

Public Participation in Regional Planning

Jill Locantore, Senior Planner
Denver Regional Council of Governments
Presentation to TPB CAC May 12, 2011



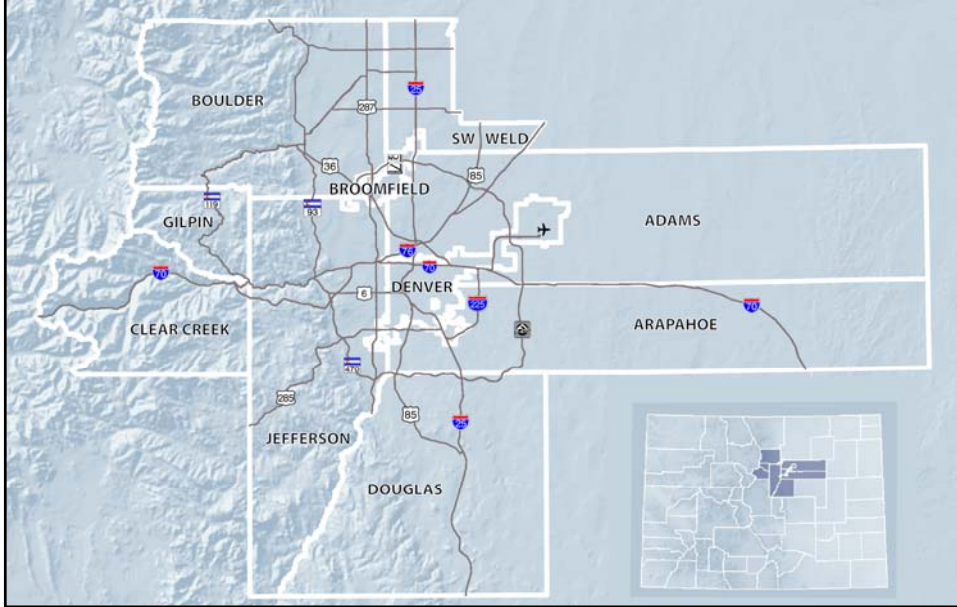
What do I look like?



Jill Locantore
Senior Planner
DRCOG



Who is DRCOG?







International Association
for Public Participation

www.iap2.org



Spectrum of Public Participation

Increasing level of public impact

- **Inform** – provide objective information to assist public in understanding challenges, opportunities and policy options



Spectrum of Public Participation

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- **Inform**
- **Consult** – Obtain public feedback on analysis and policy options



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- **Involve** – Work with the public throughout the process to ensure that issues and concerns are considered



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- **Inform**
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- **Involve**
- **Collaborate** – Partner with the public in each aspect of the decision, including selecting the preferred solution



Spectrum of Public Participation

Increasing level of public impact

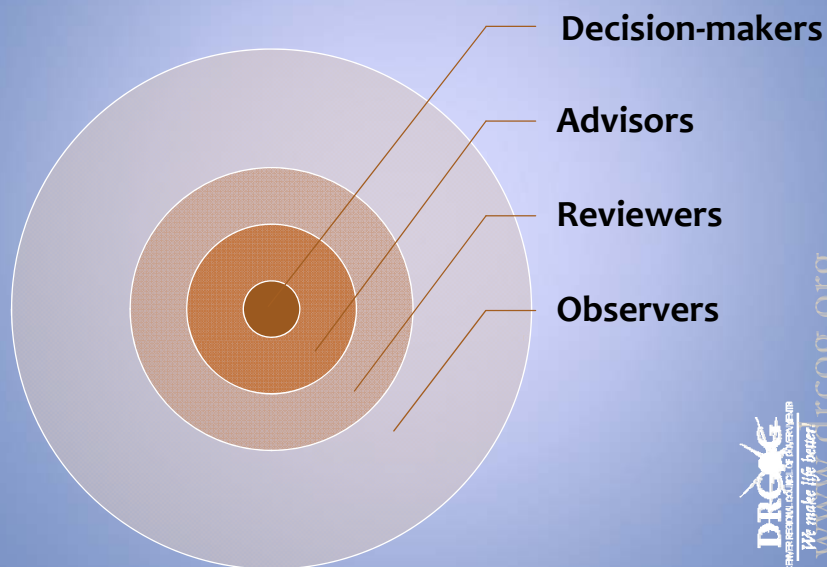
- **Inform**
- **Consult**
- **Involve**
- **Collaborate**
- **Empower** – Place final decision making in the hands of the public



