Efforts

13.1 Non-motorized	13.1.1 There is a Transportation Authority Board to make recommendations to Council, P&Z and other Public Bodies	Bike/Pedestrian Commission and Public Transportation Advisory Commission - est Dec. 21,2009, Council Bill B368-09
	13.1.2 There is an ongoing public education and information plan	Get About Columbia, check to see if PedNet continues this responsibility
	13.1.3 There is a sidewalk improvement plan and it is being implemented	CATSO 2040 LRTP includes Sidewalk Master Plan and Ped & Bicycle Network Plan
	13.1.4 There is a protocol for grading streets on NMT friendliness, streets have been graded, and are being improved	GetAbout and PedNet
13.2 Advance Planning and Development	13.2.1 There is a Transportation Authority Board to make recommendations to Council, P&Z and other Public Bodies	Columbia Area Transportation Study Organization (CATSO) established in 1964
	13.2.2 There is a plan and funding to preserve rights of way and improve existing intersections to improve safety and capacity	2040 CATSO Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) released February 2014 - http://www.gocolumbiamo.com/community_development/planning/boards_and_commissions/catso/2040%20LRTP/index.php
	13.2.3 All transportation, sanitary sewer and utilities projects are coordinated to reduce future utility conflicts	Infrastructure Task Force
	13.2.4 Large traffic generators are identified and a plan for minimizing impacts on flow is implemented	criteria for deciding on large traffic generators may be too subjective

13.3 Road Network and Advance Planning	13.3.1 There is a Transportation Authority Board to make recommendations to Council, P&Z and other public bodies	Columbia Area Transportation Study Organization (CATSO) established in 1964
	13.3.2 There is an area-wide roadway plan and it has been adopted	CATSO 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan
	13.3.3 There is a city-county partnership to identify a comprehensive list of funds and to secure funds for transportation systems	CATSO 2040 LRTP
	13.3.4 There is a plan for optimizing signaling, intersection improvements, turn lanes, etc, and it has been implemented	CATSO 2040 LRTP
13.4 Public and Human Services Transportation	13.4.1 There is a Transportation Authority Board to make recommendations to Council, P&Z and other public bodies, with a subcommittee focused on public and human services transportation	Public Transportation Advisory Commission - established Dec. 21,2009, Council Bill B368-09 - http://www.gocolumbiamo.com/Council/Commissions/ptac.php . CATSO 2040 LRTP incorporates public and human services transportation into the plan
	13.4.2 There is a protocol for evaluating connections and gaps in services and the information is incorporated into decision making	CATSO 2040 LRTP
	13.4.3 The service needs of people using and not using public transit are incorporated into planning	CATSO 2040 LRTP

Significant Events in the past year

2013

July

Transportation - GPS tracking is coming to city buses - http://www.columbiatribune.com/news/local/gps-tracking-is-coming-to-city-buses/article_e6dc7438-f0f6-11e2-97ae-10604b9f6eda.html

August

Mall businesses to boost levy after TDD, city reach new deal - http://www.columbiatribune.com/news/local/mall-businesses-to-boost-levy-after-tdd-city-reach-new/article_b9919f12-0d43-11e3-86ab-10604b9ffe60.html

Two transportation development districts are raising their taxes - http://www.columbiatribune.com/news/local/two-transportation-development-districts-are-raising-their-taxes/article_b99baa34-0d43-11e3-86ad-10604b9ffe60.html

City budget includes steps to start overhaul of transit operations - http://www.columbiatribune.com/news/local/city-budget-includes-steps-to-start-overhaul-of-transit-operations/article_98b5942e-0442-11e3-8d83-10604b9f7e7c.html

September

Public meeting on downtown traffic draws crowd - http://www.columbiatribune.com/news/local/public-meeting-on-downtown-traffic-draws-crowd/article_c9584fd0-2603-11e3-a2f9-10604b9f6eda.html

City might expand permit-only parking - http://www.columbiatribune.com/news/local/city-might-expand-permit-only-parking/article_48f509c0-2223-11e3-8e95-10604b9f6eda.html

Columbia Transit loses out on funds - http://www.columbiatribune.com/news/local/columbia-transit-loses-out-on-funds/article_6bf1ec06-1c9f-11e3-b730-10604b9f6eda.html

Parking in arts district still presents a struggle - http://www.columbiatribune.com/news/local/parking-in-arts-district-still-presents-a-struggle/article_6ef7ba18-14c3-11e3-a616-10604b9f6eda.html

