

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY GREEN TRANSIT PLAN

The Chicago metropolitan region has the capacity to vastly improve its air quality through means of reducing its carbon footprint. As the issue of environmental sustainability has gained momentum both nationally and globally, much has been written regarding various policies techniques that seek to promote cleaner air and water standards.

The Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) is currently studying these different strategies in an effort to produce a strategic plan of policies that will help “green” the authority and the service boards it manages.

Beyond considering multi-jurisdictional dynamics using examples from local, state, national, and international studies, the project seeks to integrate various means of sustainable practices into a cogent series of recommendations and long-term plans. An important aspect of the project is working with RTA’s service boards (CTA, Metra, and Pace) to determine policies with the greatest potential for implementation.

Best Practice Approach/Toolbox	Description	Notes	Sources and Examples	Page No.	Policy Category							Location					
					Land Use	Transit	Transit-Oriented Development	Transit-Oriented Development	Transit-Oriented Development	Transit-Oriented Development	Transit-Oriented Development	Transit-Oriented Development	Transit-Oriented Development	Transit-Oriented Development	Transit-Oriented Development	Transit-Oriented Development	
4	Comprehensive Planning	Integrative urban-wide transportation planning... (Detailed description of comprehensive planning process)	- Metro 2020 - Regional Compact	24, 76, 17													
5	Density and Development Thresholds	Metropolitan transportation organization leading to growth that meet certain thresholds... (Detailed description of density and development thresholds)	- Big River MTC - Tripping Map - Executive TOD	89, 27 89, 10													
6	Develop Region-wide Framework for Parking, Public, Private Partnerships	Cooperative arrangements among governing authorities... (Detailed description of region-wide framework for parking and public/private partnerships)	- FarTracks - Tripping - Chicago - Regional Compact - Executive TOD	24, 85, 11 24, 9													
7	Multi-centered Regional Development	Check jurisdictional region... (Detailed description of multi-centered regional development)	- Metro 2020 - Executive TOD - New District TOD - FarTracks	24, 10 24, 29													

Examples of Reports on Transit and Land Use Policies Affecting Carbon Emissions and Climate Change



Vlecides-Schroeder Associates, Inc. (VSA) has produced an inventory of transit and land use case studies that demonstrate successful policies and best practices advocated or utilized by governing bodies, transportation authorities, and private institutions. The firm identified recurring trends through comprehensive research and analysis of available literature, organizing such into short case studies. The many inter-related issues include but are not limited to strategic planning, transit-oriented development, funding and finance, and interagency coordination. As the project nears completion, VSA and the project team will work with stakeholders to produce the final implementation plans.

Project Completed: Projected December of 2010
Client: Regional Transportation Authority (RTA)