

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION GOALS & CHALLENGES

Establishing a Policy Framework for the TPB's Long-Range Plan Task Force

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National Capital Region
Transportation Planning Board

Outline for Today

Goals

- Review Goals from TPB and COG policy documents
- Discuss potential for highlighting certain Goals for the Task Force

Challenges

- Review Challenges to achieving regional transportation Goals
- Discuss potential for highlighting certain Challenges for the Task Force to address



Goals and Challenges

1. Background:

Goals from TPB's and COG's existing governing policy documents represent what the region expects from its long-range transportation plan

2. Problem:

The CLRP performance analysis demonstrates a disconnect between regional Goals and performance of the transportation system

3. Approach:

Use the Challenges in achieving regional Goals identified in the RTPP to identify approximately 6-10 projects, policies or programs that make significantly better progress towards achieving the Goals



Goals and Challenges

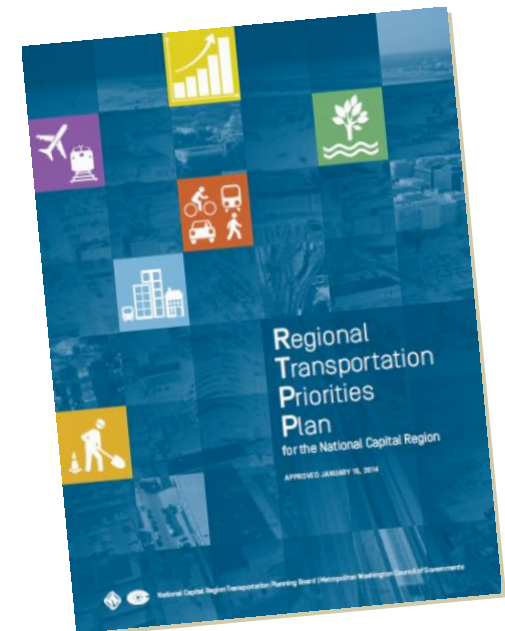
Details of Approach:

- Utilize existing regional Goals
- Goals must become measurable, but they are currently too general
- TPB's Regional Transportation Priorities Plan (RTPP) identified a list of "Challenges," which specify ways in which the region falls short of achieving Goals
- Using a list of Challenges can set the stage for:
 - Identifying projects, programs, and policies which respond directly to the challenges
 - Identifying performance measures which relate to each Challenge, thereby providing a framework for measurement



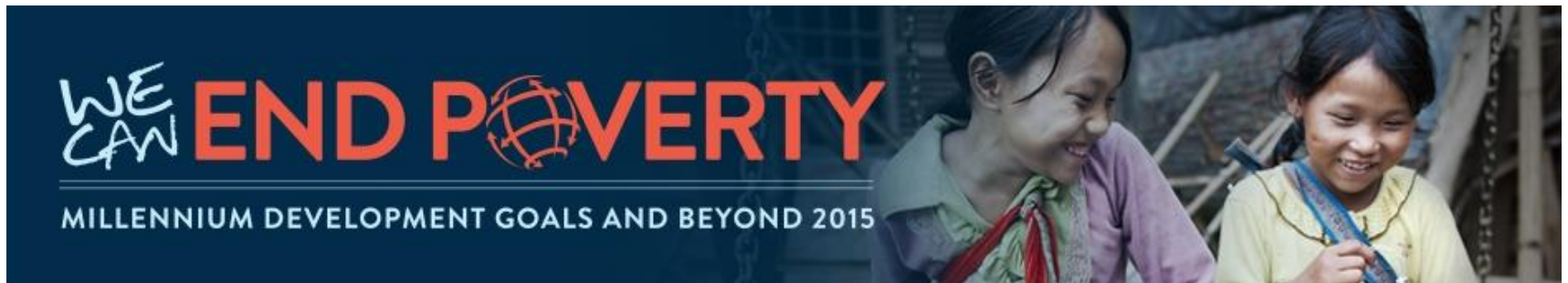
TPB/COG Policy Documents

Our standing policy documents related to transportation are framed around complementary sets of regional Goals



What is a “goal”?

