Laying the Foundation
Complete Communities, Opportunity Areas, and BRT

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Rail~Volution 2012
The BRT Attraction
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At Reconnecting America, we help transform promising ideas into thriving communities – where transportation choices make it easy to get from place to place, where businesses flourish, and where people from all walks of life can afford to live, work and visit.

www.reconnectingamerica.org
The Challenge: TOD around BRT?

Start by asking…

• What does “TOD success” mean in your community?

• Regional Indicators
• Opportunity Areas
What is TOD?

“Mixed-Income TOD” is the coordination of land use and transportation that:

- Connects residents to jobs, shopping, and services
- Reduces auto dependence and transportation costs
- Provides affordable living households of all incomes
- Increases economic opportunity
Developers like rail because it shows permanence

– TOD relies on “high quality” transit
– Developers like rail because it shows permanence
– FREQUENT, PREDICTABLE
– Also important: What transit connects (communities, major destinations, etc)
Destinations Matter

![Graph showing destinations and ridership](image)

- Houston Red Line
- Denver South East Corridor
- San Diego Green Line
- Minneapolis Hiawatha Line
- Los Angeles Gold Line
- Portland Yellow Line

Jobs Within 1/2 Mile of Transit vs Ridership
Scales of TOD

The Scales of TOD
Size of the System Matters

This chart shows the average number of families who live near stations in transit systems of different sizes (the size is defined by number of stations).

Source: CTOD
Transit Is Important, But That’s Not All

- Development + Density
- Access / Proximity to Jobs
- Complete Communities
- Nearby Shopping, Services
- Civic, Recreation Choices
- Frequent, Predictable Transit
- Other Transportation Choices
Complete Communities

- Living
- Working
- Thriving
- Moving

Reconnecting America
People • Places • Possibility
Measuring Performance of TOD and Complete Communities?

- **Living**: managing growth & change, affordable housing
- **Working**: employment density, multimodal access to jobs, quality of life
- **Moving**: transportation choices, transit investments, bike and pedestrian access
- **Thriving**: health, education, safety, access to fresh food, parks and recreation, cultural amenities and entertainment
Los Angeles

Population: 12,828,837
Fixed Guideway Stations: 105
Opportunity Areas: 1403

Our communities need basic elements to support economic opportunity and health for all people. Reconnecting America identified the neighborhoods with these elements - smaller blocks and moderate density housing and/or jobs - to define opportunity areas. Using opportunity areas and other data points, Reconnecting America created metrics and determined composite grades for every metropolitan statistical area (MSA) in the country.
New Concept: OPPORTUNITY AREAS

Defined based on Walkability (Block Size) And / Or Intensity (People / Acre)

Places with good opportunity to reduce auto dependence,
Increase transportation choices
Regions With And Without Opportunity Areas
Los Angeles Opportunity Areas
Orange Line Opportunity Areas
Boston Opportunity Areas
Pittsburgh Opportunity Areas
Laredo, TX Opportunity Areas
Living in Opportunity Areas

Top 10 regions with households in opportunity areas

Source: Reconnecting America

- NEW YORK, NY: 63.5%
- LOS ANGELES, CA: 54.7%
- SAN FRANCISCO, CA: 43.8%
- CHICAGO, IL: 38.8%
- LAREDO, TX: 36.4%
- PHILADELPHIA, PA: 33.7%
- HONOLULU, HI: 32.9%
- BOSTON, MA: 32.3%
- SAN JOSE, CA: 31.9%
- ALTOONA, PA: 29.8%
Opportunity Areas provide the foundation for TOD and complete communities. Implications for BRT include:

- Living
- Working
- Moving
- Thriving
Where should stations be located to maximize “TOD potential”?

Top 10 regions with stations in opportunity areas:

- NEW ORLEANS, LA: 100%
- JACKSONVILLE, FL: 100%
- KANSAS CITY, MO: 96%
- MEMPHIS, TN: 96%
- SAN FRANCISCO, CA: 83%
- BUFFALO, NY: 81%
- HOUSTON, TX: 81%
- LOS ANGELES, CA: 74%
- NEW YORK, NY: 74%
- PORTLAND, OR: 65%

Source: Reconnecting America and CTOD
Doing Well

8th in number of workers in opportunity areas
56th in walkable blocks
80th in transit commuters

Needs Fixing

337th in regional access to parks
293rd in pedestrian safety
215th in opportunity areas that are food deserts

Spotlight On Laredo, Texas
Reconnecting America is pleased to invite all our Rail-Volution friends to a special launch party for our new report

Are We There Yet?
Creating Complete Communities for 21st Century America

Enjoy the groovy sounds of The Edwardo Show and partake of some tasty hors d'oeuvres at the classic Hollywood haunt Boardners!

Tuesday - October 16th - 7-10pm - 1652 N. Cherokee Ave. Los Angeles, CA 90028 - Five minute walk from Hollywood & Highland!
Thank you!

www.reconnectingamerica.org

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Working in Opportunity Areas

Regions with the most jobs in opportunity areas tend to be in the Northeast and Midwest, but there are a few exceptions, such as Laredo, Texas, and Missoula, Montana.
Physical Activity

Most and least physically active regions

**MOST PHYSICALLY ACTIVE**
- Boulder, CO
- Santa Cruz, CA
- Santa Fe, NM
- Provo, UT
- Corvallis, OR
- Fort Collins, CO
- Medford, OR
- Bend, OR
- Salinas, CA
- Denver, CO

**LEAST PHYSICALLY ACTIVE**
- Gadsden, AL
- Morristown, TN
- Pine Bluff, AR
- Johnson City, TN
- Huntington, WV
- Florence, AL
- Weirton, WV
- Charleston, WV
- Cleveland, TN
- Texarkana, TX-AR

The national Centers for Disease Control and Prevention tracks the general health trends in regions and states across the U.S.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Access to Healthy Food