Spectrum of Public Participation

	Define problem	Gather info	Establish criteria	Develop options	Evaluate	Decide
Inform	X					X
Consult		X			X	
Involve				X		
Collaborate			X			
Empower						

Orbits of Public Participation



Promise to the public

- For example,

We will work with you to ensure that your concerns and aspirations are directly reflected in the alternatives developed and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision



DRCOG Example #1: Metro Vision 2020



Metro Vision 2020: Objectives

Provide an opportunity for the region's citizens to

- Identify pressing regional issues
- Develop a statement about the desired future of the region
- Define steps that will shape the growth of the region to fit that vision



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Roles and Responsibilities

Player	Responsibility
DRCOG Board	Decision-maker
Regional Development Plan Task Force <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local government officials Business leaders Developers Transit agency State agencies Neighborhood associations Etc. 	Guide the overall process: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vision statement Research on issues Evaluation criteria Selection of alternatives for detailed modeling Recommendation on preferred alternative
General public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learn – speakers bureau and media coverage Provide input – opinion survey, public forums



Metro Vision Guiding Vision

- Equitable sharing of costs and benefits
- Efficient use of limited resources
- People live close to where they work and play
- Multi-modal transportation connects mixed-use urban centers
- Significant open space
- Opportunity for wide variety of economic development initiatives and living styles



Situational Analysis

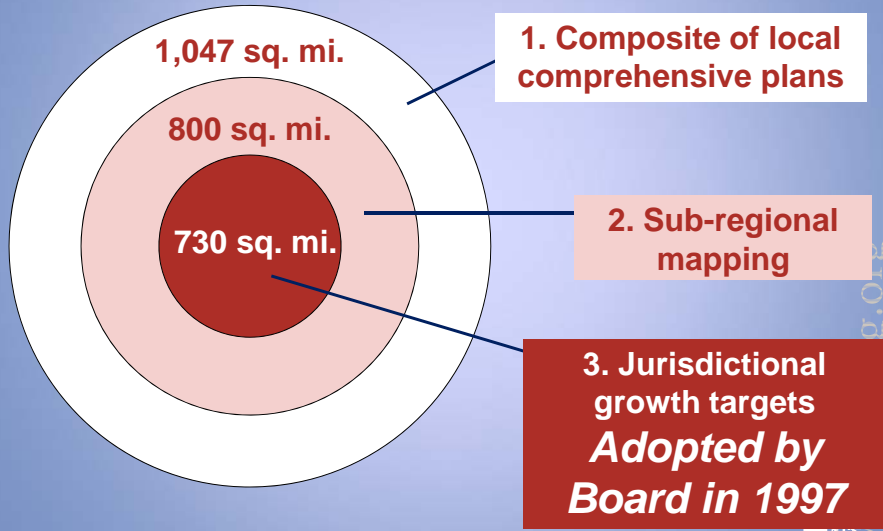
- 1990 Census data
- New 2020 population and employment forecast
- Background paper on “Assumptions and Issues”
 - Socioeconomics, development economics, open space, environmental constraints and environmental quality, transportation, wastewater and water supply infrastructure



Metro Vision 2020 Scenarios

Criteria	Dispersed Development	Compact Development	Satellite Cities	Corridor Focus
Land Use – housing close to jobs	2	4	3	1
Transportation – vehicle travel	4	1	2	3
Environment – air quality	1	2	1	1
Open Space – consumed	4	1	2	3
Implementation – costs of development	4	1	2	3

Initial 2020 Target: 700 sq. mi.



DRCOG Example #2: Refining the Vision

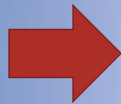
Metro Vision 2035 : Objectives

- Update Metro Vision to extend the planning horizon to 2035
- Discuss if/how much to expand the urban growth boundary



