



Vision for Downtown Boise:

The Downtown Boise Mobility study has a vision for downtown that will retain Boise's position as the foremost urban center for business, government, culture, education and urban living in the region. New land use policies and real estate developments will continue to keep downtown an attractive and exciting environment with a lively mix of uses—including housing, offices, retail, hotels and convention facilities, public spaces, and cultural, entertainment, research and learning opportunities--where people and businesses thrive. Districts, activity centers and in-town neighborhoods will be connected by a well-designed and functional multi-modal transportation system. This transportation system provides connections within downtown and the surrounding region and offers users greater choice between different transportation modes. The system will provide safe, convenient, attractive, and economical access for all system users. The system will support the vision for growth and development in the downtown area.

Summary of Goals

The goals and objectives outlined below will guide the development of a transportation system plan to achieve our vision for downtown. The goals fall within six general areas including:

Goal 1:

Create a long-term, thirty-year land use vision and mobility plan so that downtown Boise develops to be the foremost urban center for business, government, culture, education and urban living in the region.

Goal 2:

Maximize transportation system efficiency and develop a downtown transportation system that includes and integrates a variety of travel modes, and promotes the use of alternatives to the automobile.

Goal 3:

Link sub-districts, activity centers and the parking supply in downtown Boise through a well-designed, functional transportation system.

Goal 4:

Identify how to enhance the performance of the downtown street system and improve mobility while at the same time make the system compatible with a people-oriented, urban-intensity downtown.

Goal 5:

Design the downtown transportation system so it effectively connects to the current and future regional transportation network.

Goal 6:

Develop a practical strategy for implementing the downtown mobility plan, which includes specific action steps, responsible parties, a timetable for accomplishment, and sources of funding.

Goals and Objectives

Goal 1:

Create a long-term, thirty-year land use vision and mobility plan so that downtown Boise develops to be the foremost urban center for business, government, culture, education and urban living in the region.

Objectives:

- 1.1 Assess long-term growth trends and socio-economic data for the Treasure Valley and create a 2030 growth scenario for downtown Boise for use in developing the 30-year mobility plan.
- 1.2 Create a traffic model capable of simulating current vehicular and pedestrian traffic on downtown streets and evaluating future growth scenarios.
- 1.3 Develop a transportation system for downtown Boise that supports a robust economy, a lively mix of land uses at urban intensities, and 24-hour activity.
- 1.4 Assure that the proposed downtown transportation system supports the 2030 growth scenario and the use of alternative modes.
- 1.5 Design a downtown transportation system that is expandable and capable of handling intensification of land uses and addition of new activity centers.
- 1.6 Identify transportation and parking improvements needed to make downtown Boise an exceptionally livable and functional place.
- 1.7 Expand transportation system to better integrate Boise State University and cultural institutions across the Boise River with the downtown business district.

Goal 2:

Maximize transportation system efficiency and develop a downtown transportation system that includes and integrates a variety of travel modes, and promotes the use of alternatives to the automobile.

- 2.1 Encourage the use of transportation alternatives through an aggressive downtown transportation demand management program.
- 2.2 Identify actions that employers, activity centers, public agencies and others can take to reduce auto usage by employees, customers, residents and visitors in downtown Boise.
- 2.3 Assess the current type and level of transit service available in downtown Boise and identify needed improvements.
- 2.4 Create a continuous and well-identified network of pedestrian and bicycle routes within and through downtown Boise.
- 2.5 Make better use of the parking supply so as to minimize the amount of land and resources needed to supply parking, and reduce the need to add parking as uses intensify in downtown Boise.
- 2.6 Extend travel choices for all community members, especially those who do not have the option of using automobiles for transportation.

Goal 3:

Link sub-districts, activity centers and the parking supply in downtown Boise through a well-designed, functional transportation system.

- 3.1 Give particular attention to creating links to and between the central business district, major downtown employers, State Capitol Mall, Boise State University, Ada County Courthouse, Boise City Hall and Library, St. Luke's Regional Medical Center, Julia Davis and Ann Morrison parks, Cultural District, and in-town neighborhoods.
- 3.2 Provide links from downtown Boise to adjacent activity centers such as Elks Rehabilitation Center, Veterans Hospital, MK Plaza, Park Center and Hyde Park, as well as close-in neighborhoods.
- 3.3 Diagram the current supply of parking in downtown Boise, and identify ways to balance the supply and demand for parking in downtown Boise through better transportation linkages between parking locations.
- 3.4 Create safe routes to schools, parks, and recreation centers to ensure children can travel throughout their neighborhoods.

Goal 4:

Identify how to enhance the performance of the downtown street system and improve mobility while at the same time make the system compatible with a people-oriented, urban-intensity downtown.

- 4.1 Establish a level of service standard appropriate for the downtown street system and evaluate the current level of mobility.
- 4.2 Identify changes to the street system and street design that would create a more comfortable, pedestrian-oriented atmosphere on downtown streets, with particular attention to the Connector.
- 4.3 Improve the level of north-south connectivity in downtown Boise especially from the central business district, St. Luke's Regional Medical Center, and the courthouse corridor to the Boise River-Greenbelt, Boise State University, and Julia Davis and Ann Morrison parks.

Goal 5:

Design the downtown transportation system so it effectively connects to the current and future regional transportation network.

- 5.1 Locate sites for multi-modal transfer stations in downtown that serve both downtown and the regional transportation system.
- 5.2 Include "plug-in" points for future regional transit in the design of routes for a downtown circulator system.
- 5.3 Identify facilities needed to make intermodal transportation systems practical for commuters.

Goal 6:

Develop a practical strategy for implementing the downtown mobility plan, which includes specific action steps, responsible parties, a timetable for accomplishment, and sources of funding.

- 6.1 Recommend improvements to the transportation system that are feasible within the policy, legal and funding frameworks of Boise City, Ada County, the State of Idaho, and Federal sources.
- 6.2 Examine opportunities beyond current funding frameworks to develop new revenue streams to support needed transportation investments.
- 6.3 Identify needed capital investments and operational funds to support the transportation system.