

Chapter 6

Performance Measures

Transportation legislation developed by Congress provides a vision and direction for all transportation agencies. In July 2012, President Obama signed MAP-21 that established transportation systems' move toward a performance- and outcome-based program. The objective of the performance and outcome-based program is for the investment of resources in projects that collectively make progress toward the achievement of nationally set goals. The emphasis continued in the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), signed into law in 2015 and 2021, respectively. As part of MAP-21, national performance goals were created for roads, highways, and public transportation.

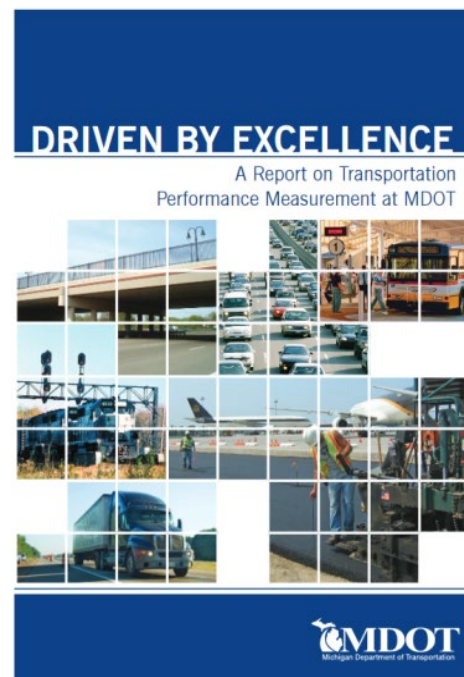
Program Overview

Roads & Highways National Performance Goals

The performance measures were created around monitoring the federal aid highway program. They are designed to be national goals that help monitor the success of the transportation system and help drive investment. Below is a brief summary of the seven national goals included in MAP-21.

- 1) **Safety** – To achieve a significant reduction in traffic fatalities and serious injuries on all public roads
- 2) **Infrastructure Condition** – To maintain the highway infrastructure asset system in a state of good repair
- 3) **Congestion Reduction** – To achieve a significant reduction in congestion on the National Highway System
- 4) **System Reliability** – To improve the efficiency of the surface transportation system
- 5) **Freight Movement** – To improve the national freight network, strengthen the ability of rural communities to access national and international trade markets, and support regional economic development
- 6) **Environmental Sustainability** – To enhance the performance of the transportation system while protecting and enhancing the natural environment

Figure 6-1
A Report on
Transportation Performance
Measures at MDOT



- 7) **Reduced project delivery delay** – To reduce project costs, promote jobs and the economy, and expedite the movement of people and goods by accelerating project completion through eliminating delays in the project development and delivery process, including reducing regulatory burdens and improving agencies/work practices.

Public Transportation National Performance Goals

MAP-21 also mandated the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to develop a rule establishing a strategic and systematic process of operating, maintaining, and improving public capital assets effectively through their entire life cycle. The Transit Asset Management Final Rule became effective October 1, 2016 and established four performance measures. The performance management requirements are a minimum standard for transit operators. Providers with more data and sophisticated analysis expertise are allowed to add performance measures. Below are the asset categories that are the focus of the transit asset management performance measures:

- 1) Rolling Stock – A revenue vehicle used in providing public transportation, including vehicles used for carrying passengers on fare-free services.
- 2) Equipment – An article of nonexpendable, tangible property that has a useful life of at least one year.
- 3) Facilities – A building or structure that is used in providing public transportation
- 4) Infrastructure – The underlying framework or structures that support a public transportation system.

In addition to transit asset management goals and performance measures, FTA also published the Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) Final Rule, which requires certain operators of public transit systems that receive federal funds under FTA's Urbanized Area Formula Grants to develop safety plans that include the processes and procedures to implement Safety Management Systems (SMS). The plan must include safety performance targets. Transit operators also must certify they have a safety plan in place, originally meeting the requirements of the rule by July 20, 2020. The deadlines for the PTASP were extended due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The plan must be updated and certified by the transit agency annually.

The Jackson Area Transportation Authority (JATA) issued its first safety plan in November 2020. Several updates have been done to the plan over the years, with the most recent being in July 2023. This plan highlights JATA's safety performance targets, safety management policy, safety risk management, safety assurance, and safety promotion.

For a list of JATA's performance measures, refer to Appendix C.

Figure 6-2
JATA Bus



National Goals Implementation Schedule

The timeline for implementation of the national performance measures is determined when a final rule establishing the date for the rule is effective. Table 6-1 outlines the effective date of the final rule and when States and MPOs must take action.

