

# The Surface Transportation Environment and Planning Cooperative Research Program

**STEP**

Presents

*“STEP and Livability”*

Webinar

May 26, 2010

12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.



# Webinar Housekeeping Tips

- Asking Questions
  - Designated time at the end of presentation for questions and answers
    - Phone
      - Please state name and affiliation
    - Chat feature
      - If using the chat please send all questions to Felicia Young

# Webinar Moderator

Felicia Young

Team Leader, Research and Financial Service

FHWA Office of Human Environment



# Welcome and Overview

- Welcome to the STEP Webinar on Livability
- Agenda
- STEP Overview
- Livability Initiatives
- STEP/Livability Resources
- Polling Questions
- Question and Answers

# What is STEP?

- Surface Transportation Environment and Planning Cooperative Research Program
- Federally-administered nationally orientated research program
- Improve the understanding of the complex relationship between surface transportation, planning and the environment
- Identify, address and reassess national research priorities for environment, planning and realty

# STEP Funding and Legislative Guidance

- SAFETEA-LU authorized \$16.875 million per year for FY2006-2009
- \$14million was available for FY2010
- STEP funding anticipated to be included in the next authorization legislation
- A variety of procurement mechanisms are used to award STEP funds

# Who Gets STEP Money?

- State Governments
- Metropolitan Planning Organizations
- Local Governments
- Universities
- Federal Agencies
- Private Sector

# Stakeholder Involvement

*Outreach and stakeholder feedback are used to refine and implement national research agenda*

- Partnerships are formed to leverage funds
  - Federal, State and Local agencies
  - National Cooperative Highway Research Program
  - Future Strategic Highway Research Program
  - Pooled funds and foreign jurisdictions



# STEP Emphasis Areas

## PLANNING

Congestion  
Safety Planning  
Freight Planning

Public Involvement, Environmental Justice,  
Visualization in Planning  
Other Activities That Support State/Local/Tribal  
Planning Capacity Building  
U.S./Canada & U.S./Mexico Border Planning  
National Security, Defense & Interstate Planning

## ENVIRONMENT

Air Quality & Climate Change  
Water/Wetlands/Vegetation/Wildlife/Habitat/Brownfields  
Environmental Streamlining/Stewardship  
Context Sensitive Solutions  
Bicycle/Pedestrian & Health  
Historic Preservation  
Noise

## REAL ESTATE SERVICES

Real Estate Program Stewardship  
Outdoor Advertising Control

## SUPPORT TOOLS

Travel Modeling  
Geographic Information Systems

# STEP Emphasis Areas for Today

- Context Sensitive Solutions
- Public Involvement, Scenario Planning and Visualization in Planning
- Other Activities that Support State/Local/Tribal Planning Capacity Building

# Introductions

Shari Schaftlein

Acting Director

FHWA Office of Human Environment

Gabe Rousseau

Team Leader, Livability

FHWA Office of Human Environment



# Livability

Livability is about tying the quality and location of transportation facilities to broader opportunities such as access to good jobs, affordable housing, quality schools, and safe streets.

Livability is, “investing in a way that recognizes the unique character of each community.”

U.S. DOT Secretary Ray LaHood

# Livable Communities

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 are where people have access to many different forms of transportation and affordable housing.....”

U.S. DOT Secretary, Ray LaHood



# Sustainable Communities Partnership's Principles



**Provide More  
Transportation  
Choices**



**Coordinate Policies  
and Leverage  
Investment**



**Promote Equitable,  
Affordable Housing**



**Enhance Economic  
Competitiveness**



**Support Existing  
Communities**



**Value Communities and  
Neighborhoods**

# FHWA's Livability Initiative

## Progress to Date

- Awareness Building
  - CSS Clearinghouse Sponsored a Livability Webinar (Sept. 2009)
  - Let's Talk Planning FHWA/FTA Livability Initiative Training (October 2009)
  - CTE Livability Webcast (Nov. 2009)
  - Let's Talk Planning, Transportation and Land Use Webinar (Feb. 2010)
- Capacity Building
  - Livable Communities Strategic Initiative
  - Livability in Transportation Guidebook

# Strategic Initiative: Strategies for Livable Communities

- The Livability research project was identified as part of the strategic initiative priorities for FHWA R&T Flexible Funds
  - Products
    - White Paper
    - Livability Workshops
    - Toolbox of Training Material
    - Regional Comprehensive Livability Plan
    - Marketing Plan



