



2023

Working Paper 2: Vision and Goals

# CITY OF MESA

# TRANSPORTATION

# MASTER PLAN



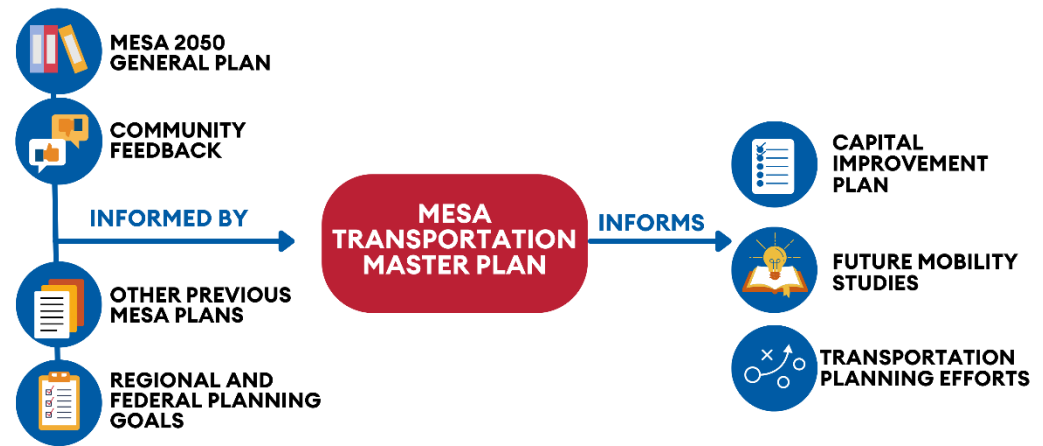
The Mesa Transportation Master Plan (TMP) will serve as a guiding document to help achieve the community's vision for a transportation network that better moves people and goods in and through the City while enhancing Mesa's unique character and identity. With the update of the TMP, Mesa seeks to improve its transportation system by providing Mesa residents and visitors with innovative options for transportation. The vision, goals, objectives, and strategies introduced in this working paper are a response to citizen feedback and builds off visioning activities conducted during the City's 2023 General Plan comprehensive engagement process.

# PLAN VISION AND GOALS

A key step in the TMP planning process is developing a guiding vision and set of goals that results in a transportation system that fulfills community values and needs. The establishment of a clear vision and goals is important because they set a foundation for plan development and ultimately inform decision-making and prioritizing transportation improvement investments.

## Developing Our Vision and Goals

To shape the TMP, the project team developed a vision statement and a set of goals and objectives based on values and needs shared by the public, overall citywide vision informed by the Mesa 2050 General Plan, regional and federal goals, and other City plans. The TMP will inform Mesa's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) and other future master planning efforts.



## Mesa's Vision

A vision statement is a long-range aspirational declaration that is meant to articulate ultimate outcomes. The Mesa 2050 General Plan includes several strategies to create a connected, efficient, safe, and well-connected transportation system that accommodates all users. The Mesa TMP carries forward the General Plan's connectivity, safety, and multimodal principles to establish a framework for developing and implementing a transportation system that enhances the community's quality of life, provides travel options for all users, embraces technology, and better connects people to the places that matter to them, regardless of the mode of travel. To carry forward community feedback heard during the General Plan and the TMP development, the following vision statement is proposed:

***“Mesa’s transportation network is a safe, resilient, efficient, and interconnected multimodal system that supports and strengthens the community and its economy.”***

# OUR GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Through the development process of the Mesa 2050 General Plan, 11 guiding principles and their corresponding strategies were identified. The TMP builds off these to establish transportation-specific objectives and strategies that serve as the basis for the project recommendations and help shape the TMP. The goals and objectives for the TMP will help achieve the desired outcomes established in the vision statement. Strategies are specific actions that will guide the decision-making process to help achieve Mesa's vision. These goals align with – and do not replace – adopted policies and goals from the General Plan.



## 1. MANAGE AND MAINTAIN

Promote stewardship of a **sustainable and efficient transportation system** through strategic system management and preservation.



