



# USING THE REGIONAL PLAN

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Vibrant Futures Webinar Series



## **USING THE PLAN**

Maps & Scenario  
Planning Tools

Livability Tools  
Part 1 & 2

Implementation

Overview of  
Regional Plan

- **Welcome**
- **First of Six Webinars**
- **Webinars will be on-line**

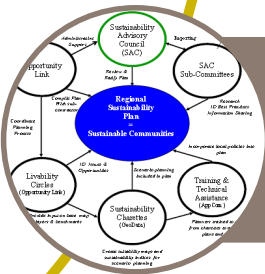
# Learning Objectives



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:

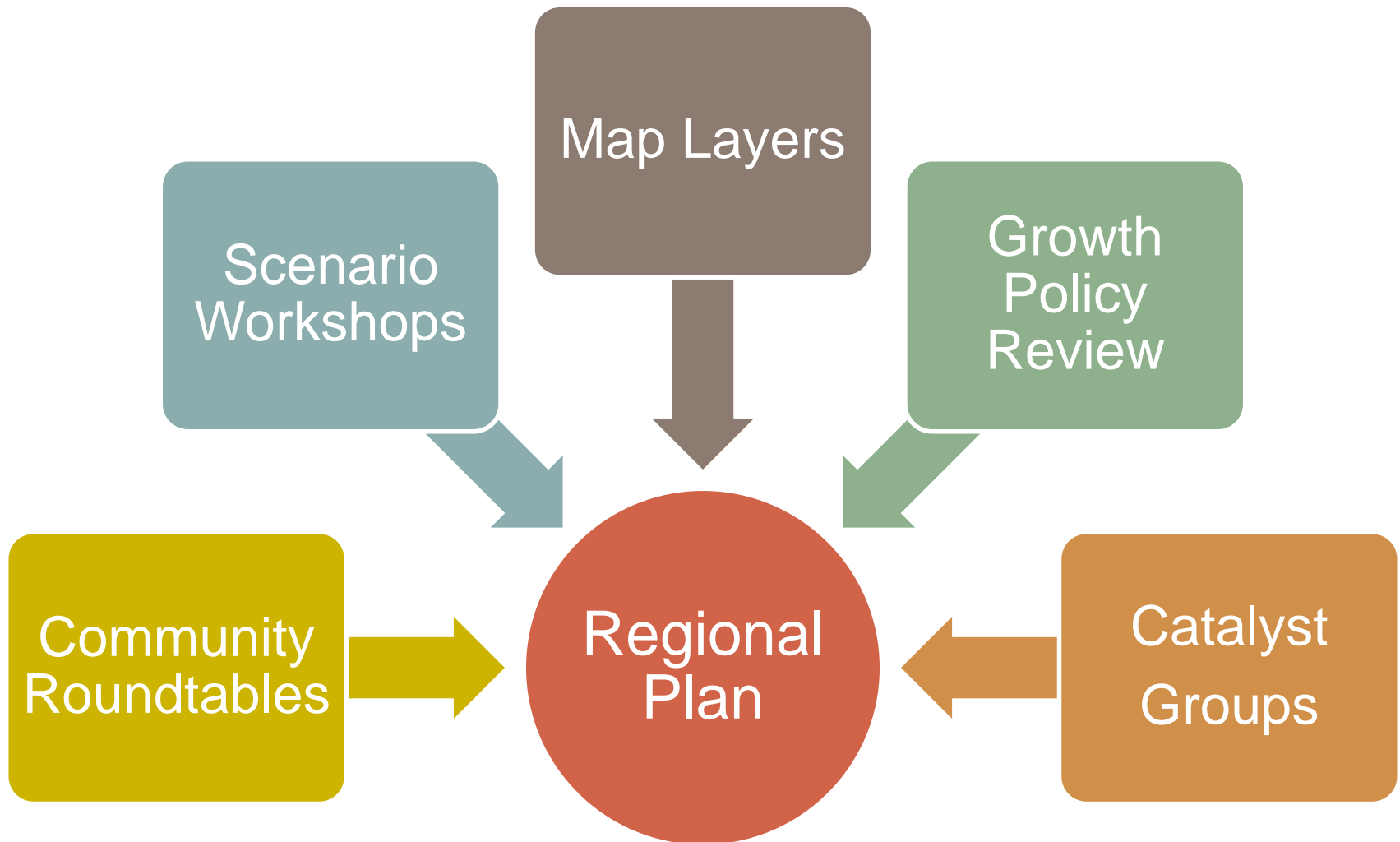
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## Components of a Regional Plan

