Developing a Model Framework for Regional Sustainability Planning and Implementation

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Project Overview

Examine approaches to planning for implementing sustainability at a regional scale

Model Framework for Regional Sustainability Planning and Implementation
Project Overview

Framework used by organizations and stakeholders:

• interested in regional sustainability planning
• evaluating sustainability planning efforts

Adaptable model – variety of contexts and users
Project Context

HUD-DOT-EPA alignment

Sustainable Communities Grant
   Twin Cities + Region 5

Living Cities Grant

McKnight regional sustainability indicators effort

Funded by CTS
Methodology

Case study analysis:

- **Content** of regional plans
- **Processes** used to develop plans
- Approaches to **implementation** and monitoring

Diverse set of cases – organizational context, geography, sustainability issues, planning issues
Methodology

Review planning documents

Interview key participants

Collaboration with research advisory group

- Capital Regional District – *Regional Growth Strategy* (Victoria, BC)
- New South Wales – *Metropolitan Plan for Sydney 2036* (Australia)
- Denver Regional Council of Governments – *Metro Vision 2035*
- Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning – *Go To 2040*
- St. Cloud Joint Planning District – *Sustainability Framework Plan*
- Delaware Valley Regional Planning Council – *Connections 2035 Plan – Regional Plan for a Sustainable Future*
- Long Island Regional Planning Council – *Sustainable Strategies for Long Island 2035 Plan*
Preliminary Finding
New South Wales, Sydney Metropolitan Area

Metropolitan Plan for Sydney

- Initiated by State Government
- Main focus is a polycentric “city of cities”
- State has control over local governments
New South Wales, Sydney Metropolitan Area

KEY FINDINGS

• “City of cities” policy in place since the 1960s

• Focus on Sydney as a global city
Denver Regional Council of Governments

**Metro Vision 2035**

- Plan adopted in January, 2011
- Mile High Compact is implementation tool
- Respects local governments’ desires and is intended to be flexible
Denver Regional Council of Governments

KEY FINDINGS

• Desire to incorporate sustainability was top down

• Because of federal transportation funding, DRCOG only has control over transportation goals
Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

GO TO 2040

- 1st comprehensive regional plan
- Substantial engagement and partnership across sectors
- HUD Sustainable Communities awardee
Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

KEY FINDINGS

• Enhanced engagement efforts dedicated public participation and monitoring phases

• Current phase: focus on implementation
St. Cloud Sustainability Committee

Sustainability Framework Plan

- Citizen-driven plan
- ‘Sponsored’ by the Joint Planning District
- Adopted by majority of communities as of February, 2011
St. Cloud Sustainability Committee

KEY FINDINGS

• Citizen-driven initiative

• Plan is considered a ‘toolkit’

• Focus on 3-4 Best Practice Areas each year
Long Island Regional Planning Council

Sustainable Strategies Plan

• Plan adopted in late 2010

• 2 counties

• Significant focus on efficiency and addressing fragmentation

• Informed by earlier MPO visioning effort
KEY FINDINGS

• Definition of sustainability can be tailored to context – Tax and Governance, Economy, Environment and Infrastructure, Equity

• Broad based stakeholder engagement, including private sector, through issue-specific workgroups
Emerging Best Practices – Plan Content

Take the time to define sustainability relative to local context

Document participation efforts in the plan

Display plan and background information online
# Issues/Topics Covered

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Emerging Best Practices – Planning Process

Engage multiple stakeholders – including private sector, work through existing networks

Consider online participation and monitoring efforts

Issue-specific workgroups help make connections and offer resources
Emerging Best Practices – Implementation

Include clear implementation content in plan

Think beyond agency implementation – grants to support, toolkit

Start small – visible outcomes
Next Steps

Develop *Draft* Framework for Regional Sustainability Planning and Implementation

Evaluate Framework in Twin Cities/Region 5 context(s) with Advisory Group - assess usability and relevance

*Final Framework* available late summer 2011