# STEP Funded Livability Initiatives

- Livability in Transportation Guidebook
  - WSDOT Community Design Assistance Program
  - CDTC New Visions 2030
- Best Practices on Complete Streets
- Scenario Planning Workshops
- Context Sensitive Solutions

# Livability Guidebook

Presented by

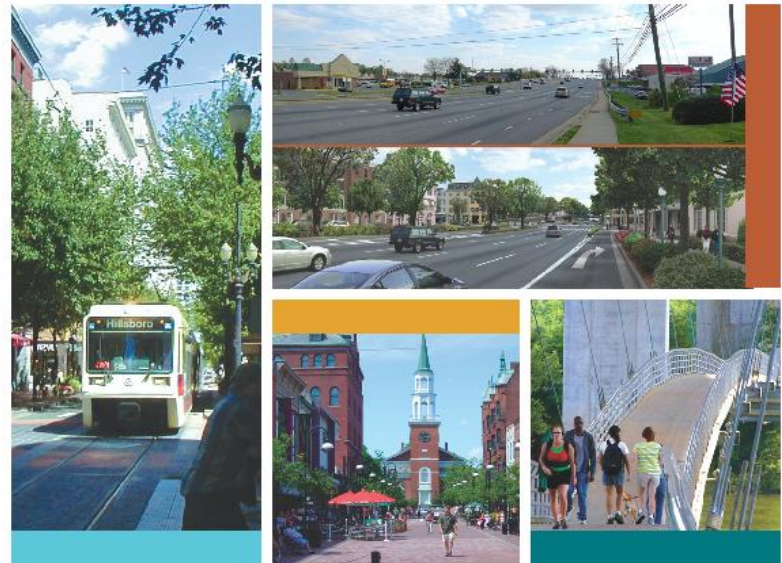
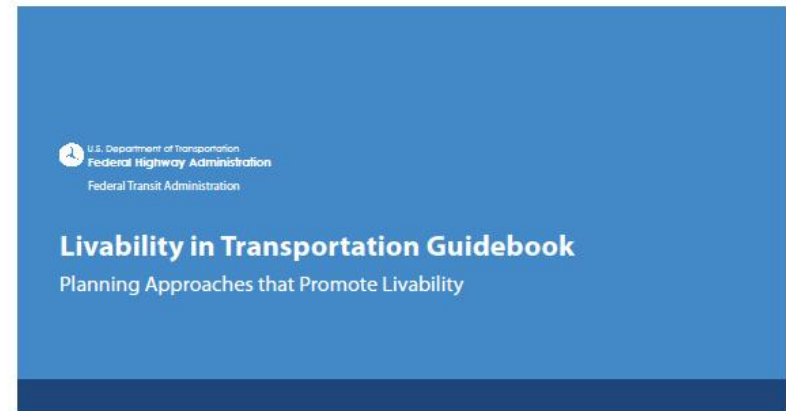
Ken Petty

FHWA Office of Planning



# Livability Guidebook

- Fully STEP Funded
- Designed as a General Practitioners Resource and Guide
- For MPOs, State DOTs and others in the Advancement of Livable Community Developments
- Developed with FTA



# Livability Guidebook

- The Reason for the Guidebook
  - Planning is no longer a Stand Alone Exercise
  - The Guidebook demonstrates the importance of Linking Land Use and Transportation Planning
  - The Guidebook ties together a wide range of overlapping objectives
    - Walkable Communities
    - TOD
    - Complete Streets
    - CSS
    - Healthy Neighborhoods
    - Smart Growth
    - Sustainability

# Livability Guidebook

- The Guidebook is based on a series of urban and rural case studies and strategies that facilitate:
  - Revitalizing Rural Small Towns
  - Better Connecting Downtowns with Neighborhoods
  - Completing Broken Street Networks
  - Investing in Compact Mixed Use Development
  - Maximizing the Efficiency of Existing Transportation Infrastructure
  - Mitigating the Impacts of Climate Change
  - Preserving our Natural and Cultural Resources

# New Visions 2030: The Regional Transportation Plan for New York's Capital Region



Chris O'Neill

Sandy Misiewicz, AICP

Capital District Transportation Committee

[www.cdtcmpo.org](http://www.cdtcmpo.org)

