

Pathways to Urban Sustainability Workshop: A Focus on the Portland Region

Remarks of Robert Liberty, Director

Urban Sustainability Accelerator
Nohad Toulan School of Urban Studies & Planning



- Where do sustainability ideas and programs originate in Portland, Oregon & Cascadia and how are they implemented?
- How can sustainability ideas adopted and implemented in Cascadia be effectively transferred to other urban areas?
- What could a Cascadia Urban Sustainability Laboratory contribute? (Illustration from metropolitan level sustainable urban form efforts.)

*Where do sustainability concepts
and programs originate in
Portland, Oregon & Cascadia and
how are they implemented?*

Among the elements contributing to Portland's success have been strong public-private partnerships, a culture of planning, and a willingness to implement diverse ideas generated by academics, consultants, companies and government agencies.



25^{yrs}

The line that started it all

Celebrating 25 years of MAX Blue Line to Gresham

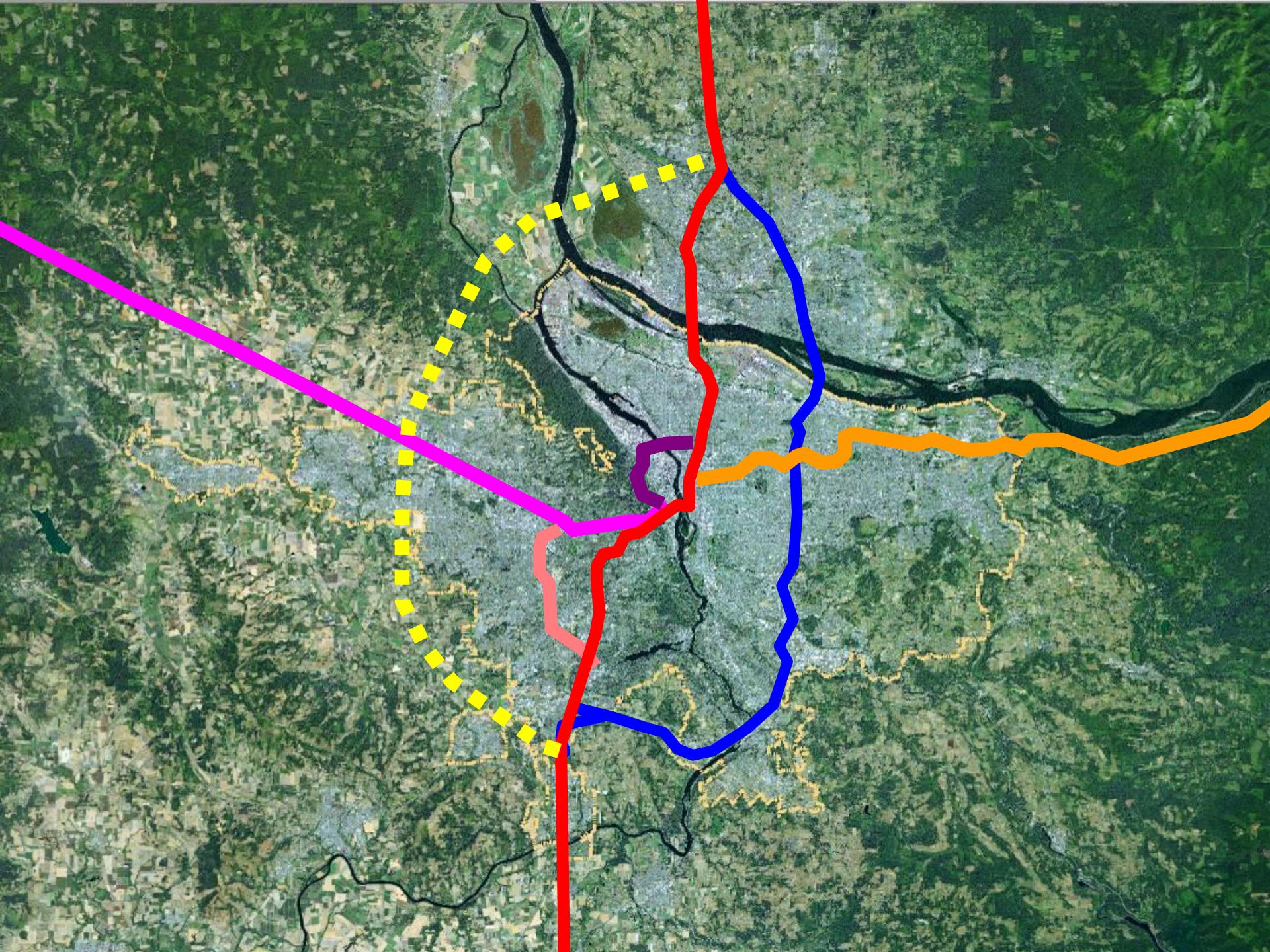




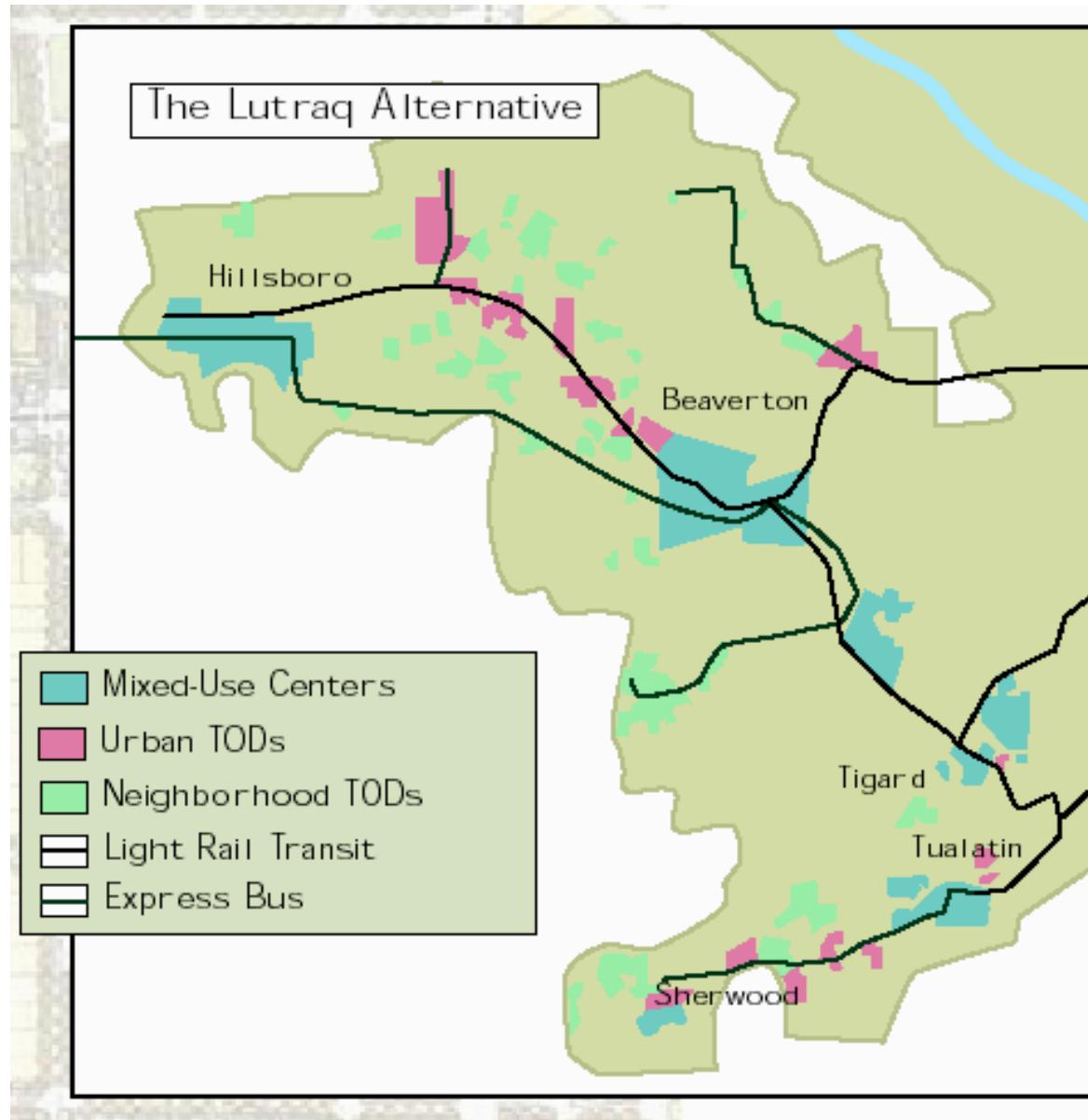
STOP

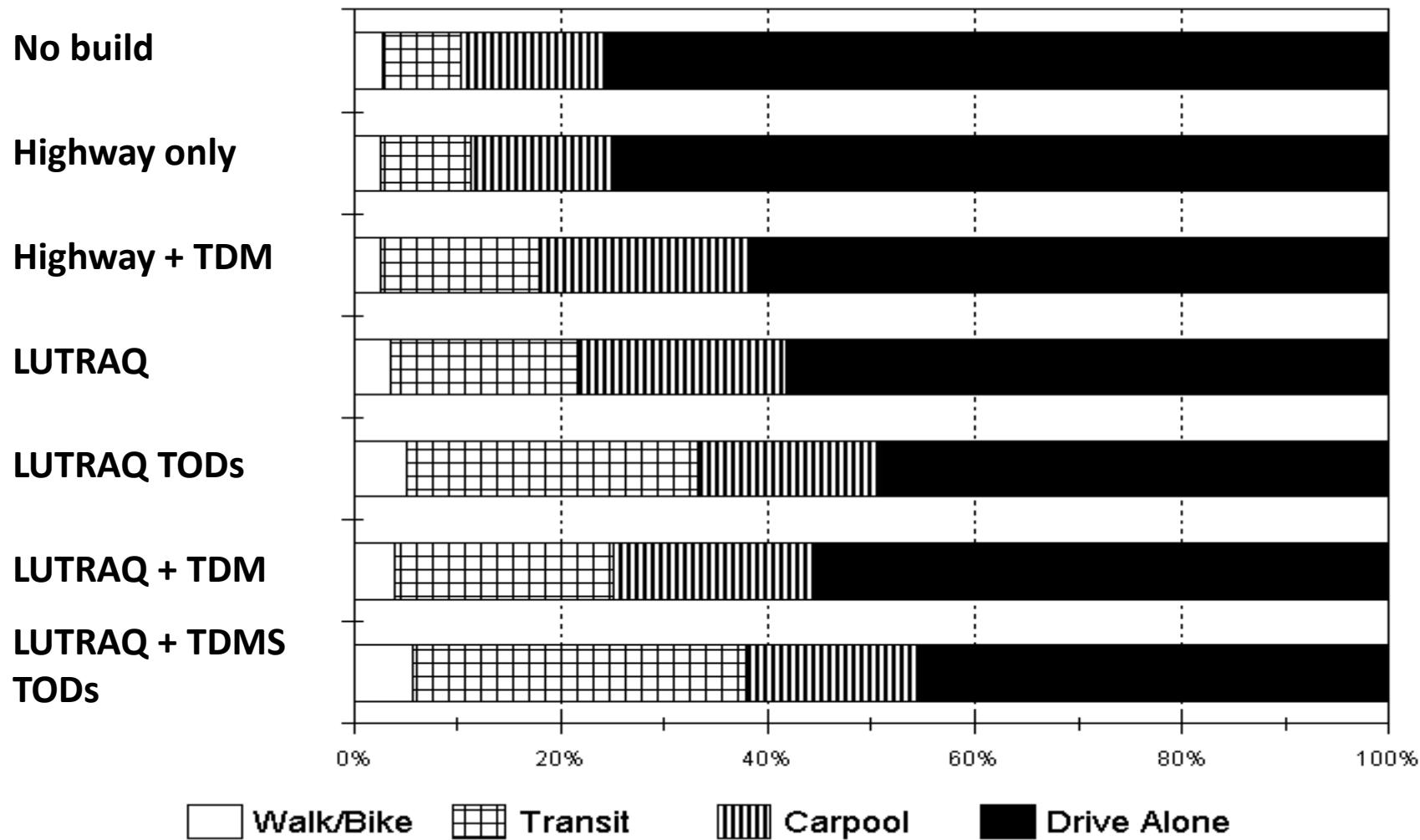
Sensible Transportation Options for People

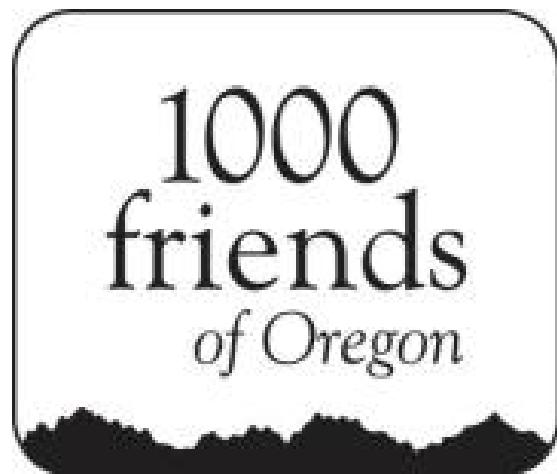




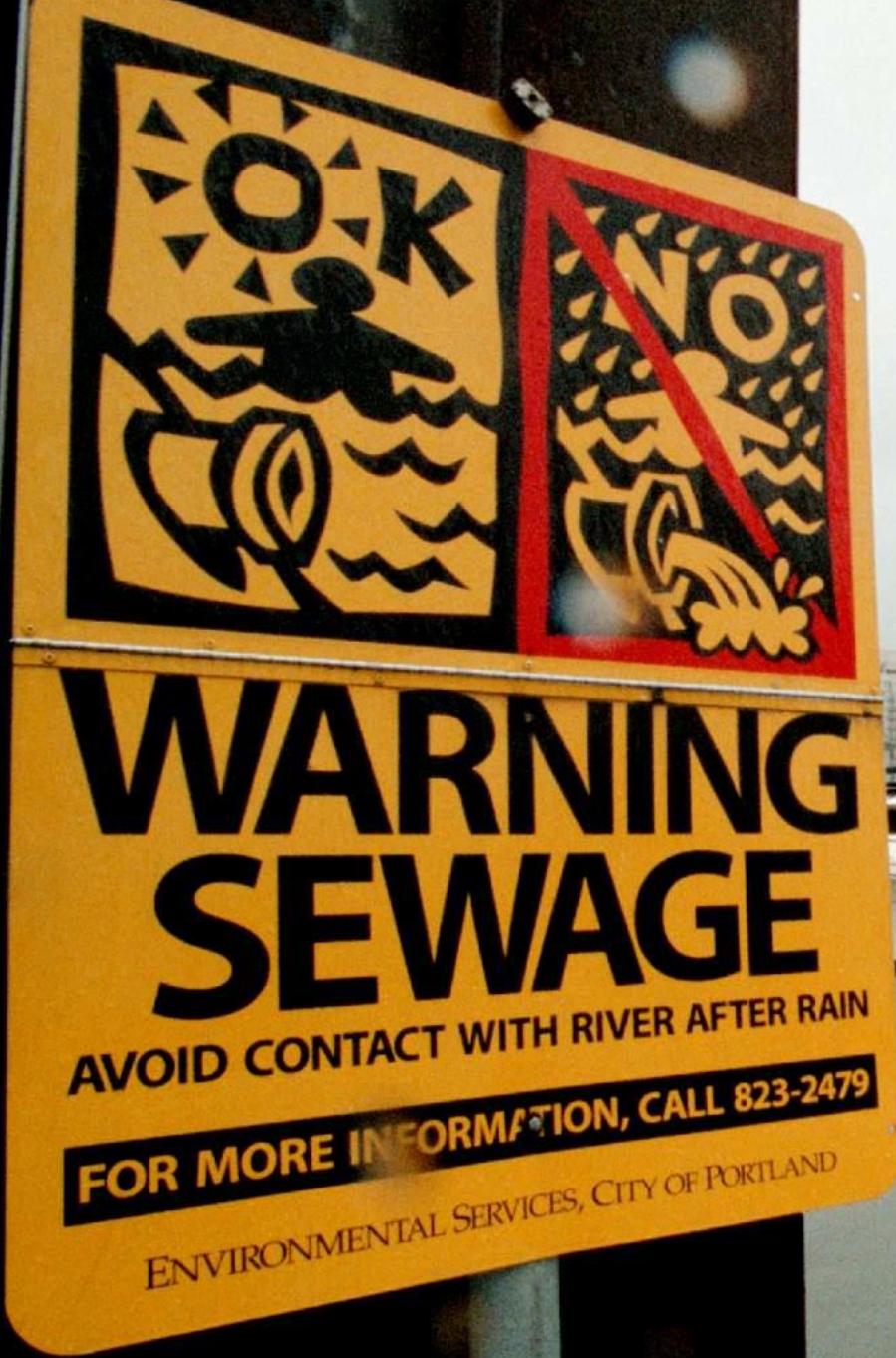
LUTRAQ (Land Use Transportation Air Quality Alternative)







STOP



Portland's Big Pipe

The system will redirect 96% of the yearly combined sewer and stormwater flows to the Columbia Boulevard Wastewater Treatment Plant.











