

Building the Future Twin Cities Metropolitan Area



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Overview

Comments informed by **analysis of 5 regional sustainability planning cases**

Plans completed before HUD grants

Chicago, Denver, Long Island, Philadelphia, St. Cloud

Widely varying **contexts** and **approaches**

Funding provided by U of MN Center for Transportation Studies



Big picture

Regional sustainability plans offering **regional framework for local implementation**

Making connections across systems

Drawing on local priorities and resources

Enhancing engagement efforts

Transportation
Housing
Land use
Infrastructure
Public services
Environment
Governance
Economic development
Greenhouse gases
Energy
Food
Education...



Opportunities

Draw on the **state of the art**

Assess impacts of evolving demographics, preferences, development patterns, politics...

Can't assume that the same carrots and sticks will still produce the outcomes we want

Opportunity (need?) to *re-envision* the future of the region



1 | Think big

Regional comprehensive planning requires thinking beyond 4 systems

system-specific policy plans ≠ systemic view

Address **intersections** across systems

Think **beyond** regional authority – other relevant systems



Case: Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning GO TO 2040 Plan

Livable Communities

Achieve greater livability through land use and housing
Manage and conserve water and energy resources
Expand and improve parks and open space
Promote sustainable local food

*themes help
integrate across
systems*

Human Capital

Improve education and workforce development
Support economic innovation

*scope goes well
beyond CMAP's
authority*

Efficient Governance

Reform state and local tax policy
Improve access to information
Pursue coordinated investments

Regional Mobility

Invest strategically in transportation
Increase commitment to public transit
Create a more efficient freight network

*as MPO plan, it
addresses transportation
but connects to land use,
jobs, pollution...*

1 | Think big | *how?*

Reassess system plan approach – **identify themes to organize a plan** that offers a sustainable vision



1 | Think big | *how?*

Identify regional priorities and integrate into the plan
natural resources and environment, energy and *climate change*, economic vitality and jobs...



1 | Think big | how?

Consider the plan a **resource for communities** – platform for coordinated implementation

e.g. lack authority to require increased density in transit corridors, but plan can offer **data**, identify **priorities**, offer **examples**, highlight **benefits**, identify **indicators and targets**, + offer **implementation** support

3.3 Indicators and Targets

The current amount of conservation open space in the region is approximately 250,000 acres. By 2040, an additional 150,000 new acres should be protected for 400,000 total acres (see **Figure 29**).

The interim target for 2015 should be 25,000 new acres, or 275,000 total acres, which is one-sixth of the 2040 target. While this may seem high given fiscal conditions, it is worth pointing out that there is still public appetite for preservation of open space despite the present recession.¹⁶ It is also likely that falling land prices will make acquisition at current rates more affordable than when the real estate sector rebounds. Options available today will be lost with the passage of time and a return to a more robust economy.

ACRES OF CONSERVATION OPEN SPACE

275,000 acres by 2015

400,000 acres by 2040

Currently, only 49 percent of people in the region have adequate access to parks, as defined by a standard of 10 acres per 1,000 people. This will not be appropriate for the densest areas of the region, however, which should use a level of service of at least 4 acres per 1,000 people (see **Figure 30**). Meeting the park accessibility targets will require approximately 5,200 acres of new parks.

REGIONAL ACCESS TO PARKS PER PERSON IN ACRES

72% at a level of four acres per 1,000 people; 52% at a level of 10 acres per 1,000 people by 2015

All people at a level of four acres per 1,000 people; 70% at a level of 10 acres per 1,000 people by 2040

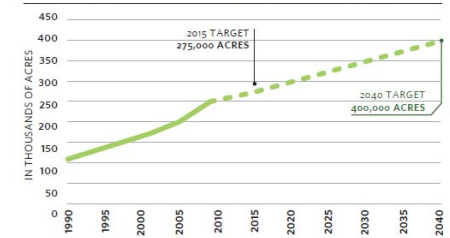
The region now has 700 miles of trail greenways. The region should approximately double the mileage of trail greenways between now and 2040, for a total of 1,348 miles of trail greenway (see **Figure 31**). An interim target for 2015 is to establish one-sixth of the total recommended new greenway mileage.

NEW GREENWAY MILEAGE

808 total miles by 2015

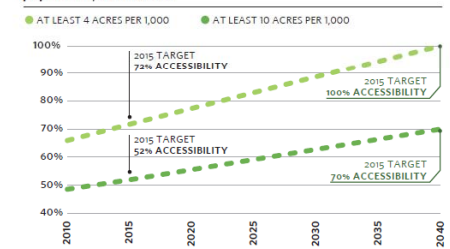
1,348 total miles by 2040

Figure 29. Conservation of open space targets, 1990-2040



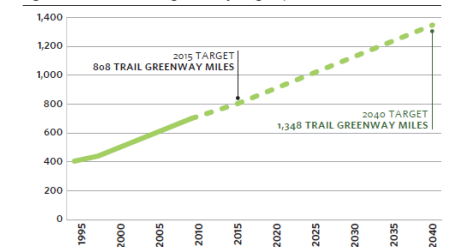
Source: Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, 2010

Figure 30. Access to parks targets, percent of regional population, 2010-2040



Source: Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, 2010

Figure 31. Miles of trail greenway targets, 1995-2040



Source: Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, 2010

¹⁶ Fairbank, MacIin, Maulin & Associates and Public Opinion Strategies, "Key Findings from National Voter Survey on Conservation," September 25, 2009.