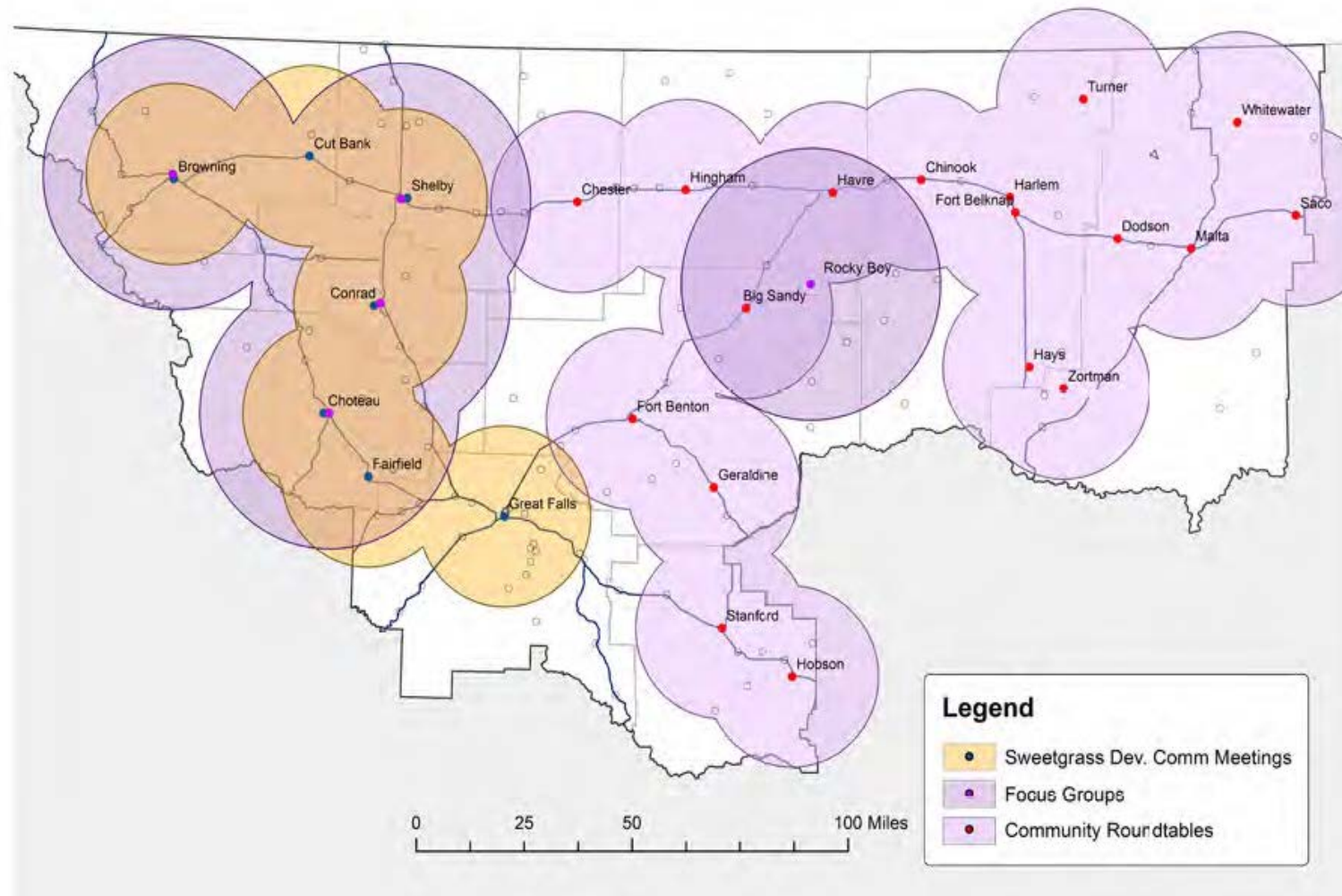




# INPUTS

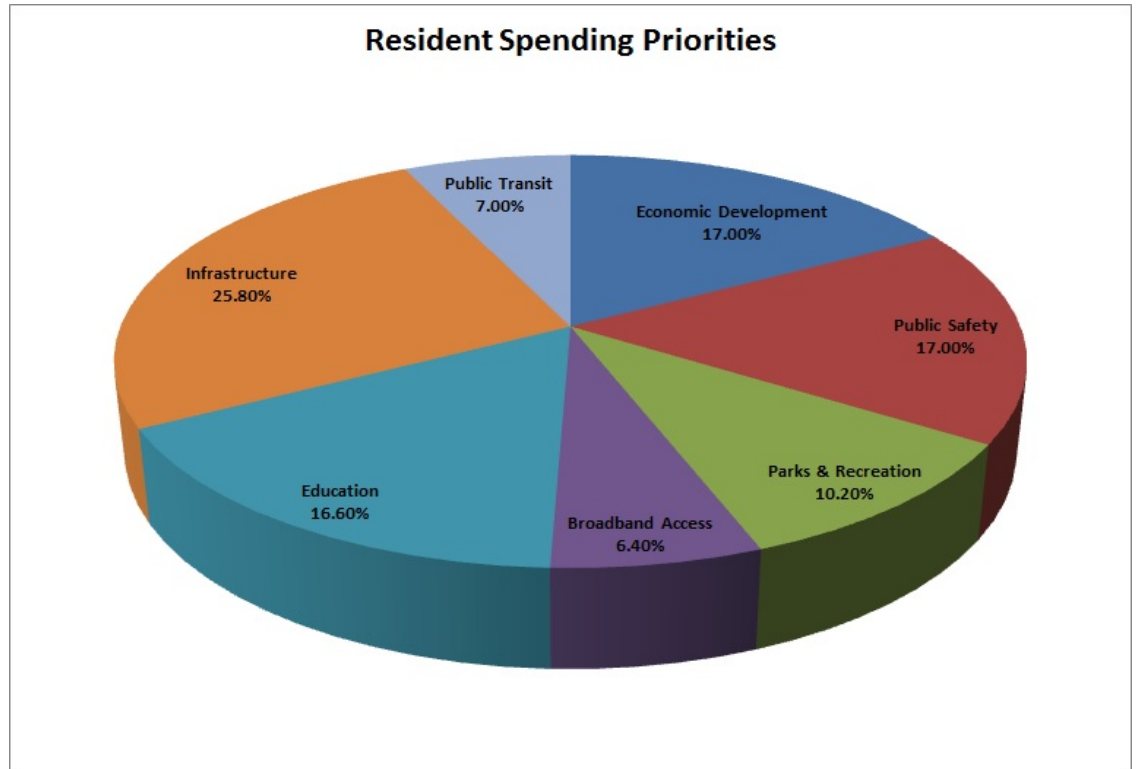


# Community Roundtables



# Community Roundtables

- Values
- Priorities
- Travel Survey
- Visioning



