

Urban Transect Workgroup Notes

Goals with challenge or issue within the transect

Communities pursue resilient, adaptable, and diverse economies. (1 red dot)
Economic Development

Business-friendly policies and infrastructure (2.5 red dots)
Economic Development

Prioritize investments where people live and work by maintaining, leveraging, and coordinating existing infrastructure when making investments. (2 red dots)
Transportation and Infrastructure

The region has access to global markets and destinations. (3 red dots)
Transportation and Infrastructure

- Weak
- Competition of what and with whom?
- More about preserving status quo

Increase access to equitable, affordable housing. (1 red dot)
Housing

Increase durability, energy efficiency, health and safety of housing stock. (1 red dot)
Housing

Maximize potential of new neighborhoods, while minimizing impact on natural resources. (4.5 red dots)
Housing

The region's ecosystem provides healthy and adequate water, air, soil and food resources for current and future generation of people, wildlife and other living things. (0.5 red dots)
Environment

The region preserves and incorporates natural areas and open spaces providing opportunities for current and future generations. (0.5 red dots)
Environment

Increase recycling, reuse and diversion of waste. (1 red dot)
Environment

Goals identified with a 'green dot'

Communities pursue resilient, adaptable, and diverse economies. (2 green dots)
Economic Development

Increase education and skill attainment of the region's residents to establish a competitive, trained diverse workforce. (14 green dots)

Economic Development

- Add “and retention”
- Highly trained workforce
- Highly skilled business owners
- Create high quality jobs
- Equity
- Close loop: supply of jobs and supply of skilled workers
- Diverse workforce
- School to jail pipeline – employment
- Job training for former prisoners
- Diversity of job types at different centers – hospitals: doctor, phlebotomist; HCC: teachers, other support
- Woven together
- Economic development innovation

Business-friendly policies and infrastructure (2 green dots)

Economic Development

- Sounds like code words
- Should be “community-friendly”
- Competitiveness standpoint: lack of employment and jobs. Can provide competitive advantage for region, attract investment and jobs
- Add “sustainable policies”
- For: save time=business friendly. Waste time=business unfriendly. Don't over/under regulate. Make time-efficient systems
- Support broader goals

The region's residents are able to earn a livable wage that promotes healthy and safe communities and families. (4 green dots)

Economic Development

The region's communities, businesses and individuals have access to a broad spectrum of educational, business, entrepreneurial, employment and investment opportunities. (6 green dots)

Economic Development

Prioritize investments where people live and work by maintaining, leveraging, and coordinating existing infrastructure when making investments. (8 green dots)

Transportation and Infrastructure

Multi-modal transportation including transit, pedestrian, and bicycle use, become a larger share of all trips made in the region, resulting in cleaner air and healthier communities. (14 green dots)

Transportation and Infrastructure

- Light rail second most utilized in US is key for Houston
- Bicycle is key to less than 1.5 hour commute
- Density of jobs in urban-variety of modes of transportation important
- Origin and destination determines land use, proximity to jobs
- Many people do not drive – fairness
- Energy costs
- Connectivity of commuter rail to airports and downtown
- Flexible workplace, telework to avoid expanding system
- Opposed: oil and gas, auto dealerships
- Transportation is driver of land use. Must focus on transportation to be able to focus on land use.
- CBD doesn't assume you have to require or exclude cars. There's a density gap.
- Enable transition to density over time. Should not be option.
- Greater access to all people provided by multimodal.
- Influenced by energy prices

The region's transportation and infrastructure investments provide strategic access, linking residents, jobs, education, services, and other amenities. (6 green dots)

Transportation and Infrastructure

Promote policies that coordinate transportation and land use and reduce the strain on resources. (7 green dots)

Transportation and Infrastructure

Promote effective goods movement while improving quality of life for residents. (3 green dots)

Transportation and Infrastructure

The region has access to global markets and destinations. (1 green dot)

Transportation and Infrastructure

The region's residents of all ages are physically and mentally healthy and lead healthy lifestyles through access to quality and affordable healthy food, healthcare, aging services, and exercise. (10 green dots)

Healthy Communities

The region's built environment promotes healthy communities, including affordable healthy housing and safe neighborhoods, walkable, communities, and access to open space and recreational opportunities. (12 green dots)

