RMLUI Conference

Creating Sustainable Places

A Centers-and-Corridors Strategy for Regional Sustainability

Mid-America Regional Council

Serving Metropolitan Kansas City

June 1, 2011

Outline

1. About MARC and Kansas City

2. Sustainable Communities Grant

3. Tool Development

4. Leveraging Federal Resources

5. Fostering Collaboration

About MARC

- **Kansas City Metropolitan Planning Organization**

- **2.1 million population**

- **9 counties and 120 cities**

- **Programs**
  - Transportation
  - Environmental
  - Research
  - Public safety and emergency services
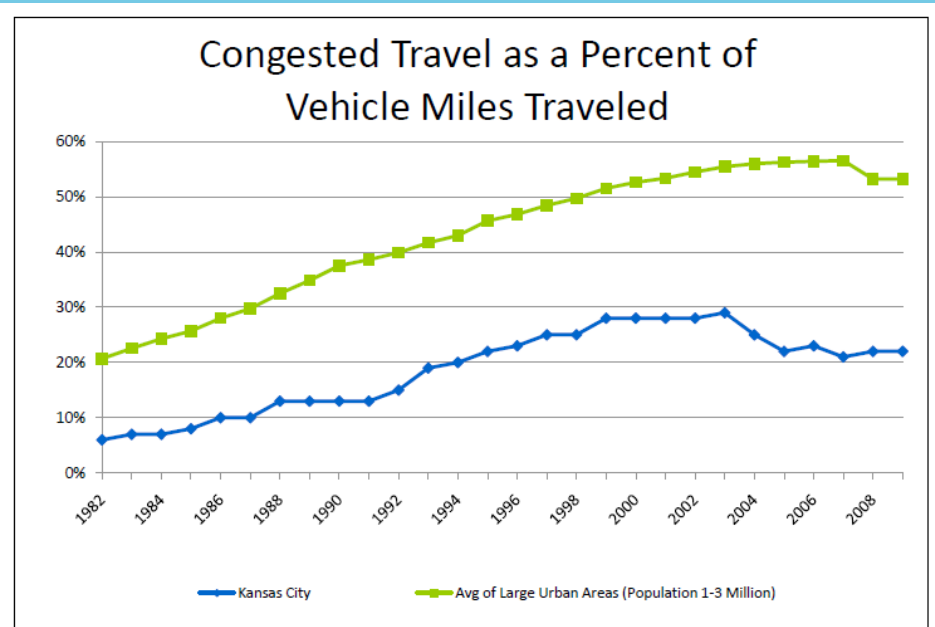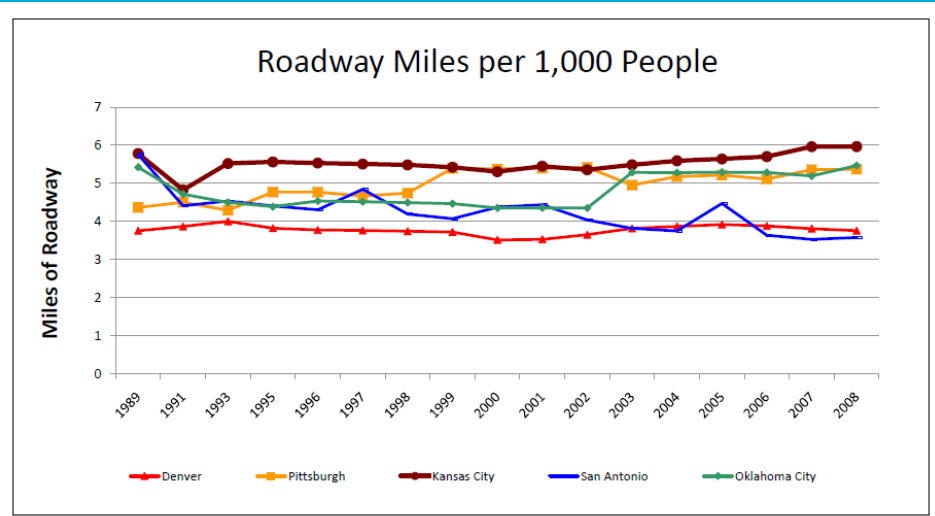 - Early education
  - Aging services
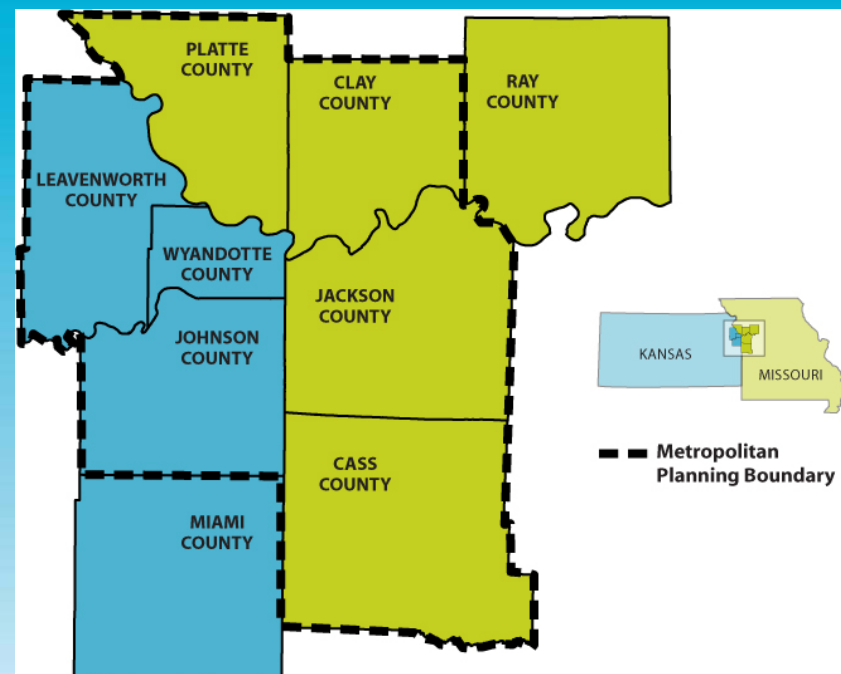
Trends

