

Developing a Model Framework for Regional Sustainability Planning and Implementation



Carissa Schively Slotterback, PhD, AICP

Lyssa Leitner

Andrea Long

Humphrey School of Public Affairs, University of Minnesota

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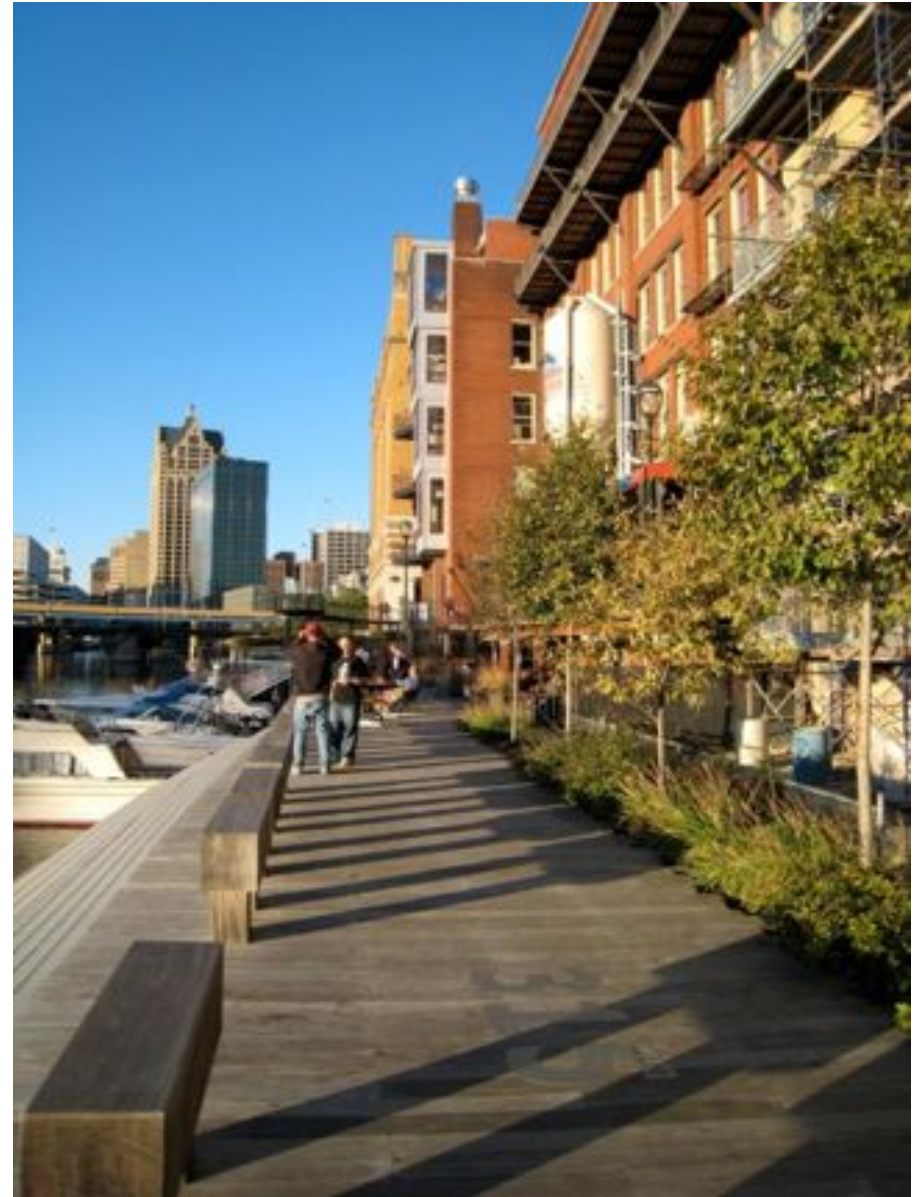
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Project Overview

