

THE ROLE OF INTEGRATED PLANNING IN DEVELOPING SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION STRATEGIES: TRB WORKSHOP- JANUARY 14, 2010

PRESIDING OFFICER: Leigh Blackmon Lane, Center for Transportation and the Environment
North Carolina State University.

NAME AND CODE OF SPONSORING COMMITTEE:

Social and Economic Factors in Transportation Committee (ADD20) Community Impact Assessment Subcommittee

NAME AND CODE OF CO-SPONSORING COMMITTEE(S):

- Transportation and Sustainability (ADD40)
- Environmental Justice Committee in Transportation (ADD50)
- Metropolitan Policy, Planning, and Processes (ADA20)
- Environmental Analysis Committee (ADC10)

BRIEF WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION

While most transportation professionals intuitively understand that transportation is a “means to many ends” rather than an “end in itself”, transportation planning processes are often driven by a narrow perspective derived exclusively from within the transportation industry. This is not surprising since agencies and organizations tend to form around societal topics such as economic development, public health, housing, education, security, transportation; subsequently, conducting planning exercises through their own lens without fully collaborating with each other to co-create effective and efficient solutions. The concept of sustainability recognizes the complex interlinkages between socio-cultural, economic, and environmental considerations and; therefore, calls for a more integrated planning approach to solve societal problems including mobility and access needs. Planners are working daily to create public health plans, economic development plans, security plans, energy and conservation plans, comprehensive land use plans as well as transportation plans, but are they working together to develop sustainable solutions? The Sustainable Communities Initiative launched jointly by United States Department of Transportation (USDOT), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the Housing for Urban Development (HUD) (the Partnership) is a premier example of the operationalization of the concept of integrated planning by working as collaborative partners to connect transportation, housing and environmental protection interests to enhance people’s lives on many levels.

This workshop will highlight not only the work of the Partnership but also present information on the best practices for initiating integrative planning from concept to reality. It will include presenters experienced with how policy can be informed by integrated planning efforts to how cities can be planned and designed using the principles of integrated planning and design. In addition, it will highlight the role of MPO’s in ushering in this new focus on sustainability into their long range plan development process including how environmental protection can be leveraged to create sustainable, livable communities. The session will close with a panel discussion on how transportation planning processes can be improved to recognize the goals of sustainability through an integrated planning approach. Research topics will be identified to support a better understanding of the value of integrated planning within the transportation industry.

PRESENTERS AND PRESENTATION INFORMATION ON FOLLOWING PAGES

TODD LITMAN

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COMPREHENSIVE TRANSPORT PLANNING: BEST PRACTICES IN PLANNING FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Sustainable development requires comprehensive planning that considers all significant impacts, including those that are indirect, long-term and non-market such as climate change emissions, community cohesion and livability, affordability, and wildlife habitat degradation. More comprehensive planning allows decision-makers to balance economic, social and environmental objectives in order to identify truly optimal solutions to transport problems. This presentation will describe these impacts, discuss the degree to which they are currently considered in planning, describe practical methods for evaluating such impacts, and explore how consideration of these impacts is likely to affect transport planning decisions.

BIO

Todd Litman is founder and executive director of the Victoria Transport Policy Institute, an independent research organization dedicated to developing innovative solutions to transport problems. His work helps expand the range of impacts and options considered in transportation decision-making, improve evaluation methods, and make specialized technical concepts accessible to a larger audience. His research is used worldwide in transport planning and policy analysis.

See also (www.vtppi.org/documents/resume.pdf) for a complete resume.

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SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES: A NEW FEDERAL FOCUS

Before the outcomes of particular transportation investments can be rightly identified, planners need to understand how many housing units will be sited and where, how many jobs will be created and where, and the placement of essential services from medical to groceries. Once policymakers can see the interplay of all these investments and changes, they can determine the most effective, lowest cost, lowest impact transportation investments for their communities.

BIO

Beth Osborne is the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy at USDOT and is currently working on the surface transportation reauthorization, the Secretary's livability initiative as well as safety and environment issues. Beth comes to USDOT from the office of Sen. Tom Carper (DE), where she was his legislative assistant for transportation, trade and labor policy. Previously, Beth worked as the policy director for Smart Growth America and as legislative director for environmental policy at the Southern Governors' Association. She began her career in Washington, DC, in the House of Representatives working as a legislative assistant for Rep. Ron Klink (PA-04) and as legislative director for Rep. Brian Baird (WA-03). Beth grew up in New Orleans and graduated with a B.A. and J.D. from Louisiana State University.

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BUILDING ON TRANSIT IN NEW YORK STATE: A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

The New York State Transit Supportive Development Project is a statewide project to identify locations for transit supportive development that can serve as prototypes for communities through out New York State. The consultant team of Regional Plan Association and BFJ Planning forged action plans for three pilot communities based on the thoughts and desires of local community leaders and stakeholders under the leadership of the New York State Metropolitan Planning Organizations. The plans identify actions required to develop complementary land uses for transit supportive development; this includes identifying obstacles to integrated planning and providing insight regarding the potential market, development size, and zoning and parking issues. The scope of each case study includes identification of potential transportation and land use connections; initial planning for the site, and recommendations for implementation. The history of the project, complete with lessons learned, is captured in a guidebook for statewide distribution to local municipalities and state agencies.

The three Demonstration Project Reports cover the locations and topics listed below:

- Harriman Station on the Port Jervis Commuter Rail Line - developing a large tract of undeveloped land, a brown field, and a parking lot in a growing area.
- Downtown Albany - connecting a developing Bus Rapid Transit line with the proposed Albany Convention Center.
- Buffalo/Amherst - incorporating Transit Supportive Development in expansion plans for the University of Buffalo at three campuses in Buffalo and Amherst.