# New Visions 2030

- New Visions first adopted in 1997; major three year update completed in 2007
- Extensive and in depth public outreach in both generations
- New emphasis on transportation investments for creating and sustaining a “Quality Region”
- Emphasizes land use planning

# New Visions 2030 Principles

- Plan and build for all modes
- Preserve and manage the existing investment in the region's transportation system
- Develop the region's potential to be a uniquely attractive, vibrant and diverse metropolitan area
- Link transportation and land use planning





# New Visions 2030

- Transportation Investments will encourage:
  - Urban reinvestment, infill development
  - Concentrated growth
  - Mixed use, transit oriented development
  - Regional and community quality of life
  - Land use plans and corridor studies



Protection of  
urban, suburban  
and rural  
character

# Performance Measures

- Performance measures include:
  - Community Quality of Life
  - Pedestrian, Bicycle, Transit Access
- Trade Offs among performance measures- highway oriented measures must be balanced against land use and other modes



Public Participation is key to making trade offs and defining community values

# Linkage Program

- Implementation program
- Emphasizes link between land use planning and transportation planning
- Regional principles relevant at the local level
- Public participation
- Linkage Forum
- \$4.5 M fed/state/local investment in 65 studies

# TIP Funding

- Plans support access to federal transportation funds
- TIP evaluation process considers quantitative and qualitative issues
- Programmed projects support New Visions principles across all competitive fund sources
- Proposed projects of a higher quality

# Livable Communities Case Study

Presented By

Paula Reeves, AICP

Manager, Community Design Assistance



Washington State  
Department of Transportation

# Why Community Design?

- Develop the most cost effective transportation projects
  - Ensure fewer scope and schedule changes
  - Revitalize vs. mitigate transportation impacts to communities
- Identify partnerships opportunities and resources
  - Transportation, historic preservation, environmental, economic development, utilities, etc..
- Ensure a strong link between goals and transportation investments
  - Outcomes vs. throughput or volume to capacity ratio



# WSDOT Highways & Local Programs Division

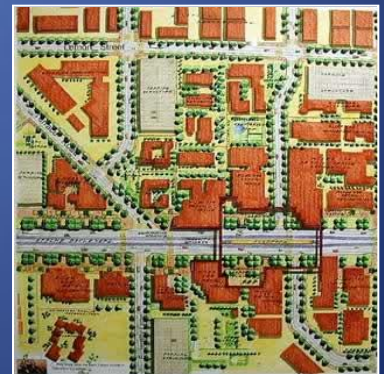
We provide educational, technical, and financial support with federal oversight to local customers to help them achieve their transportation goals...

- We are stewards of federal transportation funding
- We provide technical expertise and services related to federal and state requirements.
- We promote cooperative planning and partnerships.



# Our Engineering & Technical Assistance

- Bridge Technical Services
- Community Design Assistance
- Environmental Services
- Pavement Services
- Construction Services
- Traffic Services
- Training