- Core population decline

- Continued outward growth

- Suburbanization of poverty

- Diversifying suburbs

2000-2010 Population Change by Census Tract
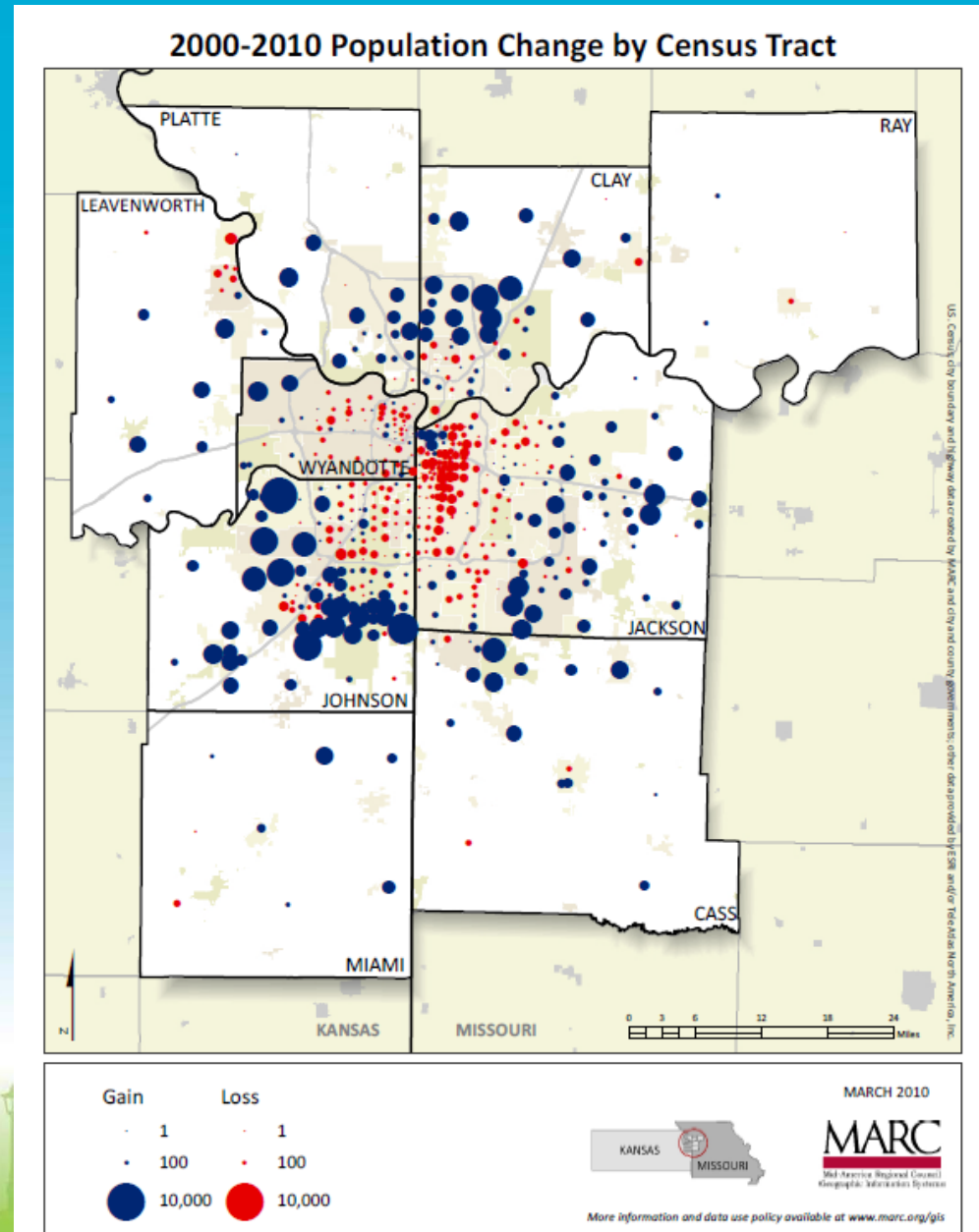
About Kansas City

We love our cars, and we love to spread out

- Highest roadway miles per capita

- Low congestion rates

- No natural barriers

Roadway Miles per 1,000 People

Y-axis: Miles of Roadway (0–7)
X-axis: 1989, 1991, 1993, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008

Legend: Denver, Pittsburgh, Kansas City, San Antonio, Oklahoma City

Congested Travel as a Percent of Vehicle Miles Traveled

Y-axis: 0% – 60%
X-axis: 1982, 1984, 1986, 1988, 1990, 1992, 1994, 1996, 1998, 2000, 2002, 2004, 2006, 2008

Legend: Kansas City, Avg of Large Urban Areas (Population 1-3 Million)

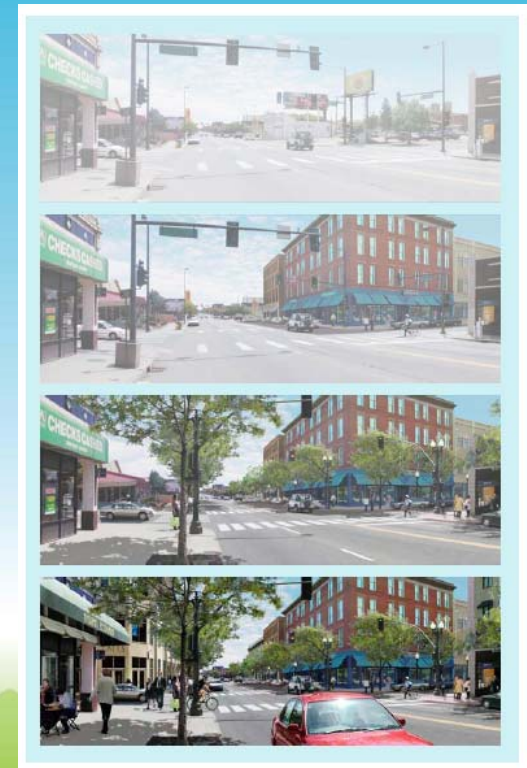# HUD Sustainable Communities Planning Grant