# What We Heard – Affordable Housing

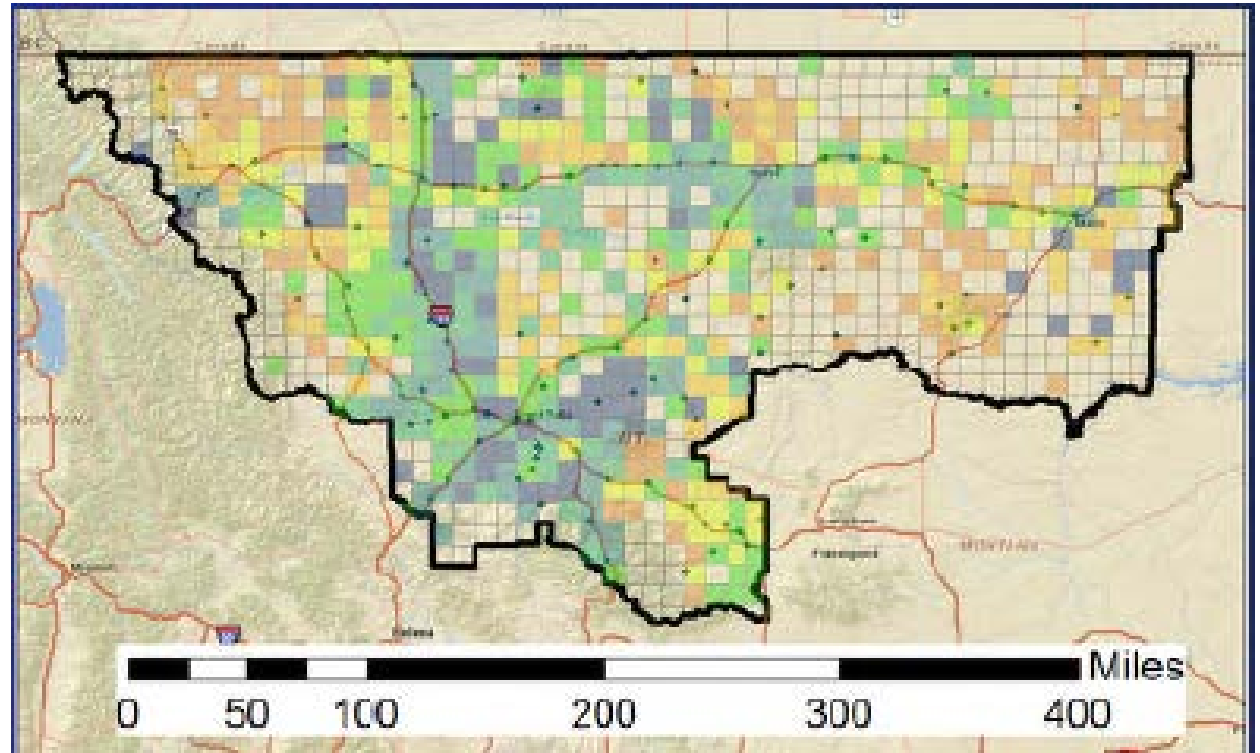


# Community Roundtable Summary

- 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/>

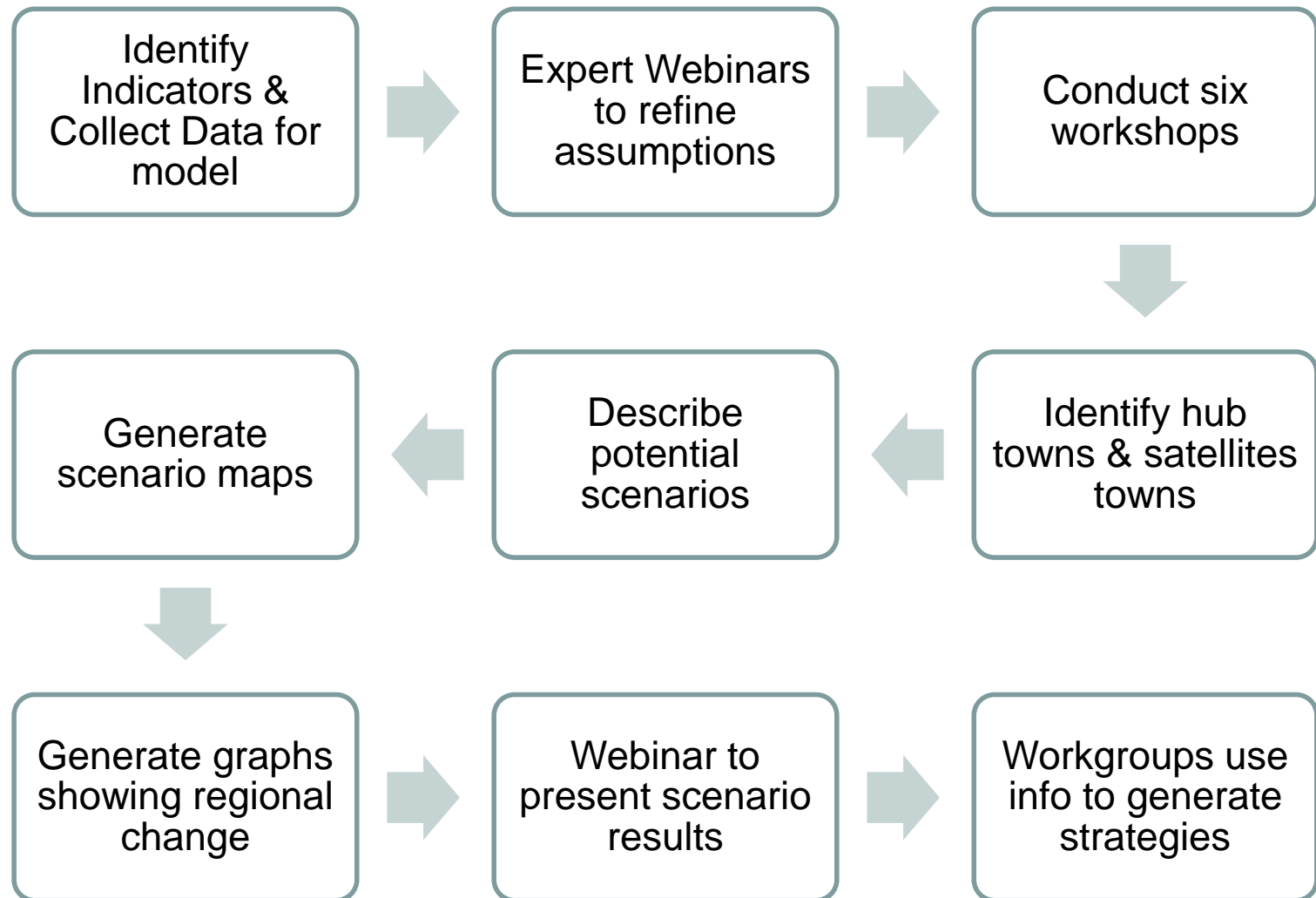
# Fun Fact Poll!