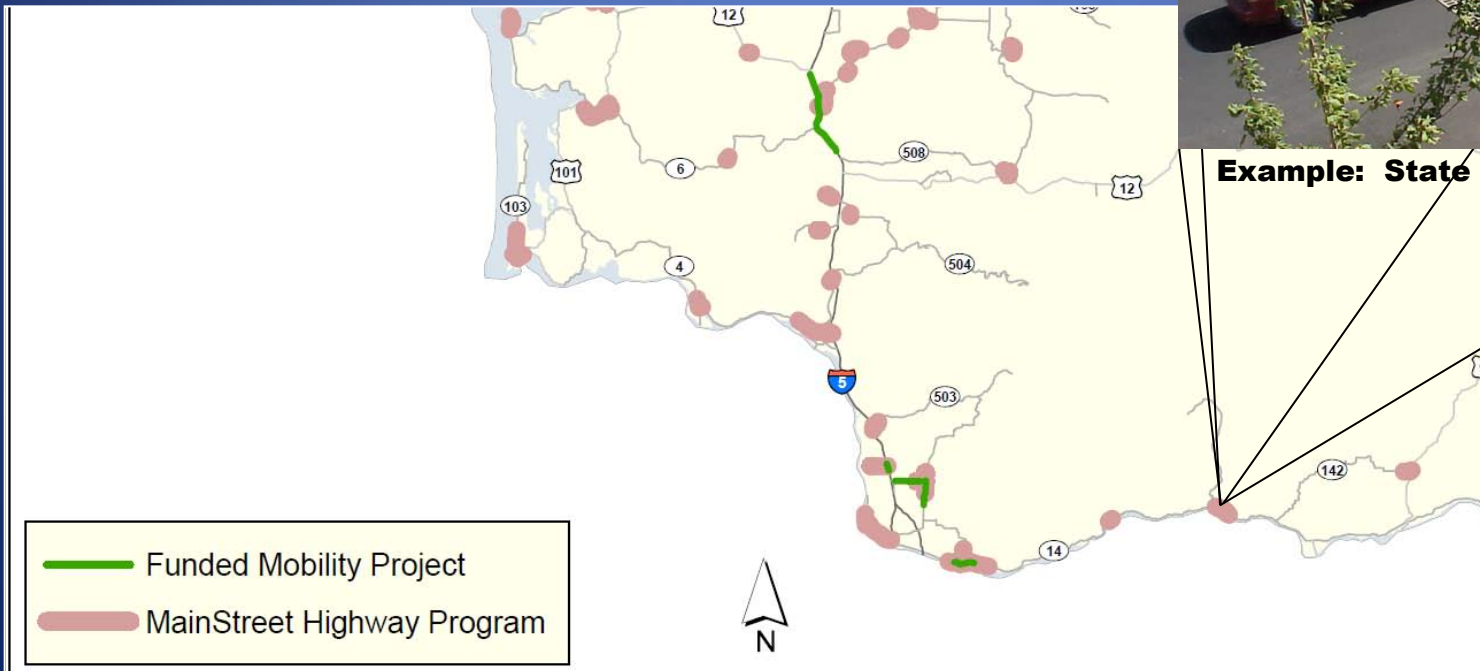


# Milestones in State Policy

- WSDOT Livable Communities Policy adopted, 2000
- CSS Executive Order passed, 2003
- Gray Notebook established, 2003
- Design Guidance and Training published, 2005
  - *Understanding Flexibility in Transportation, Washington*
- State Funding for Pedestrian & Bicycle Safety, 2005
- AASHTO Environmental Excellence Award, 2006
  - *Best Organizational Integration of Context Sensitive Design*
- State Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan adopted, 2008
- State Highways as Main Streets research funded, 2009
- Complete Streets Bill (HB 2911), 2009

# New Initiative: Proposed Main Street Highways Program

State Highways that provide both local access and regional mobility



**Example: State Route 14 – Bingen**

# WSDOT Resources

## WSDOT's Community Design and Bicycle and Pedestrian Websites

<http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/TA/Operations/LocalPlanning>

<http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/Bike>

<http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/Walk>

## Washington's Safe Routes Website

[http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/bike/Safe\\_Routes.htm](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/bike/Safe_Routes.htm)

## Contact WSDOT Community Design Assistance:

### Paula Reeves

Manager, Community Design Assistance

[Reevesp@WSDOT.WA.GOV](mailto:Reevesp@WSDOT.WA.GOV)

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### Ed Spilker

Scenic Byways Coordinator

[Spilker@WSDOT.WA.GOV](mailto:Spilker@WSDOT.WA.GOV)

360-705-7387

# Best Practices Manual on Complete Streets

Presented by:

Barbara McCann

Executive Director

National Complete Streets Coalition



NATIONAL  
COMPLETE STREETS  
COALITION

*let's complete america's streets*

# Best Practices Manual

A Joint project of the  
American Planning  
Association and the  
National Complete  
Streets Coalition

## Complete Streets: Best Policy and Implementation Practices



Barbara McCann and Suzanne Rynne, Editors

 American Planning Association  
Planning Advisory Service  
Report Number 559



# Best Practices Manual

- 30 case studies
- Policy adoption
- Points of Intervention
- Making the Transition to Complete Streets
- Costs
- Design
- Lessons learned

