

Central New Mexico Climate Change Scenario Planning Project

Goals and Objectives

November 26, 2013

This document outlines the goals for the Central New Mexico Climate Change Scenario Planning Project and the objectives to be met in order to reach those goals. The purpose of developing these goals and objectives is to guide the Volpe Center and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) in their stewardship of the project and to provide a framework for evaluating the successes and limitations of this effort. The project goals were developed by the Federal interagency working group that organized the scenario planning pilot project in Cape Cod, Massachusetts.

The objectives for each goal were developed by Volpe Center staff and were based on conversations with stakeholders and the Mid-Region Council of Governments (MRCOG) during initial project development. Because the project is to guide long-range planning, the goals and objectives are both specific to the project and long-term since planning processes take many years to implement.

Goal 1: Advance the role of climate change analysis in scenario planning. This project will improve the state of the practice for integrating climate change adaptation and mitigation into regional transportation and land use planning using scenario planning processes.

- Objective 1a: Contribute to the state of the practice by identifying and testing new technical approaches to model and analyze climate change effects and impacts and GHG-emission reduction strategies in a transportation and land use scenario planning process.
- Objective 1b: Apply novel approaches to scenario development that account for a range of uncertainty given locally controllable policy options and externally uncontrollable forces.

Goal 2: Influence decision-making in Central New Mexico. This project will inform MRCOG's 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan, municipal hazard mitigation plans, local and county land use plans, and Federal land management agency plans.

- Objective 2a: As part of the scenario planning process, challenge existing assumptions and help participants identify difficult trade-offs.
- Objective 2b: Tailor climate change adaptation and mitigation analysis to the local context, making products relevant to a range of stakeholders.
- Objective 2c: Identify ways in which local decision makers can prepare for a range of futures and build flexibility into land use and transportation plans and policies to best address uncertainties.
- Objective 2d: Facilitate the incorporation of GHG-emission reduction strategies and targets into regional planning efforts.
- Objective 2e: Facilitate the incorporation of climate change futures, and an evaluation of the impact of these futures on proposed land use and transportation strategies, into regional planning efforts.

Goal 3: Develop a transferable process. The process and analytical methods developed for this project will be transferable to other regions.

- Objective 3a: Generalize and disseminate project information and lessons learned.

- Objective 3b: Develop an analytical and process framework that ties into other existing frameworks and that can be relevant and practical to other regions.
- Objective 3c: Foster relationships between Federal agencies that can contribute to other regional and local projects elsewhere.

Goal 4: Build partnerships. The project will build and strengthen relationships between federal, state, regional, municipal, and tribal governments.

- Objective 4a: Develop and strengthen relationships between (and among) Federal, state, regional, and local agencies throughout the process.
- Objective 4b: Create a structure by which local and federal agencies involved in the climate change scenario planning process can continue to collaborate beyond the end of the project.