



DRAFT

13. Regional Cooperation

LONG-TERM GOAL

The Comprehensive Plan defines Hamilton’s critical role in creating an atmosphere for joint governmental cooperation and collaboration in recognition of the necessity of the surrounding jurisdictions acting together to achieve the best interests for the Butler County and the OKI region.

INTRODUCTION:

Hamilton is located in the heart of Butler County, one of the fastest growing areas in Ohio. Situated within the Cincinnati-Dayton Metroplex, and between three interstates (I-75, I-275, and I-74), the City should cooperate extensively with OKI and various State agencies, especially on environmental and transportation issues. Hamilton is also bisected by the Great Miami River and should work closely with the Miami Conservancy District to maintain the beauty and integrity of the Great Miami River.

“The intergovernmental coordination element of each local comprehensive plan will encourage cooperation within and between local governments on issues related to public facilities, land use, and transportation.” (OKI, Strategic Regional Policy Plan p.47)

13.1 Overall Objectives:

- A. The City of Hamilton will develop new, and review existing cooperative agreements with adjacent units of governments to facilitate projects of mutual interest, especially with OKI, ODOT, Butler County, the Miami Conservancy District, Hamilton School Board, and surrounding townships.



OBJECTIVES, STRATEGIES and ACTIONS:

13.2 Regional Cooperation

Objectives:

- A. The City of Hamilton should enhance its position as a central node in the Cincinnati-Dayton Metroplex.
- B. The City of Hamilton should work with OKI and other regional organizations to efficiently address regional land use, transportation facilities, and economic issues.
- C. Continue to participate in regional transportation initiatives and programs.

Strategies:

In order to meet the objectives outlined in this Comprehensive Plan's Regional Cooperation section, the following strategies should be pursued by the City of Hamilton:

- *“Local governments will effectively and willingly communicate, cooperate and coordinate on issues of land use, transportation, natural systems, economic development and public facilities and services.” (OKI, Strategic Regional Policy Plan p.19)*
- *“Regional planning generally consists of processes to define a vision, establish common priorities, and work together toward a shared future. OKI, as the federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for transportation planning, is the tri-state's only multipurpose regional entity that is in a position to plan for and coordinate intergovernmental solutions to growth-related problems. OKI works daily to promote regional cooperation while supporting local autonomy.” (OKI, Strategic Regional Policy Plan p.7)*

Actions:

- A. The City of Hamilton should continue participation in regional organizations, including OKI and area economic development groups.
- B. The City of Hamilton should take a leadership role in promoting the entire Greater Hamilton Area.
- C. The City of Hamilton professional staff should continue participation and investment in regional transportation, land use, environmental and economic development issues.



13.3 County Growth

Objectives:

- A. The City of Hamilton will foster cooperative relationships with neighboring cities and townships.
- B. Encourage compatible land uses with neighboring communities.
- C. The City of Hamilton should remain the county seat and center of resources.

Strategies:

In order to meet the objectives outlined in this Comprehensive Plan's Regional Cooperation section, the following strategies should be pursued by the City of Hamilton:

- *"Solutions to a wide range of shared problems can be found through cooperation among adjacent local governments and between governments at all levels."* (OKI, Strategic Regional Policy Plan p.46)
- *"Cooperation is a necessary and effective tool for communities to achieve development objectives while conserving open space and natural resources."* (OKI, Strategic Regional Policy Plan p.94)

Actions:

- A. Develop an integrated Geographic Information System (GIS) that allows sharing data/files with Butler County to facilitate efficient information management and exchange and also permits public access through the Internet to certain records and information.
- B. Develop cooperative agreements with Butler County concerning public open space and facilities in Downtown Hamilton and in other locations, especially in conjunction with implementation of the Downtown/Riverfront Plans and other elements contained in the Comprehensive Plan.
- C. Explore the benefits of joint agreements with neighboring jurisdictions and Butler County for Hamilton to reduce the cost of providing services to citizens of Hamilton.



13.4 Schools

Objectives:

- A. The City of Hamilton should coordinate with the Hamilton School Board on the many issues that could affect the quality of life in the City's neighborhoods.

Strategies:

In order to meet the objectives outlined in this Comprehensive Plan's Regional Cooperation section, the following strategies should be pursued by the City of Hamilton:

- The City and Hamilton School Board serve approximately the same population, therefore it is necessary for the two governmental units to work together to promote and achieve the best possible use of publicly owned property, especially parks, open space, recreation facilities, and programs in which both governmental units have interests.
- *“Neighborhood stability also helps in maintaining property values, which in turn fund schools. When the perception of a school declines, it can set in motion a potentially vicious circle that ultimately affects the entire community.”* (OKI, Strategic Regional Policy Plan p.67)

Actions:

- A. Actively support School District facility and program investments in strengthening and revitalizing neighborhoods through the City's allocation of housing assistance, block grants, and park-open space improvement investments.
- B. Form a cooperative effort among the Economic Development Department, Chamber of Commerce and the School Board to develop educational programs oriented to career development and advancement particularly in technically oriented fields in demand by local employers.
- C. Coordinate with the School District on identifying and designating future uses to the vacant facilities.
- D. The City's Public Works and Planning Department should work closely with the Hamilton School District and with private schools to provide safe routes to schools via improvements in roadways, pedestrian ways, sidewalks, bicycle paths, etc.



Regional Cooperation Action List

Regional Cooperation

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- C. The City of Hamilton professional staff should continue participation and investment in regional transportation, land use, environmental and economic development issues.

County Growth

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Schools

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References

OKI Regional Council of Governments. Strategic Regional Policy Plan. Cincinnati: 2005.