## Complete Streets: Best Policy and Implementation Practices



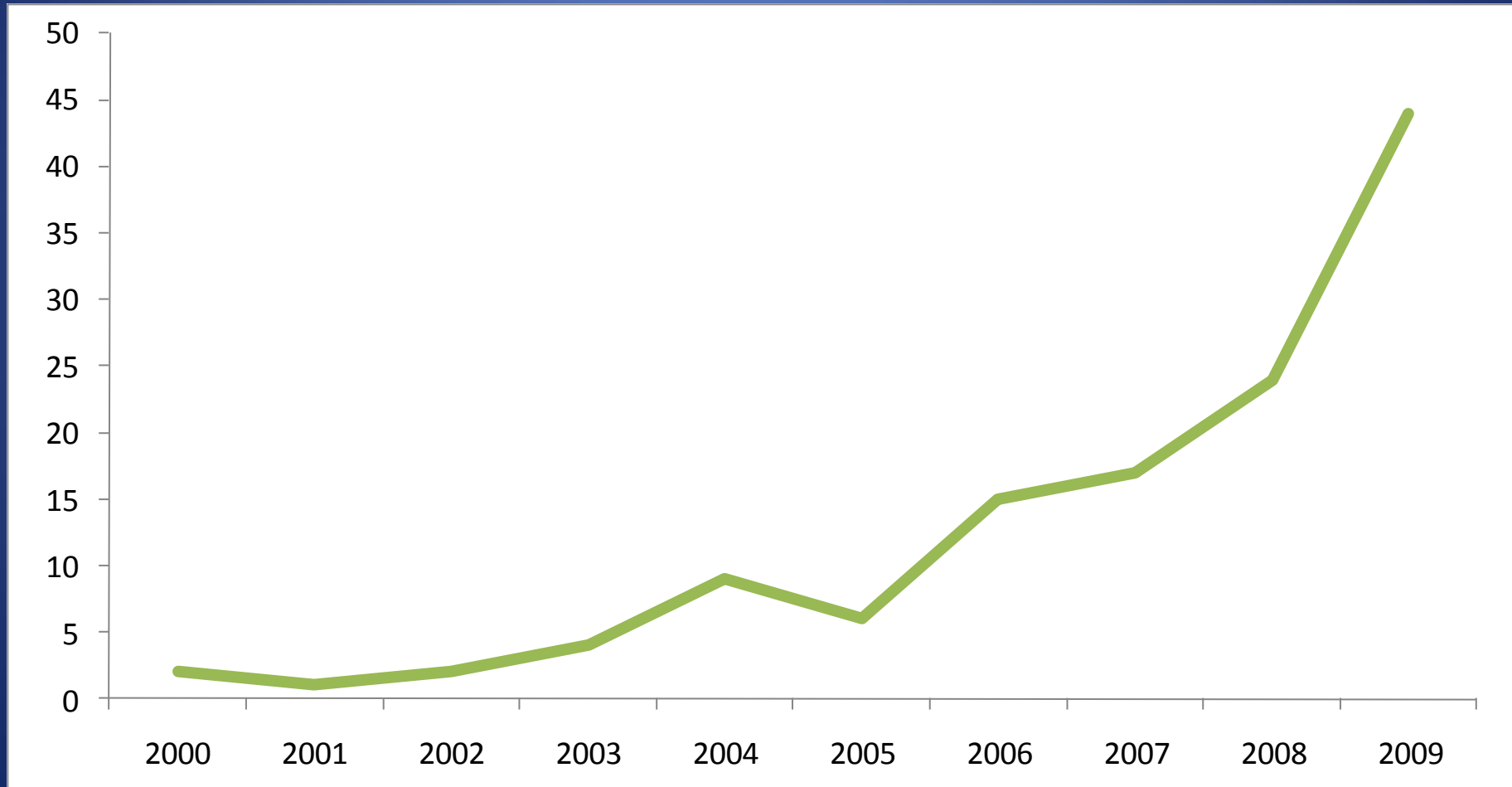
Barbara McCann and Suzanne Rynne, Editors

# Complete Streets Policies

US Jurisdictions with Policies: **131**  
Policies Adopted Since 2005: **100**  
Policies in 2009: **42**



# Complete Streets Policy Adoption





# Change plans & process

- Successful implementation reaches beyond the initial document to include changes to:
  - Procedures
  - Zoning codes
  - Plans
  - Subdivision ordinances
  - Standards
  - Manuals

# Changing plans & process

- New plans:
  - Decatur
- Subdivision ordinances:
  - Columbus, Rochester
- Rewriting Manuals:
  - Roanoke, VA, Massachusetts
- Changing procedures:
  - Virginia, Seattle, Charlotte