A broad aspiration or guiding principle



Regional Goals

The transportation planning Goals adopted by the region provide a sound basis for the TPB's new long-range planning activities:

- **Comprehensive:** The Goals encompass a full diversity of interests among the region's elected officials and residents.
- **Consensus-based:** The Goals are the result of years of effort involving a broad spectrum of stakeholders from multiple sectors and enjoy support at all levels of governments as reflected in the adoption of these Goals by COG and the TPB.
- **Synthesized:** The Goals draw upon a variety of policy initiatives of the region's decision-makers at local and state levels.
- **Familiar:** The Goals have been used by TPB, COG and local jurisdictions.



Summary of Regional Goals

- Provide a comprehensive range of transportation options
- Provide reasonable access at reasonable cost to everyone
- Develop and maintain an interconnected system, including a healthy regional core and dynamic activity centers with a mix of jobs, housing and services in a walkable environment
- Give priority to management, performance, maintenance and safety of all modes and facilities
- *Use the best available technology to maximize system effectiveness*
- Plan and develop a system that enhances and protects natural environmental quality, cultural and historic resources and communities
- Achieve better inter-jurisdictional coordination of transportation and land use planning
- Achieve enhanced funding for regional and local priorities that cannot be met with current/forecast funding sources
- Support inter-regional and international travel and commerce



Regional Goals Discussion

Question:

To focus the work of the LRPTF, is there interest in highlighting certain Goals as higher priorities?

Resources:

- Previous slide, which summarizes regional Goals
- Packet which contains policy document Goals



Using the Challenges

Why use the Challenges?

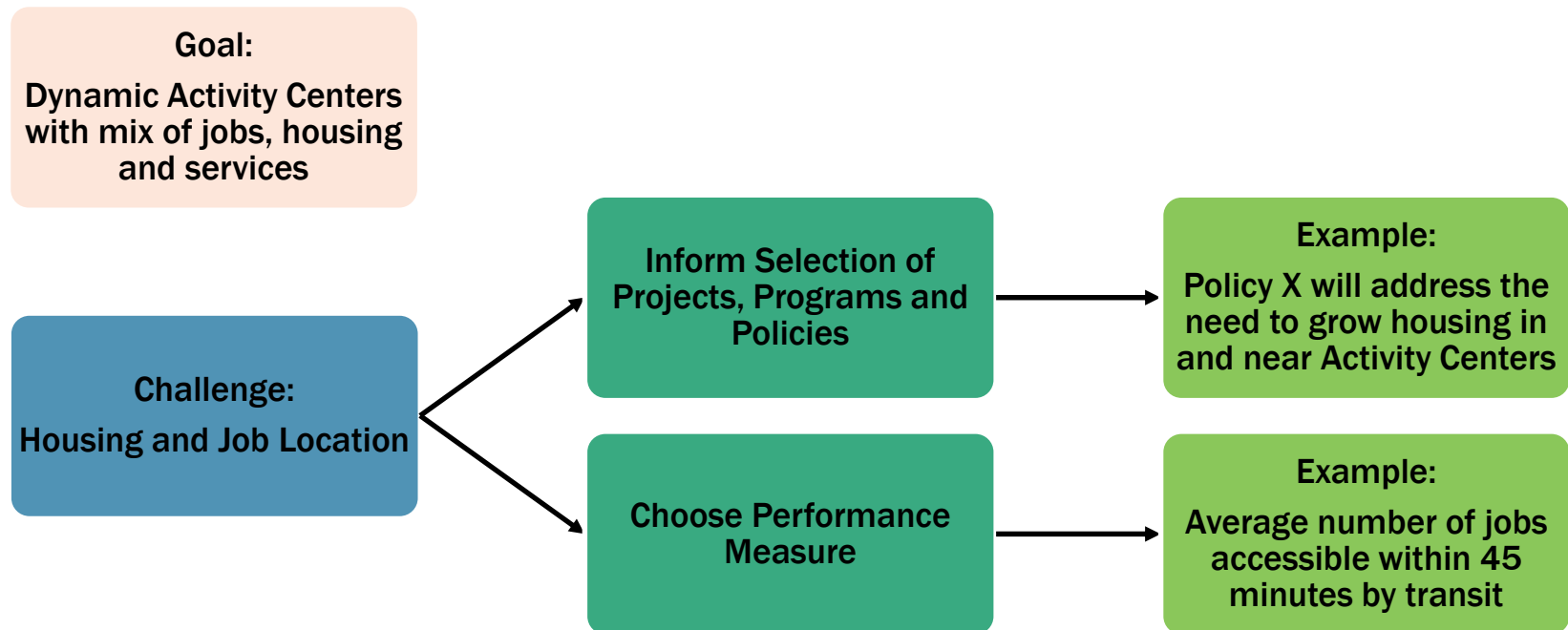
- The Challenges articulate the specifics of the TPB's dissatisfaction with the anticipated long-term performance of the transportation system in the CLRP
- The Challenges address the adopted regional Goals
- Our region faces these Challenges today and will continue to face them as our region continues to grow

