FHWA Livability Overview

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Overview

- History & Defining Livability
- Current FHWA Activities
- Future
History

- Livability has been a national initiative before...
  - Carter Administration’s *Livable Cities Program*
  - Clinton-Gore Administration’s *Building Livable Communities Program*
- Now...
  - Obama Administration’s *Livability Initiative and the Interagency Partnership for Sustainable Communities*
What is quality of life for an individual?

- Health
- Social/Community
- Work
- Money
Transportation affects livability for individuals and communities.

- **Health**: Walking/bicycling, roadway safety
- **Social/Community**: Access to families, friends, services
- **Work**: Commuting—mode, time
- **Money**: Transportation Costs
What are Livable Communities?

A livable community is one in which people have multiple, convenient transportation and housing options as well as destinations easily accessible to people traveling in and out of cars.

Livable Communities are where people have access to many different forms of transportation and affordable housing."

U.S. DOT Secretary, Ray LaHood

See [www.dot.gov/livability](http://www.dot.gov/livability) for more on DOT’s perspective.
History

- Livability builds off existing resources, policies, and programs:
  - Context Sensitive Solutions
  - Scenario Planning
  - Planning and Environment Linkages
  - AASHTO Bike and Pedestrian Guides
  - New funding programs from ISTEA and SAFETEA-LU (e.g., Safe Routes to School)
  - Increased options for project eligibility
Transportation Planning

- State and MPO Planning
- 23 CFR 450.200 and 450.300
  - ...to carry out a continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive multimodal transportation planning process...that encourages and promotes the safe and efficient development, management, and operation of surface transportation systems to serve the mobility needs of people and freight (including accessible pedestrian walkways and bicycle transportation facilities) and foster economic growth and development, while minimizing transportation-related fuel consumption and air pollution...
HUD-DOT-EPA Interagency Partnership for Sustainable Communities—Guiding Principles

- Provide More Transportation Choices
- Coordinate Policies and Leverage Investment
- Promote Equitable, Affordable Housing
- Enhance Economic Competitiveness
- Support Existing Communities
- Value Communities and Neighborhoods
Livability—Facilities

- Mixed Use Development
- Tree Lined Streets
- Bus Service
- Destination Centers
- Good Lighting
- Park Benches
- Bus Shelters and Pullouts
- Well Signed
- Wide Median for Traffic Calming
- Well Defined Bike Lanes
- Raised Handicap Accessible Crosswalks
- Wide Sidewalks with Buffer
Livability Helps Rural Communities

- Challenges to address:
  - Roadway safety on rural roads is a major concern
  - Emergency response times
  - Connectivity of rural roads
  - Ensuring that senior citizens can get to services and destinations
  - Keeping young families in the community
FHWA Activities—Livability Web Site

- Existing funding sources to support livability
- Division contacts
- Case studies
FHWA Activities—Livability Guidebook

• Designed as a practitioners resource and guide

• For MPOs, State DOTs and others in the advancement Of livable community developments

• Developed with FTA

•Available very soon on www.fhwa.dot.gov/livability
FHWA Activities—Livability Guidebook

- Demonstrates the importance of linking land use and transportation planning
- Ties together a wide range of overlapping objectives:
  - Walkable Communities
  - Transit Oriented Development
  - Complete Streets
  - Context Sensitive Solutions
  - Healthy Neighborhoods
  - Smart Growth
  - Sustainability
FHWA Activities—Strategies for Livable Communities

- Developing resources to support practitioners:
  - Research Paper
    - Differentiate between livability and sustainability
    - *Sustainability*: Improving energy efficiency, reducing dependence on oil, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and benefitting the environment.
  - Livability Workshops
  - Toolbox of Training Materials
  - Model Regional Comprehensive Livability Plan
FHWA /DOT Activities—Bicycle/Pedestrian Policy Statement

  - “Every transportation agency, including DOT, has the responsibility to improve conditions and opportunities for walking and bicycling and to integrate walking and bicycling into their transportation systems.”
FHWA Activities—SEP-14

- **Opportunity**
  - Conflicting contract requirements for HUD and FHWA funds.

- **Solution**
  - Special Experimental Project No. 14 (SEP-14) to permit, on a case-by-case basis, the application of HUD requirements on Federal-aid highway projects.
FHWA Activities—TIGER II

- Joint Planning Grants with HUD
  - $40 million in HUD grants; up to $35 million in DOT planning grants
- TIGER II
  - $600 million available
  - Grant criteria include:
    - Livability: Fostering livable communities through place-based policies and investments that increase transportation choices and access to transportation services for people in communities across the United States.
The Future of Livability for FHWA

- Funding program
  - FY 2011 Budget Request from DOT:
    - “$200 million in highway funding for a competitive livability grant program to assist ... in integrating project and development planning processes within transportation, land use, and natural resource conservation in both urban and rural communities.”

- Performance measures
FHWA Livability Contacts

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