Lesson 5

Regional Planning
Learning Outcomes

- Describe how long-range transportation plans can be coordinated with local & regional land use goals and objectives
- Identify roles that MPOs and other regional & state agencies can take in creating coordinated regional transportation & land use plans
- Describe how to structure a process for creating a regional plan
- Identify effective tools to implement regional transportation & land use plans
Lesson 5:

Regional Planning

- 5.1 Planning & Visioning Overview
- 5.2 Where Are We Now?
- 5.3 Where Are We Going?
- 5.4 Where Do We Want to Be?
- 5.5 How Will We Get There?
What is Regional Planning?

Planning for the efficient placement of land use activities, infrastructure and growth across a significantly larger area of land than an individual city or town.

- A multi-jurisdictional geographic area, such as a metropolitan area or a group of rural counties
- An area with common economic, environmental or other conditions
Regional Planning Agencies

- Quasi-Governmental Organizations
- Councils of Government (COG)
- Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO)
- Regional Planning Councils/Regional Commissions
Regional Planning Agency
Responsibilities

- Assemble/analyze regional conditions and trends
- Foster regional cooperation/partnerships
- Provide technical assistance to member communities
- Establish regional vision/goals/policies
- Provide clearing house for state/federal funds
How it All Fits Together

**Land Use**
- Local Comprehensive Plan
  - Public Facility Plans
  - Area/Neighborhood Plans
  - Zoning/Development Regulations and Guidelines
  - Development Review and Permitting
  - Project Implementation

**Transportation**
- Regional Visioning
  - Long-Range Transportation Plan
    - Corridor and Area Plans
    - Functional Plans
      - Project Programming
      - Project Development
      - Project Implementation

**Regional Visioning**
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Where Are We Now?

- Community background and important features
- Strengths and weaknesses
- Current issues and concerns
- Articulating shared community values
Identify Values, Goals, Measures

Value

Goal

Objective

Measure

The community is an affordable place to live

Provide a mix of housing that is affordable to all income levels

Increase stock of housing defined as “affordable” by 20 percent

Percent of new units constructed annually that are “affordable”
Vision = Concise statement of values (how the region should be in the future)

- “In 2030, the Denver metropolitan area will be a dynamic region of almost four million people extending across 750 square miles. The overall development pattern will be relatively compact, with a clear distinction on the perimeter between urban and non-urban uses. Within the urban area, there will be diverse development types and housing options….”

Denver Regional Council of Governments
Goals = A short list of where we want to be as a community

- Enhance air quality
- Increase mobility and transportation choices
- Preserve critical lands, including agricultural, sensitive and strategic open lands
- Conserve and maintain availability of water resources
- Provide housing opportunities for a range of family and income types
- Maximize efficiency in public and infrastructure investments to promote other goals
Establish Performance Measures

Performance measures = Specific measures of how well we are doing

- **Accessibility:** How much time does travel take?
- **Congestion:** What is the level of exposure to traffic congestion?
- **Flexibility:** Can the system respond to unexpected conditions?
- **Safety:** What are the safety costs associated with transportation?
- **Land Use:** How does the transportation system affect land use?
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Evaluate Trends

- Regional growth totals
- Location/distribution of growth
- Socioeconomic and demographic characteristics
- Employment – industry mix
- Demand for housing by type
- Others?
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Create Scenarios (Alternative Futures)

- Growth patterns
- Transportation systems
- Natural resources (protected areas)

Source: Puget Sound Regional Council

Continue as planned
Focus growth in bigger cities
Focus growth in smaller cities and towns
Analyze Scenarios
Blueprint Indicators

Source: Sacramento Area Council of Governments
How Would Life in 2050 be Different with Each Scenario?

