USING THE REGIONAL PLAN

Vibrant Futures Webinar Series
- Welcome

- First of Six Webinars

- Webinars will be on-line
1. Understand how a regional sustainability plan can be useful for your community.

2. Recognize how outcomes from VF community activities generate components of the regional plan.

3. Learn how to incorporate key components into local planning initiatives.
PART 1: WHAT IS THE VIBRANT FUTURES PROJECT
Vibrant Futures

Mission:
To enable the communities of Northcentral Montana to complete a region-wide visioning, planning, capacity building, and information exchange system that will help coordinate and move forward existing local plans to create a comprehensive response to high priority needs and opportunities for a more economically and environmentally sustainable development.
Components of Vibrant Communities

- Provide more transportation choices.
- Promote equitable, affordable housing.
- Enhance economic competitiveness.
- Support existing communities.
- Coordinate and leverage federal policies and investment.
- Value communities and neighborhoods.
Themes
PART 2: Components of a Regional Plan
INPUTS

Regional Plan

Map Layers

Scenario Workshops

Growth Policy Review

Community Roundtables

Catalyst Groups
Community Roundtables
Community Roundtables

- Values
- Priorities
- Travel Survey
- Visioning
What We Heard – Affordable Housing
Community Roundtable Summary

- Community input on local priorities for Growth Policies
- Identify examples and potential for regional collaboration
- Identify catalytic projects
- Demonstrate community support for grant applications
- Identify features of a vibrant community
Map Layers & Data

- Potential data items compiled from HUD sustainability indicators, Growth Policies, expert webinars.

- Source of data include federal and state agencies, commercial data bases (ESRI), community mapping

- 300 map and data layers

- On-line access underway

http://mapcoop.com/vf-overview/

http://www.vibrantfuturesmt.org/
Fun Fact Poll!
Maps & Data Summary

- Data for Growth Policies
- Benchmarks to measure progress
- Tools for businesses to conduct market analysis
- Identify regional trends
Scenario Planning Process

1. Identify Indicators & Collect Data for model
2. Expert Webinars to refine assumptions
3. Conduct six workshops
4. Identify hub towns & satellites towns
5. Describe potential scenarios
6. Generate scenario maps
7. Generate graphs showing regional change
8. Webinar to present scenario results
9. Workgroups use info to generate strategies
Scenario Workshops

[Diagram showing energy and economic themes with sticky notes]
Future Scenarios

Continuing Trends

Boom & Bust

Steady Growth
Scenario Planning Summary

• Data for Growth Policies
• Identify potential for regional collaboration
• Decision support tool to analyze impacts of development & site location
• Identify catalytic projects
• Identify strategies to promote vibrant communities
• Tools for business to conduct market analysis
• Communication and education tool
• Project future demands on infrastructure
Catalyst Groups

- Comprised of regional experts & community members
- Develop the path for catalytic projects
- Provide input on goals and strategies
- Meetings from July, 2013 thru Spring, 2014

**Agriculture Catalyst Group**
This group will focus on agriculture and value add...
Last updated Monday at 4:51pm

**Economic Catalyst Group**
This group will focus on economic and business dev...
Last updated Monday at 11:58pm

**Physical/Natural Resource Catalyst Group**
This group will focus on land use, transportation,...
Last updated Monday at 11:54pm

**Social Catalyst Group**
This group will focus on population, education, ho...
Last updated Monday at 11:50pm
Catalyst Group Summary

- Community Input
- Identify potential for collaborations
- Identify regional projects
- Identify strategies for vibrant communities
- Information sharing through best practices
FOCUS ON GROWTH POLICIES
Why Plan

• Legal Basis for Subdivision and Zoning Regulations. Must have an updated Growth Policy to amend regulations or adopt new regulations.

• Jurisdiction is more competitive on grant applications. (CDBG, TSEP, HUD, DOT, EPA …..)