October

Funds crunch puts 'Walking Bus' on hold - http://www.columbiatribune.com/news/local/funds-crunch-puts-walking-bus-on-hold/article_17137be2-3300-11e3-8b8a-10604b9f6eda.html

Clark Lane may be widened as short-term fix for lack of sidewalks - http://www.columbiatribune.com/news/local/clark-lane-may-be-widened-as-short-term-fix-for/article_8e72df7a-3044-11e3-967e-10604b9f6eda.html

Clark Lane may be widened as short-term fix for lack of sidewalks - http://www.columbiatribune.com/news/local/clark-lane-may-be-widened-as-short-term-fix-for/article_8e72df7a-3044-11e3-967e-10604b9f6eda.html

New sales tax bumps up rates around Boone County - http://www.columbiatribune.com/news/local/new-sales-tax-bumps-up-rates-around-boone-county/article_e44c05e4-2f7b-11e3-915d-10604b9f6eda.html – 3/8 sales tax for a new 911 center and one for an east Columbia transportation development district take effect

November

City considers three options for downtown bus route in CoMo Connect - http://www.columbiatribune.com/news/local/city-considers-three-options-for-downtown-bus-route-in-como/article_7f43d520-4c8e-11e3-b34c-10604b9f6eda.html

December

Developers hope to connect Gans, Providence roads in Columbia - http://www.columbiatribune.com/news/local/developers-hope-to-connect-gans-providence-roads-in-columbia/article_bf70b7ea-6f29-11e3-81be-10604b9f1ff4.html

University of Missouri study shows controversial J-turns reduce crashes - http://www.columbiatribune.com/news/local/university-of-missouri-study-shows-controversial-j-turns-reduce-crashes/article_e1e64632-6e5c-11e3-83c7-10604b9f6eda.html

Discovery Park development plan spurs infrastructure projects - http://www.columbiatribune.com/news/local/discovery-park-development-plan-spurs-infrastructure-projects/article_049be306-6685-11e3-bd44-10604b9f6eda.html

2014

January

Columbia City Council approves project to widen shoulders on Clark Lane (a temporary fix until sidewalks can be funded) - http://www.columbiatribune.com/news/local/columbia-city-council-approves-project-to-widen-shoulders-on-clark/article_aa9e74ea-8317-11e3-b216-001a4bcf6878.html

February

City encourages bus use during film fest - http://www.columbiatribune.com/news/local/city-encourages-bus-use-during-film-fest/article_a925af20-9fdc-11e3-b12c-10604b9f6eda.html – special bus route will run a free 10 minute loop to help reduce downtown congestion

- CoMo Connect routes to serve several Columbia schools - http://www.columbiatribune.com/news/education/como-connect-routes-to-serve-several-columbia-schools/article_cca80824-9b88-11e3-a509-10604b9f1ff4.html – routes to High Schools to provide serves and market public transit to youth

Funding still a challenge for Columbia Transit - http://www.columbiatribune.com/news/local/funding-still-a-challenge-for-columbia-transit/article_c95fdf2a-9b88-11e3-a4fd-10604b9f1ff4.html – fares, utility fees and grants discussed as transit goes from hub-spoke to east-west and north-south commuter routes and neighborhood routes.

March

April

May

Pedestrians need safer street designs -- http://www.columbiatribune.com/blogs/after_deadline/pedestrians-need-safer-street-design/article_292b54b6-e60c-11e3-a1d8-0017a43b2370.html – Clark Lane potentially dangerous because it is minor artery

Landowner: City should negotiate Columbia Regional Airport eminent-domain petition - <http://www.columbiamissourian.com/a/175179/landowner-city-should-negotiate-columbia-regional-airport-eminent-domain-petition/>

July

CoMO Connect rolls out information bus - http://www.columbiatribune.com/news/local/como-connect-rolls-out-information-bus/article_c905af39-0f1f-548c-8718-0772e96f9ac6.html

Chamber endorses transportation sales tax proposal - http://www.columbiatribune.com/news/politics/chamber-endorses-transportation-sales-tax-proposal/article_5a85ded8-58dd-5971-8a7b-9e18d54ee654.html

Transportation, Education – CPS interested in student use of CoMo Connect - http://www.columbiatribune.com/news/education/cps-interested-in-student-use-of-como-connect/article_0d235ece-6ab5-5b15-844b-5d70b03a767a.html