# Maps & Data Summary

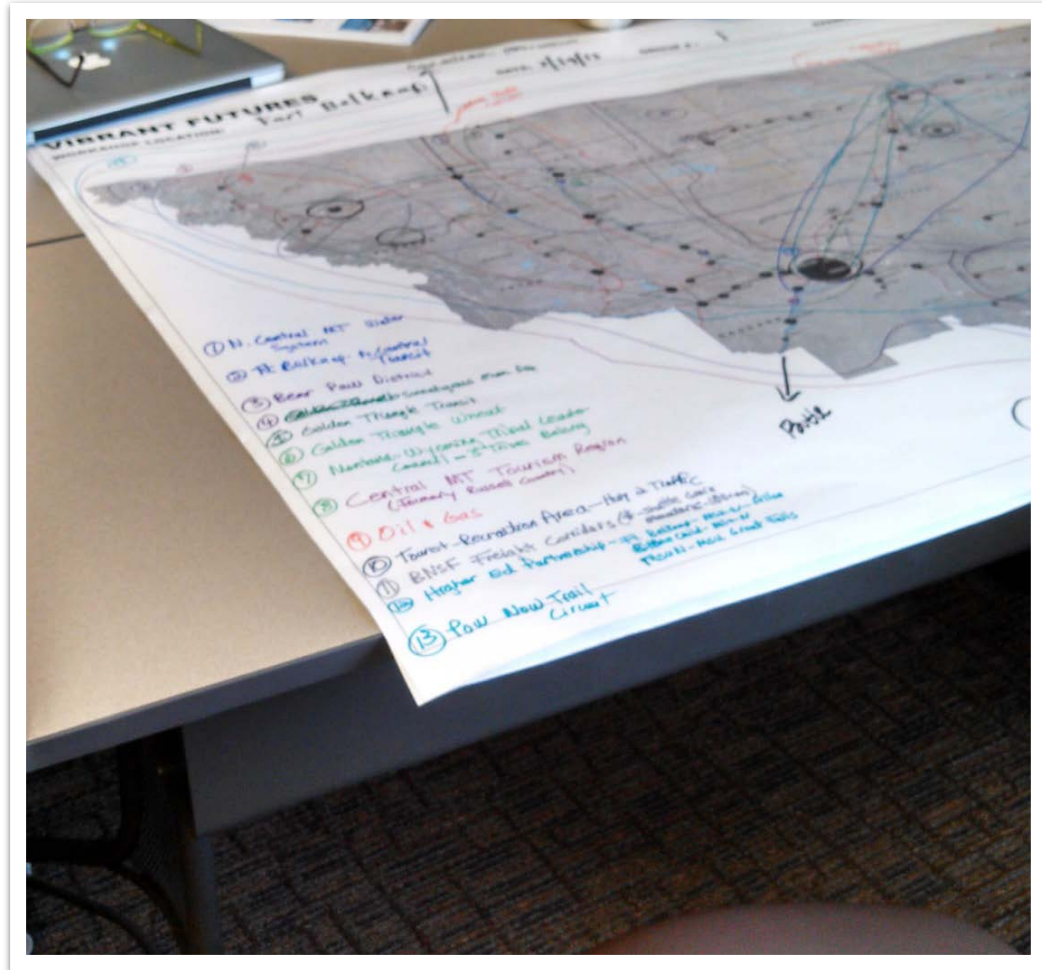
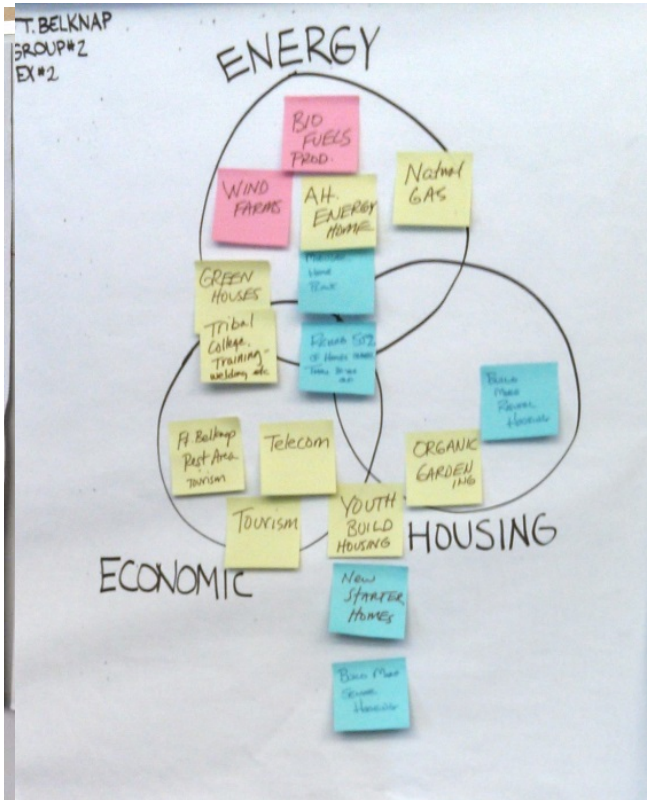
- Data for Growth Policies
- Benchmarks to measure progress
- Tools for businesses to conduct market analysis
- Identify regional trends