# Be an Opportunist

- Be Opportunistic:
  - Assess the needs of all users for every project
  - Take every opportunity to make small improvements
- Be Incremental:
  - Organize a retrofit program around repaving and rehabilitation
  - Begin to plan ahead for larger ‘fixes’

# Cheyenne Blvd. *Before*





# Cheyenne Blvd. *Before*



**Complete Streets through  
resurfacing:  
7-10% of network each year**

# Cheyenne Blvd. *After*





# Cheyenne Blvd. *After*

## Speed (85<sup>th</sup> Percentile)

- **Posted: 35 mph**
- **Before: 41 mph**
- **After: 36-39 mph**





# Measure Results

Measure outcomes to  
build support and learn  
what is working



# Measure Results

- Before-after road diet studies:
  - New York
  - Seattle
  - Colorado Springs
  - Charlotte
- Charlotte: two-hour congestion analysis, multi-modal LOS
- New York Sustainable Streets measures
- Redmond Mobility Report Card

# Redmond Washington



## 2009 Mobility Report Card

*Redmond's Transportation Performance Monitoring System*



15670 NE 85th St. • PO Box 97010 • Redmond, WA • 98073-9710

## GO figure

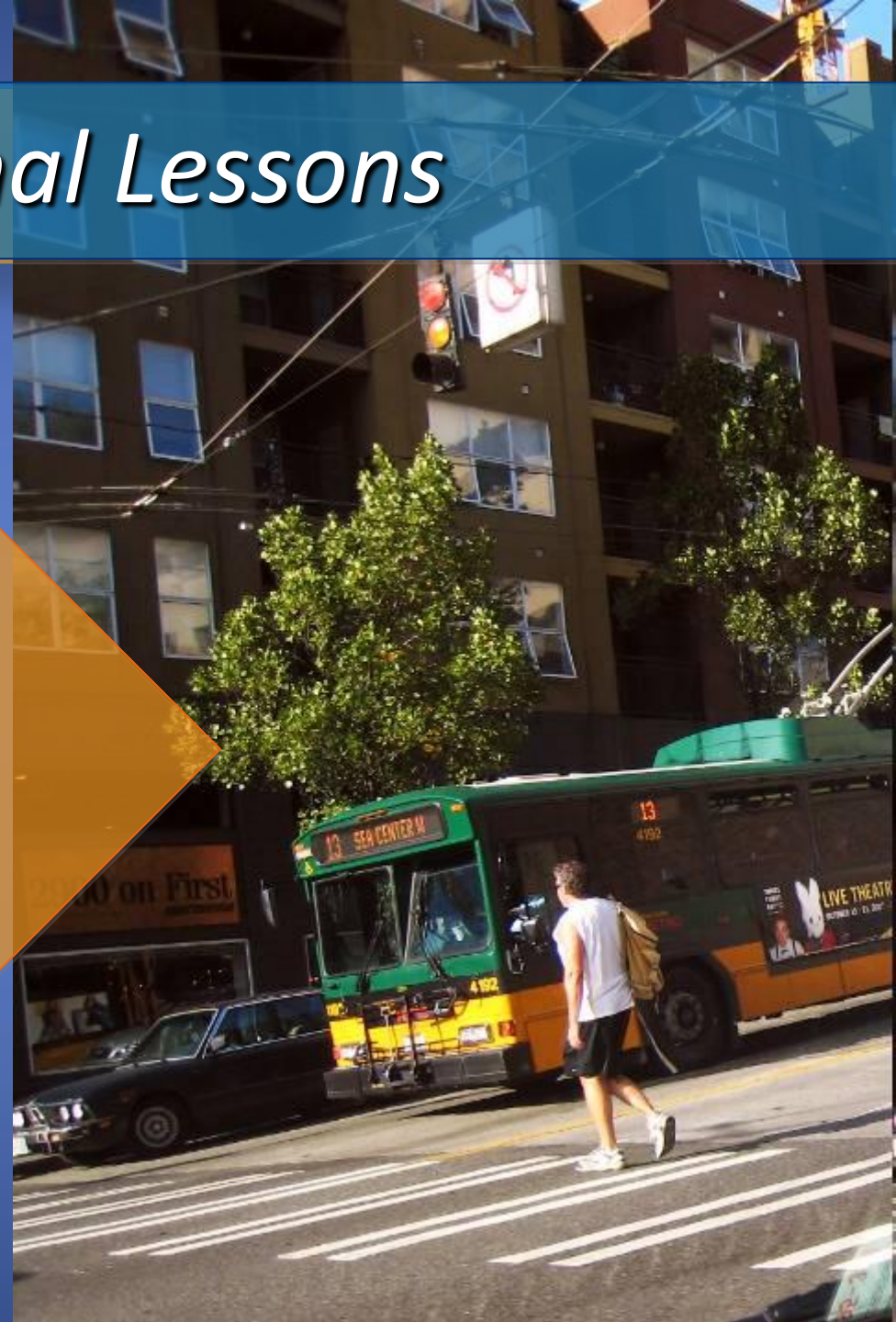
*Numbers at your fingertips*

How Much/Many?	Of What?	Trend
7,729	Students riding the bus to school	↓
862	Traffic collisions	↔
38	Collisions involving pedestrians or bicyclists	↔
7.6%	Traffic growth for selected intersections since 1996	↑
31%	AM commuters traveling by non-single occupancy vehicle (2007)	↑

*Data for 2008 unless otherwise noted. Log on to [www.redmond.gov/intheworks/redmond2022/implbenchmark.asp](http://www.redmond.gov/intheworks/redmond2022/implbenchmark.asp) for more information about the above figures*

# *Final Lessons*

Resistance fades with  
success



# Available from:

- [www.planning.org](http://www.planning.org)
- [www.completestreets.org](http://www.completestreets.org)



# Scenario Planning

Presented by

Fred Bowers

FHWA Office of Planning





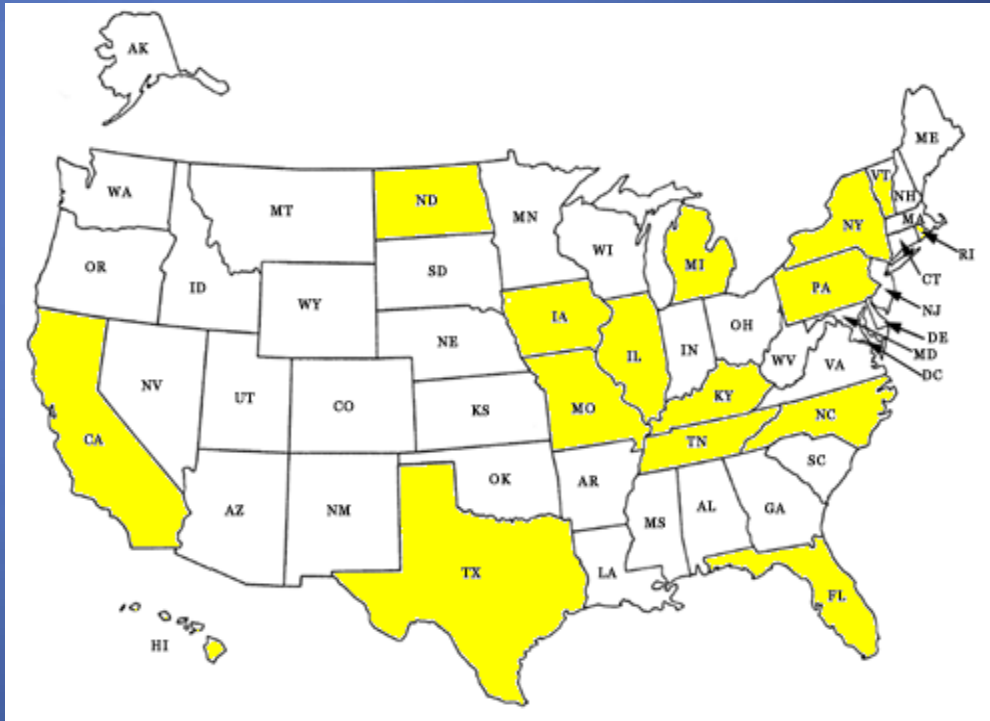
# What is Scenario Planning?

