



Scenario Planning is an integral part of the update of the Mid-Region Metropolitan Planning Organization’s (MRMPO) metropolitan transportation plan, called Futures 2040. MRMPO undertakes this type of long range transportation plan every 5 years; however this is the first time that MRMPO has integrated scenario planning into the planning process. Scenario Planning can range from the impacts of adding a bridge crossing to an entirely new growth pattern for jobs and housing. Scenario Planning cannot be simply defined; rather here are a few definitions:

- Develop potential growth scenarios to compare impacts on our built and natural environment
- Evaluate the costs and benefits of possible future development patterns on land consumption, transportation, environment and economy
- Provide a tool to better evaluate the costs and benefits of how we grow, and measure the impacts of how we grow on our region’s assets

Why Scenario Planning?

1. Develop a **Proactive vs. Reactive** approach to growth in our region and development of the MTP
2. Build collaboration among governmental agencies, the public and other professionals
3. Directly integrate land use and transportation planning
4. Recognize that there is not one certain future

Nashville MPO Example:

Instead of looking just at the growth trend based on current planning and known development as we have done in the past, we can look at other ways to grow, and see if they will have a different impact on our land consumption, transportation, environment and economy. For example, from the Nashville MPO scenario planning efforts they identified a base case and an alternative case that had the following impacts in their region:

Indicator	Base Case	Alternate Case
Land We Will Consume:	365,000 acres	91,000 acres
Infrastructure Costs:	\$6,957,085,995	\$3,406,798,045
Intersections per acre:	.034	.11
New Road Miles:	4,544 miles	2,225 miles
Acres of New Impervious Surfaces:	62,444 acres	35,033 acres
Vehicle Miles of Travel Increase:	39 miles	35.9 miles
Density Patterns- Region Wide:	1.13 persons/acre	5.8 persons/acre

Focus groups have been identified for this process, they include:

- Public agencies, Public Health professionals, Housing professionals, Elected officials, Rural areas, Neighborhood Associations, Economic development professionals, Developers and Business groups, and Public schools

We are currently reaching out to these groups and asking them to identify what they feel are the Challenges in our region.



Public Agencies results (June 2013 meeting):

Water (34%)	Economic Development (17%)	Land Use Patterns (16%)	Collaboration (13%)	Mobility (7%)	Public Education (6%)	Place Making	Demographic Trends	Money	Identity
Water - aging utilities	Sustainable, resilient, local economy (job centers)	Identification of high intensity development zones	Regional economic cooperation	Air Quality & Congestion management	Public Education outreach	Place Making (3%)	Aging population livability - urban & rural	Funding	Preserve cultural heritage
Changing water use/reuse	Economic market identification	Redevelop/repurpose derelict commercial & retail into new housing to reflect demographic realities	Lack of collaboration	Transportation options	Change culture around transit use	Target density for preservation of open space, agriculture, etc.	Institutional challenges to accommodate aging population	Money	Large scale suburban development
Density = less water	Retain families in community'	Prioritize Infrastructure - urban, suburban, rural	Regional coordination + vision + collaboration	Influence between land use & transportation	Capacity building (developers)	Housing options	Better asset management	\$	Changing suburban demographics
Water availability	Diversified industrial economic development	Homeowner - developer buy-in	Inter Regional collaboration	Linking density & transit	Educate to overcome fear	Job - housing balance			Balance rural character & urban growth
Water resources in planning/growth assumptions	K-12 Education	Mixed use development that provides affordable housing	Visionary, courageous non-politicized leadership - government - private sector	River crossings & mode share		Coping with existing sprawl			Community identity local vs. regional
Adequate water resource management	Job Growth								Urban vs. Rural character
	Here vs. there economic development								



Health Professionals results (October 2013 meeting):