How to use the Challenges?

- The region's Challenges will help focus efforts in choosing...
 - A limited set of 6-10 **projects, programs and policies**
 - An appropriate set of **performance measures**, which will enable evaluation of the projects, programs and policies in the context of regional Goals



Framework for Using the Challenges



Challenges in Achieving Regional Goals

- 1. Roadway Congestion:** The region's roadways are among the most congested in the nation, making it harder for people and goods to get where they need to go.
- 2. Transit Crowding:** The Metrorail system currently experiences crowding during peak hours and lacks the capacity to support future population and job growth.
- 3. Inadequate Bus Service:** Existing bus service is too limited in its coverage, frequency, and reliability, making transit a less viable option, especially for people with disabilities and limited incomes.
- 4. Unsafe Walking and Biking:** Too few people have access to safe pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure or live in areas where walking and bicycling are not practical options for reaching nearby destinations.



Challenges in Achieving Regional Goals

- 5. Development Around Metrorail:** Too many Metrorail stations, especially on the eastern side of the region, are surrounded by undeveloped or underdeveloped land, limiting the number of people who can live or work close to transit and leaving unused capacity in reverse-commute directions on several lines.
- 6. Housing and Job Location:** Most housing, especially affordable housing, and many of the region's jobs are located in areas outside of Activity Centers where transit, bicycling, and walking are not safe and viable options.
- 7. Metrorail Repair Needs:** Deferred Metrorail maintenance over the years has led to unreliability, delays, and safety concerns today, as well as higher maintenance costs.
- 8. Roadway Repair Needs:** Older bridges and roads are deteriorating and in need of major rehabilitation to ensure safe, reliable, and comfortable travel for cars, trucks, and buses.



Challenges in Achieving Regional Goals

9. **Incidents:** Major accidents and weather disruptions on roadways and transit systems cause severe delays and inconvenience.
10. **Pedestrian and Bicyclist Safety:** The number of bicycle and pedestrian fatalities each year is holding steady even as the number of vehicle fatalities has declined steadily.
11. **Environmental Quality:** Increasing amounts of vehicle travel resulting from population and job growth could threaten the quality of our region's air and water.
12. **Open Space Development:** Wildlife habitat, farmland, and other open spaces are threatened by construction of new transportation facilities and residential and commercial development.



Challenges in Achieving Regional Goals

- 13. Bottlenecks:** Bottlenecks on the highway and rail systems cause delays in inter-regional travel for both freight and passengers, hurting the region's economic competitiveness.
- 14. Travel Time Reliability:** Travel times to and from the region's airports are becoming less reliable for people and goods movement.



Regional Challenges Discussion

Questions:

- Is this list of regional Challenges complete?
 - Is there anything that should be added, taken away, consolidated or otherwise changed?
- Would it be beneficial to narrow the list of Challenges to focus the work of the LRPTF?

Resources:

- List of Challenges on previous slides and in packet handout
- Regional Goals



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