Northwest Environmental Advocates

Our mission is to work through advocacy and education to protect and restore water and air quality, wetlands, and wildlife habitat.



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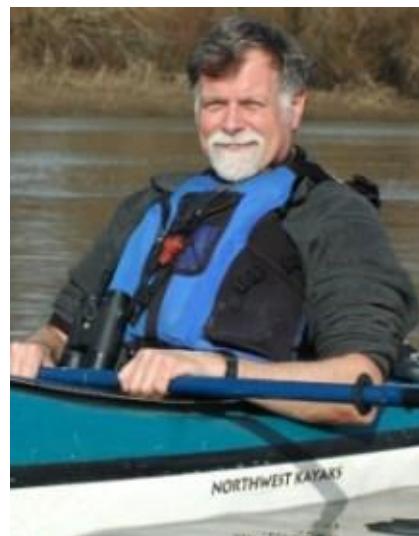




METROPOLITAN
Greenspaces

Urban Green Spaces
Plan 2000

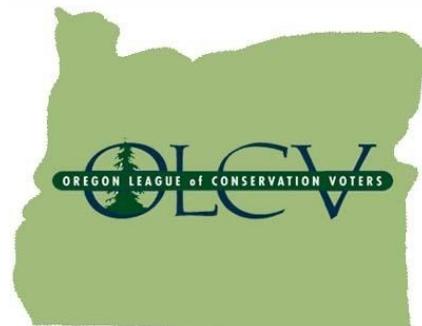






THE REBUILDING CENTER

of Our United Villages, a Non-profit Organization



Northwest Environmental Advocates

Our mission is to work through advocacy and education to protect and restore water and air quality, wetlands, and wildlife habitat.



Working with Oregonians
to enhance our quality of life



Oregon
Environmental
Council
It's Your Oregon



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ecotrust

METROPOLITAN GREENSPACES ALLIANCE

Chicago
Wilderness



METROPOLITAN GREENSPACES ALLIANCES ACHIEVE ENVIRONMENTAL,
TRANSPORTATION, HEALTH, EQUITY AND LIVABILITY OBJECTIVES IN
URBAN AREAS

The Role of the Nonprofit Sector & Citizen Activists In Advancing Urban Sustainability

1. Innovation
2. Public education and engagement
3. Monitoring and evaluation of implementation
4. Ensuring compliance (enforcement)
5. Political defense
6. Spurring and promoting private sector action (e.g. awards, standards)

How can sustainability ideas from Cascadia be effectively transferred to other urban areas?

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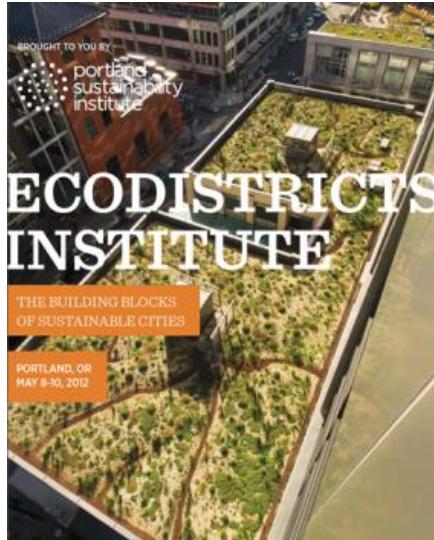
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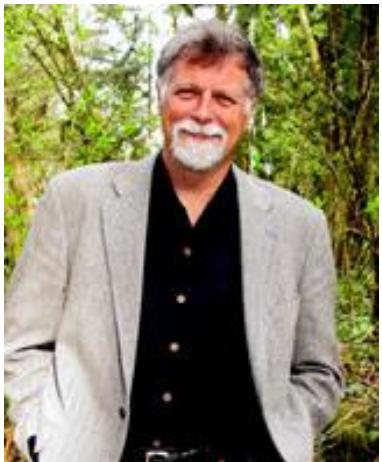
OTREC

OREGON TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH
AND EDUCATION CONSORTIUM

Institute for Sustainable Solutions at
Portland State University

Urban Sustainability Accelerator

Nohad Toulan School of Urban Studies & Planning



Urban Sustainability Accelerator

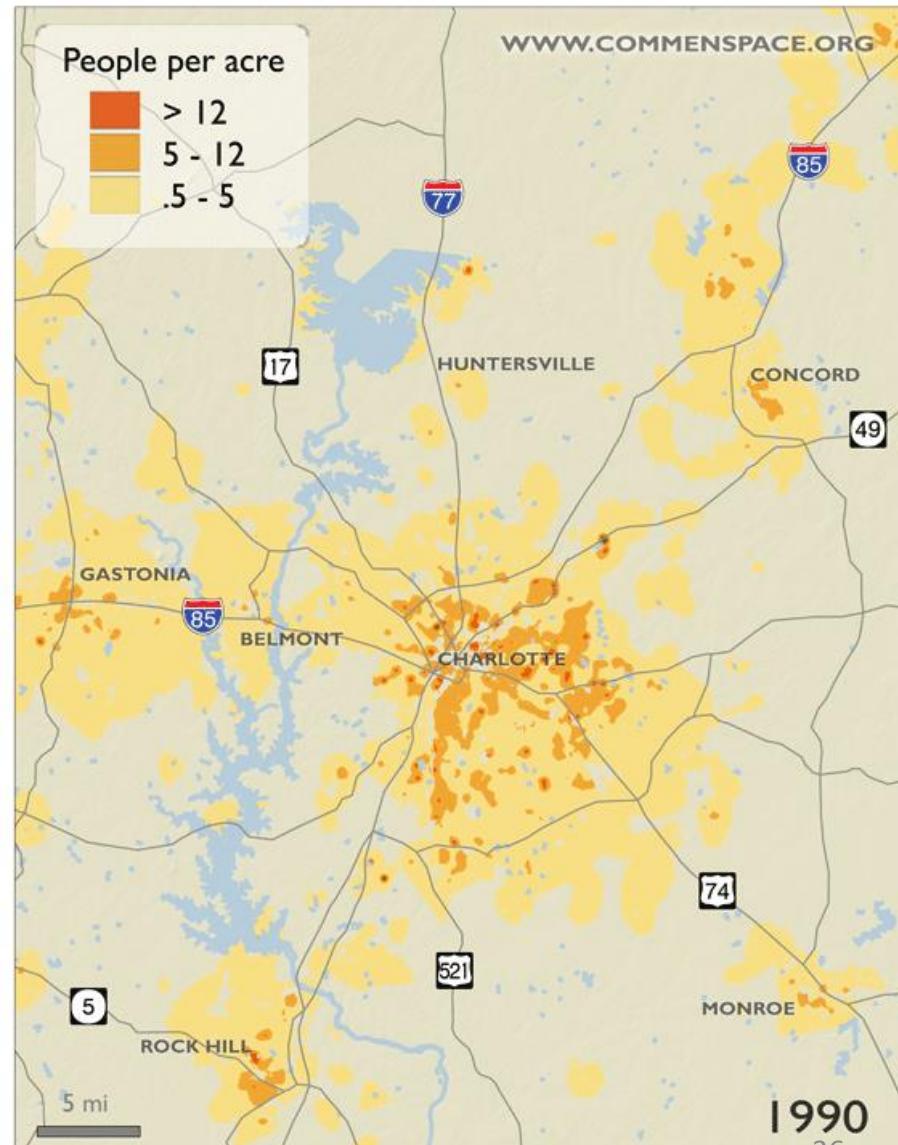
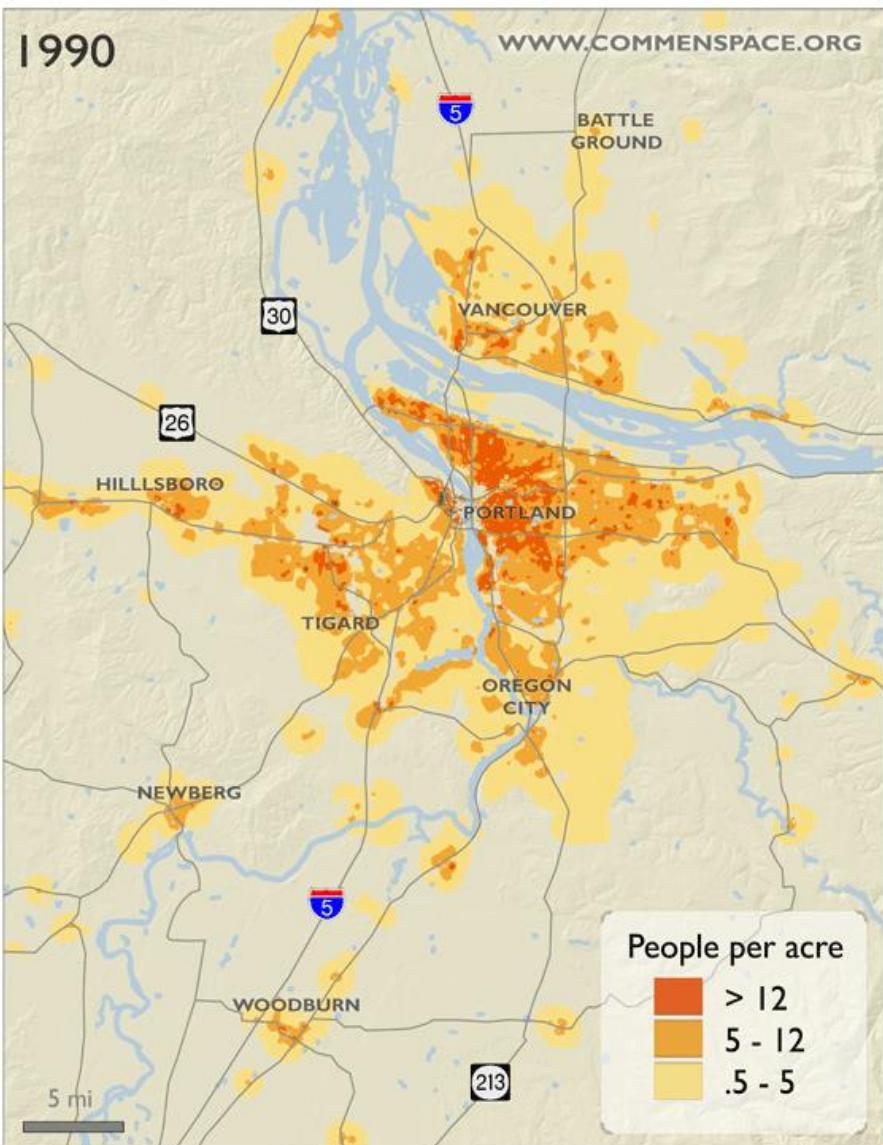
Nohad Toulan School of Urban Studies & Planning