Get Organized
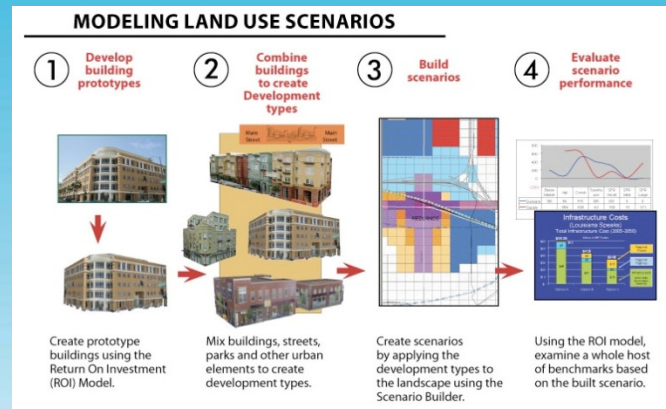
- 60+ multidisciplinary partners

Enhance Decision Making

- Tools
- Indicators

Demonstrate New Models

- Centers/Corridors
- Get projects built!

MODELING LAND USE SCENARIOS

1. Develop building prototypes
2. Combine buildings to create Development types
3. Build scenarios
4. Evaluate scenario performance

Create prototype buildings using the Return On Investment (ROI) Model.

Mix buildings, streets, parks and other urban elements to create development types.

Create scenarios by applying the development types to the landscape using the Scenario Builder.

Using the ROI model, examine a whole host of benchmarks based on the built scenario.