“The typical resident living in a version of a future typical of the ‘Base Case Scenario’ in 2050 would probably live in a house on a fairly large lot in a subdivision with houses that look a lot like theirs. They would travel to work longer distances than are typical today…”

“Typical residents living in a future typical of the Preferred Blueprint Scenario in 2050 would probably live in a house on a smaller lot, in a neighborhood with some larger houses and some attached row houses, apartments and condominiums. They would drive to work, but the trip would be shorter than today, and the time needed to get there would be about the same as today…”
Case Study

US 422 Regional Corridor Plan
Berks, Chester & Montgomery Counties, Pennsylvania
Since 1985, when the expressway was completed from King of Prussia to Pottstown, the corridor has experienced rapid growth.
Four-Part Study Approach

- Compile Inventory & Trends (Where are we now?)
- Assess Future Conditions (Where are we going?)
- Develop Alternative Futures/Scenarios (Where do we want to go?)
- Develop Plan and Implementation Strategies (How do we get there?)
Inventory and Trends:

Assets

Railroad track  Established downtown  Concentrated historic resources

Multi-use trails  Available roadway capacity  Water & sewer service
Inventory and Trends: Constraints

Lack of rail service          Low-density single use          Traffic Congestion

High crash concentration   Nuclear power plant   Single use (employment)
Inventory and Trends: Opportunities

Extend commuter rail  Revitalize downtown  Proposed station location

Proposed park & ride  Make complete street  Prepare Master Plan
Assess Future Conditions:

- Population
- Employment
- Transportation demand
- Traffic performance measures

Source: www.dsf.chesco.org
Future Conditions/Scenarios:

Find the clues to the future in:

- Municipal comprehensive plans
- Redevelopment plans and economic development plans
- Availability of infrastructure (sewer, water, etc.)
- Visioning workshops/design charrettes
- Discussions with municipal officials and the public
Future Conditions/Scenarios:
Trend Scenario – Land Use
Visioning Alternatives:
Sustainable Scenario – Land Use
Future Conditions/Scenarios:
Trend Scenario – Transportation
Visioning Alternatives:
Sustainable Scenario – Transportation
Recommended Strategies

- Revitalized Older Downtowns
- New Transit/Extensions
- Mixed-Use Development
- Transit-Oriented Development (TOD)
- Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)
- Park-and-Ride Lots
- Roadway and Interchange Capacity/Congestion Management
- Complete Streets
- Farmland/Open Space Preservation
- River Access
Regional Planning: Key Points

- State and regional agencies *can* influence land use to support transportation objectives
- Regional vision establishes the framework for coordinating transportation and land use
- Inclusive process is important, to establish consensus and buy-in
- Specific tools and further actions are required to implement the plan
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## Implementation Techniques

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Transportation Plans, Programs and Projects

- Long-range plan – goals, objectives, policies, and projects
- TIP project selection criteria
- Funding priorities
- Specific funded programs
- Project development and design policies and practices
Plan to Implement: State & Local Roles

A partnership between local governments and state DOT is essential

State’s Role
- Manage statewide and regional mobility
- Allocate and manage state/federal transportation funds
- Maintain and improve transportation infrastructure

Municipality/County Role
- Manage local mobility
- Maintain the local circulation system
- Manage and control land use and development
Plan to Implement:
Actions for Municipalities/Counties

- Plan regionally, working with all levels of government
- Help control growth in vehicular trips
  - Encourage mixed use developments
  - Encourage transit-friendly development
- Promote alternative modes of transportation
  - Require sidewalks
  - Consider on and off street facilities for bicycles
  - Provide transit services
Plan to Implement:

Actions for Municipalities/Counties

- Expand roadway network connectivity
- Coordinate operational improvements
  - Consider access management ordinance
  - Maintain efficient signal system
  - Consider dedicated turn lanes
  - Minimize conflict points
Specific Funded Programs

- Dallas-Fort Worth – NCTCOG Sustainable Development Program
  - Catalyzes infill, TOD, other “sustainable” projects

- Albany, NY - Community and Transportation Linkage Planning Program
  - Funds planning studies for communities to implement regional transportation plan

- Massachusetts – State TOD Infrastructure and Housing Support Program
  - Funds pedestrian, bike, parking, housing within ¼ mile of transit
Elements for Success

- Implementation plan
- Implementation oversight structure
- Education and re-education
- Consensus-building
- Interagency agreements
Review

- List the **four** basic questions to address (steps) in a regional visioning process
- List at least **four** key stakeholder organizations or groups who should be included in developing the regional vision
- List **three** techniques for implementing a regional vision through transportation plans, programs, or projects
- List **three** other types of implementation techniques that State and regional agencies can apply to influence local land use planning