- Multi-sectoral implementation teams & partnerships
- Emphasize peer to peer advice
- Provide assistance over a year+
- Create a learning cohort; mutual help

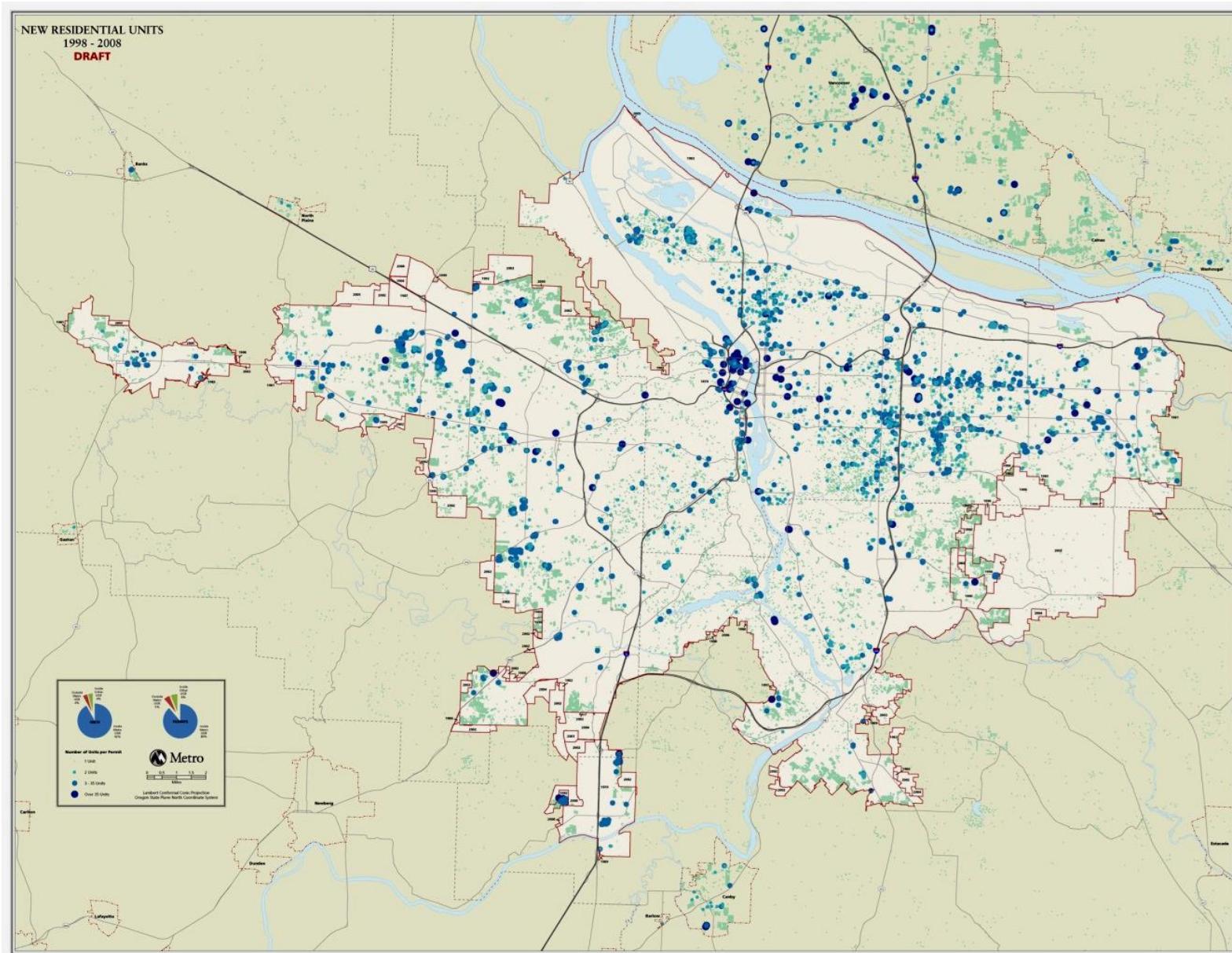
What roles could a Cascadia Urban Sustainability Laboratory play in promoting urban sustainability?

Illustration:
Replacing Sprawl with Compact
Resource-Efficient Cities with
Housing & Transportation Choices