Access to Services (20%)	Healthy Economy (19%)	Water Availability (18%)	Land Use Patterns - Healthy (13%)	Monetary Resources (10%)	Collaboration (10%)	Transit Options (5%)	Multi-Modal Access/Safety (5%)	Safety	Equality	Equity
Access to affordable, safe healthy food	Diverse Jobs	Adapting to water availability - carrying capacity first	"Smart Growth" Integrated, affordable, green, mixed-use development		imminent domain	Affordable and clean transit	Access to walking, biking, running	Substance abuse, Gun control, adequate law enforcement	Pollution impact on diabetes, asthma, particulates, better safe driving than biking?	At risk neighborhoods (vulnerable)
Access to Health Facilities	Living Wage - Caregivers	Water quality and availability	Agriculture Preservation		buy-in	Convenient transit	Bike/Car Education		Power Inequality	Rural communities
Aging population	Leads to happiness and quality of life	Natural resources?? Enough /relocate	Sprawl - development patterns		Planning horizon too close	Bus improvements	Pedestrian/ Bike Safety		Noise ADHD, Raised blood pressure, heart disease, mental health	
Quality of Access		Water	Loss of impact fees			Making transit easier to use				
No beltway (lack of beltway)			Enforcement			Subsidize public transit				
			Loss of open space What is healthy density?							
			In-fill incentives							
			Lack of mixed-use planning							

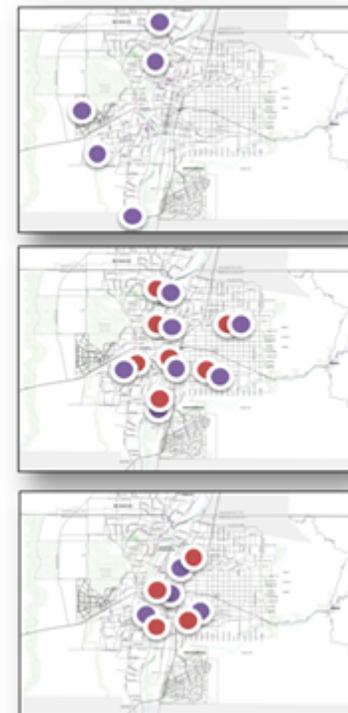
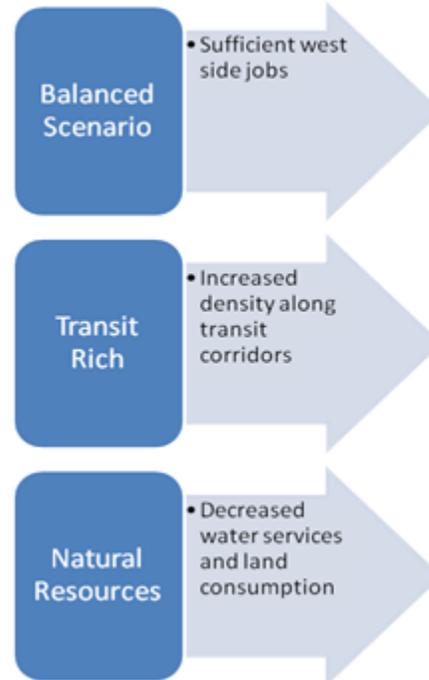


From these discussions about challenges in our region, we have developed themes that will help us develop conceptual scenarios and indicators to evaluate those scenarios. The themes include Community Character, Access and Mobility, Active Places, Climate Change, Land Use Patterns, and Economic Vitality. MRMPO has received funding from Federal Highway Administration to focus on the impacts of Climate Change in our area. Also, through our outreach efforts we have identified Equity as an important indicator that runs through these themes. Following is a visual of the themes and some potential conceptual scenarios that could come out of this process.

THEMES:



CHALLENGES → Scenarios



Pattern of housing and jobs

Housing: ●
Job: ●

Mid-Region Metropolitan Planning Organization



Below is our timeline for developing alternative scenarios. We are currently identifying challenges through our focus groups and public outreach. This spring we will be focusing on developing scenario concepts, and in the summer will have two very intensive workshops to select and evaluate scenarios to be integrated into our Futures 2040. These scenarios will be the basis for developing recommendations for both the Mid-Region Metropolitan Organization and other cooperating entities in the region.