Table 6-1: National Goals & Implementation Schedule

Final Rule	Effective Date	States Targets Dates	MPOs Targets Dates	MTP and TIP Inclusion
Safety Performance Measures	April 14, 2016	August 27, 2022	February 27, 2023, and annually thereafter.	Upon updates or amendments
Pavement/Bridge Condition Performance Measures	May 20, 2017	December 22, 2022	No later than 180 days after the state(s) sets target; March 30, 2023 – April 30, 2023	Upon updates or amendments
System Reliability & Freight Reliability Performance Measures	May 20, 2017	December 22, 2022	No later than 180 days after the state(s) sets target; June 14, 2023	Upon updates or amendments
Asset Management Plan	October 2, 2017	By April 30, 2018 State DOTs submit initial plans describing asset management plan processes. By June 30, 2019 State DOTs submit fully compliant asset management plan.		
Transit Asset Management Plan	October 1, 2016	January 1, 2017	MPO to develop TAMP, including targets, in 2018 and every four years thereafter. State will set targets for rural transit providers.	
Public Transit Agency Safety Plan	July 19, 2018	Rule effective July 19, 2019 – by July 20, 2020 transit providers to have Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan in place with a requirement for an annual certification.		

Target Overview

Within one year of the USDOT final rule on performance measures, states are required to set performance targets in support of those measures. To ensure consistency, each state must to the maximum extent practicable:

- Coordinate with an MPO when setting performance targets for the area represented by that MPO
- Coordinate with public transportation providers when setting performance targets in an urbanized area not represented by an MPO
- After the state (MDOT) establishes targets for the respective performance measures, the MPOs have 180 days within which to support the state targets or establish their own.

Target Coordination with MDOT

Performance target coordination between MPOs and MDOT has been established as a part of Performance Measure implementation requirements. Target coordination meetings have given MDOT and FHWA the opportunity to provide updates on performance measures and target setting to the MPOs. The meetings also give the MPOs an opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback on the methods used to set performance targets. MPOs have also coordinated with MDOT to develop the process for reporting MPO performance targets and the recommended action to be taken by MPO Policy Committees on setting performance targets.

Performance Reporting Requirements

MDOT is required to report to FHWA on the establishment of state performance targets and the progress made in attaining the state targets on a biennial basis. The reports are due October 1 of each even numbered year.

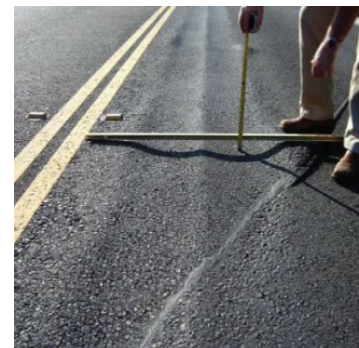
Federal regulations require the use of four-year performance periods over which progress toward attaining targets is tracked and reported. The exception to the four-year performance period is for the safety performance measures, which are required to be established and reported by MDOT to FHWA through the Highway Safety Improvement Program Annual Report by August 31 of each year.

MPOs are not required to provide annual reports other than MPO decisions on targets. MPOs are required to report MPO performance targets to MDOT in accordance with the documented procedures for MPO reporting targets. This will result in MPOs reporting MPO safety targets annually to MDOT, and other performance targets as they are established.

Road & Highway Future Targets

There are additional performance measures that do not have published targets as of the adoption of this plan. The dates of inclusion can be found below. As the targets are set and published by MDOT, the MPOs will take action either through adoption of the state targets or development of MPO specific targets. The following are the performance measures that do not currently have set targets to date.

**Figure 6-3
Pavement Rutting**



1) Interstate & National Highway System Pavements

Current coordination efforts include evaluation of the pavement condition on the interstate and non-interstate National Highway System (NHS). The evaluation of the pavement will be evaluated by four metrics:

- International Roughness Index (IRI)
- Cracking
- Rutting (Asphalt)
- Faulting (Joined Concrete)

The rule designates that MDOT is required to establish two- and four-year targets for pavement condition on the NHS. There are two sets of targets, one for the Interstate System, and the other for the Non-Interstate NHS. MDOT is required to submit biennial progress reports to FHWA. There are four performance measures for assessing pavement condition based on composite analysis of the metrics. MDOT has provided the following information on performance measure baselines and targets:

Table 6-2: NHS Pavement Condition Performance Measures

NHS Pavement Condition	2022-25 Baseline	2-Year Target	4-Year Target
% of Interstate pavement in Good Condition	70.4%	59.2%	56.7%
% of Interstate pavement in Poor Condition	1.8%	5%	5%
% of Non-Interstate NHS pavement in Good Condition	41.6%	33.1%	33.1%
% of Non-Interstate NHS pavement in Poor Condition	8.9%	10%	10%

2) NHS Bridges

Current coordination efforts include evaluation of the condition of the deck, culvert, substructure, and superstructure for bridges on the NHS. The evaluation of the bridges will use the National Bridge Inspection Standards (NBIS). Each deck, culvert, substructure, and superstructure are rated on a 0-9 scale and recorded in the National Bridge Inventory (NBI) database. The NBI Condition ratings are broken up into three categories below:

- Good Condition: Rating of 7-9
- Fair Condition: Rating of 5-6
- Poor Condition: Rating of 0-4
 - Serious or Critical Condition: Rating of 2-3
 - Imminent Failure/Failed Condition: Rating of 0-1

**Figure 6-4
Cooper Street Bridge under Construction**



The rule designates that MDOT is required to establish two- and four-year targets for bridge conditions on the NHS. MDOT is required to submit three performance reports to FHWA within the four-year performance period. There are two performance measures for assessing bridge condition:

- % of NHS bridges in Good Condition
- % of NHS bridges in Poor Condition

The minimum penalty threshold requires that no more than 10% of NHS bridges measured by deck area be classified as structurally deficient.