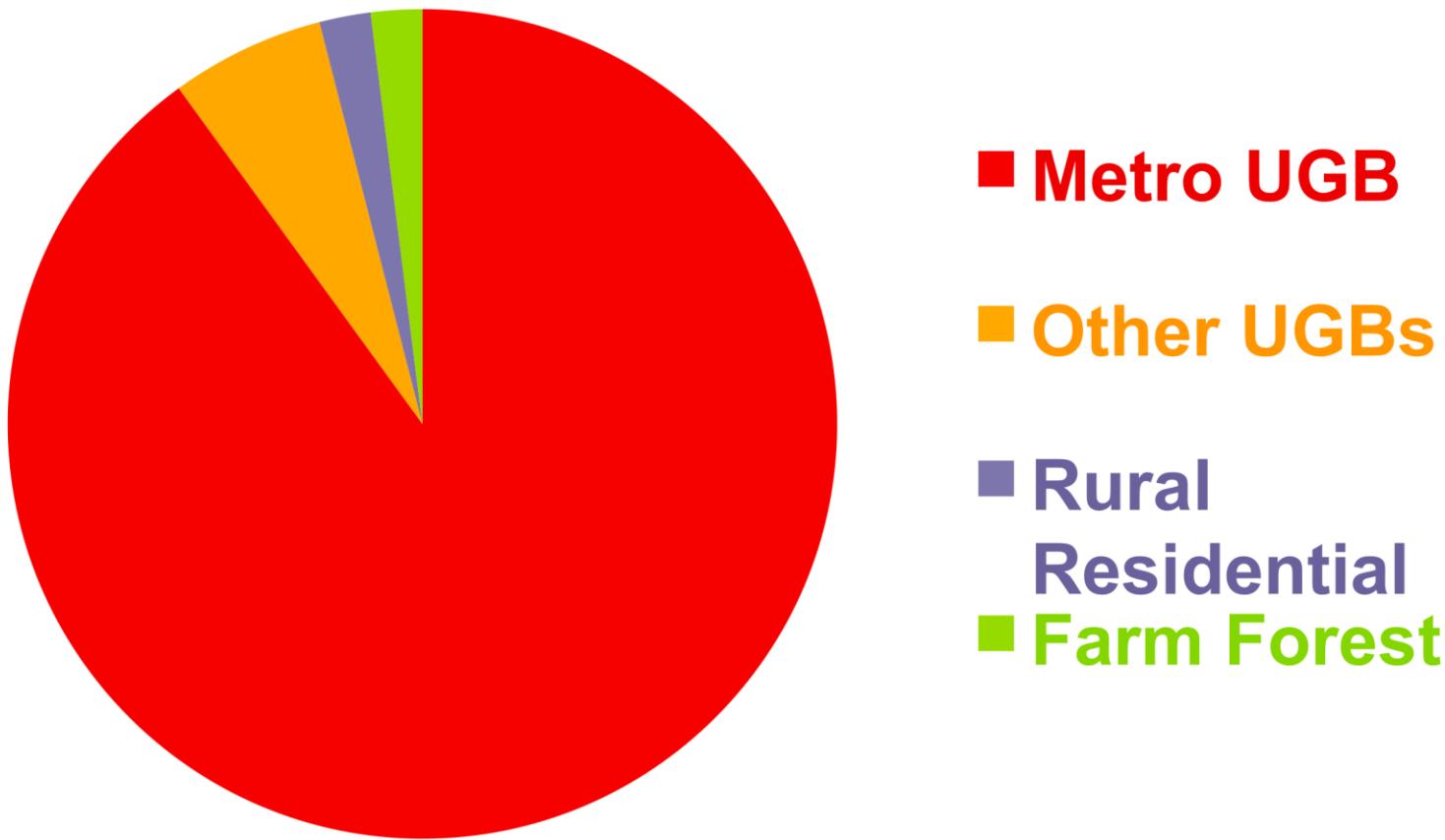
Achieving Compact Growth



Urban Land Efficiency & Revitalization



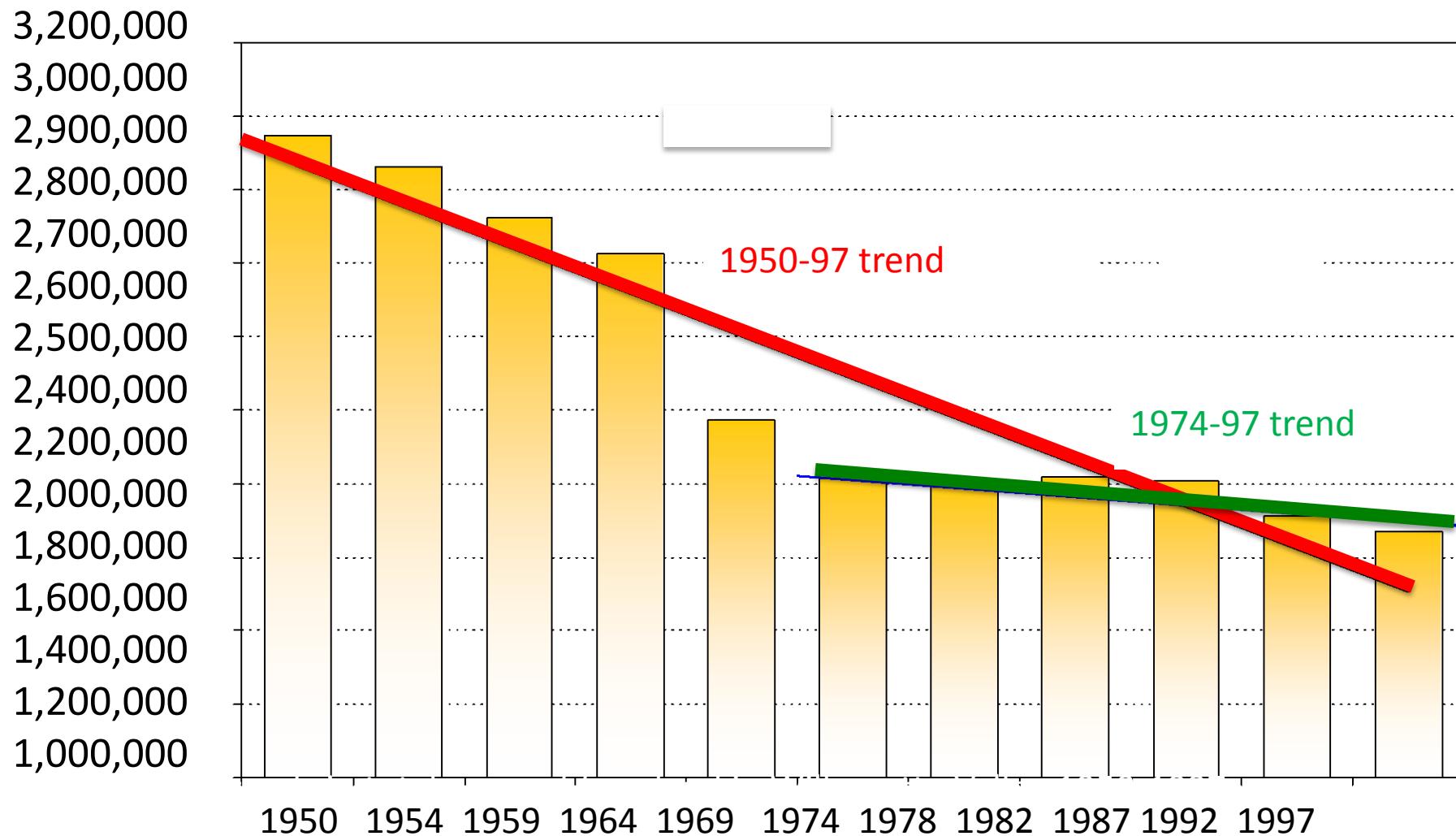
Distribution of 100,000 Residential Unit Permits Three Metro Counties 1998 - 2008



