Understanding and Using Federal Legislation and Regulations



Mariia Zimmerman
VP for Policy, Reconnecting America
www.reconnectingamerica.org

Rail~Volution Conference, Miami, FL November 2, 2007

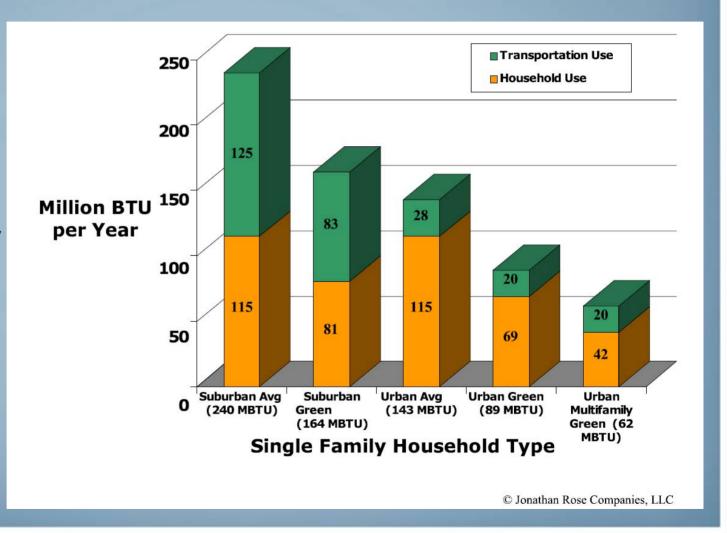
Creating and Seizing Opportunitythe Future is What You Make of It

- Energy Legislation
- Climate Change
- Transportation
 - Reauthorization
 - Appropriations
 - Rulemaking and Implementation



Energy Legislation: Focusing on Efficiency

- Not just for oil companies anymore
 - Green buildings
 - LocationEffienciency

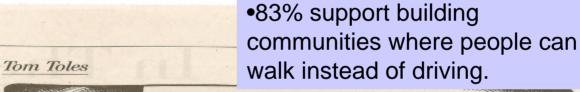


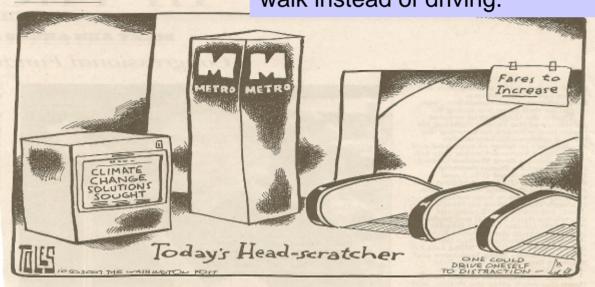


The Climate Is Changing

In a recent poll by the National Association of Realtors

•88% of those surveyed support improved Public Transportation including rail and buses" as important solutions to climate and energy problems.





TOD & Climate Change

- New developments that are compact, diverse and convenient will reduce the need to drive by 20-50 percent.
- Doubling residential density alone reduces VMT per capita by 20%
- If 60% of new development was transit-oriented, GHG emissions would be reduced by up to 12% by 2050
- Eliminating one vehicle and using public transit can reduce a two-car household's carbon footprint between 25-30%.

2 KM DRIVE

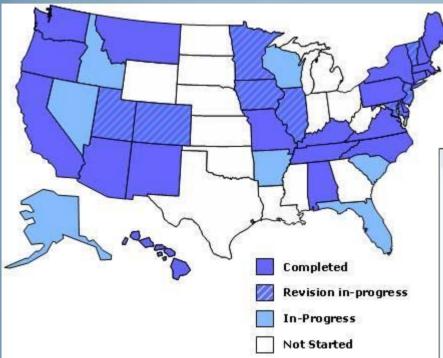


Vs.