# Scenario Planning Process



# Scenario Workshops

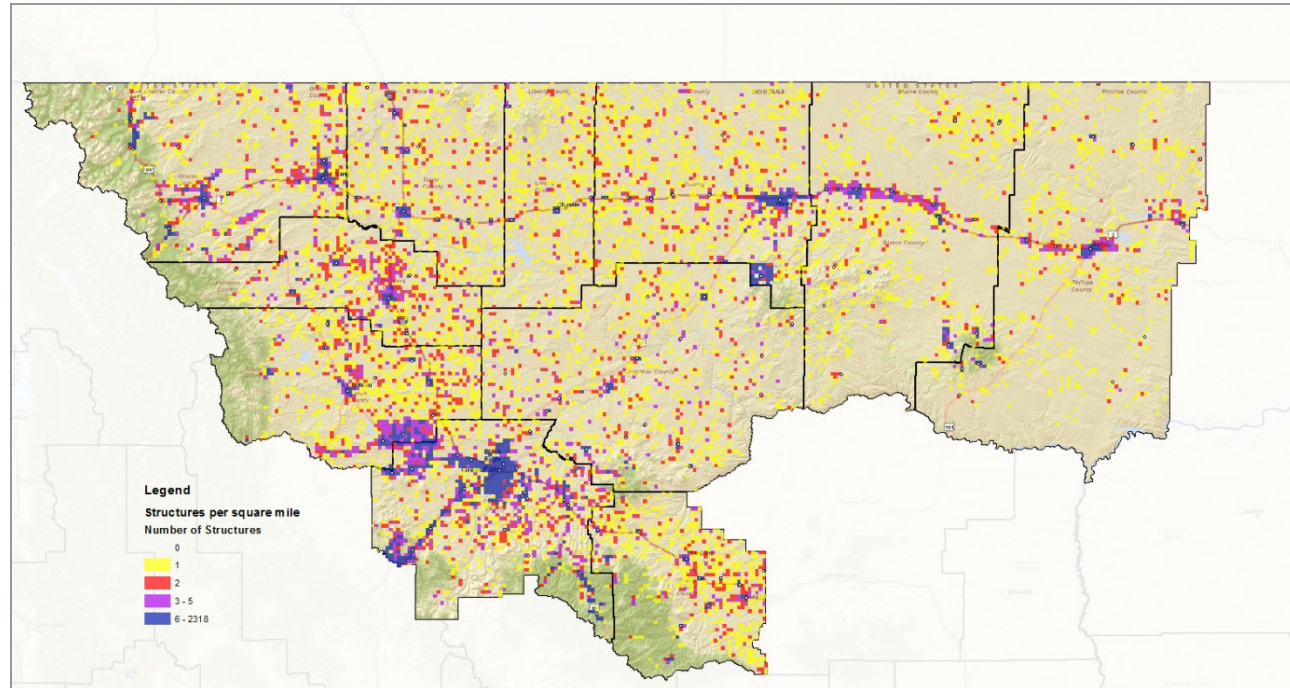


# Future Scenarios

**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



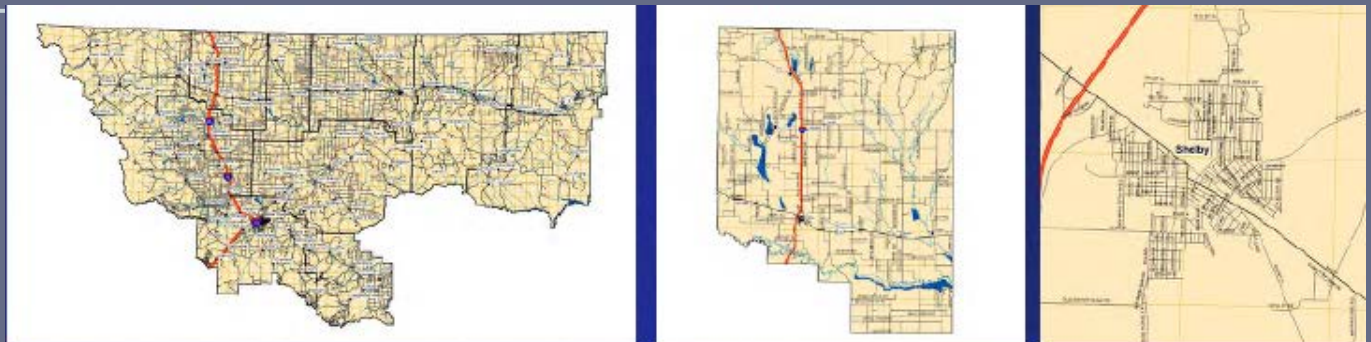
# Catalyst Group Summary

- Community Input
- Identify potential for collaborations
- Identify regional projects
- Identify strategies for vibrant communities
- Information sharing through best practices



# FOCUS ON GROWTH POLICIES

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# 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

