

# *Fostering TOD in Regional Plans and Programs*

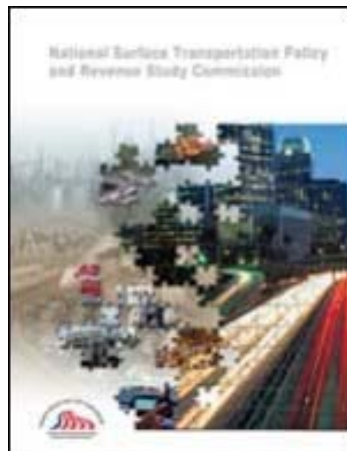
**Jeff Price, Community Planner  
Office of Planning & Environment  
Federal Transit Administration  
Washington, D.C.**

-----

**(202) 366-4280  
jeff.price@dot.gov**

# ***Challenges Facing Communities Nationwide: Transportation Findings & Demographic Trends***

- Growing energy use, increasing GHG emissions
- Growing needs for maintaining a state of good repair on existing transportation systems
- Growing and aging US population
- Growing demand for transportation services



# ***Increasing recognition that Creating Sustainable Communities requires Regional Planning***

- To reduce the effects of Climate Change
- Reduce our dependence on fossil fuel
- Offer transportation options
- To induce economic development
- Encourage healthier lifestyles
- Foster a sustainable future

# ***Transit and the Decision-making Table***

**To Be “ON” the Table, Transit Must Be  
“AT” the Table**

**Prerequisite: *Transit must exercise its legal right to have a voice in decision-making***

- - - - -

***FTA Sponsored Studies focused on:***

- 1. TMAs – Transit at the Table I***
- 2. Non-TMA MPOs – Transit at the Table II***
- 3. Non-Urbanized – Transit at the Table III***

***Anecdotes and testimonials on benefits realized, barriers faced, and strategies to address them***

# ***Transit and the Decision-making Table***

## **Challenges to Transit Involvement**

1. Complex Organization & Work  
(Can Seem Overwhelming)
2. Resistance by Some Organizations  
(Could Be Bullied-Out by Others)
3. Perceived Long-Range Abstract/Irrelevant  
vs. focus on the TIP (Self-Benched)

## **Strategies for Overcoming Challenges**

1. Orientation Sessions for CEO and Staff
2. “Crash the Party”
3. Participate on Board (GMs) & Committees
4. Focus on All Planning Work / Not Just TIP

# ***Transit and the Decision-making Table***

## **Benefits of Transit Participation**

1. Top-to-bottom Influence – Issues, Study Scopes and Options, Policies, Priorities
2. Transit Elevated to Indispensable Priority
3. Liaison with Locals & Land Use Decisions
4. Seize Funding Opportunities – Resources Otherwise Unspent / Non-traditional
5. Establish Trusting Organizational Ties

***<http://www.planning.dot.gov/documents/tat.htm>***

# ***Transit and the Decision-making Table***

## **Additional Factors in Smaller Regions**

1. Influence of States (Gov's Apportionment)
2. "Lifeline" Human Service Travel Needs
3. Presence of Tribal Interests and Needs
4. Staffing Limitations at Transit and MPOs

## **Strategies for Success (plus those for TMAs)**

1. Resource Sharing (Staff, Buildings, etc.)
2. Co-Location (or Proximal) / Informal Mtgs
3. Retain Staff & Limit Management Firms
4. MPO/Transit Join Each Other's Planning

# ***Transit and the Decision-making Table***

**When Transit is at the Planning Table,  
craft a Planning Agenda to promote TOD  
in both the Near and Long Term.**



# ***Planning Focused Near and Long-Term***

## **Near-term focused on elevating transit in Plan & TIP Priorities – more funds for transit**

- Prioritization criteria for modal balance & network
- Flex-fund and “direct-spend” opportunities

## **Long-Term focused on making plans that set a “sustainability” context with transit at core**

- UPWP studies where transit is among options
- UPWP studies of coordinated transit, land use, and economic development planning
- UPWP study to prepare a TOD Strategic Plan

# ***Transit and the Decision-making Table***

**TOD** - “integrated network of places and nodes within a regional scope” (forthcoming CTOD report )

- strategic mixes/connections between land uses
- easy walk-distance to transit station (1/4 mile)
- incorporates bike and pedestrian systems
- depends upon comprehensive community planning that takes place at a regional context