Corridors

Creating Sustainable Places Focus Corridors

- **Envision Tomorrow**

  - Return on Investment

  - Fiscal costs

  - Ecosystems services

  - Stakeholder training
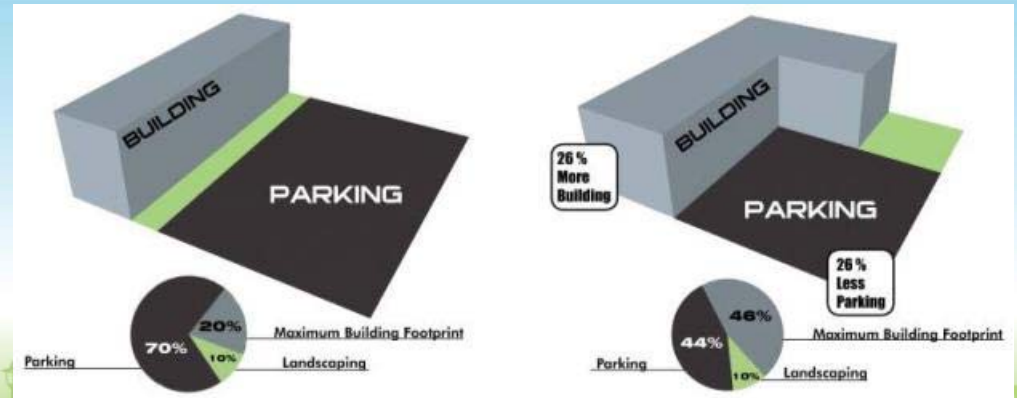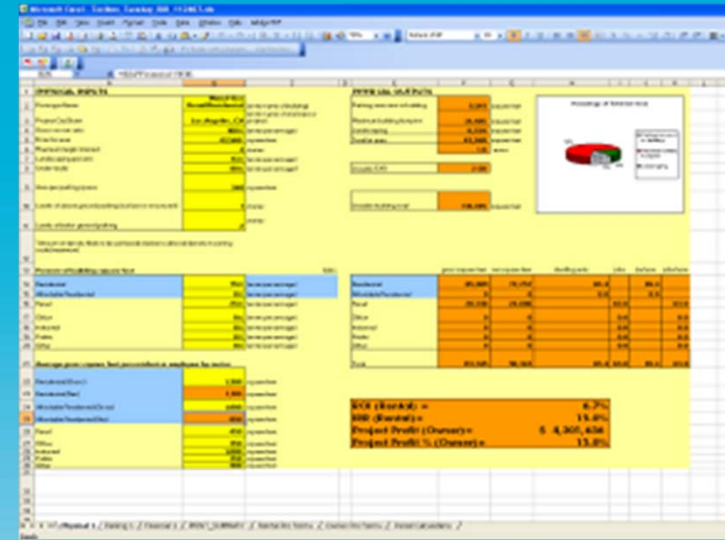
Tool Development - Visualization
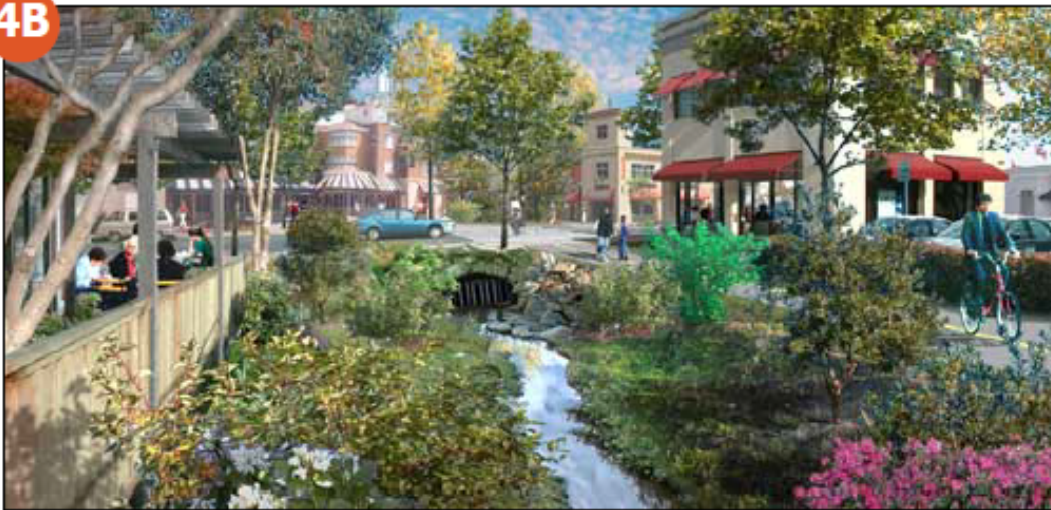

