

**Guidance for Municipal Plan Conformance with the Highlands Regional Master Plan
Circulation Plan Element Conformance Standards**

New Jersey Highlands Council

COMPONENT	STATUS ¹	STANDARDS	COMMENTARY
Environmental Resource Inventory		<p>BASIC PLAN CONFORMANCE STANDARDS:</p> <p>1. General: Incorporate by reference in support of ERI policies and objectives and Highlands Project reviews the Highlands Council maps of the Roadway and Transit Network and the Land Use Capability Baseline Transportation and Transit Indicator map.</p>	<p>The Highlands Council will provide digital files of the Roadway and Transit Network and the LUCM Baseline Transportation and Transit Data Layer. The Land Use Capability Baseline Transportation and Transit Indicator map and Land Use Capability Zone Map may be subject to change due to the RMP Updates Program in support of Plan Conformance and upon approval of the Highlands Council. A municipality is required to develop an independent ERI for full Plan Conformance, but not for Basic Conformance.</p>
		<p>PLAN CONFORMANCE STANDARDS:</p> <p>1. Mapping: Incorporate any mapping revisions approved in support of Plan Conformance.</p> <p>2. Narrative: Discuss the relationship of transportation infrastructure and service capabilities to the development pattern of the municipality. Note situations where environmental constraints and land preservation affect the potential utilization of existing transportation infrastructure.</p>	
Land Use Plan Element		<p>BASIC PLAN CONFORMANCE STANDARDS:</p> <p>1. General: Incorporate by reference in support of Land Use Plan Element policies and objectives and Highlands Project reviews the Highlands Council maps of the Roadway and Transit Network and the Land Use Capability Baseline Transportation and Transit Indicator map.</p>	<p>The Highlands Council will provide digital files of the Roadway and Transit Network and the LUCM Baseline Transportation and Transit Data Layer. The Land Use Capability Baseline Transportation and Transit Indicator map and Land Use Capability Zone Map may be subject to change due to the RMP Updates Program in support of Plan Conformance and upon approval of the Highlands Council. A municipality is required to develop an</p>

¹ This column is for the municipal self-assessment. C = fully complete. P = partially complete, with a need for improvement. IP = in progress. NS = not started. NA = not applicable (e.g., for a municipality for which this component is not relevant).

			independent update of its Land Use Plan Element for full Plan Conformance, but not for Basic Conformance.
		<p>PLAN CONFORMANCE STANDARDS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Mapping: Incorporate any mapping revisions approved in support of Plan Conformance. Narrative: In accordance with the Transportation and Safety Mobility Program incorporate into the development of the Land Use Plan Element the linkage between transportation and land use as appropriate. 	Refer to the policies and objectives of the Transportation Safety and Mobility Program in Chapter 5 of the RMP.
Municipal Master Plan and Circulation Plan Element		<p>BASIC PLAN CONFORMANCE STANDARDS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> General (Background Statement): Adopt by reference RMP Policy 5B2, 5B3, and 5C6 and incorporate the Highlands Council maps of the Roadway and Transit Network and the Land Use Capability Baseline Transportation and Transit Indicator map and the Land Use Capability Zone Map. Policy Statement: Recognize as a municipal goal the preservation and enhancement of the transportation system through integration of transportation and comprehensive land use planning. The RMP emphasizes the promotion of a balanced, efficient and safe transportation system that is consistent with smart growth principles and which preserves the mobility of the Highlands transportation system and recognizes surrounding regional transportation conditions and influences. Relate the policies to MLUL purposes as appropriate. 	Policies 5B2 and 5B3 require Highlands Project Reviews to incorporate a growth inducing study for road improvements that increase vehicular motorized traffic capacity. Policy 5C6 requires the development of a Circulation Plan Element that coordinates with the Land Use Plan and demonstrates consistency with the RMP.
		<p>PLAN CONFORMANCE STANDARDS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Master Plan Requirements: Establish RMP Policies 5B2, 5B3 and 5C6 as a policy of the municipality, and incorporate the Highlands Council maps of the Roadway and Transit Network and the Land Use Capability Baseline Transportation and Transit Indicator map and the Land Use Capability Zone Map, enumerating the purposes and benefits as cited in the Circulation Plan Element. Circulation Plan Element Requirements: Establish importance of linking the Circulation Plan Element and the Land Use Plan Element in support of comprehensive planning. The Circulation Plan Element shall ensure mobility and accessibility, assess improvement needs and safety concerns, evaluate transit services and address smart growth principles consistent with the RMP, including consideration resource protection policies and objectives. The Circulation Plan shall show the location and types of facilities for all modes of transportation and transit and promote the efficient movement of people and goods. The plan shall include scenic byways and corridors and regional airport facilities, and shall evaluate opportunities for increased transit, movement of goods via freight rail lines, shared parking and multi-modal tourism connections. The Plan in agricultural communities shall include an evaluation of agriculture tourism and safe travel routes for farm activities. 	Through municipal conformance land use, zoning and circulation plans are aligned and therefore development projects in accordance with the RMP shall not incur growth inducing effects inconsistent with the RMP policies and objectives. At the local level traffic impacts, egress/ingress and safety shall be addressed through MLUL, RSIS, NJDOT and FHA as appropriate. The Highlands Council will provide Transportation Project Review standards.

		<p>3. <u>Transportation Project Reviews:</u> In accordance with the Highlands Act the Council may provide comments and recommendations on any transportation project undertaken by any State entity or local government unit in the Highlands Region. In the Preservation Area the Council recommendation is binding and it is non-binding for the Planning Area. The municipality shall make provision for Highlands Council review of any such projects undertaken by the municipality, including submittal of information necessary for the Council to complete a thorough review. The Transportation Project Review will evaluate the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Consistency with the goals, policies and objectives and smart growth principles of the RMP. b. Require an evaluation of growth inducing impacts that may result due to road improvements for increased motorized vehicle traffic capacity, consistent with the requirements of 5B3. c. Impact on water quantity and quality, and on all Highlands resources addressed by the RMP, including but not limited to forests, critical habitat, open waters, and historic and scenic resources. d. The relationship to surrounding land uses and near and long-term transportation plans for the Highlands region and the larger 13 county regional transportation planning area. e. Use of alternative modes of transportation including transit, bus, pedestrian and bicycle. f. Safety measures such as traffic calming strategies and pedestrian and bicycle safety features. g. Impacts on agricultural and freight mobility h. Effect on eco-tourism, agri-tourism and heritage tourism in the Region. 	
Institutional Capability		<p>1. <u>Planning:</u> The Council will provide assistance should planning board and zoning board of adjustment staff and members require assistance with the Circulation Plan Element to ensure that conformance with the RMP is achieved and maintained.</p>	To assist board members and staff regarding this topic and the implementing ordinance, the Council will provide educational and training opportunities as requested. Council will work with the municipality's professionals if requested.
		<p>2. <u>Independent Projects:</u> The municipality must periodically and in a timely manner inform the Highlands Council of special or independent projects (e.g., transit village or transportation feasibility studies) developed and implemented regarding circulation planning, as related to Plan Conformance or RMP implementation.</p>	
Recommended Guidance Documents		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. NJDOT, Mobility and Community Form Element 2. NJ Transit, Transit Score Program 3. NJTPA, Regional Transportation Plan 	Guidance documents are listed for informational purposes only.

		4. NJDOT, Route 57 Corridor Project 5. NJDOT, Pedestrian Safety Initiative 6. NJDOT, Safe Routes to School	
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