Healthy Communities

The region embraces its multicultural, historical, and natural assets to ensure that its communities retain and/or enhance their unique context. (4 green dots)

Healthy Communities

Communities across the region have diversified housing stock that provides quality housing choice that meets the needs of the region's population, including the needs of the elderly, disabled, and low income populations. (7 green dots)

Housing

Increase access to equitable, affordable housing. (9 green dots)

Housing

Housing, transportation, land use and infrastructure services and policies are coordinated to increase access to areas of opportunity, including: quality education, healthy food, and quality jobs to all region residents. (11 green dots)

Housing

Increase durability, energy efficiency, health and safety of housing stock. (2 green dots)

Housing

Maximize potential of existing neighborhoods. (12 green dots)

Housing

Maximize potential of new neighborhoods, while minimizing impact on natural resources. (7 green dots)

Housing

- Employ sustainable design practices
- Make best use of existing, adaptive reuse
- New –high standard of performance
- Look at new and existing as one goal
- Clarify “potential”
- Green building can be part of sustainable development operation
- Focus on existing towns and cities
- Neighborhoods afford for residents to live sustainably

The region's ecosystem provides healthy and adequate water, air, soil and food resources for current and future generation of people, wildlife and other living things. (14 green dots)

Environment

- Systemwide – affects in areas outside urban, interrelationships. What happens in urban areas affects outside urban area.

The region preserves and incorporates natural areas and open spaces providing opportunities for current and future generations. (11 green dots)

Environment

Reduce consumption of non-renewable resources and promote the efficient use of renewable resources (2 green dots)

Environment

The region increases efficiency and conservation, reduces resource and non-renewable energy consumption and increases availability of renewable resources (supply and demand side). (8 green dots)

Environment

Increase recycling, reuse and diversion of waste. (4 green dots)

Environment

Metrics Exercise

Goal: Business-friendly policies and infrastructure

Metric:

- Measure NAIC growth and loss rates (1 blue dot)
- Investment in key infrastructure (7 blue dots)
- Percent of local budget for capital (2 blue dots)
- Increases in key infrastructure (11 blue dots)
- Permitting, incentives and taxation (5 blue dots)

Discussion:

- Investment in key infrastructure (7 blue dots)
 - What is definition of key infrastructure?
 - Measure holistically – more than freeways
 - Have ability to refurbish in urban area > expectation is different in urban.

Goal: The region's residents are able to earn a livable wage that promotes healthy and safe communities and families.

Metric:

- County level cost of living/livable wage (5 blue dots)
- Transect-based cost of living/livable wage (4 blue dots)
- Quality of life index (12 blue dots)
- Disposable income (2 blue dots)
- Housing/transportation cost (18 blue dots)

Discussion:

- Houston has highest transportation + housing costs
- Urban area may need different ratio
- Quality of life index:
 - Different expectation of quality of life in transects: Cost/sq ft, health, prosperity
 - People view quality of life differently
 - Urban: quality of life is proximity to services
 - Need different QOL rating for transects

Goal: The region's communities, businesses and individuals have access to a broad spectrum of educational, business, entrepreneurial, employment and investment opportunities (7 blue dots)

Goal: Communities pursue resilient, adaptable, and diverse economies

Metric:

- Number of businesses created and lost (analysis of factors and size) (10 blue dots)
- Population trends/unemployment rate/underemployment (5 blue dots)
- Local average wage vs. state or national wages (5 blue dots)
- Review of codes (industry)/growth of high growth occupations (1 blue dot)
- Define healthy and diverse/comparison opportunities vs. skills set (5 blue dots)
- Property and sales tax (1 blue dot)

Goal: Increase education and skill attainment of the region's residents to establish a competitive, trained workforce

Metric:

- Degree completion rate (high school graduate, community college, four-year college, post-graduate degree) (4 blue dots)
- Vocational certification (4 blue dots)
- Comparison of TEA report (0 blue dots)
- Benchmark educational attainment vs. other regions (3 blue dots)
- Increasing education and vocational opportunities for youth (8 blue dots)
- Employment rate and mix for non-degreed residents (10 blue dots)

Please list any other major discussion items that were identified concerning metrics

- Universities are good source of data
- Urban – sensitive “ecosystem” – diversity, income