EXAMPLE #4: CONSERVATION AREA RESTORATION
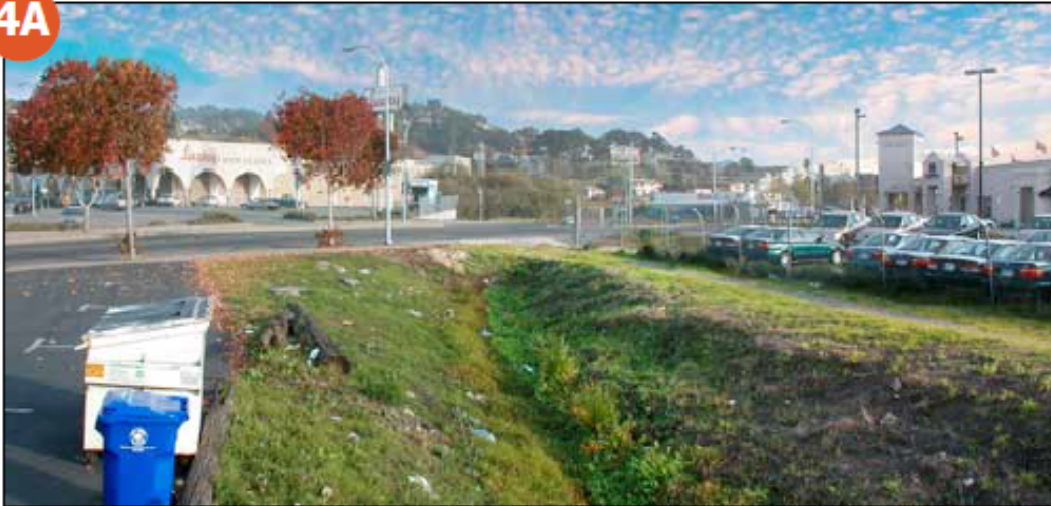
4A: Damaged Stream Corridor

An existing stream corridor was piped as part of initial commercial development along this corridor 30 years ago, eliminating wildlife habitat and native vegetation, and reducing the stream's ability to convey and treat stormwater flows.