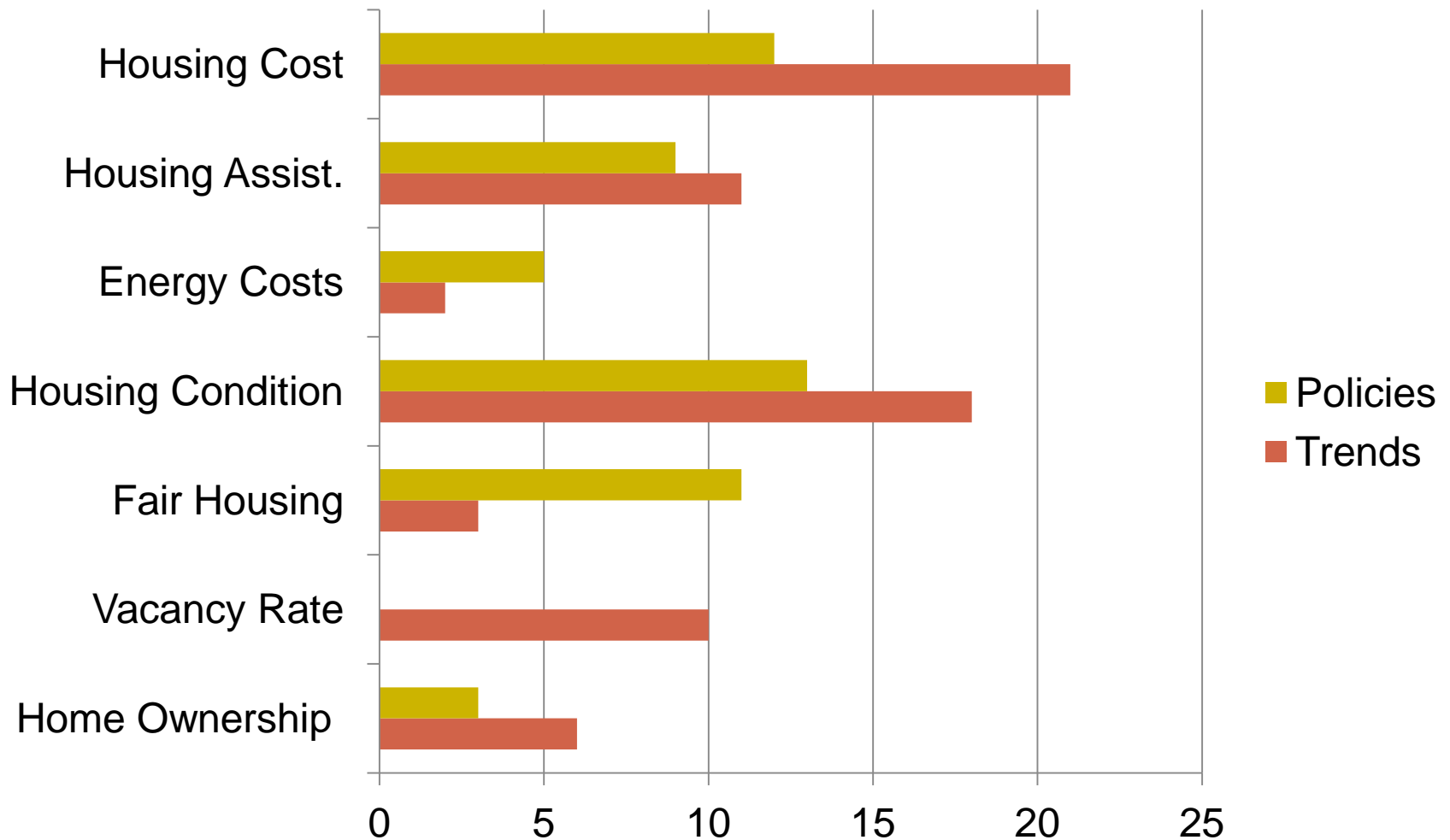
Best practices from region on goals & policies

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 Best Practices

## Resources

## Sample Policies

### 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.mcpix>
- 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>
- 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.mcpix>. 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.mcpix>. 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.