Table 6-3: NHS Bridge Condition Performance Measures

NHS Bridge Condition	2022-25 Baseline	2-Year Target	4-Year Target
% of NHS bridges in Good Condition	22.1%	15.2%	12.8%
% of NHS bridges in Poor Condition	7%	6.8%	5.8%

As of the adoption of this plan, MDOT was still working on the development of this target.

3) Interstate & NHS Reliability

In 2015, the Statewide Congestion Management Group (SCMG) was formed to coordinate efforts between MDOT and MPOs that address federal system performance measures. Since that time, this group has produced a congestion analysis white paper, reviewed and commented on draft performance measures, provided comment on a RFP for vehicle probe data, and discussed best practices and issues with measuring congestion.

MDOT submits statewide targets for the federal system performance measures. MPOs will have six months to either support the statewide targets or develop their own. MDOT is working with the MPOs to discuss the process and methods for setting the targets, and the RITIS and INRIX platforms that can help agencies set their own targets if they desire. The performance measures for assessing interstate and NHS reliability is shown in Table 6-4. MDOT has provided the following information on performance measure baselines and targets:

Table 6-4: NHS System Reliability Performance Measures

NHS System Reliability	2022-25 Baseline	2-Year Target	4-Year Target
% of Reliable Person-Miles traveled on Interstate	97.1%	80%	80%
% of Reliable Person-Miles traveled on Non-Interstate NHS	94.4%	75%	75%

As of the adoption of this plan, MDOT was still working on the development of this target.

4) Freight Movement on the Interstate

Freight movement will be assessed by a Truck Travel Time Reliability (TTTR) Index that analyzes freight travel over several time periods. The measure comes from the recognition that the industry's use of the transportation system is during all times of day.

MDOT and the Jackson MPO will have the choice of using FHWA’s National Performance Management Research Data Set or an equivalent data set. MDOT has provided the following information on performance measure baselines and targets:

Table 6-5: Freight Movement Performance Measures

NHS Freight Reliability	2022-25 Baseline	2-Year Target	4-Year Target
Truck Travel Time Reliability Index - Interstate	1.31	1.60	1.60

MDOT must establish two- and four-year targets. The targets will be reported in the State’s baseline performance period report. MDOT will have the option to adjust the four-year target in their mid-performance period progress report. As of the adoption of this plan, MDOT was still working on the development of this target.

Infrastructure Alignment

The transition to performance-based planning is underway at the Jackson MPO and will continue as the federally-required performance measures continue to be identified, understood, and move toward maturity. At the time of the plan’s adoption, there remain several performance measures that have yet to be finalized by MDOT. The only performance measures that MPOs have been required to address are the transit asset management measures and the five highway-related safety measures. MPOs will be working through the remaining performance measures throughout the rest of this year.

MDOT is working with the Jackson MPO to better understand the expectations of the federally-required measures. For planning agencies to maximize the benefits of performance-based planning, good data is needed on the current and desired transportation system. The data is important to set strategic directions, analyze how funds are invested and programmed, and evaluate program outcomes. For many performance measures there is not a lot of good information to base decisions on. The lack of data makes it difficult to determine how projects or a program of projects will impact future performance.

As planning agencies around the country gain experience in working with the federally-required measures, tools will likely be developed to help agencies understand the impact that investments will have on outcomes. This will allow for the consideration of the tradeoffs in pursuing or focusing on one measure over another to produce results that are important to the stakeholders in the Jackson MPO.

A list of the FY 2023-2026 TIP projects and the performance areas that they align with is found in Appendix B. Information in the project description, primary work type, and other narratives associated with the project in the TIP were used to determine if a project aligns with the performance areas. The Region 2 Planning Commission staff assessed the local (City of Jackson and Jackson County) projects, MDOT assessed their own projects, and JATA assessed the transit agency projects.

A major project initiative currently underway by MDOT is the I-94 modernization project. This long-term project will significantly impact the Jackson MPO performance-based planning measures. The project work has and will continue to positively impact several of

the national targets, including Safety, Pavement/Bridge, and System Performance Measures. Completed work along the nine-mile corridor includes the addition of weave lanes, a widened median and shoulders, and reconstructed interchange ramps and bridges adhering to modernized standards. These improvements serve to increase the safety of the corridor for both passenger vehicles as well as freight traffic. These improvements have positively contributed towards improving the Safety Performance Targets. The nearly five miles of newly reconstructed or resurfaced pavement will contribute to both the Jackson MPO and Statewide Interstate and National Highway System Pavement Targets. The replacement of the bridge over the Grand River and several overpasses will also contribute to the NHS Bridges Target. Lastly, the weave lanes, widened median and shoulders, and reconstructed interchange ramps and bridges should also positively impact the Interstate and NHS Reliability and Freight Movement Performance Measures.