## **Strategic Planning for TOD** – Denver, 2006

- policy, vision, goals, and strategies
- interagency collaboration and decision framework
- idea exchange, “best practices,” market research

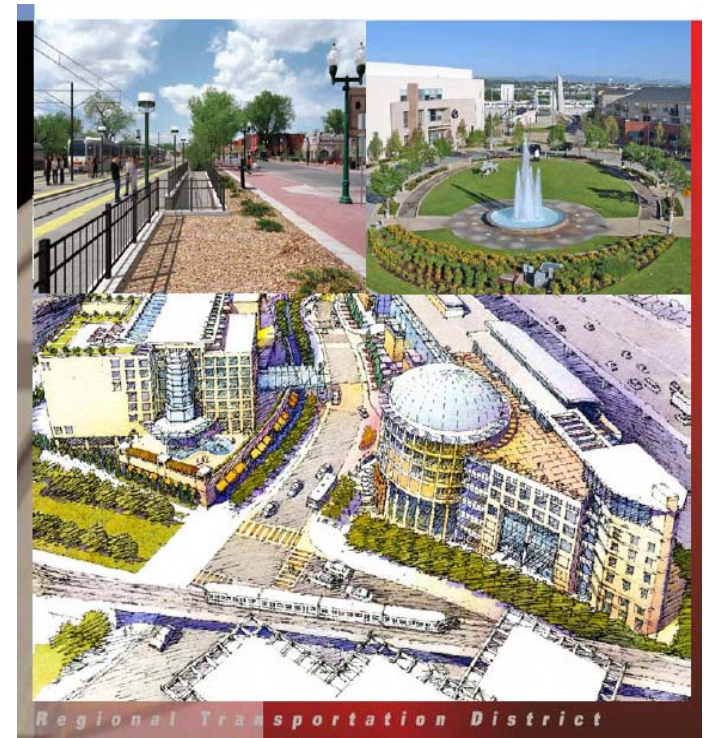
# Denver's Strategic Plan for TOD

The FasTracks project plans for:

- 119 miles of new light-rail
- 18 miles of bus rapid transit (BRT)
- 57 new stations

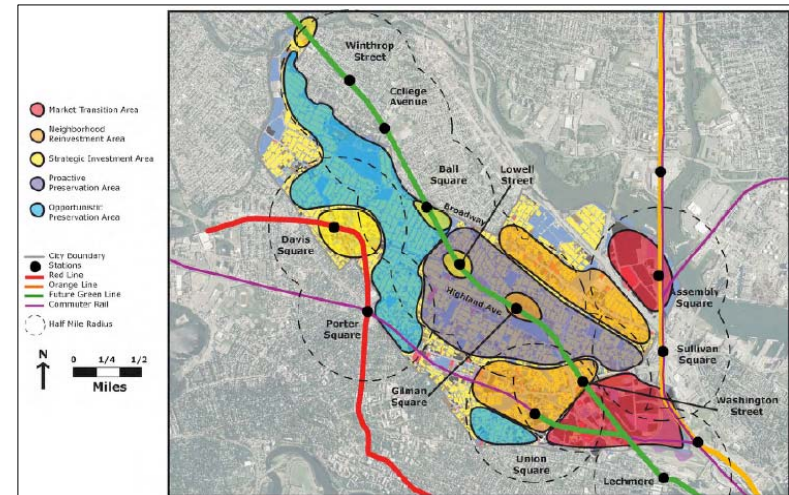
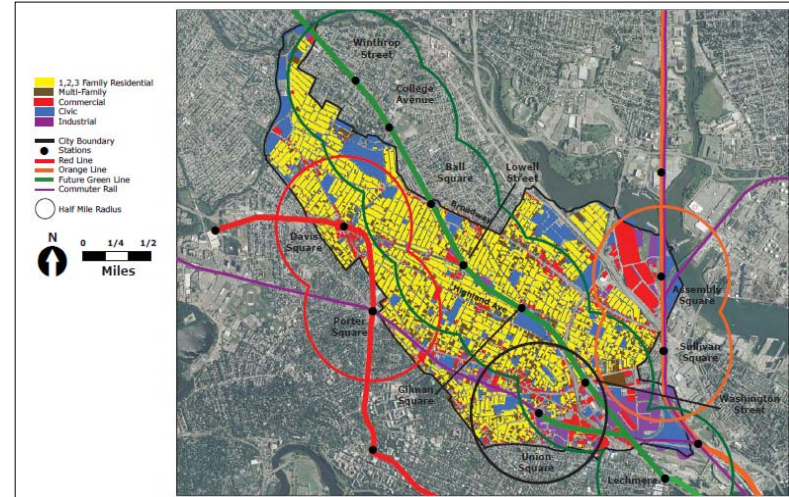
TOD can only be implemented by collaboration between the parties whose interests converge at transit facilities:

- transit agencies
- transportation providers
- local government
- private developers
- community stakeholders.



# Somerville Equitable TOD Strategy (Boston)

- Community-based approach from Somerville Community Corporation (bottom-up approach)
- Transit line extensions create TOD re-development opportunities
- Report findings highlighted areas vulnerable losing affordable housing
- Report findings recommended strategies to improving access to transit through street design and safety enhancements



# *Regional Experience in Applying Federal Transit Funding for TOD*

- When physically or functionally related to a transit project
  - it is joint development and eligible for FTA Funding No Dedicated Funds for TOD & **Joint Development (JD)**
- However - - TOD & JD Eligible under Current Programs
  - TOD Planning is Eligible Under FTA's Metropolitan and Statewide Planning Programs
  - Joint Development is an eligible capital expense
- Criteria for JD Project Eligibility
  - Physical or Functional Connection to Transit Service
  - Public Transportation Benefit



# ***Sample Unified Planning Work Program Tasks***

- TOD Potential Site Inventory & Assessment
- Coordinated Transportation - Land Use – Housing Plans
- Transit-Supportive Criteria for Ranking Projects in Plans and TIPs
- Public Participation Plans
- MPO Technical Assistance in TOD Planning
- TOD Clearinghouse/Coordination Forum

# ***New Federal Partnership: DOT, HUD, & EPA***

1. Joint livability/sustainability program with target of Integrated Regional Plans
2. DOT to encourage MPOs to do “integrated planning” in next Plan Update
3. DOT to provide technical assistance on scenario planning (comprehensive planning)
4. HUD planning grants to metro areas (FY10)

# ***PARTNERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES***

## **Guiding Principles**

1. Provide more transportation choices.
2. Promote equitable, affordable housing.
3. Enhance economic competitiveness.
4. Support existing communities.
5. Coordinate policies and leverage investment.
6. Value communities and neighborhoods.

**We Need Case Studies!!!**





# *Secretary Ray LaHood, DOT:*



Livability means “being able to take your kids to school, go to work, see a doctor, drop by the grocery or post office, go out to dinner and a movie, and play with your kids at the park, all **without having** to get into your car.”

# **Information for Regional Councils & MPOs: Center for Transit-Oriented Development**

- Why Transit-Oriented Development and Why Now? , 2007 – broad orientation to TOD markets
- Transit + Employment: Increasing Transit's Share of the Commute Trip, 2008 –how TOD planning should consider work place, as complements to origins
- Station Area Planning: How to Make Great Transit-Oriented Places, 2008 – TOD typology with planning methods most applicable to each type
- Destinations Matter: Building Transit Success: the importance of linking multiple regional destinations and housing opportunities
- TOD Database – files of census and other public domain residential and employment information in the 100 largest US cities – for TOD planning

# ***Available Info and Technical Assistance***

## ***1. Transportation Planning Capacity-Building (TPCB)***

***[www.planning.dot.gov](http://www.planning.dot.gov)***

- ***Peer Exchange Program (on request / individual or group/ on ground or web-based)***
- ***Repository of reports and resource materials***

## ***2. Center for Transit-Oriented Development***

***[www.reconnectingamerica.org](http://www.reconnectingamerica.org)***

## ***3. National Transit Institute Training (NTI)***

***[www.ntionline.com](http://www.ntionline.com)***

- ***Coordinated Land Use/Transportation Planning***
- ***Transit-Oriented and Joint Development (July)***

# ***Fostering TOD in Regional Plans and Programs***

**Thank you!**

**Jeff Price  
(202) 366-4280  
jeff.price@dot.gov**