## 2. SAFETY FIRST

Create a transportation network that consists of **safe and comfortable** mobility options for all current and future users.



## 3. CONNECTIONS AND CHOICES

Develop an integrated and **complete multimodal transportation network** that provides improved and accessible mobility options for all modes.



## 4. ANTICIPATE AND ADAPT

Adapt to emerging technologies, land use changes, and transportation mobility demands by being innovative and flexible to ensure a **resilient and responsive transportation system**.



## 5. THRIVE AND PROSPER

Strengthen the city, its residents, and its businesses, by **advancing equity, inclusion, and economic competitiveness** through improved transportation access to jobs, education,

## Goal 1. Manage And Maintain

**Objective:** Promote stewardship of a sustainable and efficient transportation system through strategic system management and preservation.

**Strategies:**

- ❑ Improve the efficiency of the transportation system by optimizing traffic operations and management.
- ❑ Uphold a maintenance schedule of transportation facilities to increase their useful life and to sustain and upkeep best in class shared use paths, sidewalks, ADA compliant facilities, bike lanes and roads for Mesa.
- ❑ Provide for efficiency, convenience, and reliability in the design, operation, and maintenance of the transportation system and the connections between modes.
- ❑ Plan transportation improvements and capacities that support land uses and employment for both current and projected traffic volumes.
- ❑ Identify roads with excess capacity and/or right-of-way and evaluate options to right-size the roads to better accommodate the surrounding land use and needs of the corridor. *(Mesa 2050 General Plan)*
- ❑ Develop a systematic process for project selection and prioritization that improves the City's competitiveness when applying for infrastructure funding opportunities.
- ❑ Identify sources and various financing techniques that better situate Mesa for applying and obtaining funding grants and monies for the implementation of transportation infrastructure projects and programs.
- ❑ Provide partnership and support for planned transportation projects in the region that benefit Mesa.
- ❑ Educate the public and stakeholders on the costs associated with constructing and preserving the system.

## Goal 2. Safety First

**Objective:** Create a transportation network that consists of safe and comfortable mobility options for all current and future users.

**Strategies:**

- Cross collaboration between City departments to implement roadway improvements to increase road safety for all user groups. *(Mesa 2050 General Plan)*
- Evaluate, assess, and prioritize safety improvements across Mesa by conducting a citywide safety study. *(Mesa 2050 General Plan)*
- Provide safe and comfortable multimodal connections to expand the reach of the transit system. *(Mesa 2050 General Plan)*
- Implement infrastructure improvements and strategies to reduce the number of serious injuries caused by motor vehicle crashes.

- Plan, design, construct, and apply equity considerations, context-sensitive and flexible street cross sections/treatments to accommodate the needs of all mobility types, users, and ability levels.
- Work as a community to create a supportive and inclusive environment for alternative transportation modes that includes engineering, education, enforcement, encouragement, and evaluation methods.

### Goal 3. Connections and Choices

**Objective:** Develop an integrated and complete multimodal transportation network that provides improved and accessible mobility options for all modes, including focused consideration for disadvantaged and underserved communities and groups.

**Strategies:**

- Initiate a Downtown Micromobility Plan and a citywide Active Transportation Plan to evaluate the on-going multimodal needs of the City (*Mesa 2050 General Plan*)
- Evaluate the efficiency, expansion, or development of new transit bus routes to service new areas while increasing the reliability of existing transit routes (*Mesa 2050 General Plan*)
- Enhance the user experience of corridors by developing corridor-specific plans that foster a more pleasant pedestrian, cyclist, and transit experience through structural shade, public art, and trees. (*Mesa 2050 General Plan*).
- Continue to support and build-out a highly functional, safe, and well-maintained bicycle and shared use path network within roadway rights-of-way, along canal banks and through other locations such as utility easements, alleys, and parks. (*Mesa 2050 General Plan*)
- Support and promote the design and implementation of protected bike facilities to increase cyclist safety and encourage more ridership. (*Mesa 2050 General Plan*)
- Identify major obstacles or gaps in the multimodal network and system connections and implement projects that mitigate these barriers.
- Consider the needs of all travelers, including those who have limited mobility options because of age, ability, or socio-economic position, in the planning and operation of transportation facilities and services.
- Continue to support and plan for regional transit service into and around Mesa.
- Improve multimodal access to schools, businesses, recreational facilities, and trails to support healthy lifestyles.
- Provide access to arts and culture sites, and healthy food source sites as defined in the General Plan.
- Complete building out the street network in Mesa to provide access and connections for all residents.