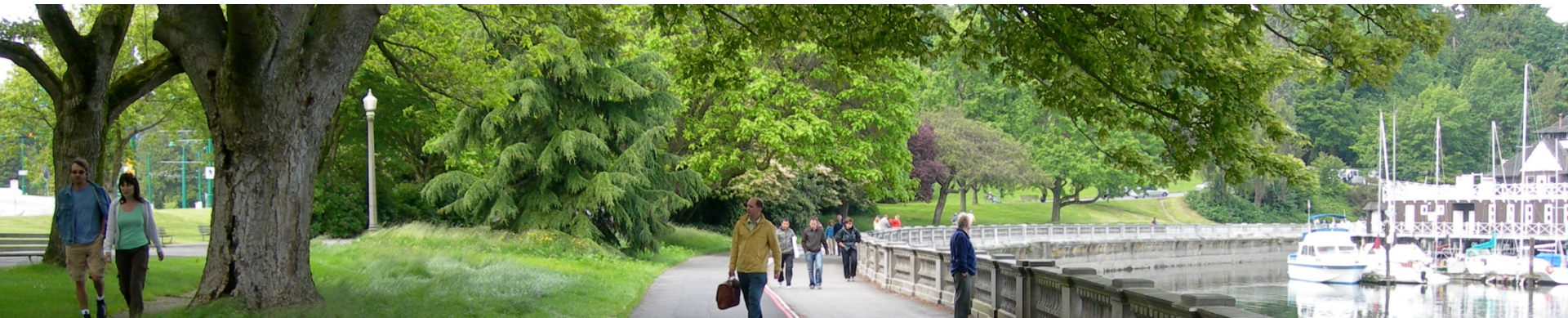
2 | Ask and listen

Regional comprehensive planning requires extensive engagement

Beyond the public hearing approach

Engage communities + public to build support for implementation

Tap stakeholders for expertise + resources



Case: **Delaware Valley**
Regional Planning
Commission Connections
2035 Plan

Public meetings in
each county

Case: **Denver** Regional Council
of Governments Metro Vision
Plan

Regionwide **visioning**
around sustainability

Mile High Compact offers local
commitment to implementation

Case: **St. Cloud** Joint
Sustainability Framework Plan

Issue-specific **working**
groups contributed to
plan content

Case: **Long Island** Sustainable
Strategies for 2035 Plan

Outreach to **under-**
represented groups

Case: **Chicago** Metropolitan
Agency for Planning GO TO 2040
Plan

Extensive **online** presence,
including participatory
scenario planning

2 | Ask and listen | *how?*

Design and facilitate an **extensive outreach and engagement effort** that builds public and local government support for implementation



2 | Ask and listen | *how?*

Engage **experts and stakeholders around issues of concern** – connect with them based on their interests

Tap expertise and resources of agencies, advocates, etc. for plan content + implementation



2 | Ask and listen | *how?*

Develop a **fantastic website** and **integrate social media** tools to attract participants + keep them engaged

Home | GO TO 2040

NEWS | EVENTS | MULTIMEDIA

EFFICIENT GOVERNANCE

A Pivotal Moment
Livable Communities
Human Capital
Efficient Governance
State and Local Tax Policy
Access to Information
Coordinated Investments
Regional Mobility
Context & Best Practices
Portraits
Appendices
VAMOS AL AÑO 2040
Process Archive


[Download the short plan \(PDF\)](#)
[Download the full plan \(PDF\)](#)
[Download the Efficient Governance chapter of the full plan \(PDF\)](#)

Efficient and effective decision making by government is necessary to meet the goals of GO TO 2040.

Now more than ever, taxpayers expect efficiency and transparency when governments invest their limited resources. To maximize the benefits that residents of our seven counties see from these public investments, government agencies across our region need to coordinate decisions and investments strategically. Better access to information will help us reach these goals by putting

2 | Ask and listen | *how?*

Produce an **attractive and inspiring plan** that represents the aspirations and innovations of the Twin Cities metropolitan area



CREATE
Livable Communities

Emphasis on compact, mixed use, walkable development served by transit will improve the region's energy efficiency. Energy savings in new buildings can be significant when local and state codes, ordinances, plans, and programs support green development and practices. Zoning codes and permitting policies should also allow and promote renewable energy generation from businesses, institutions, and residences. Livable communities also promote lower-energy modes of travel, such as transit, walking, and bicycling.

Whether in new or existing homes, the use of efficient appliances, better insulation and windows, and programmable thermostats can cut energy consumption in half.
Source: Center for Neighborhood Technology

PROMOTE
Retrofit Programs

Retrofit programs that provide assistance to property owners to install energy conservation measures in existing buildings exist at the local, state, and federal levels but are under-utilized. The CMAP-led Chicago Region Retrofit Ramp-up (CR3) program will be an important first step in streamlining access to information, financing mechanisms, and skilled labor to transform the retrofit market.

FOSTER
Sustainable Practices

Communities should take the opportunity to pilot their own projects to promote small-scale renewable energy generation, which could include wind and solar power as well as strategies like waste-to-energy generation. Local governments should also make a commitment to lead, for example, by reviewing procurement processes to ensure the inclusion of green materials for governmental equipment and a higher commitment to waste reduction and recycling.

Overall Energy Consumption

TRADITIONAL HOME

GREEN HOME

GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IN METRIC TONS

TODAY 132,000,000 tons ↓ GO TO 2040 47,000,000 tons

Thank you!



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