

Sustainability in Transportation: The Land Use Connection

NC Board of Transportation Environmental Planning and Policy Committee

December 9, 2009

Raleigh, NC

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Topics

- Sustainability and urban growth in NC
- Core principles for achieving sustainable transportation
- Case studies:
 - Denver Blueprint Land Use & Transportation Plan
 - Maine Gateway Corridor Plan
- Policy considerations



The case for sustainable transportation

- Sprawl
- Safety
- Low funding
- Health
- Air quality & greenhouse gases

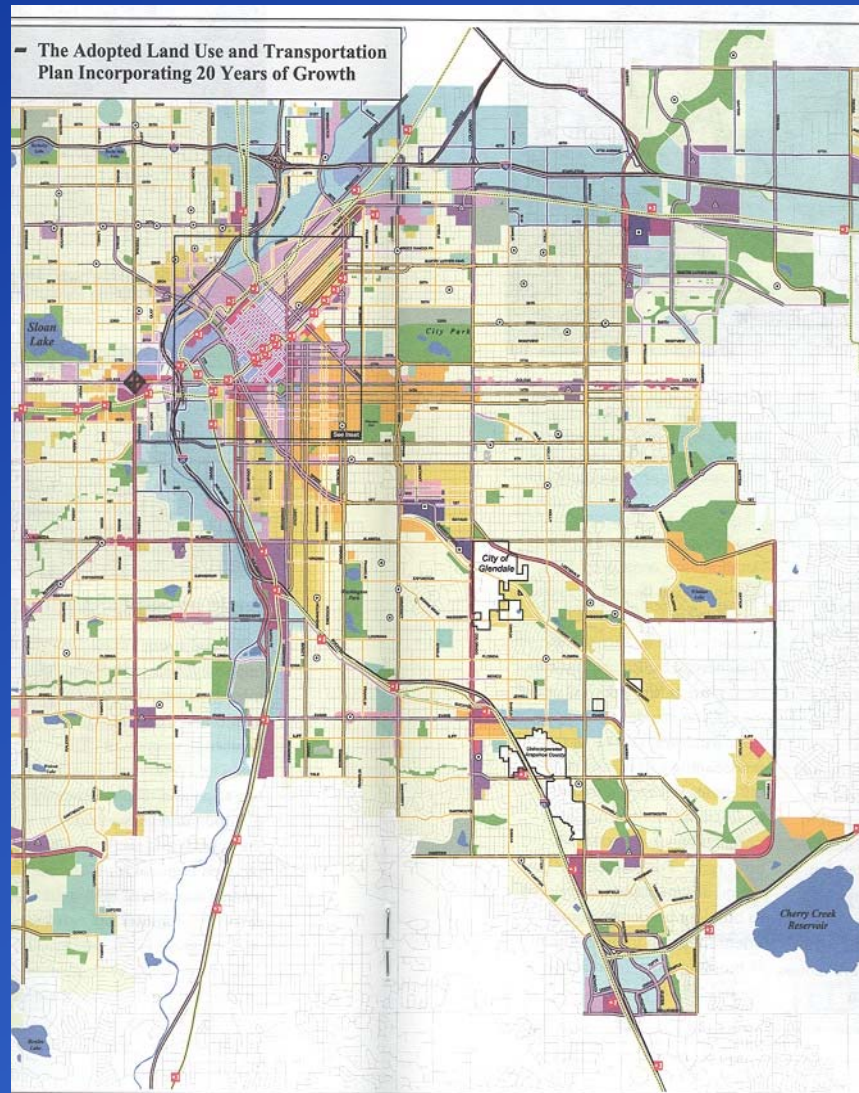
Core sustainability principles

- Prepare and anticipate
- Build partnerships at multiple levels
- Encourage cooperation –carrots & sticks
- Set targets, monitor, and evaluate

Case 1: *Blueprint Denver*

Integrates land use & transportation plans

Designates centers, corridors, streets, land use in growth and stable areas



Tools:

- mixed use zones
- multi-modal streetscapes stds.
- bldg. design stds.
- infrastructure investments coordinated with land use, economic development, & small area plans

Blueprint Denver

- Scarred aging corridor into a modern walkable economic development success.