## Goal 4. Anticipate and Adapt

**Objective:** Recognize that the transportation sector has been experiencing rapid change in recent years due to technological advancements and initiatives from both the public sector and the private sector. Adapt to emerging technologies, land use changes, and transportation mobility demands by being innovative and flexible to ensure a resilient and responsive transportation system.

**Strategies:**

- Promote flexibility in design standards by incorporating recommended street design typologies to be able to adjust for and accommodate changes from future technologies, such as automated vehicles and alternative transportation modes. (*Mesa 2050 General Plan*)
- Assess technology needs to support connected and electric vehicles, including building out ITS infrastructure, and working with the private sector to improve the charging station network. (*Mesa 2050 General Plan*)
- Implement smart technology and systems on the transportation network to support safety, optimize efficiency, reduce congestion, and increase system reliability and resilience.
- Identify and pursue policies and solutions that take advantage of and integrate new technologies to enhance the quality and efficiency of transportation facilities.
- Provide flexibility in City processes and policies to explore new and emerging modes of mobility.

## Goal 5. Thrive and Prosper

**Objective:** Strengthen the city, its residents, and its businesses, by advancing equity and economic competitiveness through improved transportation options to access jobs, education, services, and goods.

**Strategies:**

- Establish inclusive and context-sensitive design options that integrate the City's sub-area contexts and promote neighborhood health and safety and property values. (*Mesa 2050 General Plan*)
- Create a Mesa-specific Urban Streets Design Guide (USDG) that provides design guidance, and rules, based on City sub-areas. (*Mesa 2050 General Plan*)
- Coordinate transportation and land use planning to reflect the unique needs of the City, specific character areas and to support economic development.
- Ensure compatibility with existing and future planned local projects, regional initiatives, and regional transportation plans and improvements.
- Coordinate with ADOT and MAG and provide input and support into the planning and development of the region's freeway and proposed passenger rail network.
- Improve transportation access for disadvantaged community members to jobs, transit, education, goods, and services.

# TRACKING PROGRESS

Tracking and monitoring mobility in Mesa is useful in gauging the effectiveness and responses of infrastructure investments and changes. To help inform the decision-making process, it is recommended that the City conduct regular monitoring and evaluation to support future projects or to determine if additional responses are necessary.

**TABLE 1. TMP PROGRESS CHECKLIST**

TMP Goals	Actions	Performance Measure And Desired Trend	Track Progress
<b>Manage and Maintain</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Collect traffic counts along major arterials and bicycle and pedestrian counts along key shared use path locations.	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed – Yes/No/Ongoing	<input type="checkbox"/> Two-year cycle
	<input type="checkbox"/> Plan and perform routine maintenance on Mesa maintained roads, paths, bike facilities, sidewalks, and other transportation facilities.	<input type="checkbox"/> Maintain current, or increase, in percent of roadway miles in fair or better pavement condition	<input type="checkbox"/> Annually
		<input type="checkbox"/> Maintain current or increase in percent of bridges in fair or better condition	<input type="checkbox"/> As needed
	<input type="checkbox"/> Evaluate mobility performance (LOS) of key arterial corridors.	<input type="checkbox"/> Maintain current, or increase, in percent of bridges in fair or better condition	<input type="checkbox"/> Alternate years
		<input type="checkbox"/> Arterials - Maintain or improve miles of roadways operating at LOS E or worse	<input type="checkbox"/> 3-year cycle
		<input type="checkbox"/> Collectors - Maintain or improve miles of roadways operating at LOS E or worse	<input type="checkbox"/> Annually
<input type="checkbox"/> Evaluate traffic signal timing and operations.	<input type="checkbox"/> Maintain or improve number of intersections operating at LOS E or worse	<input type="checkbox"/> Alternate years	
<b>Safety First</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Prepare a citywide Safety Action Plan.	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed – Yes/No/Ongoing	<input type="checkbox"/> One time
	<input type="checkbox"/> Conduct a yearly safety review of Mesa's high injury network and intersections and determine potential safety countermeasures.	<input type="checkbox"/> Do not exceed previous year number of fatalities per capita	<input type="checkbox"/> Annually
		<input type="checkbox"/> Do not exceed previous year number of serious injury crashes per capita	<input type="checkbox"/> Annually
		<input type="checkbox"/> Do not exceed previous year number of pedestrian and bicyclist crashes per capita	<input type="checkbox"/> Annually
	<input type="checkbox"/> Plan, design, and construct corridor improvements to incorporate safety measures.	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed – Yes/No/Ongoing	<input type="checkbox"/> As needed