• Guide for decision makers on budget priorities & development proposals

• Coordination on planning projects
  - MDT may add pedestrian trails to road projects if shown in G.P.
  - Coordinate water & sewer projects with road projects
  - Work with DES on policies for emergency access …..
Growth Policy Review

- Benchmarks to evaluate current Growth Policy
- Best practices from region on goals & policies
- Identifies common themes, issues and resources
Growth Policy – MCA Requirements

• Document data and trends for each element.
  (Note: Most need to be updated with 2010 Census data)

• Include goals and objectives for each element.
  (Note: Many had data without corresponding goals & objectives)

• Gravel and Sand Resources/Wildland Urban Fire strategies
  (Note: New requirements. Most need to add this info)

• Implementation – Timeline, Intergovt. Cooperation, Subdivision review criteria …
Growth Policy Review – Housing

- Housing Cost
- Housing Assist.
- Energy Costs
- Housing Condition
- Fair Housing
- Vacancy Rate
- Home Ownership

Policies
Trends
Housing Best Practices

NOTES:

• The 2010 Census does not include data on housing costs. Data on housing costs are available from the U.S. Census American Community Survey or from the MT Dept. of Commerce at: [http://housing.mt.gov/FAR/whitepaper.mcpx](http://housing.mt.gov/FAR/whitepaper.mcpx)

• Data sources for energy costs include the “Low Income Energy Assistance Program” (LIEAP) data and the MT Dept. of Com.: [http://housing.mt.gov/content/FAR/docs/HomeEnergyAffordabilityGap.pdf](http://housing.mt.gov/content/FAR/docs/HomeEnergyAffordabilityGap.pdf)

• Policies to reduce energy costs included:
  • Promote weatherization and publishing a resource directory.
  • Promote energy audits.
  • Use of green technology and alternative energy in new housing developments

• Most growth policies used 2000 census data on the age of housing to provide an indirect measure of housing condition. More comprehensive data are available for both counties and municipalities from the Dept. of Commerce: [http://housing.mt.gov/CP/housingconditionstudy.mcpx](http://housing.mt.gov/CP/housingconditionstudy.mcpx). Policies addressing housing condition included:
  • Promote housing rehab programs. Historic preservation. Demolition of deteriorated houses
  • Undertake property maintenance efforts including code enforcement and education
  • Encourage upgrades to mobile homes

• Info on fair housing from MT Dept. of Commerce: [http://housing.mt.gov/FAR/fairhousing.mcpx](http://housing.mt.gov/FAR/fairhousing.mcpx) Common policies in growth policies that addressed fair housing included:
  • Providing for special needs population (seniors, disabled, mentally ill, and homeless)
  • Disperse public housing throughout city
  • Address the shortage of rental units (both affordable units and overall rentals)
  • Provide fair housing education for lenders and landlords.

Resources

Sample Policies
## Appendix B: Glossary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Best Management Practice (BMP)</td>
<td>BMP’s are practices that have been adopted to minimize non-point source water pollution from forestry, agricultural and construction activities. While not required by regulation, the use of BMP’s has been widely accepted by the forest products industry, producers, tribal and other agencies. The use of voluntary BMP’s has proven to be an effective tool in limiting non-point pollution. <a href="http://dncr.mt.gov/forestry/Assistance/Practices/bmp.asp">http://dncr.mt.gov/forestry/Assistance/Practices/bmp.asp</a> <a href="http://www.deq.mt.gov/wqinfo/MPDES/pdfs/MT_BMP_FieldGuide.pdf">www.deq.mt.gov/wqinfo/MPDES/pdfs/MT_BMP_FieldGuide.pdf</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Brownfield</td>
<td>The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) defines brownfields as real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. <a href="http://deq.mt.gov/brownfields/default.aspx">http://deq.mt.gov/brownfields/default.aspx</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Bubble Diagram</td>
<td>Bubble diagrams consist of a series of circles or rounded shapes overlayed on a base map to indicate the general land use within the area. These land uses are designated in accordance with the base layer and the goals and objectives within the growth policy. The shapes roughly correspond to the landscape, but they are not specific and lack detail.</td>
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<td>Capital Improvement Plan</td>
<td>A Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) is a budgeting and financial tool used by a local governing body to establish public works rehabilitation and maintenance priorities and to establish funding for repairs and improvements. The CIP includes planning, setting priorities, effective public works management, financial management, and community decision processes. <a href="http://www.comdev.mt.gov/content/Publications/docs/CIPManual12CT.pdf">www.comdev.mt.gov/content/Publications/docs/CIPManual12CT.pdf</a></td>
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Fort Belknap CEDS
PART 3:
The Regional Plan as a Tool
Regional Plan Elements