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Roles and Responsibilities

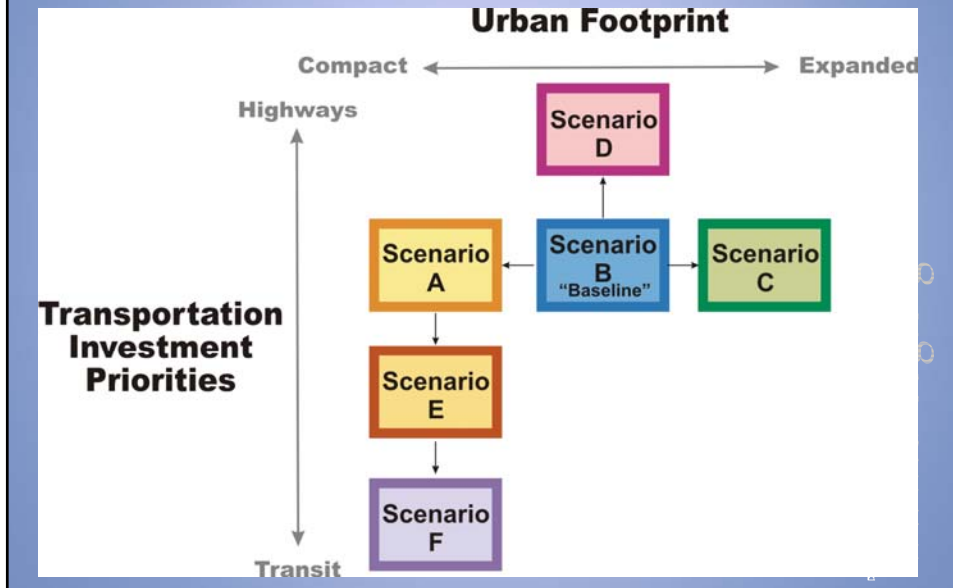
Player	Responsibility
DRCOG Board	Decision-maker
Staff	Guide the overall process: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selection of alternatives for detailed modeling • Evaluation criteria
Stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide input on scenario development



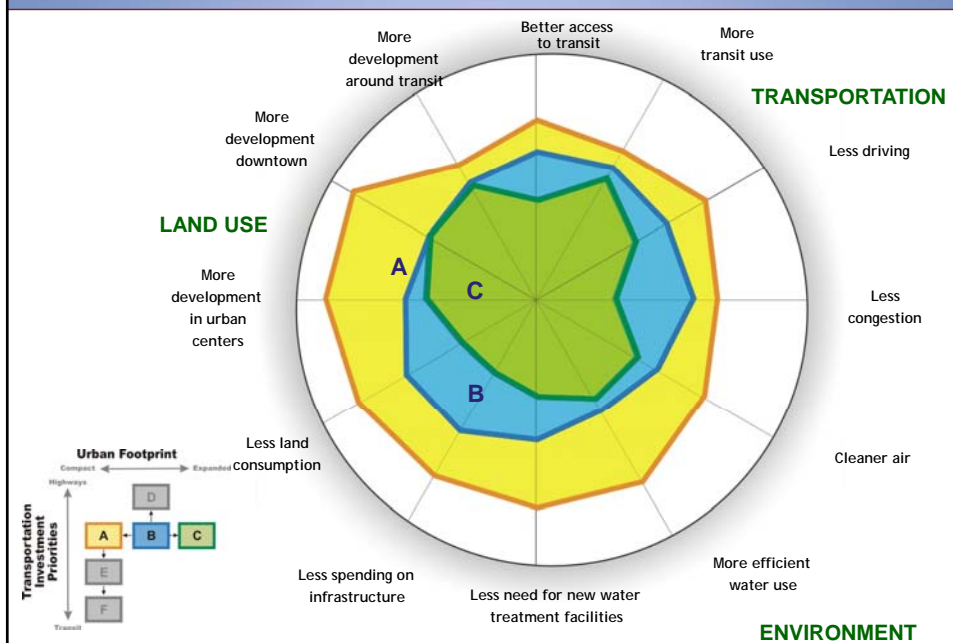
Continued acceptance of original (1992) Metro Vision Guiding Vision



2007 Scenario analysis



Scenario outcomes: Compact vs. Expanded



DRCOG Example #3: Incorporating sustainability



Metro Vision “2035-S” : Objectives

- Identify sustainability goals the region can work toward collaboratively and measure progress against
- Incorporate supportive policies into Metro Vision



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Roles and Responsibilities

Player	Responsibility
DRCOG Board	Decision-maker
Stakeholders	Provide input throughout the overall process: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Desired outcomes• Top priorities• Goals• Policies
Staff	Synthesize stakeholder input for Board consideration

“World Café” Technique

- Small group discussions at tables
- Series of multiple conversations
- Everyone moves to a different table between conversations
- One “host” stays at each table
 - Take notes
 - Summarize the previous conversation
 - Report back to the larger group



Sustainability Café: Attendees



Denver Sustainability Principles Survey

5 of 10 questions

Choose the item that you prefer the most, and the item that you prefer the least.
To promote a more sustainable region, DRCOG's policy and funding decisions should:

Prefer most

Prefer least

- Provide a variety of transportation options including transit, sidewalks, bike paths and roads
- Reduce waste and increase recycling
- Limit growth of the urbanized area through increased density, infill and redevelopment

Optional Comments:

Next


DRCOG Discussion Board

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[Denver Regional Council of Governments](#) > [Forums](#) > [Sustainability items for discussion, October 23, 2009](#) > **What changes to EXISTING Metro Vision goals and what NEW goals should the DRCOG Board consider?**

[Thread Tools](#) | [Search This Thread](#)

Rec

Author	Comment
jocantore	<p>D 10/20/09 at 01:06 PM  #1</p> <p>Below are the 17 sustainability concepts that the Board identified, as well as existing Metro Vision goals related to these concepts and examples of goals that other regional planning agencies across the country have developed to address sustainability. Information about other regional sustainability efforts was presented to the Board at its July 1, 2009 study session. Additional information is available through DRCOG's online sustainability resource library.</p> <p>Please offer your thoughts on the following questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. What changes and/or refinements to DRCOG's existing goals should the Board consider?2. What additional goals should the Board consider? <p>Because DRCOG's perspective on this issue is REGIONAL, please frame your suggestions from a "30,000 foot perspective," focusing on goals that fit and are feasible at a regional scale.</p> <p>Sustainability concepts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide a variety of transportation options such as transit, sidewalks, bicycle paths and roads• Integrate land use and transportation planning• Promote use of alternative transportation modes• Protect air and water quality• Promote vibrant urban centers• Provide accessible open space• Limit the expansion of the urbanized area through increased region wide density, infill and redevelopment• Promote regional collaboration• Develop a regional plan with goals that every community can make their own• Educate elected officials, local government staff, and citizens on sustainability issues• Seek integrated solutions that create multiple economic, environmental and social benefits• Promote efficient use of natural resources• Reduce fossil fuel consumption• Reduce greenhouse gas emissions• Focus on outcomes using performance measures• Focus on long term costs and benefits• Reduce regional per capita VMT

New Sustainability Goals

- Locate 50% of new housing and 75% of new employment within **urban centers**
- Increase the rate of construction of **alternative transportation facilities**
- Reduce the percent of trips to work by **single-occupant vehicles** to 65% by 2035
- Reduce regional per capita **vehicle miles traveled** 10% by 2035
- Reduce per capita transportation **greenhouse gas emissions** 60% by 2035
- Reduce per capita **water use**



Policy Development: Metro Vision Idea Exchanges

- Primary participants: local planning and transportation staff
 - Open to other interested stakeholders as well
- Small group discussions
 - How should DRCOG modify existing Metro Vision policies to support new sustainability goals?
- Dot voting to prioritize ideas
- Staff synthesized into recommendations for the DRCOG Board



DRCOG Example #4: MetroQuest



MetroQuest: Current Objectives

- Facilitate ongoing dialogue about regional and local planning
- Raise awareness of challenges and opportunities facing the region
- Allow citizens to explore potential future outcomes of decisions made today
- Collect input on preferred policy options, compared to existing Metro Vision Plan