Portland metro area counties 3,071 square miles

Willamette Valley Farmland

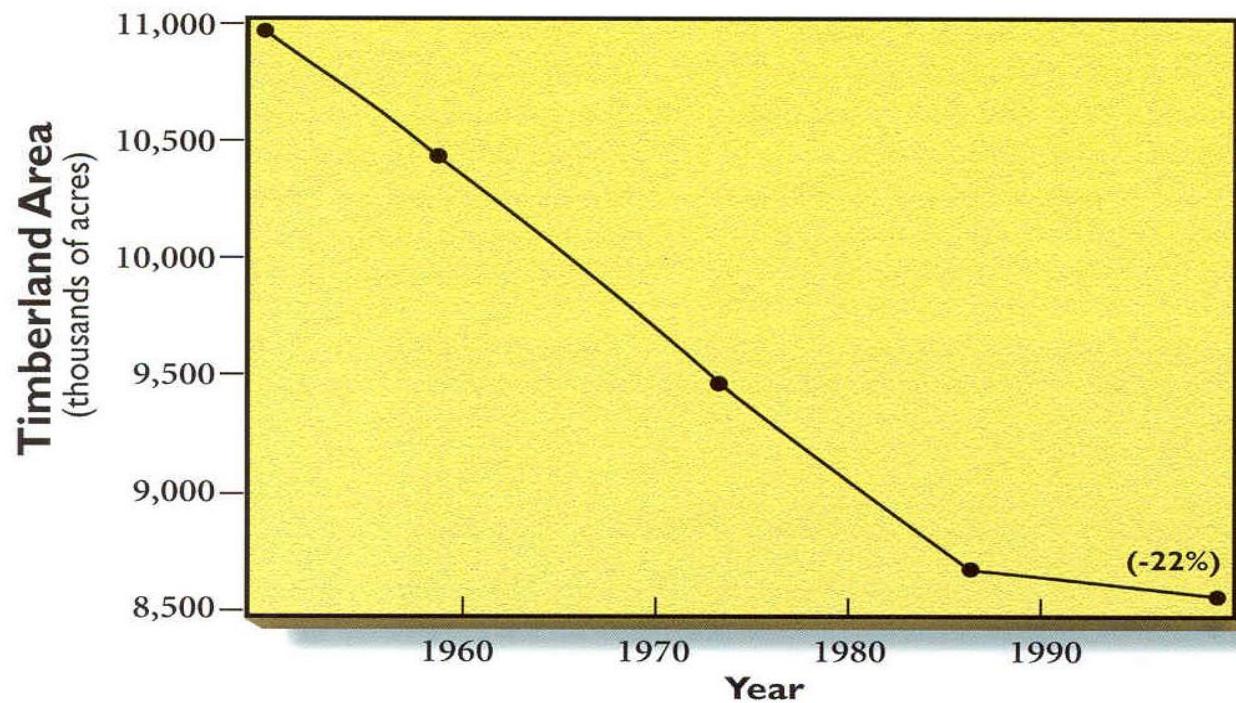
Acres



Private Forestland Base Trends

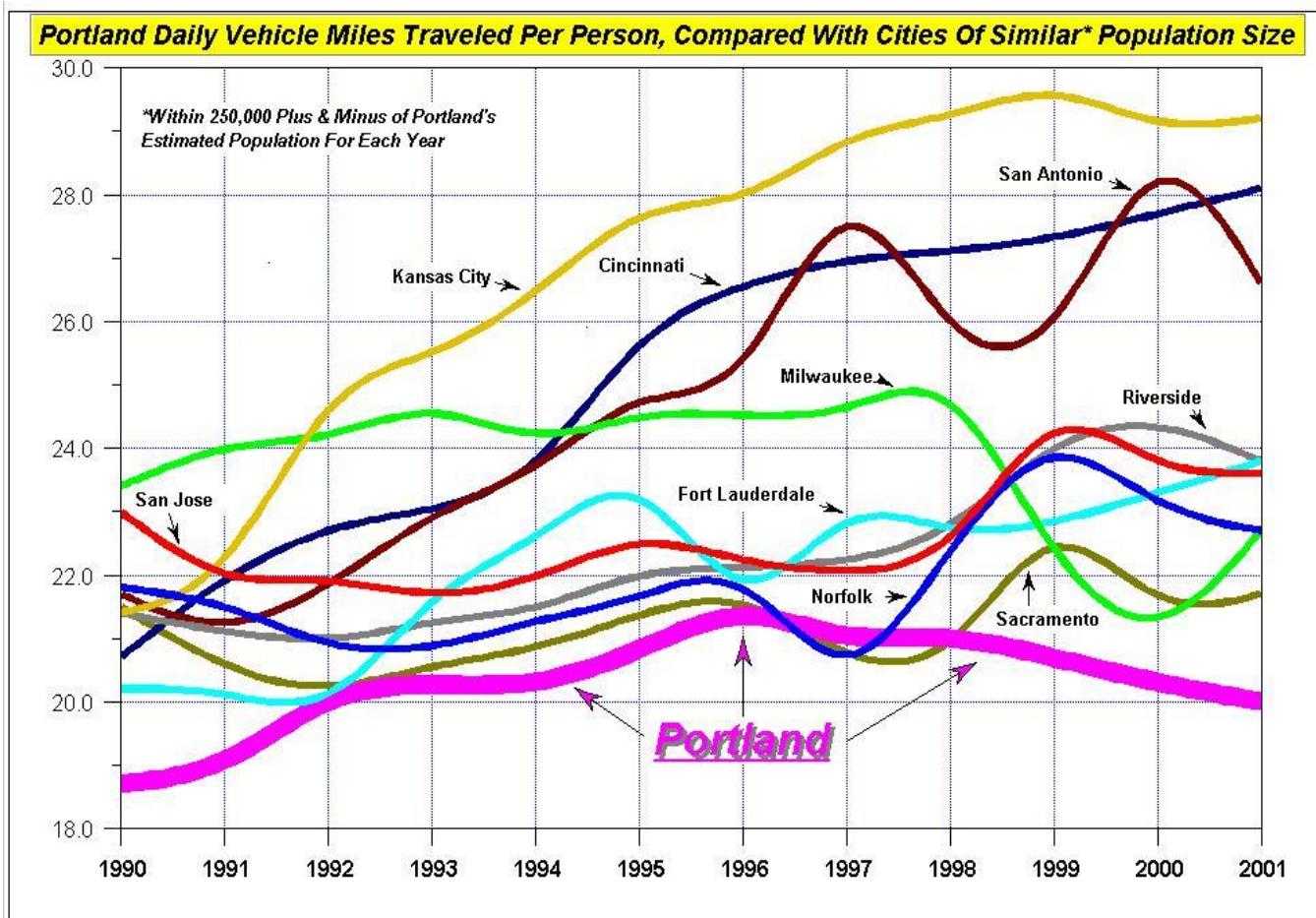
LAND USE POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Figure 20 - Change in Private Timberland Area in Oregon, 1953-1997 (Adapted from Donnegan 2001)



Land Use Change On Non-Federal Land in Western Oregon, 1973-2000" Azuma, Birch, Herstrom, Kline & Lettman (May 2002)

Portland VMT Per Person Decreasing



Source: "Highway Statistics", published by the FHWA, 1990-2002, 'Urbanized Areas, Selected Characteristics', Table HM-72. Portland data for 1999 and 2000 was in error due to a report software problem. The corrected figures appear above, as per direct correspondence with Oregon's DOT, Highway Performance Monitoring System office. Note: For data consistency over time, some figures were included that were above or below the 250,000 population range criteria.

Increasing Housing Efficiency & Choice

“Poor families are less concentrated in Portland and more likely to live in the suburbs – nearly all the suburbs – than a decade ago.

.....

The residential mingling of haves and have-nots can be traced to a state land-use rule put in place nearly a quarter century ago, local developers and planners say.”

Income groups intermingle; Land-use planning nurtures economic integration in Portland, census data show” Betsy Hammond, *The Oregonian* (May 15, 2002)

“... although Oregon is not among the fastest growing states [of the eight states in the comparison study], developed land per capita had a decade-long decline.”

Knaap & Lewis 2008
University of Maryland

“Further, Oregon is the only state [among the eight states studied] where population became more concentrated during the 1990s and where employment de-concentrated the least... .”

