

2045 MTP EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

Transportation is the means of moving people and goods from one location to another in order to carry out the daily needs and desires of life. People and goods transport in various ways – from trains and planes to automobiles, scooters, buses, bicycles, and two feet. Transportation shapes the identity of communities as it affects the movement of people and goods, and in turn affects how people engage with the world around them. Our transportation systems equip us to utilize community services, commodities, and various amenities. Planning and investing in sustainable transportation systems that provide opportunities for all people to access the necessities of everyday life is the foundation for the future of our community.

The purpose of this Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) is to identify the existing and proposed transportation facilities and services that are necessary to meet the transportation needs of Bowling Green and Warren County by the year 2045.

The MPO developed the nine goals and corresponding objectives for Bowling Green and Warren County. These goals and objectives set the direction for the priorities established in the 2045 MTP and provide a foundation in which the MPO and community partners can work to improve the transportation system.

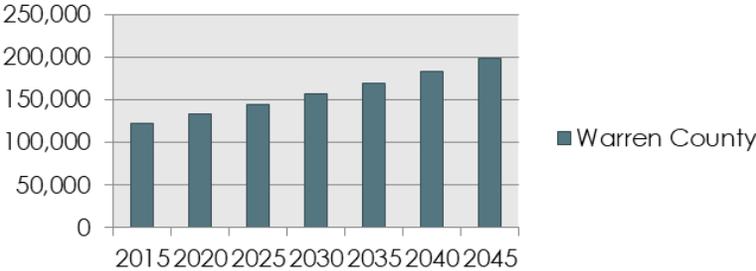
WHAT'S INCLUDED

People and Place

The 2045 MTP acknowledges the growing and ever-changing transportation trends emerging across America and the world – from self-driving cars and bike-shares to curbside management and delivery vehicles. While these trends are uncertain in form, function, and timeline, the MPO acknowledges the need to consider the uncertainties of future transportation when setting priorities through the year 2045.

The characteristics and assets that make up a place shape the demands and needs of its community. Warren County is located within a day's travel of nearly 60 percent of the U.S. population, is home to people from around the world, and serves as a regional hub for over 300,000 people living in the 10-county region. **Over a nearly fifty-year period, Warren County experienced a 129% growth in population;** Bowling Green experienced an 89% population growth. By 2045, Warren County's population is expected to reach nearly 198,000.

Future Population Trends

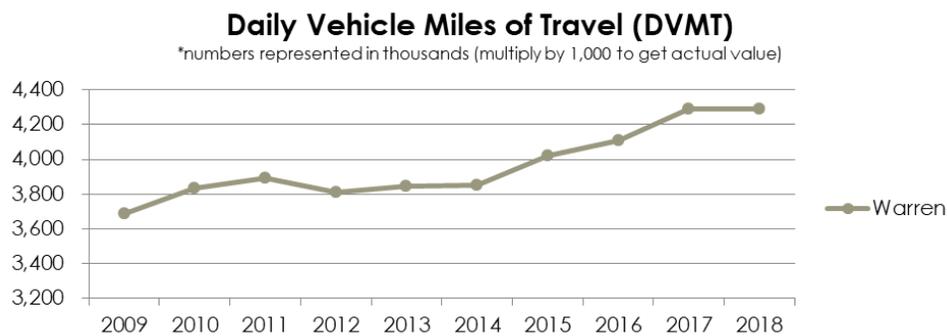


The ACS 2018 five-year estimates reported that 65% of Warren County's population was employed. Warren County's working labor force represents the diversity of the community, with the foreign born population contributing to the growth and stability of the economy. The Bowling Green Area Chamber of Commerce reported that Warren County is home to 26 international companies, representing 11 different

countries. Employment is expected to grow by 74% for all sectors (Non-Retail, Retail, Service) by the year 2045, according to the MPO's travel demand model developed and maintained by the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet.

Existing Features

Not of great surprise, 81.5% of Warren County residents reported driving alone as their primary means of commuting to work. There are over 1,400 miles of public roadways in the MPO area, ranging from interstates, major highways, county roadways, and local city streets. The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, City of Bowling Green, and Warren County provide all maintenance and operations work on their respective roadways. Over the past ten years, Warren County's roadways have seen a rise in daily vehicle miles traveled, as depicted in the chart below.



Warren County offers an array of bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure. The City of Bowling Green constructs and maintains sidewalks within the city limits on city streets and along state-maintained corridors within the city limits. The City of Bowling Green along with Operation PRIDE maintain greenway trails across the city. The MPO works with its committees and community partners to plan future trails throughout the community. Currently, there are a total of about **47 miles of trails across the county**, as depicted in the table.

Total Trail Mileage in Warren County	Total Miles
Greenway Trail (Paved Shared-Use Path)	23.3
Park System Trail - City (Gravel Path)	5.69
Park System Trail - County (Gravel Path)	15.66
Bike Lanes/Share the Road (County-wide)	2.5
TOTAL MILES	47.15

WKU's Topper Transit and the City of Bowling Green's transit system, GO bg, serve the WKU campus community and Bowling Green. Topper Transit has seen a steady rise in ridership over the last ten years, with the 2019 fiscal year coming in at about 700,000 riders. GO bg Transit operates six fixed routes and offers para-transit services.

Future Priorities

Safety for all users is a critical component in planning for the future. Asking ourselves where risks are today, helps guide the development of projects for the future. Many of the proposed priority projects were derived from not only safety issues present today, but mobility and accessibility demands projected for the future. Additionally, the MPO utilized previously completed transportation studies and public comments from the Fall 2019 transportation survey to further refine the priority projects. The projects recommended in the plan are divided into short-range projects (2020-2026) and long-range projects

(2027-2045). The short-range projects are projects derived from the 2020 State Highway Plan and the FY2020-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). A financial analysis conducted by KYTC guided the future planning of the projects into projected project year intervals, where year-of-expenditure calculations were made to properly account for project funding. It is estimated that in order to complete all 52 projects listed in the Plan, it will cost approximately \$5.4 million (in YOE dollars). It is important to note that the projects listed in this Plan are conceptual; it does not ensure that funding will be allocated, nor does it define the project scope. The MPO does not have jurisdiction over project implementation, but assists its planning partners and the community in effective planning and advisory roles.

Many public comments from fall 2019 identified the desire for more biking and walking infrastructure. This desire and the need for more, and safer, infrastructure is heard by the MPO. While there is limited dedicated funding for greenways, the MPO works with local leaders to incorporate shared-use paths with roadway projects – such as the future US 31W (Nashville Rd) widening between the roundabout and US 231 (Campbell Ln), and the Smallhouse Road widening project between US 231 (Campbell Ln) and Ridgecrest Way. The City of Bowling Green is committed to constructing more sidewalks and filling in gaps in the existing system, as funding allows. As for future greenway trails, the MPO worked with its Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) and other local leaders to develop and recommend a loop around the city that would connect existing trails and provide ample opportunity for additional connections. Connectivity and accessibility are two primary focuses of the BPAC in planning for future trails. We've identified a lot of gaps in our existing system and by 2045, hope to fill in many of these gaps.

CONCLUSION

While funding is competitive at both the state and national levels, the projects herein indicate that with the projected revenues through 2045, the MPO has adopted these projects as high priorities for funding. The Bowling Green-Warren County Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) are the official mechanisms through which projects in the MTP are implemented. The MPO will continue to support the goals and objectives listed in this plan, and work with local planning partners toward implementing the projects listed within this Plan.