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

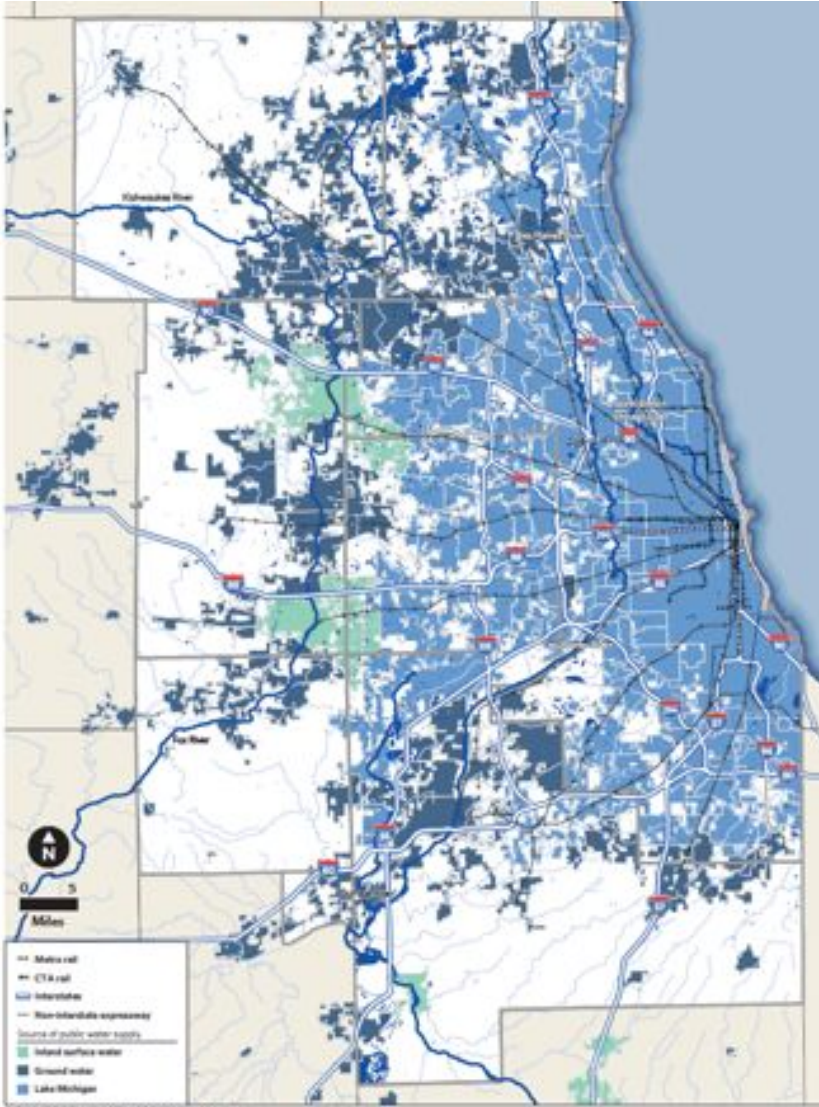
Denver Regional Council of Governments

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

The image displays two screenshots of digital planning tools. The top screenshot is the 'METRO QUEST GO TO 2040' interface, featuring three main sections: 'VISIT 2040' (a virtual tour), 'INVENT 2040' (a creative scenario builder with a map), and 'COMPARE 2040' (a tool to compare scenarios). Logos for the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, GO TO 2040, and THE CHICAGO COMMUNITY TRUST are visible at the top. The bottom screenshot is the 'MetroPulse' dashboard, titled 'The Regional Indicators Project for Metropolitan Chicago'. It features a grid of 12 indicators with icons and data points: Economy (poverty rate: 12.5%), Culture (arts employment: 33,014), Economy (unemployment rate: 9%), Environment (greenhouse gas emissions: 139.8), Housing (housing cost burden: 43.9%), Civic Involvement (voting rate: 56%), Education (educational attainment: 40.8%), Transportation (weekday trips on public transit), Health (infant mortality), Land Use (land considered undeveloped: 24%), Safety (violent crimes), and Coordinated Planning (previous plan 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

	Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning	Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission	Denver Regional Council of Governments	Long Island Regional Planning Council	New South Wales - Sydney	Victoria, Canada - Capital Regional District	St. Cloud
Land Use	X		X	X	X	X	X
Transportation	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Housing	X			X	X	X	
Economy	X	X		X	X	X	
Environment	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Livability		X			X	X	
Food Systems						X	X
Health				X			X
Education				X			X
Governance				X	X		X

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