Introduction
- Background
- Relationship to HUD Grant
- Vision

Planning Process
- Public Input
- Growth Policy Review
- Scenario Planning
- Workgroups

Regional Context
- Regional Profile
- Regional Relationships
- Regional Collaborations

Charting the Future
- Sustainability Indicators
- Sustainable Scenarios

Regional Goals & Strategies
- Group by Livability Principles

Implementation
- Catalytic Projects
- Decision Making Tools
- Growth Policy updates
- Action Plan
Example Plan

The Growing Transit Communities Recommended Strategies and Actions fall into four groupings:

1. Establish a regional program to support transit needs in existing communities
2. Build partnerships and promote collaboration
3. Enhance effective transit connections
4. Evaluate and monitor impacts and outcomes

1. A. Establish a regional program to support transit needs in existing communities
   1. Conduct a planned approach
   2. Implement a TOD program
   3. Evaluate the need for TOD
   4. Implement TOD projects
   5. Assess community needs
   6. Invest in environmental and public health
   7. Invest in mobility options
   8. Invest in mobility education
   9. Invest in public safety

Principles (see sidebar) HUD, DOT, and EPA are coordinating investments and aligning policies to support communities that want to provide more housing choices, make transportation systems more efficient and reliable, reduce emissions and pollution, protect the environment, and support vibrant and healthy neighborhoods that attract businesses.

In 2011, a consortium of governmental, business, affordable housing, and other non-profit stakeholders of the Central Puget Sound region applied for and received a $30 million regional planning implementation grant from the Partnership for Sustainability. The work of the Growing Transit Communities Partnership is funded by that grant.

The Central Puget Sound Region

The Central Puget Sound region is one of the major metropolitan regions in the Pacific Northwest. The region includes King, Pierce, and Snohomish counties and covers an area of over 9,200 square miles (18,000 square kilometers). The region's geographic diversity, evolution, and urban and resource landforms, leaves a significant portion of the region's population in an urbanized area and outside of Puget Sound in an area of approximately 4,000 square miles (10,000 square kilometers). The region includes cities and towns like Seattle, Bellevue, Kirkland, and Issaquah.

State and Regional Frameworks

As a policy framework, Regional Planning Organization and state designated Regional Planning Organization for the central Puget Sound region, the Puget Sound Regional Council develops policies and coordinates decisions about regional growth, transportation, and economic development planning within King, Pierce, Snohomish, and King County. PSRC's members include over 80 government, business, labor, and community organizations dedicated to improving long-term economic prosperity for the region.

Washington State Growth Management Act

In 1990, the Washington State Legislature adopted the Growth Management Act (GMA) to address undeveloped and unplanned growth that posed a threat to the environment, sustainable economic development, and quality of life in Washington. The law set out to control the growth of urban development beyond planned areas, and preserve farmland, open space, and rural areas, while encouraging sustainable development. The Central Puget Sound region, for more information on regional engagement in planning decisions, contact the regional and local level agencies that have provided updated plans and policies to reflect required actions in areas of life, the environment, and economy development.

VISION 2040, a shared vision for moving the central Puget Sound region toward a sustainable future through the combined efforts of individuals, governments, organizations, and the private sector. VISION 2040 addresses the key question:

"How can the region accommodate the anticipated growth that will bring 2 to 3 million people and 5 million jobs by 2040 while enhancing the environment and our overall quality of life?"
## Using the Plan

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<th></th>
<th>Round-tables</th>
<th>Growth Policy Review</th>
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Case Study – TSEP Grant

- Finances public facilities

- Competitive grant

- Criteria – “How does the proposed project fit in with the County Growth Plan?”

- FY 2012/2013 - Six proposals were funded and six were not funded

- No grants received points for documenting job growth
Case Study - TSEP

Funded Projects

• “Project is consistent with the growth policy.”

Projects Not Funded

• Growth policy is outdated

• No need demonstrated in Growth Policy

• No mention of project in Growth Policy
PART IV

Wrap-UP
Evaluation
• Next Webinar – Using the maps & Scenarios

• Reminder – Webinar will be on-line

• Thanks for participating
Additional Resources

• http://www.sustainablecommunities.gov/aboutUs.html

• http://www.vibrantfuturesmt.org/