Best Practices: Coordination of Transit, Land Use and Regional Planning

Conference Purpose
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Early days ...
- One goal - to reduce congestion,
- One tool - the four step model and
- One solution - to add highway capacity and
- Land use not something that anyone thinks can be changed or effected.
- Transit is often viewed as something that is probably necessary, but not something that will have much of an impact on travel or the future of the community.
- Transit agencies are seldom directly involved in regional planning
In Recent Years ...

- In recent years, there have been many efforts to increase transit’s role in an integrated transportation and land use system, including:
  - smart growth,
  - regional transportation visioning,
  - sustainable transportation,
  - new urbanism,
  - transit-oriented development,
  - healthy community planning, etc.

- These efforts are all part of creating “Transit Regions” – areas where transit is a key element of the future.

What is a Transit Region??

- A place where transit has a major role in the vision of the future. Such places understand the connection between transit and land use and actively seek to create projects where transit plays a major role in implementing mixed use, walkable communities.

- Places with real transportation choices - where there are abundant opportunities for bicycle and pedestrian travel as well travel by transit or by the automobile.

- There are places where it is possible to live most of your life without a car for your daily travel. Auto usage is still very important, but it is not the only choice.

- Finally it is a place where there is a general consensus that this is the way of the future.

- The goal of the conference is to better understand how such areas evolve and learn from each other.
Questions to Consider

- What set of factors and circumstances are behind the transformation of a region to become a transit region?
- What local conditions - level of congestion, growth rate, city-suburb relationships, tax structure, etc. are conducive to being a transit region?
- How does the planning process take place?
- Where does the leadership for such areas come from?
- How important was the role of a champion? How do such people emerge?
- What is the relative role of elected officials, the private sector, regional planning agencies and transit agencies?
- How important is the funding mechanism in the area?

More Questions

- How does an area remain persistent and deal with failure to meet its mission?
- How do transit agencies get involved, (at the table) in regional planning and land use?
- How does the area resolve conflicts and reach consensus?
- Is it critical that there be a rail transit system?
- How can a bus system be used to affect land use?
- What tools, models, etc. are needed to improve the planning and implementation process?
Conference Blog (Clog)

- Daily summaries of conference events
- Feel free to add comments
- [http://www.transitbest.blogspot.com/](http://www.transitbest.blogspot.com/)
- Conference website – Proceedings?