Federal Highway Administration’s Livability Initiative

Conference on Performance Measures for Transportation and Livable Communities

September 7, 2011
Austin, Texas

Jim Thorne
FHWA - Resource Center
Sustainable Communities Partnership

- Improve access to affordable housing, provide more transportation options and lower transportation costs while protecting the environment.
- Encourages livability principles to be incorporated into federal programs and funding.
- Achieve our economic, social, and environmental goals most effectively when we work on them together.
What does this mean for transportation agencies?

- It’s about considering all transportation modes and affordability
- It’s about serving people of all ages, incomes, races, and ethnicities
- It’s about improving access to work, services, and markets
- It’s about making government more efficient
- It’s about responding to community vision and values
Transportation Planning Factors

a) Support economic vitality
b) Increase safety
c) Increase security
d) Increase accessibility and mobility
e) Protect and enhance the environment
f) Enhance connectivity across and between modes
g) Promote efficient system management and operation
h) Preserve the existing transportation system
Transportation Planning Factors

(e) protect and enhance the environment, promote energy conservation, improve the quality of life, and promote consistency between transportation improvements and State and local planned growth and economic development patterns;
Livability in Transportation

Using the quality, location and type of transportation facilities and services to help achieve broader community goals such as access to good jobs, affordable housing, quality schools, and safe streets.

Livability, sustainability, smart growth, walkable communities, new urbanism, healthy neighborhoods, active living, transit oriented development, complete streets, Sustainawalkabilitism . . .
Livability in the Planning Process

- Public and decision maker understanding that land use and transportation are intertwined.
- Help region develop vision related to community growth and values.
- Goals, performance measures, policies that address livability, quality of life, . . .
- Land use and transportation integration.
More Livability in the Planning Process

- Active public involvement.
- Multi-modal planning.
- Interdisciplinary efforts.
- Safe, connected, multimodal roadway networks.
- CSS in regional, corridor, project planning.
- Plans, programs and projects support broader community goals.
- Options and approaches vary.
FHWA’s Efforts to Advance Livability

- Livability Website
- Livability in Transportation Guidebook
- Role of FHWA Programs in Livability Report
- 5 Regional workshops
- NADO Peer Exchanges on Rural Livability
- Environmental Justice in Transportation: Emerging Trends and Best Practices Guidebook
- Sustainable Communities Division Office Network
Livability Initiative

A Few Words from Victor Mendez, Federal Highway Administrator

Welcome to the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) Livable Communities webpage. This webpage is intended to provide information on the FHWA Livability Initiative as well as provide updates on the DOT/HUD/EPA Partnership for Sustainable Communities.

I am honored to be a part of the most exciting time in the history of American highways. I will work to continue improving the relationship between infrastructure and community needs, specifically to improve a community's livability, to enhance the environmental sensitivity of roads and bridges and to help states explore multi-modal transportation options. There is much work ahead of us, but I look forward to it. Our mission is to bring you the highway system you deserve, and I welcome the challenge.

Victor Mendez, Federal Highway Administrator

What is Livability?

- Livability is defined as providing transportation choices that promote place-based transportation policies that are centered on people. A livable community is one in which people have multiple, convenient transportation and housing options as well as destinations easily accessible to people traveling in and out of cars. Livable communities also encourage mixed-use, multi-modal neighborhoods with highly-connected streets promoting mobility for all users. Livability is about planning and designing transportation projects that preserve and enrich the unique character of rural, urban, and suburban communities.
Sustainable Communities

Sustainable communities are places that have a variety of housing and transportation choices, with destinations close to home. As a result, they tend to have lower transportation costs, reduce air pollution and stormwater runoff, decrease infrastructure costs, preserve historic properties and sensitive lands, save people time in traffic, be more economically resilient and meet market demand for different types of housing at different price points. Rural, suburban, and urban communities can all use sustainable communities strategies and techniques to invest in healthy, safe and walkable neighborhoods, but those strategies will look different in each place depending on the community's character, context, and needs.