KM WALK

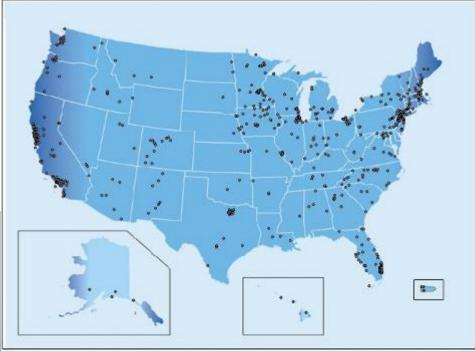


State and Local Action in lieu of Federal Leadership



States with Climate Action Plans

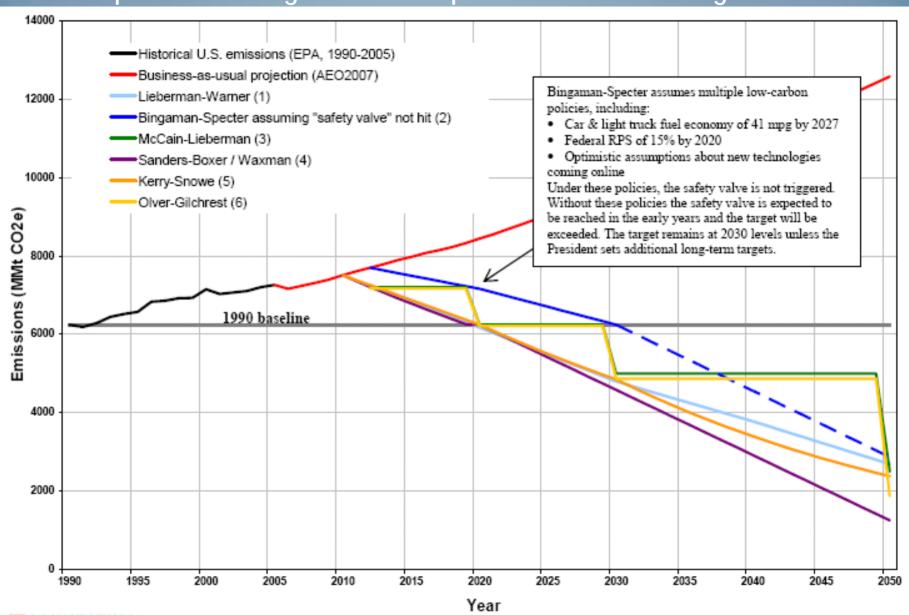
Cities that have Signed USCM Climate Protection Agreement





Source: Pew Center for Climate Change (state map), US Conference of Mayors (cities map)

Comparison of Congressional Proposals in the 110th Congress





A new TEA is brewing

- Late 2008 Recommendations from Study Commissions
- FY09 Highway Trust Fund crisis
- Administration position on tolling, congestion reduction, and "core program"
- 2008 let the games begin
- 2009 the real fun begins



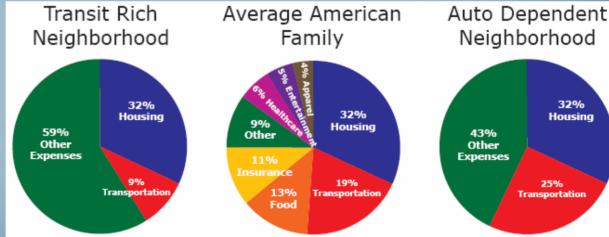


What is the National Purpose of the Federal Transportation Program?

Just a pass through and list of projects? OR

- ✓ Quality of Life;
 - Lower transportation and health costs Provide more choices
- ✓ Reduce dependence on foreign oil

- ✓ Economic competitiveness of our metropolitan regions
- ✓ Environmental sustainability

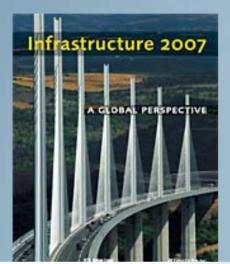


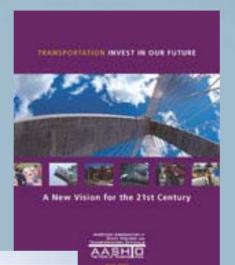
Source: Center for TOD Housing + Transportation Affordability Index, 2004 Bureau of Labor Statistics



Transportation is the 2nd highest household expense, after housing

A growing constituency













Re-establishing the Transportation Reform Community



- Advocacy Network
- Communications and Message
- Policy and Politics
- Research

✓ Focus Funding on Systems that Support our Values

✓ Require Accountability, Performance Measures, and a Level Playing Field

✓ Target Investments that Support National Priorities

Join Us!

www.reconnectingamerica.org

