

# TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PLAN (TIP)

## What is a Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP)?

A Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) is a multi-year planning document that identifies and prioritizes transportation projects within a jurisdiction. These projects may include road repairs, sidewalk construction, trail and share use pathways, ADA improvements, bike lane development, traffic signal upgrades, transit enhancements, and safety improvements.

Typically covering a period of at least six years, the TIP is updated annually to reflect changing needs, funding availability, and project readiness. It serves as both a strategic roadmap and a financial plan, aligning community goals with available local, state, and federal funding sources.

## Purpose of the TIP

The TIP plays several essential roles:

- **Long Range Planning:** The 6-year TIP provides a basis over the next six years and three budget cycles to plan for and budget projects.
- **Project Prioritization:** It helps the city systematically evaluate and rank transportation needs based on safety, mobility, accessibility, and community impact.
- **Funding Eligibility:** Many state and federal grants require projects to be included in an adopted TIP before funding can be awarded.
- **Transparency and Accountability:** The TIP provides a clear, publicly accessible outline of planned investments, ensuring residents understand how transportation funds are allocated.
- **Coordination:** It aligns local projects with regional and state transportation plans, supporting consistency and collaboration across jurisdictions.

## Why Lake Forest Park Needs a TIP

Lake Forest Park faces ever changing transportation challenges, including aging infrastructure, increasing traffic volumes, and a growing need for safe, multimodal travel options. A TIP is necessary to:

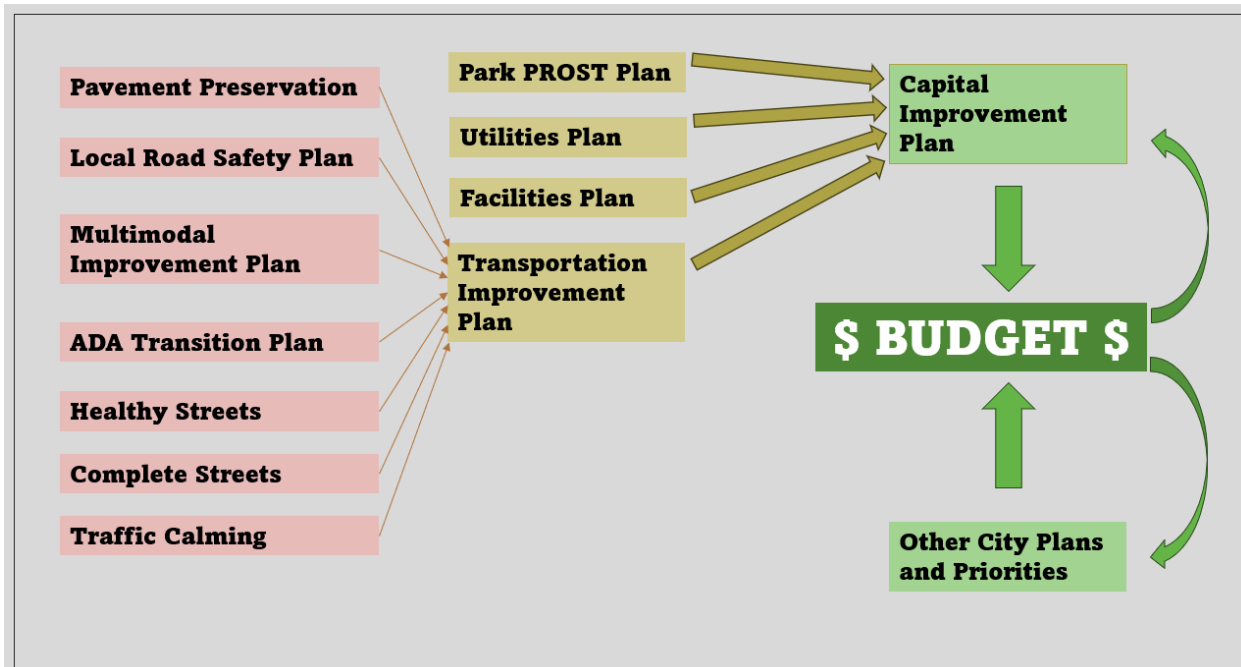
- **Address Infrastructure Needs:** Prioritize maintenance and upgrades to roads, bridges, and pedestrian facilities to ensure safety and reliability.