## Appendix B: Glossary



Best Management Practice (BMP)	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://dnrc.mt.gov/forestry/Assistance/Practices/bmp.asp">http://dnrc.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>
Brownfield	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.mpx">http://deq.mt.gov/brownfields/default.mpx</a>
Bubble Diagram	Bubble diagrams consist of a series of circles or rounded shapes overlaid 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.
Capital Improvement Plan	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 process. <a href="http://www.comdev.mt.gov/content/Publications/docs/CIPManualOCT.pdf">www.comdev.mt.gov/content/Publications/docs/CIPManualOCT.pdf</a>

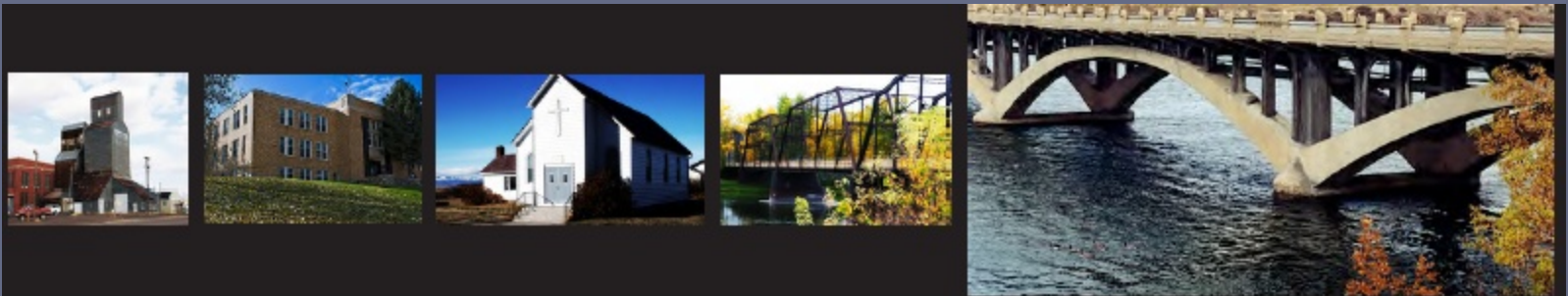
# Fort Belknap CEDS



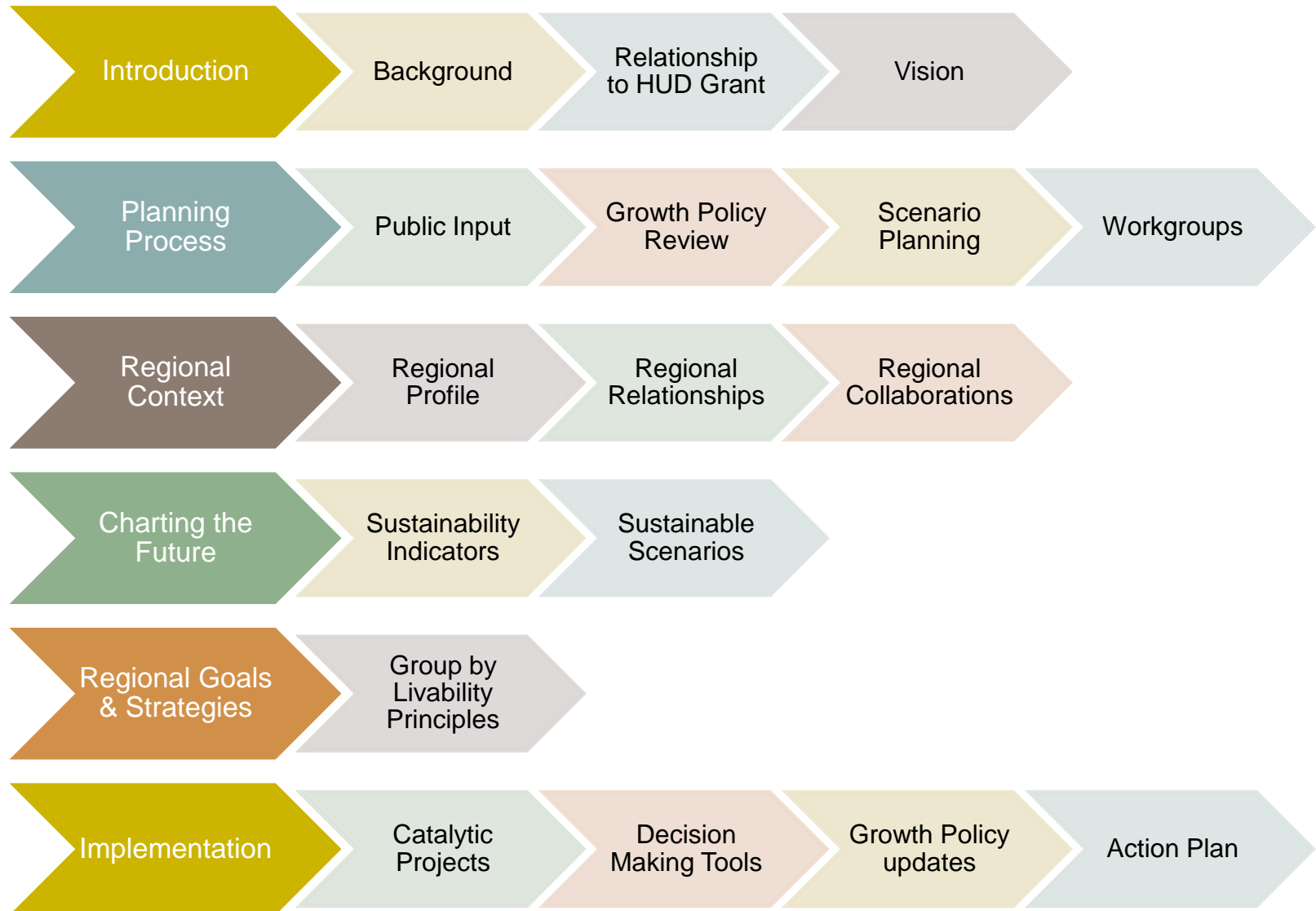
# PART 3:

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## The Regional Plan as a Tool



# Regional Plan Elements





# Example Plan

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

The **Foundation Strategies** recommend a regional and local framework for ongoing work to support transit communities. Modeled on the relationships and values at the heart of the Growing Transit Communities Partnership, these strategies envision an ongoing regional effort involving diverse partners and community members in decision making and implementation at all levels.