4B: Stream Corridor Restoration

As part of a larger redevelopment effort, the stream corridor is daylighted and restored. The center's new green infrastructure serves both functional and aesthetic purposes.

Indicators

ACTIONS:

Examples of indicators that measure actions and activities promoted by Creating Sustainable Places

REINVESTMENT
- Square feet of commercial space renovated
- Number of housing units constructed or renovated

TRANSPORTATION CHOICE
- Transit service improvements
- Miles of Complete Streets

HOUSING CHOICE
- Number of units constructed/renovated by type, target income level

ENERGY EFFICIENCY
- Number of structures weatherized

PUBLIC SAFETY
- Change in housing and infrastructure condition

HEALTHY LIFESTYLES
- Miles of new sidewalks constructed

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE
- Number of trees planted
- Miles of trails constructed

LOCAL ECONOMY
- Dollar value of new mixed-use development

SOCIAL EQUITY
- Units of affordable housing constructed

VIBRANCY
- Adoption of sustainable-friendly codes and plans
- Construction or improvement of public spaces

PLACES:

Examples of indicators that measure improvements in centers and corridors based on CSP Guiding Principles

REINVESTMENT
- Change in property values vs. conventional places
- Population and housing unit density

TRANSPORTATION CHOICE
- Modal split in trips

HOUSING CHOICE
- Distribution of housing types
- Distribution of housing price points

ENERGY EFFICIENCY
- Residential energy use per unit or sq. ft.
- Commercial energy use per sq. ft. or employee

PUBLIC SAFETY
- Change in crime rates

HEALTHY LIFESTYLES
- Walkability scores by activity type
- Local food access

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE
- Tree canopy
- Pervious surface

LOCAL ECONOMY
- Local employment
- New small businesses

SOCIAL EQUITY
- Housing type diversity • Housing/job balance

VIBRANCY
- Street population count • Public gathering places
- Mix of business types • Mix of housing types

OUTCOMES:

Examples of indicators that measure regional change in triple-bottom-line categories

EQUITY (SOCIAL)

EQUITY AND AFFORABILITY
- Concentrated poverty and race
- Index of discrimination

EDUCATION, ARTS AND COMMUNITY
- 3rd, 5th and 8th grade competency rates
- Degree of community connection, arts participation

HEALTH AND SAFETY
- YPLL rate and distribution
- Obesity rates

ENVIRONMENT

NATURAL SYSTEMS
- Percent of population near parks or trails

PLANNING & DESIGN
- Percent of region under sustainable code framework
- Percent of population growth accommodated by redevelopment and infill

CLIMATE & ENERGY
- Greenhouse gas emissions
- Regional energy use
- Vehicle miles traveled

ECONOMY

ECONOMIC PROSPERITY
- Median household income
- Percent of self-sufficient households
- Employment in young businesses

EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING
- Unemployment by race and educational attainment
- Workforce technical competency

Leveraging Federal Resources

- **Community Challenge Grant**
  - Sustainable Codes
- **Livable Communities**
  - Demonstration project sites
- **EPA Wetlands Grant**
  - Natural Resources Inventory

Fostering Collaboration

- Grant expertise

- Place-based strategies emphasized

- Building tools and training how to use them

- Research services

- Recognition that we need to focus on implementation

- Academy for Sustainable Communities

- Imagine KC (TV program)

For More Information

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www.marc.org

Creating Sustainable Places Website
www.marc.org/sustainableplaces

Imagine KC
www.imaginekc.org

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