Developing more sustainable communities is important to our national goals of strengthening our economy, creating good jobs now while providing a foundation for lasting prosperity, using energy more efficiently to secure energy independence, and protecting our natural environment and human health. Three federal agencies came together to create the Partnership for Sustainable Communities to help places around the country develop in more environmentally and economically sustainable ways. To guide its work, the Partnership developed six livability principles.
Livability in Transportation Guidebook

Series of urban and rural case studies and strategies that facilitate:

• Revitalizing rural small towns
• Better connecting downtowns with neighborhoods
• Completing street networks
• Supporting compact, mixed use development
• Maximizing efficiency of existing transportation infrastructure
• Mitigating impacts of climate change
• Preserving natural and cultural resources
## Livability Principles Addressed by Primary Case Studies

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The Role of FHWA Programs In Livability: State of the Practice Summary

Highlights implementation of livability principles within the context of the Federal-aid highway program

- Highway Projects and Programs
- Safety Projects and Programs
- Bicycle and Pedestrian Programs
- Management and Operations
- Freight Projects and Programs

Strategies for Implementing Livability

- Multimodal Corridors and System Planning
- Programmatic Support and Technical Assistance

Processes, Performance Measures and Tools
Tool Kit for Integrating Sustainability into Transportation Planning

Introduction

Welcome! The objective of this tool kit is to make it easier for agencies to integrate sustainability considerations into their transportation planning.

- To assist metropolitan agencies in making sound and sustainable planning decisions
- As a resource for those who wish to better understand the impact of transportation choices on sustainability

The tool kit is made up of:

- The Tools which include additional information
- Case Studies provide practice and
- Other References include decision-making:
  - Publications
  - Web Sites

A Resident's Guide

FOR CREATING SAFE AND WALKABLE COMMUNITIES
Planning.dot.gov

Peer Exchanges
Planning for a Better Tomorrow

FHWA/FTA
Transportation Planning Capacity Building

Transportation Planning Capacity Building Program

– Peer Exchange Report –

“Effective Practices in Planning for Livable Communities at Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs)”
Peer Exchange Discussion Topics

- Transportation and Land Use Integration
- Transportation Planning Process
- Programming and Project Prioritization
- Funding
- Project Implementation
- Program Evaluation and Performance Measures
- Partnerships and Outreach

One of the key benefits of creating an MPO Livability Program is that it creates a forum for establishing closer working relationships with local planning board officials and planning agency staff.
FHWA’s Efforts to Advance Livability

- Livability in Transportation Webinars
- Creating Livable Communities Report
- Livability Fact Sheets
- Role of M&O in Supporting Livability and Sustainability: A Primer
- Integrating Demand Management into the Transportation Planning Process Desk Reference
- Livability Performance Measures
- Sustainable Highways Tool
Role of M&O Strategies in Supporting Livability and Sustainability

M&O strategies can help improve how existing transportation systems interface with the communities they serve.

- Traffic incident management
- Traffic signal coordination
- Transit signal priority / bus rapid transit
- Freight management
- Work zone management
- Special event management
- Road weather management
- Congestion pricing
- Managed lanes
- Ridesharing programs / demand management programs
- Parking management
- Electronic toll collection / transit smartcards
- Traveler information

plan4operations.dot.gov
Livability Performance Measures Project

- Develop and define performance measures appropriate to creating, developing and enhancing livable communities.
- Make adoption and tracking of livability performance measures easier by distilling current practice, knowledge and research into a resource that will guide users through the process.
- Produce handbook to help transportation agencies incorporate performance measures related to livability.
Next Steps for Methods for Gauging Livability

- Research the literature and best practices on measuring Livability
  - Interview Academic Community, State DOTs, MPOs
  - Rural, suburban, urban
- Develop draft livability performance measures handbook
- Convene expert panel peer exchange to assess the proposed performance measures
- Conduct a beta test to engage broader cross section of practitioners in effort.
- Create electronic “how to book”
- Outreach workshops
Sustainable Highways Tool

- Self-evaluation tool to measure sustainability over the life cycle of a transportation project
- Collection of best practices
- Web-based
- Based on triple bottom line
  - Environmental
  - Economic
  - Social
- Pilot Test Version

www.sustainablehighways.org
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- FHWA Division Office Sustainable Communities Contacts
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