

3. CRS Development

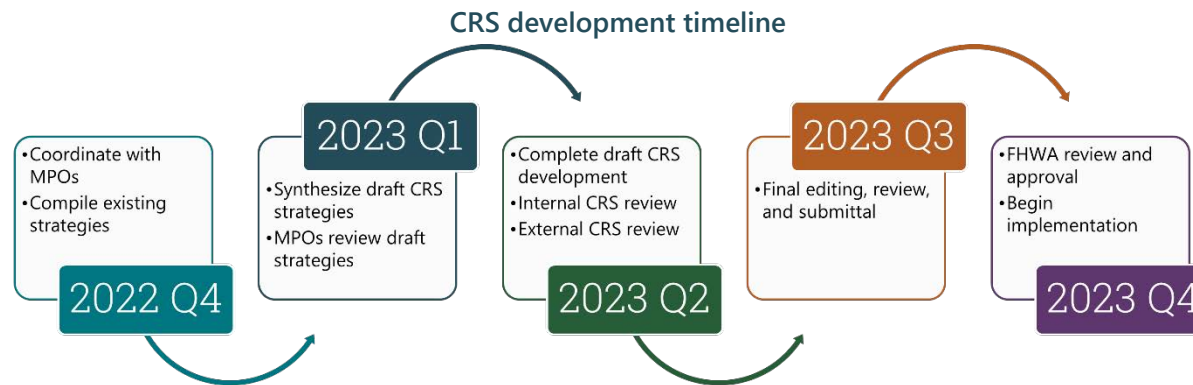
Developing the CRS provided an opportunity for the Iowa DOT and its partner MPOs to gather existing strategies and initiatives from their transportation planning processes and synthesize them into a set of cohesive statewide carbon reduction strategies. A statewide consultation process using Iowa's established transportation planning relationships provided opportunities for coordination and resulted in the identification of many shared priorities.

3.1 MPO Consultation Process

Iowa has a well-established cooperative transportation planning process that dates to the 1991 Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA). At the time, the Iowa Transportation Commission saw a unique opportunity to foster partnerships and develop a cooperative planning process that was flexible, participatory, inclusive of non-traditional partners, proactive, and would provide better information to decision makers. Over the years, the Iowa DOT has implemented this by consulting with representatives of MPOs, RPAs, local county and municipal governments, tribes, and the public on an ongoing basis and through various means.

Coordination between the Iowa DOT and the state's nine MPOs occurred throughout the CRS development process, with a focus on development of the CRS strategies.

- Each MPO was asked to identify a point of contact with whom the Iowa DOT coordinated directly. MPO contacts coordinated with other MPO staff and regional stakeholders as appropriate.
- MPOs were asked to review their current plans and studies for strategies and initiatives that would support the reduction of transportation emissions.
- After input was received from all MPOs, the Iowa DOT consolidated this information with similar information gathered from Iowa DOT plans and national resources.
- The strategies were then combined, synthesized, and refined into a succinct but comprehensive list. This process is discussed further in Section 3.2. Draft strategies were provided to the MPOs for review and their feedback was incorporated as overall CRS document development continued.
- The CRS was reviewed internally by key bureaus and groups, and externally by stakeholders including MPOs before it was submitted to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).





3.2 CRS Strategy Development Process

The development of this CRS involved extensive coordination with Iowa's MPO partners and other stakeholders. Concurrently, the Iowa DOT reviewed the department's plans and studies for strategies that would support the reduction of transportation emissions. The following list provides the general types of statewide and MPO plans considered.

- Long-Range Transportation Plans
- Modal Plans
 - Aviation
 - Bicycle and Pedestrian
 - Passenger Transportation
 - Public Transit
 - Rail
- Specialized plans
 - Air Quality
 - Congestion Management
 - Electric Vehicles and Infrastructure
 - Freight
 - Integrated Corridor Management
 - Transportation Systems Management and Operations

Additionally, the Iowa DOT reviewed strategies from the department's Sustainability Working Group and recent efforts related to carbon sequestration. In total, an initial list of over 350 possible strategies was compiled from over 60 plans, studies, and sources.

After these initial strategies were compiled, there was additional screening conducted to eliminate strategies that 1) did not lend themselves to actionable project types or 2) did not clearly align with one of the three categories of projects and strategies identified in 23 U.S.C. 175(d)(2)(B). Approximately 70% of strategies moved forward.

Strategy groupings were developed to categorize the remaining strategies. Five general categories were used: multimodal transportation, operational efficiency, alternative fuels, construction, and other. Strategies within each overall category were then grouped into similar topics and themes, then CRS strategy statements were crafted. The goal for the assimilated CRS strategies was to capture the main components of the various individual strategies that were being synthesized, and to be actionable without being overly prescriptive.