Highways Commission approves Amendment 7 project list - http://www.columbiatribune.com/news/politics/highways-commission-approves-amendment-project-list/article_5cac51f4-1f94-527a-9ff1-9a40e03ac1d3.html – rebuilding I70, a new terminal for Columbia Regional Airport, expanded hours for bus service

August

CoMO Connect rolls out to mixed reviews - http://www.columbiatribune.com/news/local/como-connect-rolls-out-to-mixed-reviews/article_49aad44e-832b-5196-8b66-d91dc9128ff7.html

Scott Boulevard opens to traffic after extended closure - http://www.columbiatribune.com/news/local/scott-boulevard-opens-to-traffic-after-extended-closure/article_3f09d21f-f4ff-566c-b57e-7b128aacde10.html - The work was part of the \$5.9 million Scott Boulevard Phase II project that built a new bridge over Hinkson Creek and a roundabout at the intersection of Scott, Vawter School Road and Brushwood Lake Road.

Officials report high ridership in first week of COMO Connect - http://www.columbiatribune.com/news/local/officials-report-high-ridership-in-first-week-of-como-connect/article_f74e8265-343b-5777-ab31-e1200a3dea6c.html

Business Loop 70 will close for bridge work - <http://www.columbiamissourian.com/a/177712/business-loop-70-will-close-for-bridge-work/> - a new construction method will save time and money

COMO Connect still working out kinks - <http://www.columbiamissourian.com/a/178045/como-connect-still-working-out-kinks/>

Providence Outer Road intersection to be reconfigured - <http://www.columbiamissourian.com/a/177755/providence-outer-road-intersection-to-be-reconfigured/>

September

October

November

December

Progress Indicators

13.1 Non-motorized Transportation

Columbia Walkability



Photo: City of Columbia

Walkability Scores for the City Center and 7 Walkable-Mixed Use areas identified in Columbia Imagined, June 2014

1. 8th and Broadway, City Hall - **88**
2. Rangeline and Rainforest – **29**
3. St. Charles and North Lake of the Woods – **25** (closest scoreable spot near Battle H.S.)
4. Broadway and Conley, 2520 Broadway Bluffs - **51**
5. Broadway and Fairview, 2899 W. Broadway - **52**
6. Village of Cherry Hill, 4263 Chapel Hill Road - **15**
7. Forum and Stadium, 1400 Forum Blvd - **60**
8. Providence and Nifong, 280 E. Nifong - **75**

Rationale – Walkability is key to the success of goals related to non-motorized transportation.

Data Explanation – Columbia Imagined identified seven nodes for walkable-mixed use areas in the city (http://www.gocolumbiamo.com/community_development/comprehensive_plan/documents/Scenarios_forweb_053012.pdf page 17). Street addresses at arbitrarily selected spots at the nodes were entered into Walk Score’s website to find out the walkability at that point. Walk Score measures walkability based on distances to nearby restaurants, grocery stores and other amenities, plus other analysis of pedestrian friendliness. This site does not provide historical data, but if the locations are checked annually, it will be possible to track any changes in walkability at these nodes.

Data Source – www.walkscore.com

Cautions – The website doesn’t provide sufficient information about how it calculated the score

13.2 Advance Planning and Development

‘Failure to Yield’ Traffic Accidents

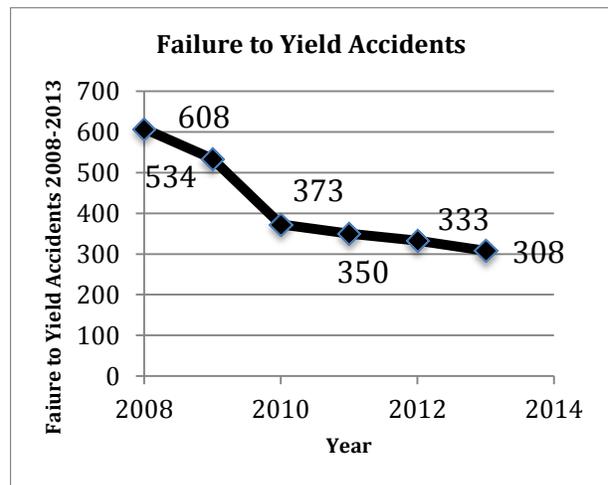
New Guidance on the factors to be considered when establishing intersection right-of-way control



Photo: MODOT

Based upon:

- Vehicular, bicycle and pedestrian volumes
- Number and angle of approaches
- Approach speeds
- Sight distance
- Reported crash performance



Rationale – If the community’s transportation system is working well and the traffic flows smoothly and efficiently, with drivers, bikers and pedestrians understanding how to get where they want to go safely, traffic accidents should go down.