Knaap & Lewis 2008
University of Maryland



Livable Region Strategic Plan



Metropolitan Core

Municipal Town Centers

Agricultural Lands
in the Green Zone

Open Areas

Existing SkyTrain/Seabus

Red Lines Priority:
High Occupancy
Vehicle Ready

New or Upgraded
Inter-Regional
Highway Connection

Regional Town Centers

Open Space Areas

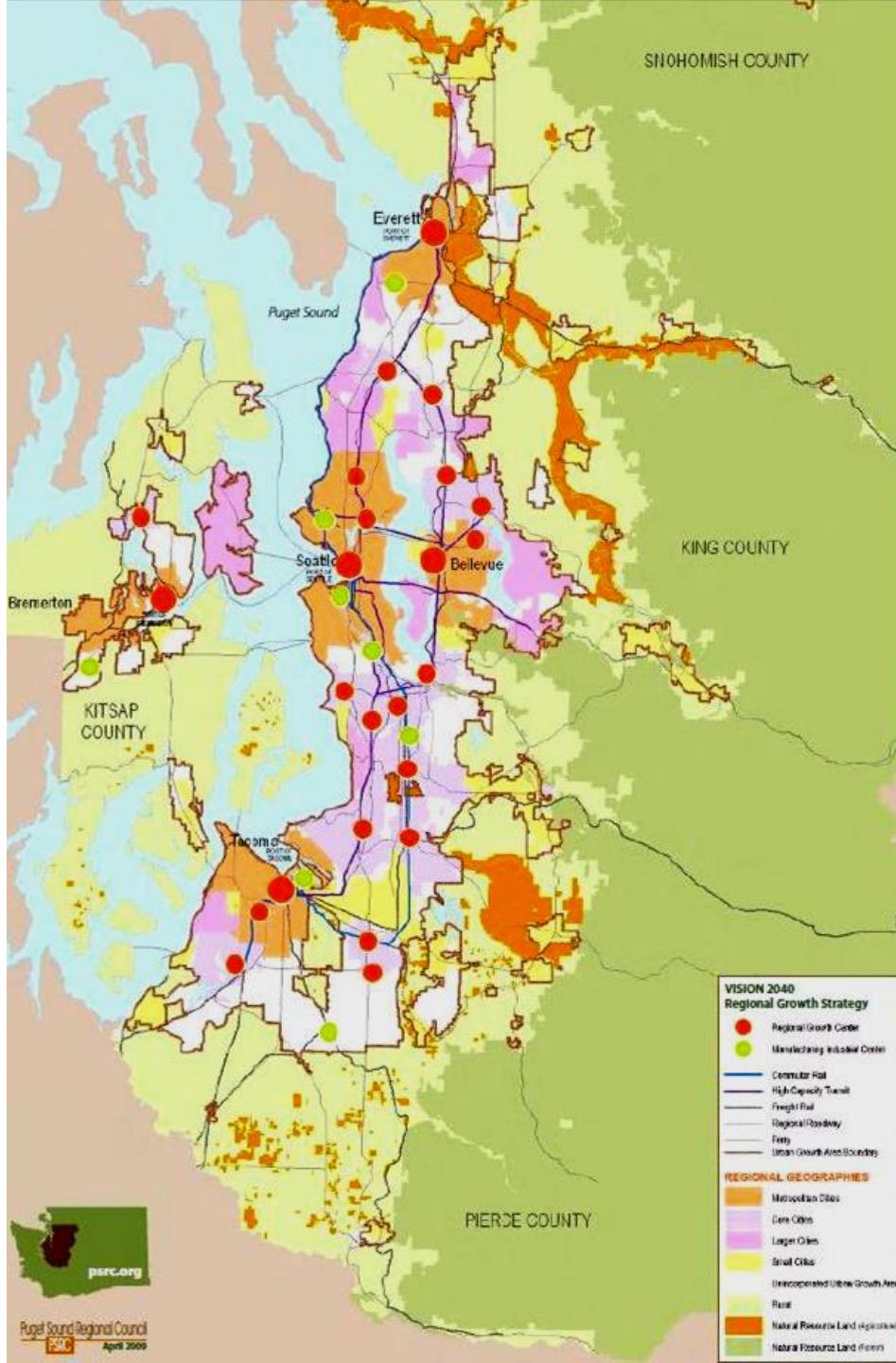
Growth
Concentration
Area

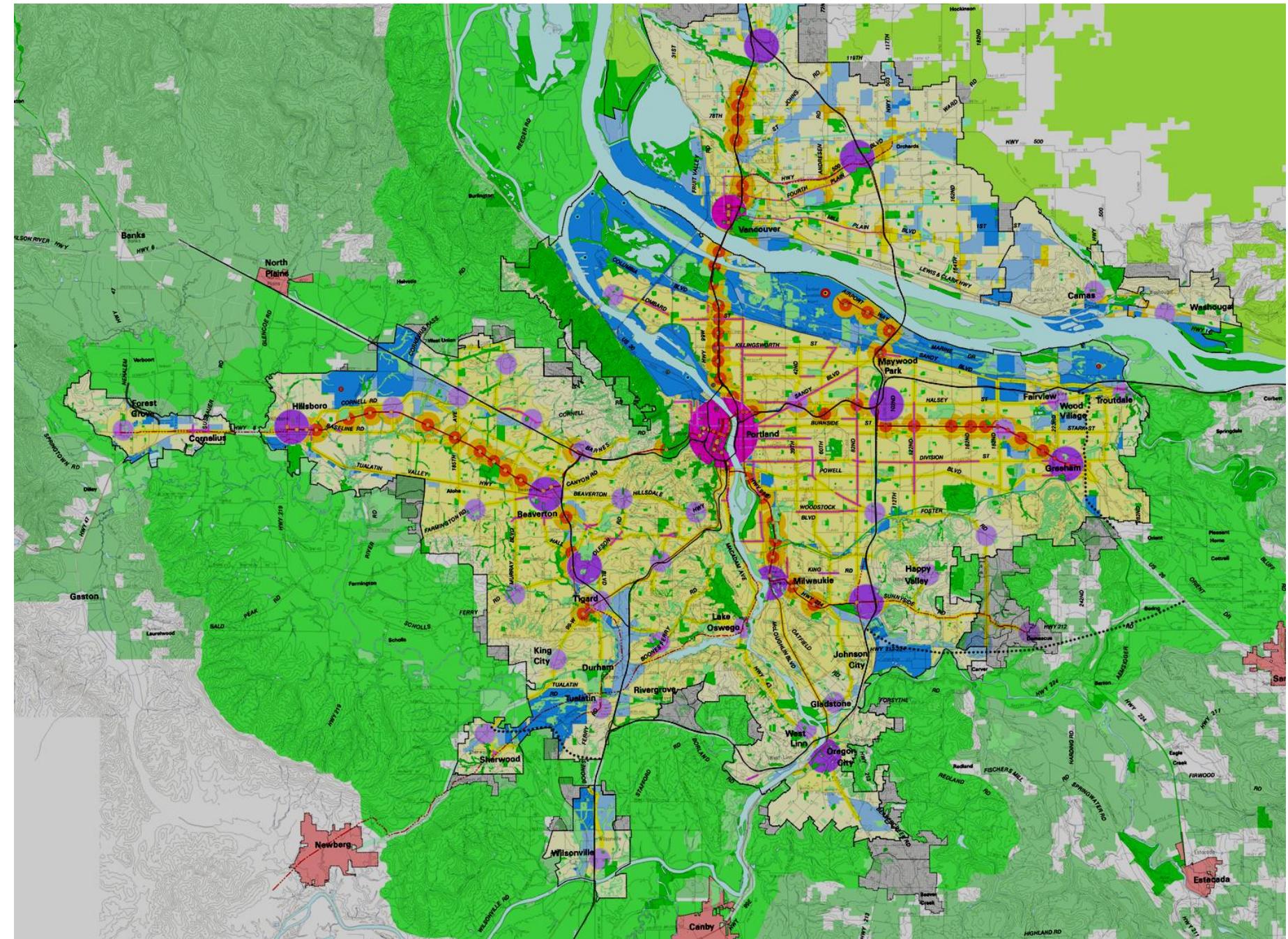
Areas Under
Strategic
Consideration

Intermediate Capacity
Transit System
(Light Rail/Transit)

Black Lines:
Regional Roads
Connection and
Grade Separation

Interchange Link





Housing Research Consortium

- US Bureau Census & HUD staff
- University faculty & students
- Regional governments
- Local governments
- Housing developers and financiers
- Housing advocacy organizations
- Private foundation
- Planning and design professionals

Housing Research Users

- Private sector developers, builders, investors, financiers
- US Bureau Census & HUD
- Legislative committee
- Regional and local governments
- Housing advocacy organizations
- Planning and design professionals

Housing Research

- Emerging trends in housing type & location
- Creation of dynamic housing models
- Third party performance evaluation of state, regional and local housing policies (e.g. urban growth boundaries)
- Energy and materials efficiency
- Pilot design projects for new housing types and for retrofits of buildings & neighborhoods

Housing Research

Housing Research Transmission

- Hosting multi-sectoral conferences
- Trained peer-to-peer presenters of research findings
- Research grants required “applications” section and “transmission program” elements for all research papers

Transportation Researchers & Research Users

- Metropolitan Planning Organizations
- State & Provincial Departments of Transportation
- Legislative committee
- Local governments
- Transportation planning professionals

Transportation Research

- Performance review & analysis of completed transportation projects (capital & program)
- Performance review of forecasting models (traffic volumes, mode split, safety, etc.)
- Continue and enhance research on behavior change

