Creating Communities in an Era of Climate Change

RailVolution, October 2008
Shelley Poticha, Reconnecting America
Reconnecting America
Remaking the Mission of Transit for Communities and the Environment

CTOD

- Creating a national marketplace for TOD, working with cities, transit agencies, developers, investors + communities
- Technical assistance, research, + policy reform
- On-line Clearinghouse of TOD + Transit Best Practices

T4America

- An alliance of business, housing, environment, development, labor, health, ageing and transportation interests for transportation investments that are economically sound, respond to markets and improve the lives of people
- Campaign Focus on the Next Federal Transportation Bill
America at a Crossroads
That Was Then....

• Interstate Era (1956) – National goals drive transportation policy, but things start to get bumpy, especially for the environment, cities and the poor

• ISTEA (1991) – A new direction for transportation policy, bringing in other modes, clean air, and planning

• TEA-21/SAFETEA-LU (1998, 2005) – stay the course, play defense, get your slice of pie

• 2009 - $286 billion and what have we got?
This is Now!

Gas Prices

Energy Concerns

Changing Demographics

A Broke & Broken System
Transit Ridership at 40 Year High!

Up 32% Since 1995
Transit is in a Building Boom

$250B in transit planned nationally
$9.5B spent by FTA in last 6 years
Demand for Walkable Urbanism or TOD will Represent At Least 1/3 of the US Housing Market by 2030
Development Linked with Transit Addresses the Challenges of Today’s Communities

- Place-Making and Revitalization
- Healthy and Inclusive Neighborhoods
- Expanded Mobility, Shopping and Housing Choices
- Regional Connectivity to Jobs
- Affordability for Residents
- Attractive to Business
- Green Jobs: Building and Operating Transit + TOD
- Long-lasting response to Climate Change
- Travel Security Net for Emergencies
- Financial Return and Value Recapture

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Changing Demographics are Forcing A New Housing Market

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Baby Boomers</th>
<th>Echo Boomers</th>
<th>Non-White Households</th>
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<td><strong>Singles will soon be the new majority</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Old people will outnumber young people by mid-century</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>By 2010 Echo Boomers will total 34% of the population</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Almost half the U.S. population will be non-white by 2050</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Demographic groups growing most quickly -- older, non-family, non-white households -- use transit more</strong></td>
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Transit System Size Affects TOD Performance

- **TOD Market Grows**
- **More Jobs Connected by Transit**
- **Car Ownership Declines**
- **TOD Incomes Reflect**
- **Wider Array of Household Types Seek Housing Near Transit**
- **Higher Walk, Bike and Transit Mode Shares**
- **More Mid-Day Transit Trips**
- **Lower Transportation-Based Emissions**
TOD Behaves Differently, But Size Also Matters
TOD = \( \frac{1}{2} \) Auto Trips

ITE TRIP MANUAL
6.67 trips / unit

DETAILLED SURVEY
of 17 residential TODs
3.55 trips / unit

Source: Transit Cooperative Research Program
Transit Helps Deliver Great Places...and Value

**Before Transit:**
- Townhome
- 4 Stories over Podium
- "Dallas Donut"
- 6 Stories +

**After Transit:**
- Townhome
- 4 Stories over Podium
- "Dallas Donut"
- 6 Stories +
Affordability: Where the Rubber Meets the Road

Our Dependence on Oil + The Fact that We Have to Drive for Every Trip is Stressing the Average American’s Pocketbook!

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

Mixed-Use Mixed-Income TOD generates 45% less VMT

• Compact development reduces VMT 20-40%
• Doubling density reduces VMT per capita by 20%
• TOD Residents generate 1/2 the trips of high density w/out transit
• 75% of TOD HHs own 1 car or no cars
• 45% of workers in half mile radius of transit walk, bike or take transit compared to 14 % in neighborhoods with no transit

How We Grow Will Determine If We Can Meet the Carbon Challenge

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How We Grow Will Determine If We Can Meet the Carbon Challenge
If we satisfied demand for urbanism, we would be much closer to being a carbon neutral country.

But it will require a much greater commitment to urbanism and significantly more investment in transit.
93% of respondents feel our country needs to reduce its dependence on oil and find renewable sources of energy.

3/4th of Americans believe that being smarter about development and improving public transportation are better long-term solutions for reducing traffic congestion than building new roads.

When asked how they would invest $100, Americans would put $62 towards trains, buses, sidewalks and buses.

Less than ¼ of Americans feel current transportation split is a good investment.
WHAT CAN WE DO TO CREATE CLIMATE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES?

BUILD TOD + BUILD MOBILITY NETWORKS