

Chapter 10 – Corridor Preservation

Corridor preservation is the practice of purchasing future rights of way many years ahead of planned transportation projects as an effort to reduce overall costs to taxpayers. Some estimates indicate that the early and well-planned purchase of transportation corridors can result in cost savings of one-fifth or one-sixth of the amount that would be needed if the purchase were put off. The degree of importance for corridor preservation increases in areas like the Dixie MPO where high population growth is anticipated and where developers and homebuilders are not always cognizant of the impacts their actions could have on the overall community.

The Dixie MPO encourages all municipalities to anticipate and address corridor preservation needs within their own borders – and to utilize the Washington County Corridor Preservation Fund: In 2009, the Washington County Board of Commissioners implemented a “\$10 per vehicle” annual registration fee to endow a corridor preservation fund that is administered by the county-wide Council of Governments (COG).

The COG is made up of elected leaders from throughout Washington County. The Council meets at least annually to review a list of priority projects and program funds from the Local Transportation Corridor Preservation Fund. The Fund is accumulating about \$1.3 million of revenues annually for acquisition of future rights-of-way. To receive funding, projects must be on the COG project priority list and be supported by a majority of Council members.

Objectives and Goals

Preservation of future transportation corridors is critical now and in the future; the Dixie MPO will work towards meeting goals and objectives to assist this worthy cause.

Objective

Coordinate with the COG to edit the list of priority projects and select right-of-way acquisitions that maximize the effective use of the Washington County Corridor Preservation Fund.

Goals

1. Encourage all municipalities to anticipate and address corridor preservation needs within their own borders.
2. Assist with the efforts of Washington County Public Works in preparing the Annual Master Priority Corridor Preservation Project List.
3. Notify Dixie MPO members aware of opportunities to use the Preservation Fund.
4. Become more aware of project needs and look for opportunities to preserve important transportation corridors through use of the Fund.
5. Work with Dixie MPO partners to identify opportunities for corridor preservation.