- Enhance Safety: Identify and fund projects that reduce collisions and improve conditions for all users, including pedestrians and cyclists.
- Support Growth and Livability: Ensure the transportation network can accommodate population changes while maintaining the city’s character and environmental values.
- Leverage External Funding: Position the City to compete for grants and partnerships that can supplement limited local resources.
- Promote Sustainability: Encourage projects that reduce emissions, support transit use, and improve walkability and bikeability.

## How the TIP Aligns with Other City Plans and Processes

The TIP is not a standalone document; it is directly informed by and integrated with several other City planning and budgeting tools. Together, these frameworks ensure that transportation investments are strategic, consistent, and financially feasible.



Capital Improvement Plan (CIP):

The TIP functions as the transportation-focused subset of the City’s broader CIP. While the CIP includes all major capital projects (such as parks, facilities, and utilities), the TIP specifically identifies transportation-related projects. Projects listed in the TIP are typically incorporated into the CIP to ensure they are programmed, funded, and delivered in alignment with the City’s overall capital priorities.



### Comprehensive Plan:

The Comprehensive Plan is the overarching guidelines that direct city priorities. It establishes long-term policy direction for land use, transportation, and community development. The TIP implements the transportation goals and policies of the Comprehensive Plan by translating them into specific projects. This ensures that investments support adopted community priorities such as safety, connectivity, sustainability, and equity.

### City Budget:

The annual and biennial budgeting process allocates the financial resources necessary to advance TIP projects. While the TIP identifies and prioritizes projects over a multi-year horizon, the budget determines which projects move forward in a given fiscal period based on available revenues and in conjunction with other city plans and priorities for funding.

### Integration of Supporting Plans and Programs:

The TIP is populated and shaped by several existing plans, policies, and programs that identify needs and guide project development:

**Complete Streets initiatives:** Ensure that transportation projects safely accommodate all users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, transit riders, and drivers.

**Healthy Streets strategies:** Promote active transportation, public health, and community well-being through improved walkability and bikeability.

**Traffic calming programs:** Identify and implement measures to reduce vehicle speeds and improve neighborhood safety.

**Local Road Safety Plan:** Provides data-driven analysis of collision trends and identifies priority safety improvements.

**Pavement Preservation Program:** Guides investments in maintaining and extending the life of roadway infrastructure in a cost-effective manner.

**Multimodal Improvement Plan:** Identifies opportunities to enhance connectivity across different modes of travel, supporting a more balanced and resilient transportation system.

**ADA Transition Plan:** Identifies existing barriers to users of all abilities to ensure projects meet the needs of the whole community.



These plans collectively inform which projects are included in the TIP, how they are prioritized, and how they are designed. By integrating these efforts, the TIP ensures that individual projects contribute to a cohesive and comprehensive transportation strategy.

## Key Components of the TIP

A typical TIP includes:

- Project List: Description of each project, including scope, location, and expected benefits.
- Cost Estimates: Preliminary budgets for each project phase (planning, design, construction).
- Funding Sources: Identification of anticipated funding (local funds, grants, partnerships).
- Timeline: Estimated schedule for project implementation.

## Annual Update Process

Each year, the City reviews and updates the TIP to:

- Reflect completed, ongoing, or delayed projects
- Incorporate new priorities or emerging needs
- Adjust funding assumptions based on current revenues and grant opportunities

Public input and Council direction are key components of this update process.

## Conclusion

The Transportation Improvement Plan is a critical tool for guiding Lake Forest Park's transportation investments. By prioritizing projects, ensuring funding eligibility, and aligning with community goals, the TIP enables the City to maintain a safe, efficient, and sustainable transportation system.