The **Strategies to Attract Housing and Employment Growth** recommend actions to make greater urban places that are attractive to households and businesses, remove barriers to development and support development in emerging markets.

The **Strategies to Provide Affordable Housing Choices** recommend actions to define and quantify housing needs, preserve existing and supply new housing choices, and capitalize on the value created by the private market enhanced by transit investments, in order to achieve the broadest range of affordability in transit communities.

The **Strategies to Increase Access to Opportunity** recommend actions to understand regional disparities in access to opportunity, identify existing and potential new resources and tools to meet community needs, and build support for equitable opportunities through education, coalitions, and leadership.



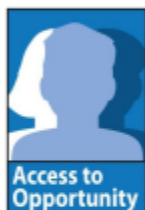
1. Establish a regional program to support thriving and equitable transit communities
2. Build partnerships and promote collaboration
3. Engage effectively with community stakeholders
4. Build capacity for community engagement
5. Evaluate and monitor impacts and outcomes



6. Conduct station area planning
7. Use land efficiently in transit communities
8. Locate, design and provide access to transit stations to support TOD
9. Adopt innovative parking tools
10. Invest in infrastructure and public realm improvements



11. Assess current and future housing needs in transit communities
12. Minimize displacement through preservation and replacement
13. Direct housing resources to support transit-dependent populations
14. Implement a TOD property acquisition fund
15. Expand value capture financing as a tool for infrastructure and affordable housing
16. Make surplus public lands available for affordable housing
17. Leverage market value through incentives
18. Implement regional fair housing assessment



19. Assess community needs
20. Invest in environmental and public health
21. Invest in economic vitality and opportunity
22. Invest in equitable mobility options
23. Invest in equitable access to high quality education
24. Invest in public safety in transit communities

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, reinforce existing investments, 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 from the central Puget Sound region applied for and received a \$6 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 of the United States. It includes King, Kitsap, Pierce, and Snohomish counties and their 32 cities and towns, and tribes, covering an area of more than 8,500 square miles (18,500 square kilometers). The region's geography is diverse, and includes urban, rural, and resource lands. Numerous hills, mountains, and lakes provide significant variety to the topography of the region, which ranges in elevation from sea level at Puget Sound to over 14,000 feet (more than 4,000 meters) at Mount Rainier.

## Washington State Growth Management Act

In 1990, the Washington State Legislature adopted the Growth Management Act (GMA) to address uncoordinated and unplanned growth that posed a threat to the environment, sustainable economic development, and quality of life in Washington. The landmark act recognized the importance of proactive planning for population and employment growth through identifying and protecting critical areas and natural resource lands, designating urban growth areas, and preparing comprehensive plans through a decentralized framework that reflected Washington's regional diversity and strong tradition of local government control. The central Puget Sound region has a long history of citizen engagement in planning decisions, both at the regional and local levels, which has influenced adopted plans and policies to reflect regional values on way of life, the environment, and economic development.

## State and Regional Frameworks

As the federally designated Metropolitan 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 Kitsap counties. PSRC's members include over 80 county, city, port, transit, tribal, and state agencies. PSRC is also the lead regional economic development planning resource and home to the Prosperity Partnership, a coalition of more than 300 government, business, labor and community organizations dedicated to improving long-term economic prosperity for the region.

VISION 2040, adopted by PSRC in 2008, is the region's long-range growth management, environmental, economic, and transportation strategy. It articulates a shared strategy 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 it to 5 million people and 3 million jobs by 2040 while enhancing the environment and our overall quality of life?"*

As a response to this challenge, VISION 2040 builds upon regional goals that are intended to promote the ideals of "people, prosperity, and planet," and that are implemented through a Regional Growth Strategy and supported by Multicounty Planning Policies (MPPs). The goals, policies, and actions in VISION 2040 build upon a vision for the region as a compact urban area that is surrounded by rural and resource lands, and that is anchored by a set of defined

# Using the Plan

	Round- tables	Growth Policy Review	Maps & Data	Scenario Planning	Work Groups	Regional Plan
Community input on local priorities	<b>X</b>			<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	
Data for Growth Policies & Grants		<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>			
Identify potential for regional collaboration	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>
Decision support tool to analyze impacts of projects				<b>X</b>		
Identify catalytic projects	<b>X</b>			<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>
Benchmarks to measure progress		<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>			
Identify sustainable strategies		<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>

# Using the Plan

	Round- tables	Growth Policy Review	Maps & Data	Scenario Planning	Work Groups	Regional Plan
Demonstrate community support for grant applications	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>				<b>X</b>
Tool for businesses to conduct market analysis			<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>		
Identify regional trends			<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>		
Identify features of a vibrant community	<b>X</b>			<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>
Best practices to respond to planning issues		<b>X</b>			<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>
Communication- Education tool on regional issues				<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>
Project future demand for infrastructure projects				<b>X</b>		

# 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

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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/>