Data Explanation – The data are for accidents involving failure to yield. These accidents seem more likely to be due to confusion about when, where and how to go so are more likely to reflect design of the traffic system.

Data Source – Missouri Highway Patrol, <http://www.mshp.dps.mo.gov/TR15Map/index.jsp>

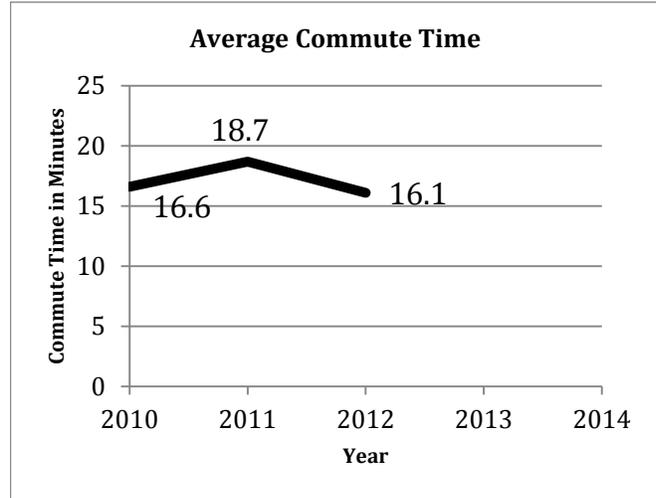
Cautions – Failure to Yield accidents drop dramatically between 2009 and 2010. It would be good to know why.

13.3 Road Network and Traffic Management

Average Commute Time



Photo: Wikimedia Commons



Rationale – This is a measure of how effectively and efficiently the transit system meets the needs of commuters.

Data Explanation – The data are from the American Community Survey for 2011 and 2012.

Data Source – American Community Survey for 2011 and 2012 -

<http://mcdc.missouri.edu/acs/trends/report.php?p=18|14&g=16000US2915670>, the CATSO 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan Executive Summary for 2010 -

http://www.gocolumbiamo.com/community_development/planning/boards_and_commissions/catso/2040%20LRTP/documents/2040LRTPExecutiveSummary_FINAL61614.pdf

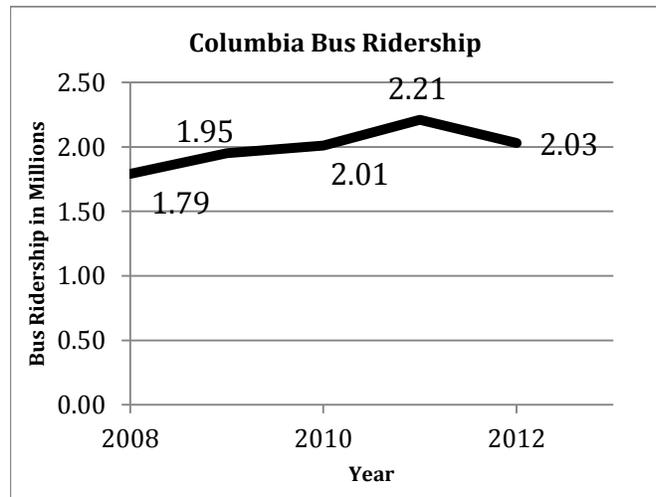
Cautions – None

13.4 Public and Human Services Transportation

Columbia Bus Ridership



Photo: City of Columbia



Rationale – This measures the use of public transit by Columbians

Data Explanation – The number of individual riders using the bus

Data Source – Columbia Transit System

Cautions – None

Comments

The Disabilities Commission recommended using the waiting list for para-transit as a way to measure Human Services transit.

The Missouri Department of Transportation commented on their collaboration with CATSO in prioritizing future projects that are needed within the City of Columbia. Recent projects that have provided benefits to the community are: the completion of the expansion of Stadium Boulevard from Broadway to I-70 and the Diverging Diamond Interchange, overlays on Providence from Route K to I-70, overlay on Business Loop 70, Route B bridge replacement over Business Loop, bridge rehabilitation on 8 bridges on US 63 and Route WW, addition of 4' shoulder/bike lane on Route K to McBaine, addition of 2' shoulders on Route WW all the way to Fulton. These projects have all been completed within the City and provide not only motorized transportation improvements, but also pedestrian improvements as well.