

## INTRODUCTION

The Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) has created this Transportation Planning Resource Guide to help inform and assist Franklin County communities in their transportation planning activities. This Guide is intended to serve as a reference and resource for local transportation planning decisions, and to provide Franklin County towns with easy access to frequently requested transportation-related data and program information.

In its opening sections, the Guide reviews the most current socioeconomic and transportation data available at the town and county levels, as well as projected trends. The discussion of socioeconomic information covers total town populations, population age distributions, housing supply and occupancy levels, major employers, and labor force and unemployment figures. Transportation data overviewed by the Guide include roadway miles and functional classifications, traffic volumes, intersection congestion, and high accident locations.

In its later sections, the Guide overviews various federal and state potential transportation project funding sources. These funding sources include federal aid listed in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), the Chapter 90 Program, the Public Works Economic Development Program (PWED), and a variety of other funding programs. The discussion includes a review of programs that specifically direct their monies for bridge rehabilitation and repair projects. The Guide also reviews FRCOG's pavement management and monitoring activities, and the Design Alternatives for Rural Roads manual that has been developed to help preserve rural character. Lastly, this Guide discusses related FRCOG planning projects and activities that are not focused on transportation, but have transportation implications. These projects include the Regional Policy Plan, the Regional Open Space Project, economic development activities, and town master planning initiatives.

The report's appendices include additional useful information for town officials such as listings of transportation planning contacts, FRCOG planning reports, and transportation-related websites. The appendices also contain detailed information on each bridge in the county that is 20 feet or longer, and the average daily traffic volumes at various locations for 1991 through 2000. Both sets of data are provided by town. The final appendix in this guide (Appendix 8) provides a glossary of commonly-used transportation acronyms, many of which are included in this report.

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