

Chapter 1 Introduction

The Herkimer-Oneida Counties Governmental Policy and Liaison Committee (GP&L) is the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for Herkimer and Oneida Counties and directs the regional transportation planning process as it relates to the use of Federal transportation funds. It has final approval and authority on all major transportation decisions, policies, and programs developed through the Herkimer-Oneida Counties Transportation Study (HOCTS) planning process. HOCTS serves as staff to the GP&L to carry out the transportation planning process and works cooperatively with local, state, and federal agencies to conduct transportation planning activities in Herkimer and Oneida Counties. The GP&L is composed primarily of locally elected and appointed officials that represent the interests of the citizens of Herkimer and Oneida Counties, officials from the State of New York, transit providers, social services agencies and other stakeholders.

Under federal legislation, HOCTS is responsible for the planning and programming of federal transportation funds within the MPO Planning Area. This process is guided by three documents: the annual Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), the 5-year Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) and the 20-year Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) which is updated every 5 years. These documents are available online at www.hocts.org. Figure 1-1 depicts the Federal-Aid Highway System which includes New York State highways and all federal-aid eligible roads and bridges in the Planning Area.

The LRTP is developed as a guide or a blueprint for planning transportation system maintenance and improvements to address the current need and future demand. Developing and maintaining a complex transportation system of highway, bridge, rail, transit, aviation, canal, bicycle and pedestrian facilities requires careful planning and decision making. HOCTS provides a public forum to address the transportation needs of the two-county area through its committee structure and adopted public outreach plan.

The LRTP outlines goals, objectives and recommendations that address the transportation needs of the area to reflect changes in demographics, travel needs, economic conditions, technological improvements, environmental factors and land use patterns to appropriately program funding in accordance with state and federal requirements and in a manner that is consistent with local development plans. *Destinations 2010-2030* is consistent with the HOCTS mission to develop an integrated intermodal transportation system that facilitates the safe and efficient movement of people and goods. The LRTP has been developed in compliance with requirements of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (Public Law 109-59; SAFETEA-LU) and funded with FHWA-PL and FTA Section 5303 planning funds.¹

¹ US Department of Transportation – Federal Highway Administration

Map 1-1. Federal-Aid Highway System in Herkimer and Oneida Counties