- Regulatory change
- Infrastructure investments
- Public and private partnerships

Blueprint Denver: DM Tools: Urban Renewal District

-Regulatory change

- Mixed use zoning
- Urban design standards



Blueprint Denver:

DM Tools: Urban Renewal District



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-Infrastructure investments

- public transit
- sidewalk improvements

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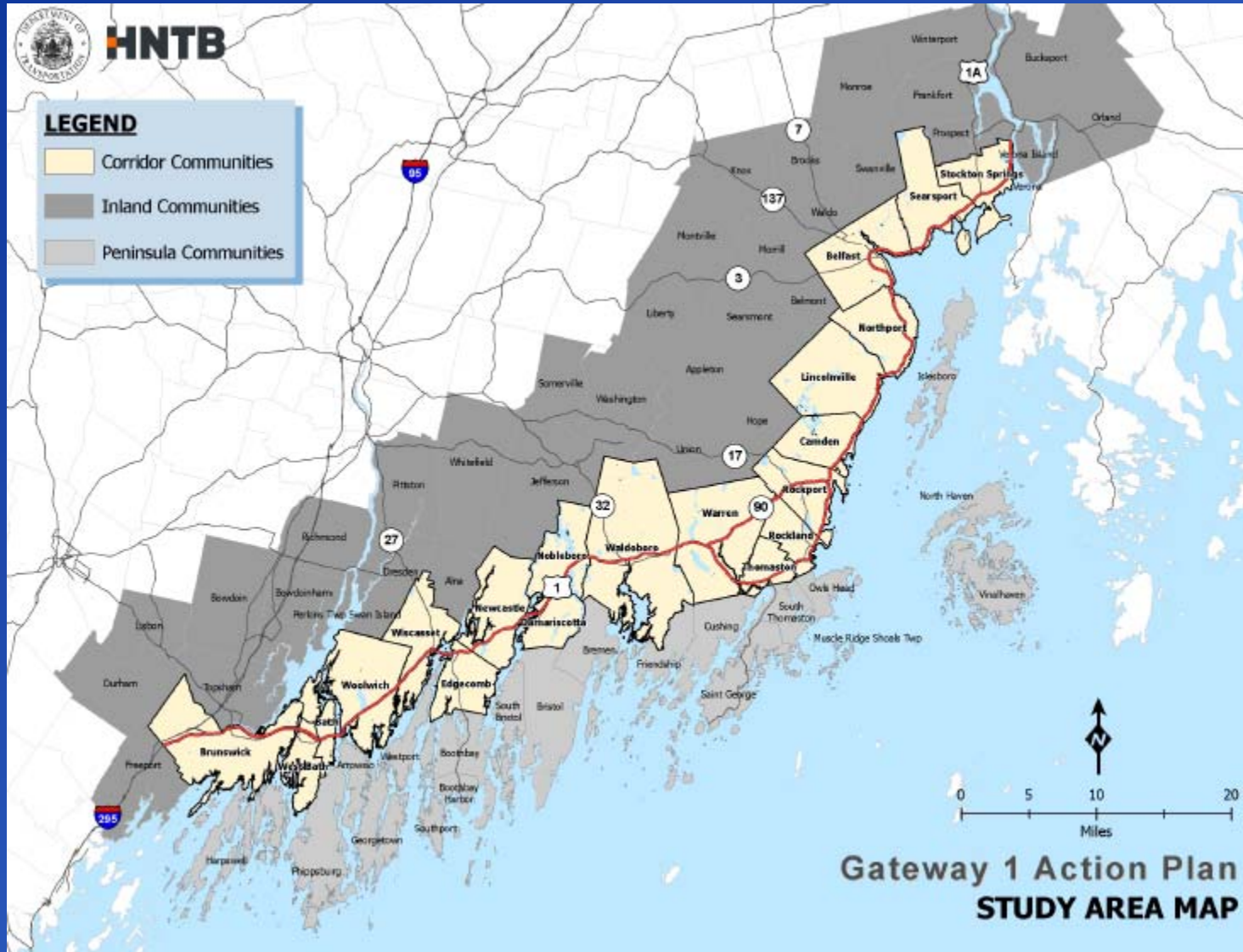
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-Public and private partnerships