BIOGRAPHY

Larry McAuliffe is Manager of Research and Education at NYMTC. He developed the initial proposal for the New York State Metropolitan Organization's Transit Supportive Development Demonstration projects which are the subject of today's discussion.

He is the program manager for three community based outreach programs – Walkable Community Workshops, Safe Routes to School Workshops, and Parking Management Workshops. Each workshop focuses on local issues and features a preview with local officials, a four hour workshop of expert instruction, development of a set of community based recommendations, and a comprehensive meeting report that contains observations and suggested improvements. Starting in the fall of 2001, he has conducted a combined total of 87 workshops in communities throughout New York City and its suburbs.

He is also the program manager of the Clean Technology Group, an advisory group to NYMTC, which includes emission reduction program managers from the NYMTC member agencies and also from implementing agencies like the New York State Energy and Research Development Agency (NYSERDA and the New York Power Authority. This group identifies and develops emission reduction strategies. In addition, he is currently guiding the development of a new Congestion Management Plan for the NYMTC area.

Larry began his work at NYMTC in 1998 by establishing the Transportation Enhancement Program application and selection process. Previously, working for the New York State Department of Transportation, he developed the first New York State Transportation Enhancement Program (TEP) guidebook establishing the parameters of the program, while serving as the TEP Statewide Coordinator from 1992-1998.

During that same time period, as the Department's Discretionary Bridge Program manager, he helped secure \$150 Million in FHWA Discretionary funds for 10 award winning projects. Larry received a Masters in Urban Policy and Planning from San Diego State University and resides in Brooklyn, New York

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SUSTAINABLE PLANNING AND DESIGN FOR RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

The traditional sector-specific planning and design process is not sufficient for 21st century communities. Global climate change has made it obsolete. The need now is to develop an integrated, multi-disciplinary paradigm for creating resilient communities that can adapt and thrive in the changing global conditions, can help meet carbon-reduction goals and mitigate the impact of climate change, and can sustain urban populations in more compact settings by providing amenities that people need and want. This presentation will suggest practical approaches to sustainable planning and design for resilient communities, illustrated by case studies.

BIOGRAPHY

Jeffrey Raven serves as Director of Sustainability + Urban Design for the Louis Berger Group. Mr. Raven is a specialist in Green Strategies, Integrated Urban Design and Planning, Transportation and Architecture. He has directed strategic plans in the Arabian Gulf, Southeast Asia and Eastern Europe and has been LEED Administrator for green building design.

Recent expertise includes sustainability consulting to MASDAR zero-carbon city in Abu Dhabi; a green airport terminal for the NYNJ Port Authority and an Energy Efficiency and Conservation Plan for Saint Louis County. Mr. Raven has been appointed to national and international sustainable planning and design bodies, including the ICLEI (Local Governments for Sustainability) STAR Community Index Technical Advisory Committee to develop sustainable guidelines for entire cities; Technical Resource Expert for the Clinton Climate Initiative's Climate Positive Development Program to develop large-scale international urban projects that strive to reduce on-site carbon emission to below zero; Working Group member for US Green Building Council Regional Council (USGBC) for the development of LEED 2009 and LEED for Neighborhood Development (LEED ND), with focus on Regional Bonus Credits. Mr. Raven recently presented design and planning strategies for successful Intermodal Transit Hubs in Seoul, Korea to an international conference, sponsored by the Korea Transport Institute and is a member of the American Institute of Architects Transportation and Urban Design Committees.

Mr. Raven has lectured on the development of ecological cities at Cornell University Department of City and Regional Planning; social and political impacts to urban form at Columbia University Graduate School of Architecture & Urban Design and was recently a panelist at New York University Wagner Graduate School for Spotlight on Abu Dhabi: Challenges and Opportunities in an Emerging Global City and Infrastructure Planning Roundtable at NJIT. He also lectures at The Cooper Union in NYC on the Ecological City, Retrofitting Green, Regional Green and Green Infrastructure

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USING INTEGRATED PLANNING AS A POLICY TOOL TO PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION SOLUTIONS

BIOGRAPHY

Ms. Canby serves as President of the Surface Transportation Policy Partnership (STPP), a national advocacy coalition for transportation reform. STPP's goals are to strengthen federal transportation programs that provide options to motor vehicles, enhance the livability of our communities, improve safety for pedestrians and bicyclists as well as drivers, provide access to economic opportunity for people of all ages and incomes, reduce demand for energy and output of greenhouse gases, and protect our cultural, historic and community assets. STPP is a founding member of the OneRail Coalition.

She served as Delaware's transportation secretary from 1993 to 2001 and is recognized nationally as a progressive leader in the transportation field for transforming a traditional highway agency into a multimodal mobility provider and as an advocate for integrating land-use and transportation planning.

Prior to serving in this post, Ms. Canby lead a consulting practice focusing on institutional and management issues with particular emphasis on implementation of federal surface transportation legislation enacted in 1991, known as ISTEA.

She has served as the Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Transportation, Treasurer of the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority, and Deputy Assistant Secretary of the U. S. Department of Transportation. She has served on the executive committee of the Transportation Research Board and is on the Board of the Mineta Transportation Institute. She is a member of the Women's Transportation Seminar.

She has been recognized for her leadership by the American Public Transportation Association, the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations, the DE Chapter of the American Planning Association, and the Women's Transportation Seminar. Ms. Canby received the 2006 Carey Distinguished Service Award for outstanding leadership and service to transportation research and to the Transportation Research Board.