**TABLE 1. TMP PROGRESS CHECKLIST(CONTINUED)**

TMP Goals	Actions	Performance Measure And Desired Trend	Track Progress
<b>Connections and Choices</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Identify streets with excess capacity and develop efficient street designs to right-size streets.	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed – Yes/No/Ongoing	<input type="checkbox"/> As needed
	<input type="checkbox"/> Conduct a citywide Active Transportation Plan (ATP).	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed – Yes/No/Ongoing	<input type="checkbox"/> One time
	<input type="checkbox"/> Conduct a Downtown Micromobility Plan and program recommendations into CIP.	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed – Yes/No/Ongoing	<input type="checkbox"/> One time
	<input type="checkbox"/> Identify opportunities to accommodate, improve and increase bicycle and pedestrian facilities, then implement into CIP.	<input type="checkbox"/> Increased miles of safe and comfortable bike facilities	<input type="checkbox"/> Annually
		<input type="checkbox"/> Increased miles of safe and comfortable sidewalks and shared use path facilities	<input type="checkbox"/> Annually
		<input type="checkbox"/> Increased number of safe shared use path crossing locations	<input type="checkbox"/> Annually
<input type="checkbox"/> Support efficient transit operations through street and transit stop designs, and modal connections, on transit priority streets.	<input type="checkbox"/> Maintain current, or increase, transit ridership	<input type="checkbox"/> Annually	
<b>Anticipate and Adapt</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Develop Smart ITS Technologies, including integration with autonomous vehicles.	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed – Yes/No/Ongoing	<input type="checkbox"/> Ongoing
	<input type="checkbox"/> Evaluate the need and accommodate emerging technologies such as car charging stations, micromobility, etc.	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed – Yes/No/Ongoing	<input type="checkbox"/> Ongoing
	<input type="checkbox"/> Work with CIP/Engineering to revisit designs of planned street construction projects to include technology solutions identified as priorities in the TMP.	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed – Yes/No/Ongoing	<input type="checkbox"/> Annually
<b>Thrive and Prosper</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Create a Mesa-specific Urban Streets Design Guide (USDG).	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed – Yes/No/Ongoing	<input type="checkbox"/> One time
	<input type="checkbox"/> Track implementation of transportation projects in sub-areas with high concentrations of disadvantaged population groups.	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed – Yes/No/Ongoing	<input type="checkbox"/> As needed
	<input type="checkbox"/> Identify opportunities to integrate recommended street typology designs.	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed – Yes/No/Ongoing	<input type="checkbox"/> Annually
	<input type="checkbox"/> Evaluate access to arts, food source, health care and education facilities.	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed – Yes/No/Ongoing	<input type="checkbox"/> Alternate years
	<input type="checkbox"/> Continue implementation of ADA Transition Plan.	<input type="checkbox"/> Increased number of ADA compliant ramps, sidewalks, and pedestrian pushbuttons.	<input type="checkbox"/> Annually