Research Questions

What We Tried to Answer

Learn: **Prepare a transportation system that can anticipate and adapt to changes in the population, economy, technology, climate, and travel behavior.**

– What are the trends in the county's *population* (total population, age characteristics, minority populations, etc.)? What do we expect in the future?

– In what *locations* do we expect the population to grow or decline?

– How will our *labor force* (working population) change? Will we have enough workers with the necessary, diverse skills to expand the economy?

– What are the trends in the county's *economy* (job types, industries, business locations, wage rates relative to cost of living)? What do we expect in the future?

– How is *freight* transported in and through our region, and how is that changing?

– What are the trends in residents' *travel behavior*? What do we expect in the future? (e.g., travel to work, working at home, different work schedules; other trip types).

– What are the trends in the region's *climate*? What do we expect in the future?

– What are the likely *impacts of climate change* to our transportation infrastructure?

– What are the *technological trends* affecting transportation in the county? What do we expect in the future?

– How and when will *automated vehicle* (AV) technology be introduced in our region? Fleets? Industries? Private use?

Assess: **Provide safe and convenient access for all people to housing, jobs, goods, services, and recreational amenities, regardless of age, ability, race, income, location, or mode of transportation.**

– What gaps and weaknesses exist in our transportation system?

– Where are our high-crash locations? What conditions create these hot spots? Where is speeding an issue?

– What locations have the most congestion or experience unreliable travel times? What is causing this congestion and unreliability?

– What transportation conditions or barriers (ground, air, & maritime) are limiting our economic strength or the success of businesses in the county?

– What transportation barriers exist that limit local residents' access to recreational sites?

– Where is transportation an obstacle to educational opportunities?

– What population groups may have difficulty accessing jobs or services due to transportation issues? Why do they have difficulty? Where are the gaps?

– How do we expect these challenges to change or continue in the future?

Advocate: Promote smart transportation and land use policies at the regional, county, and local level to support economic development, environmental preservation, and improved quality of life.

– What local policies or practices limit municipalities' ability to make smart transportation and land use decisions? (e.g. in zoning codes, subdivision codes, highway/street standards, maintenance practices, or other policies/practices)

– How could MPO policies and practices better enable municipalities to make smart transportation and land use decisions? (e.g. future project selection process, communication and meetings, or types of planning efforts)

– What are the best practice policies to improve transportation and land use decisions, and how can they be replicated here?

<u>Vision Process</u>: *Given the research and trends identified above, what does a future transportation system look like that supports the above goals…in 25, 50, or even 100 years?*

Invest: Make transformative investments in our transportation system while maintaining fiscal constraint and leveraging private investment.

– What are the transportation *funding challenges* faced by our local governments?

– How much funding is needed to *maintain* our transportation system over the next 25 years?

- How much *public investment* in transportation infrastructure (from all sources: federal, state, and local) can we expect in the next 25 years?

- Given these levels, how much funding would be available to make *transformative changes*?

- What *new funding models* are being considered for the future? What funding options should we pursue or promote?

- How much *private investment* might be available to improve transportation? What compels private entities to invest in transportation?

- What projects, project types, or other investments would *positively transform* our transportation system?