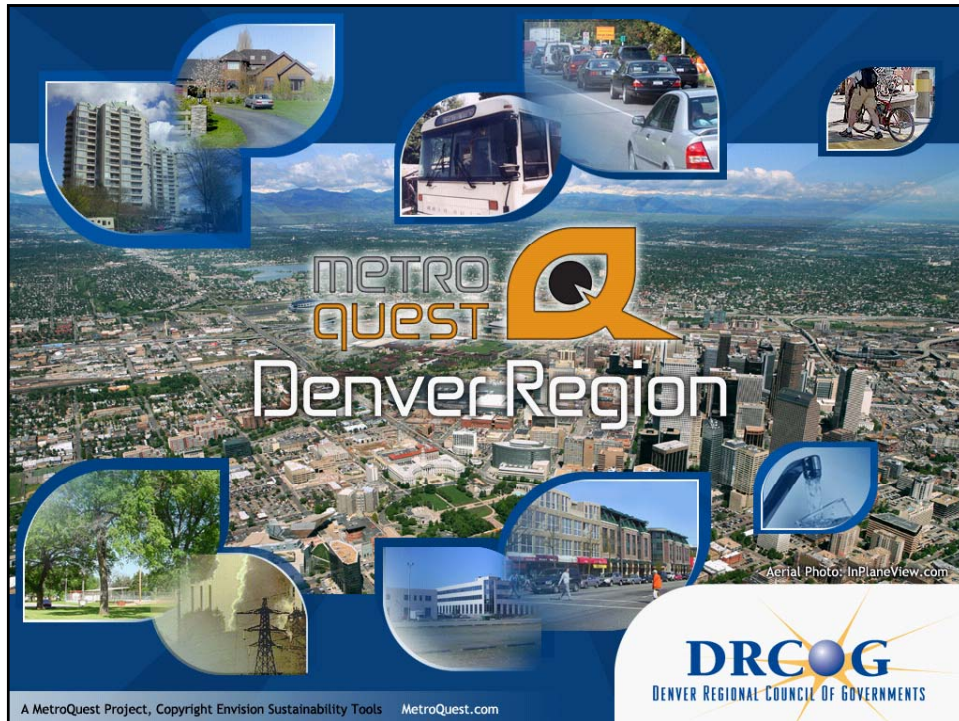
Current Level of Public Participation



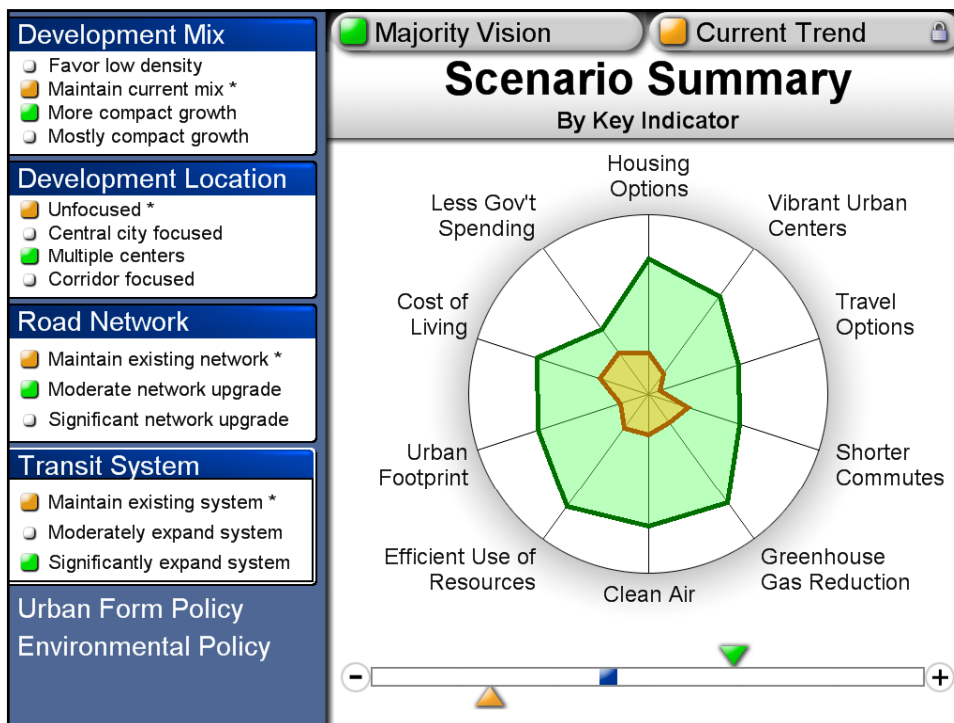
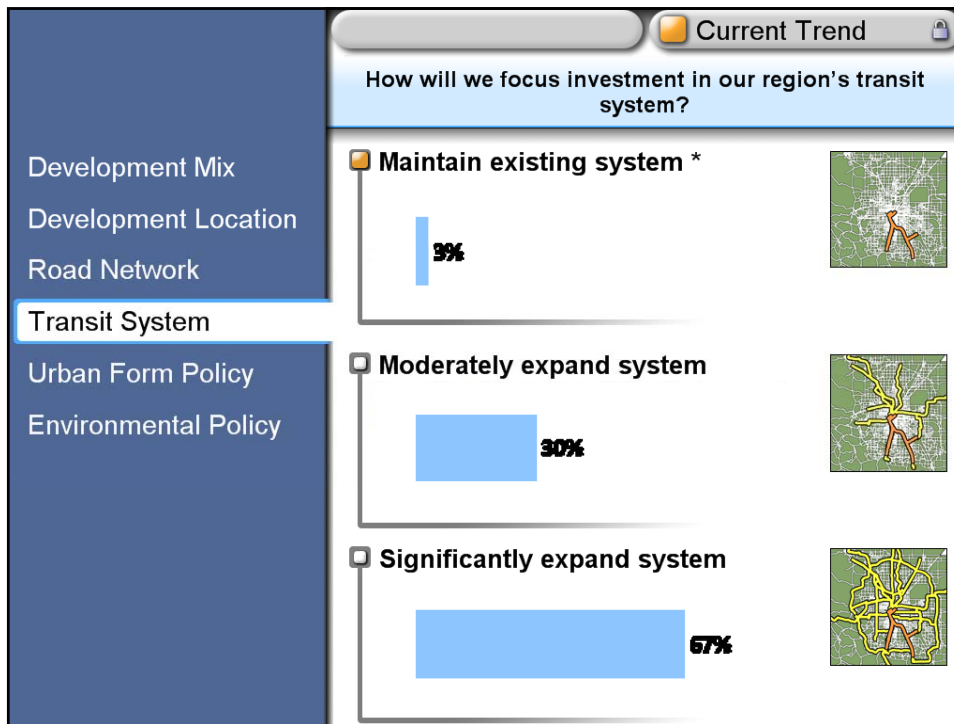
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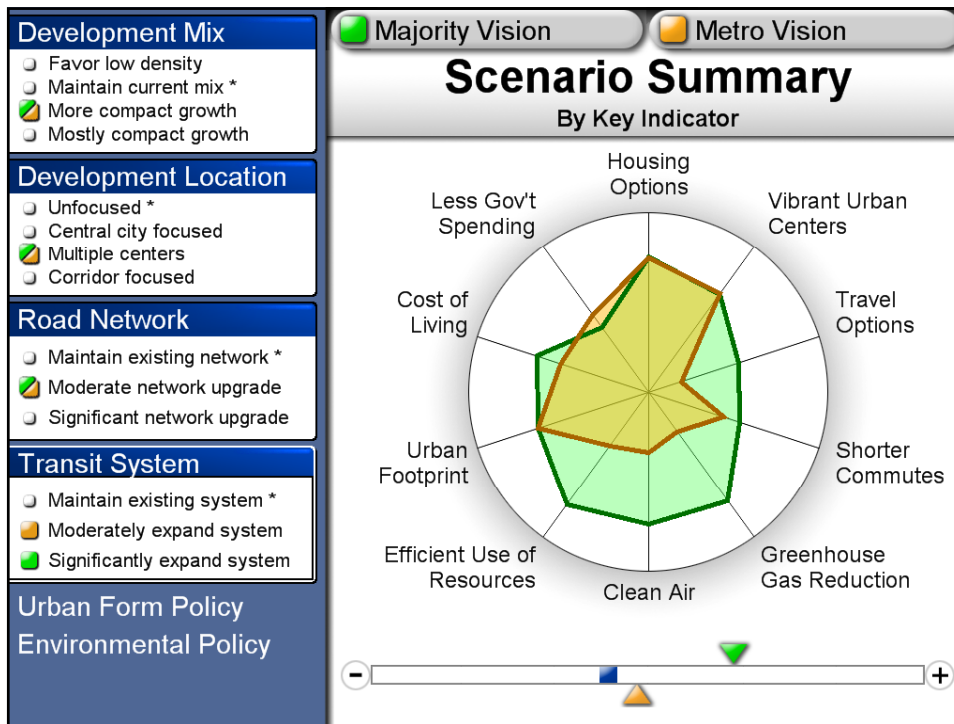
Current Roles and Responsibilities

Player	Responsibility
DRCOG staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Define policy questions, evaluation criteria • Facilitate workshops
Stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actively develop and explore alternative scenarios • Participate in ongoing dialogue
DRCOG Board	Receive ongoing input (not tied to specific decisions)
Local governments	Incorporate scenario discussions into local planning efforts



<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Your Vision</p>	<p>Development Mix</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Favor low density <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Maintain current mix * <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> More compact growth <input type="checkbox"/> Mostly compact growth 	<p>Environmental Policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Spend less on programs <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Maintain programs * <input type="checkbox"/> Spend more on programs <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Achieve best practices
<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Current Trend </p> <p>Current land use patterns, infrastructure plans and economic growth projections.</p>	<p>Development Location</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unfocused * <input type="checkbox"/> Central city focused <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Multiple centers <input type="checkbox"/> Corridor focused 	
	<p>Road Network</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Maintain existing network * <input type="checkbox"/> Moderate network upgrade <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Significant network upgrade 	
	<p>Transit System</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Maintain existing system * <input type="checkbox"/> Moderately expand system <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Significantly expand system 	
	<p>Urban Form Policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Favor drivers <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Maintain current mix * <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support alternatives <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly favor alternatives 	





Questions?

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