Scenario planning, is a process that forecasts the consequences of investing in different modes of transportation, development locations and funding strategies. When combined with visualization, citizens can really begin to see what the future holds. FHWA's Scenario Planning Program is completely STEP Funded



# FHWA Scenario Planning Program

- **Between 2004 and 2009**, FHWA sponsored **16** scenario planning workshops in **16** states. **Two** workshops are planned in **2010**.
  - California
  - Florida
  - Hawaii
  - Iowa
  - Illinois
  - Kentucky
  - Michigan
  - New York
  - Missouri
  - North Carolina
  - North Dakota
  - Pennsylvania
  - Rhode Island
  - Texas
  - Tennessee
  - Vermont



Locations of previous workshops are highlighted in yellow

# Scenario Planning Using Visualization





# Photo Montage for Public Involvement



# Example: Envision Utah



The statewide “Envision Utah” process conducted public values research

With over 200 workshops involving more than 20,000 residents to decide their own future

Since the completion of the vision several years ago, they have continued to partner with the participating communities

They continue to monitor and steer the rural and urban growth into patterns that the residents themselves desire

# Next Generation Scenario Planning

- Traditional scenario planning efforts focus on growth-related issues or transportation investments
- Next generation scenario planning efforts focus on a broader range of issues, such as:
  - Uses of alternative energy
  - Climate change
  - Economic shifts
  - Technological innovation
- Next generation scenario planning efforts also use innovative methods to communicate with the public



Source: Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

# Context Sensitive Solutions.Org

Presented by

Keith Moore

FHWA Office of Project Development and  
Environmental Review



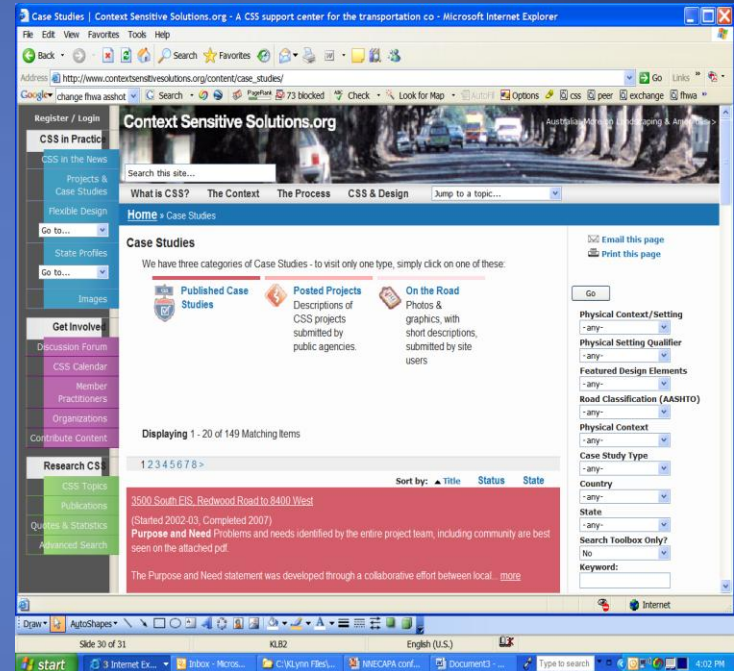


# Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS) and Livability

- Community livability is enhanced by transportation projects that are based on a collaborative, interdisciplinary approach that involves all stakeholders.
- Using CSS principles and intents can help in the delivery of Livability and Sustainability goals

# CSS Research Highlights

- **CSS Clearinghouse**
  - Building a Community of Practice through
  - [www.contextsensitivesolutions.org](http://www.contextsensitivesolutions.org)
- **CSS Webinar Series**
- **CSS National Dialog**
- **CSS in Designing Major Urban Thoroughfares for Walkable Communities**  
<http://www.ite.org/css>



# Livability Resources

- STEP Website
  - [www.fhwa.dot.gov/hep/step](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/hep/step)
- FHWA Livability Website
  - [www.fhwa.dot.gov/livability](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/livability)
- DOT Livability Website
  - [www.dot.gov/livability](http://www.dot.gov/livability)
- Context Sensitive Solutions
  - [www.contextsensitivesolutions.org](http://www.contextsensitivesolutions.org)

# Questions and Answer Session

- The discussion is open to questions
  - Via phone
  - Via chat feature



## For Additional Information

If you have general questions about STEP or this webinar, contact [Felicia.Young@dot.gov](mailto:Felicia.Young@dot.gov)

STEP emphasis contacts:

[www.fhwa.dot.gov/hep/step/contacts.htm](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/hep/step/contacts.htm)

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