

Federal Highway Administration Scenario Planning Workshop

**Annual Michigan Transportation Planning
Association Conference**

Lansing, Michigan

July 13, 2010



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Overview of Scenario Planning

What is Scenario Planning?

- Scenario planning is a technique to:
 - Assess and prepare for alternative futures
 - Improve strategic decision-making
 - Facilitate public stakeholder involvement in transportation planning
 - Integrate land use and transportation planning



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Characteristics of Scenario Planning

- Some elements of scenario planning are similar to alternatives analysis and visioning exercises:
 - Comparing options and possible outcomes
 - Identifying future goals and aspirations through visualization
- Some elements of scenario planning differ from alternatives analysis and visioning exercises:
 - Examining interactions between multiple factors
 - Focus on public involvement to create and assess scenarios
- Scenario planning is a flexible approach that can be used at many scales and can support a range of planning activities



FHWA Scenario Planning Program

- FHWA scenario planning program provides:
 - Feedback on planned or current efforts
 - Scenario planning workshops
 - Information on innovative practices and lessons learned from around the country
 - Overview of scenario planning resources and tools
- FHWA scenario planning website available at www.fhwa.dot.gov/Planning/scenplan/index.htm



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Policies/Programs Related to Scenario Planning

- SAFETEA-LU
- Clean Energy Jobs and American Power Act (S. 1733)
- USDOT/HUD/EPA Partnership for Sustainable Communities
- Surface Transportation Environment and Planning Cooperative Research Program (STEP)



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FHWA Six-Phase Framework

Stakeholder Involvement

Identify, Prepare, and Refine Analysis Tools

Data Collection

<p>1</p>	<p>How should we get started?</p>	<p>Scope the effort and engage partners. Considerations: Process objectives, goals, budget, and stakeholder roles and responsibilities.</p>	<p>Output: Work plan.</p>
<p>2</p>	<p>Where are we now?</p>	<p>Establish baseline analysis; identify factors and trends that affect the region or study area. Considerations: Transportation and land supply, suitability, and demand; regional or study area trends.</p>	<p>Outputs: Land suitability analysis, socioeconomic evaluation, and/or transportation systems assessment.</p>
<p>3</p>	<p>Where do we want to go?</p>	<p>Establish future goals and aspirations based on community values. Considerations: Key values and priorities for the community, region, or study area.</p>	<p>Outputs: Set of working principles that document broad community, region, or study area goals and preferences.</p>
<p>4</p>	<p>What could the future look like?</p>	<p>Create trend and alternative scenarios. Considerations: Scenario types, analysis tools, travel demand model.</p>	<p>Outputs: Identification of appropriate scenario analysis tool or refinement of travel demand model; trend and alternative scenarios.</p>
<p>5</p>	<p>What impacts will scenarios have?</p>	<p>Assess scenario impacts. Considerations: Indicators to help evaluate scenario performance.</p>	<p>Outputs: Refined or calibrated analysis tool(s) or model(s) if necessary. List of indicators to compare scenario outcomes. Qualitative or quantitative assessment of scenario impacts.</p>
<p>6</p>	<p>How will we reach our desired future?</p>	<p>Craft the comprehensive vision; identify strategic actions and performance measures. Considerations: Stakeholder feedback on scenarios and the future blueprint; potential actions, investments, or policies to lead the region or study area towards the future blueprint.</p>	<p>Outputs: Comprehensive vision; action steps; performance measures to assess progress; plan for monitoring progress.</p>

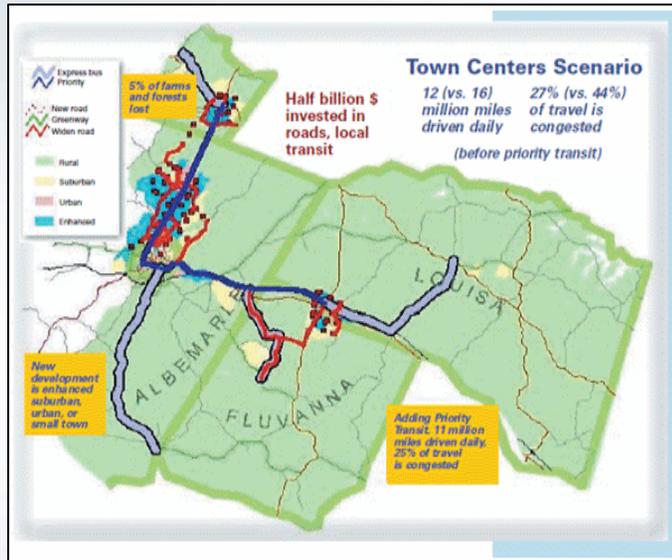
Potential Challenges

- Finding time and resources
- Capturing the public's attention over an extended period of time
- Difficulty defining the core issues
- Building consensus and compromise



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Benefits and Possible Outcomes



- Promotes a greater interest from a broader set of the population
- Improves consensus building around common vision
- Builds a framework to help update long-range plans
- Identifies a preferred growth pattern and investment levels
- Helps integrate land use and transportation planning
- Develops an action plan and strategies for achieving the preferred future



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Next Generation Scenario Planning

- Traditional scenario planning efforts focus on relationships between transportation, land use, and growth or declining growth
- Next generation scenario planning efforts focus on a broader range of issues, such as:
 - Uses of alternative energy
 - Climate change
 - Economic shifts
 - Technological innovation



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For Additional Information

FHWA Scenario Planning website

www.fhwa.dot.gov/Planning/scenplan/index.htm

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