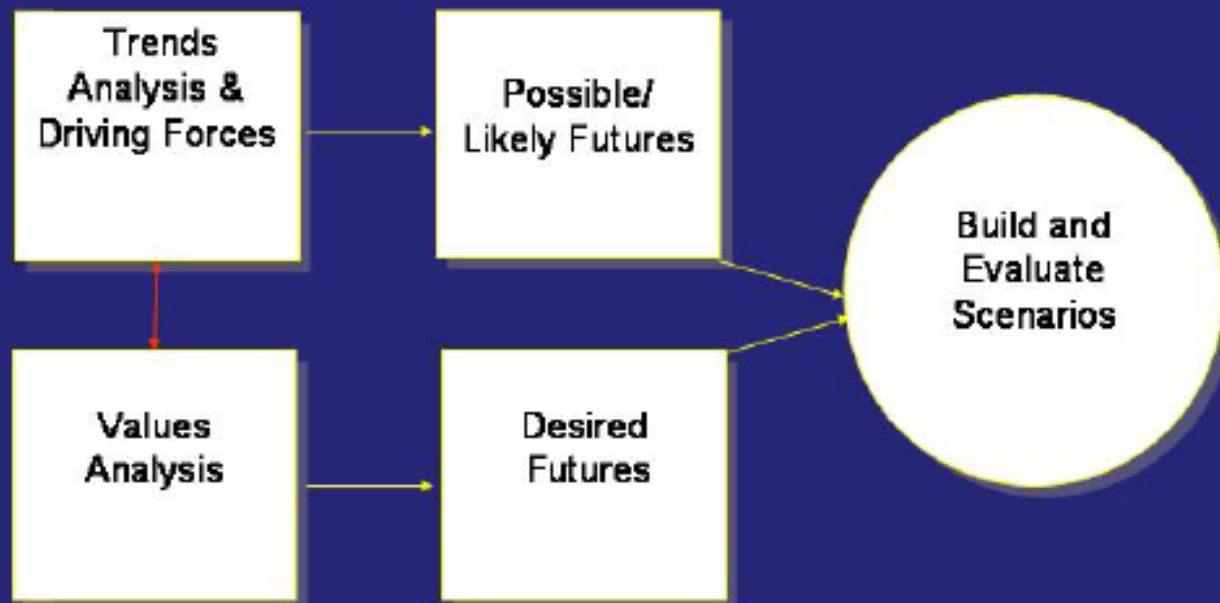
- tax increment financing
- sliding scale impact fee
- housing subsidies

Case 2: Gateway Corridor Planning Area



Regional Visioning: Scenario-based Futures Planning

Generalized Framework for Futures Planning





Gateway Corridor Plan: Goals

Goal 1: Grow jobs and balance nearby housing.

Goal 2: Increase mobility by multiple modes.

Goal 3: Conserve open spaces.

Maine Gateway Corridor Plan: State Actions

- DOT startup funding for local planning
- DOT authorizes local gov'ts with approved plans to:
 - prioritize state funding for transportation projects
 - be eligible for reduced local match for trans. projects
 - be eligible for priority funding for TOD master planning
- Dept. of Environmental Protection authorizes priority funding for water/sewer in targeted growth areas
- DOT and State Planning designate staff for technical assistance
- Track measurable targets set by goal and by time period (short and long term)

Maine Gateway Corridor Plan: Implementation

- Establish Corridor Coalition and start implement regional plan implementation actions
- After one year:
 - Sign an Inter-jurisdictional Agreement to create joint powers: share land use authority and budgeting, coordinate infrastructure investments, staff regional coalition
- Core Functions of Corridor Coalition
 - Education, technical assistance, review of plans for consistency with regional plan, review of projects of regional impact.
- After 5yrs:
 - Shared land use regulations, receive annual allotment of DOT transportation funds, establish use of TDRs and Purchase-and Transfer of Trips program



Policy considerations I:

Require Planning for Sustainable Transportation & Land Use

1. Develop a statewide vision for future sustainable communities
2. Promote State, Regional, and Local Planning partnerships
 - Strengthen funding for multimodal transportation planning
 - Fund also comprehensive land use planning that coordinates with transportation
 - Enable inter-jurisdictional agreement to create joint land use and public investment powers
3. Set measurable targets and monitor to hold local governments accountable



Policy considerations II:

Prepare forward-looking model plans, operations guidelines, & codes

Plans, codes and guidelines should aim to:

1. Establish transportation policies that complement smarter urban growth patterns
 - Complete streets policy is a great start!
2. Create and nurture thriving, mixed-use centers of activity
 - Ped-bike investments as cornerstone strategy
3. Encourage new development or redevelopment in already built up areas
4. Promote reinvestment in neglected communities and provide more housing opportunities



Policy considerations III:

Building partnerships

1. Educate about our state's threats and basic functions of a sustainable transportation system
 - Communicate in multiple ways
 - Understand how high stress (congestion, health, climate change) changes the rules
 - Recognize audience fear of change and anger (loss of property rights)
 - Acknowledge uncertainty
2. Strengthen devolution of authority for transportation investments to regional bodies
 - Encourage using CMAQ funds in flexible ways
 - Sub-allocate CMAQ and enhancements funds to MPOs as per federal guidelines



Policy considerations III:

Building partnerships

3. Provide technical support for evaluating transportation investments
 - Use multimodal cost-effectiveness criteria when prioritizing projects
 - Include air quality benefits of non-motorized transportation modes