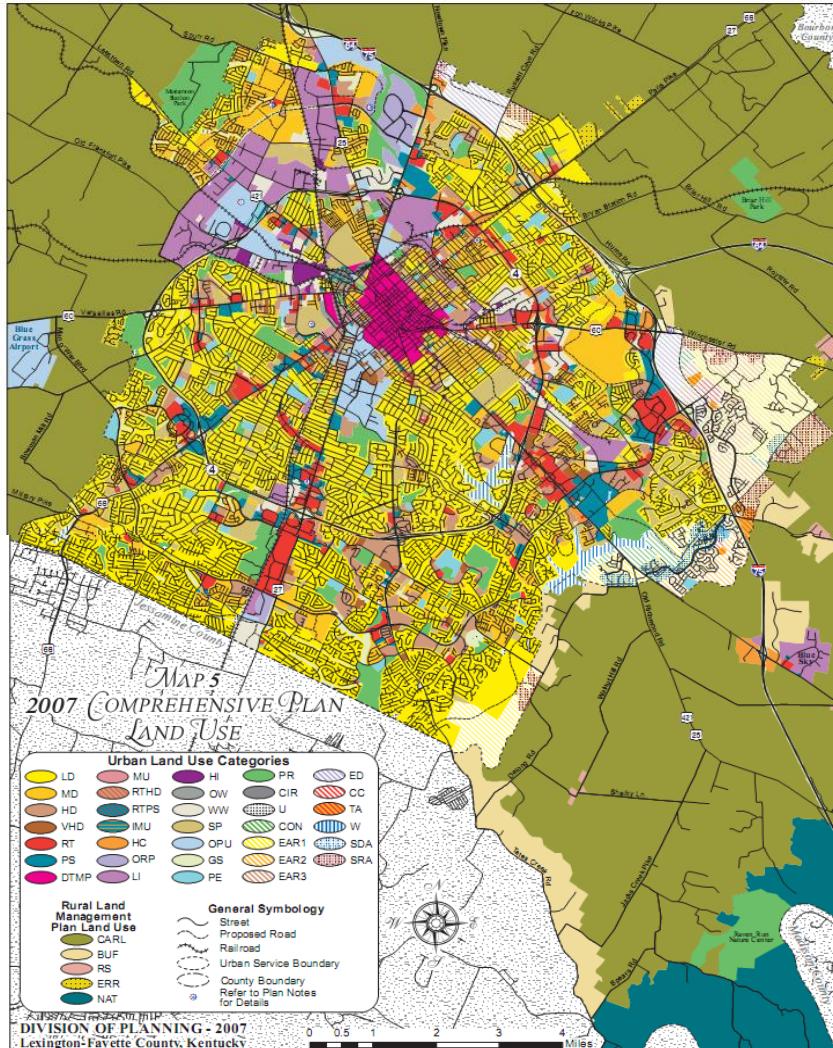
National Roles for a Cascadia Urban Sustainability Laboratory

Illustration:
Replacing Sprawl with Compact
Resource-Efficient Cities with
Housing & Transportation Choices

- Urban growth boundaries
- Mixed use development
- Increased housing choices
- Residential infill and redevelopment
- Increased transportation choice

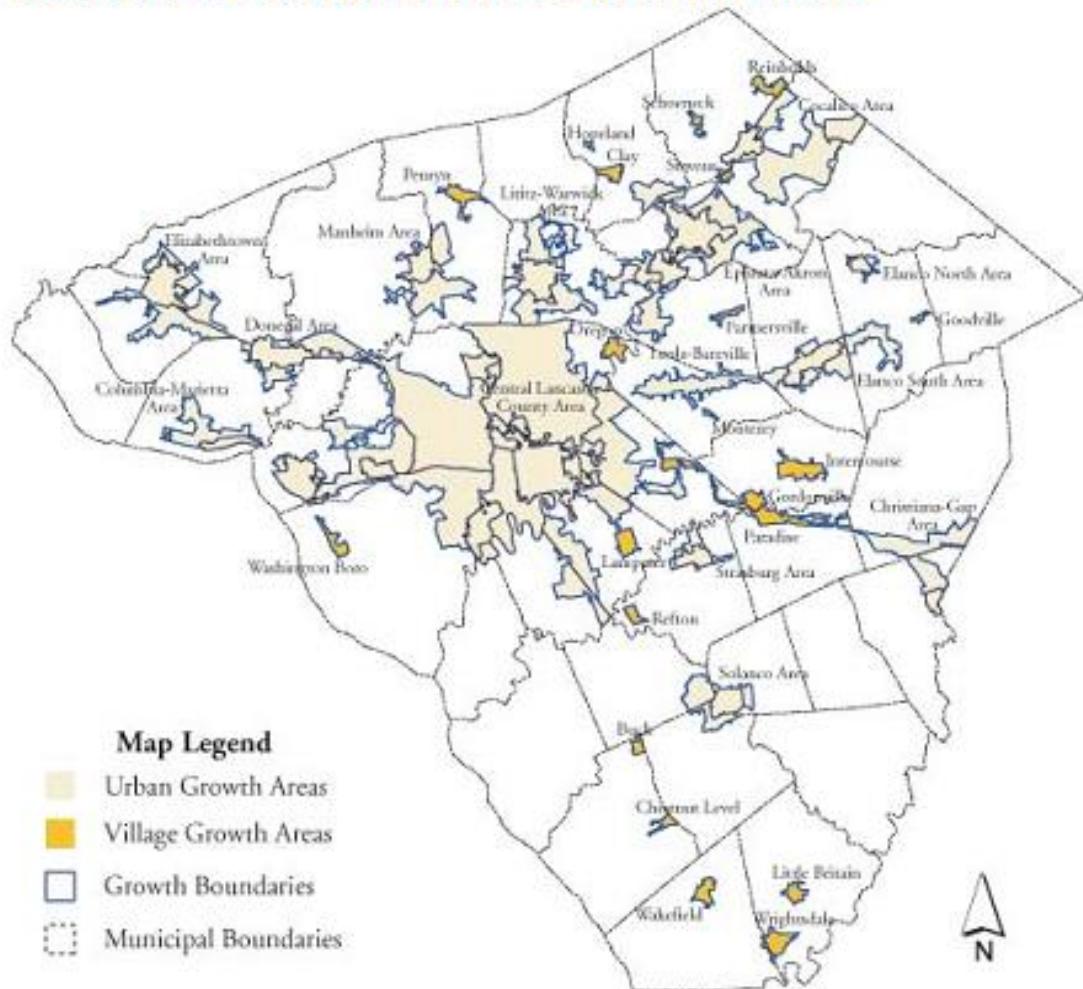


Lexington & Fayette County Kentucky



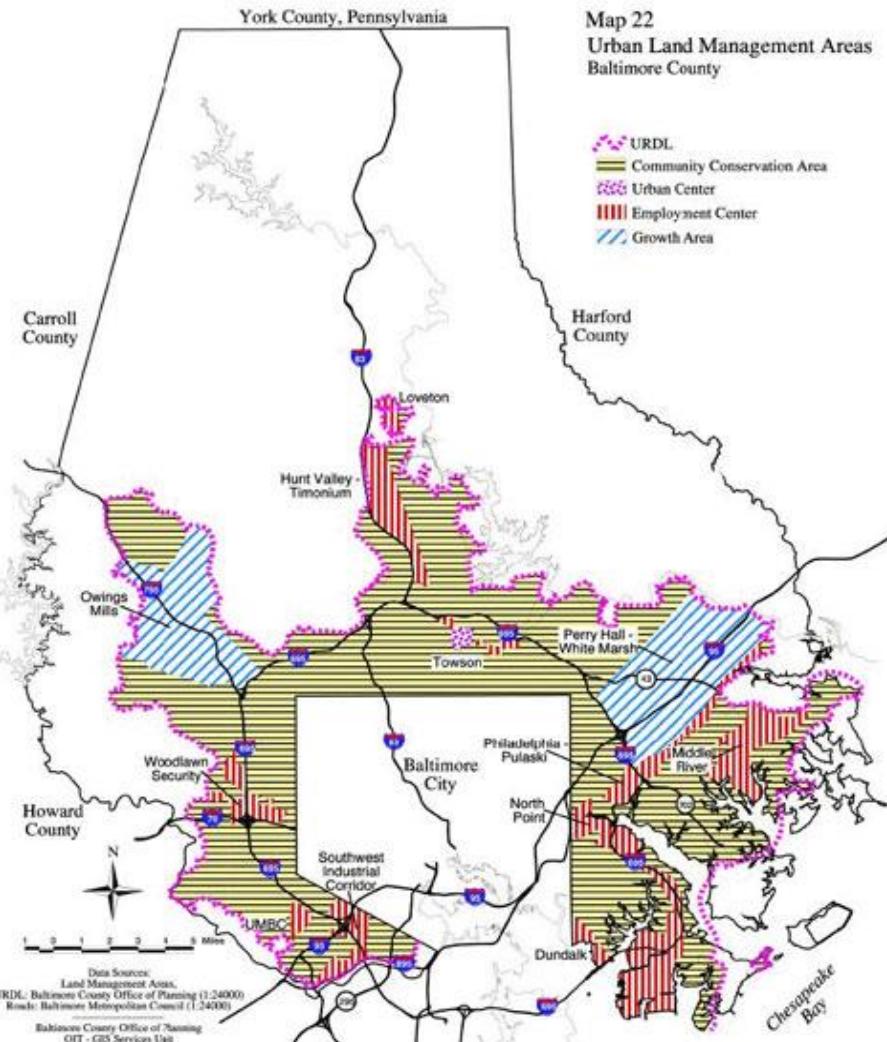
Lancaster County Growth Areas

Adopted and Draft Growth Areas—December 2003

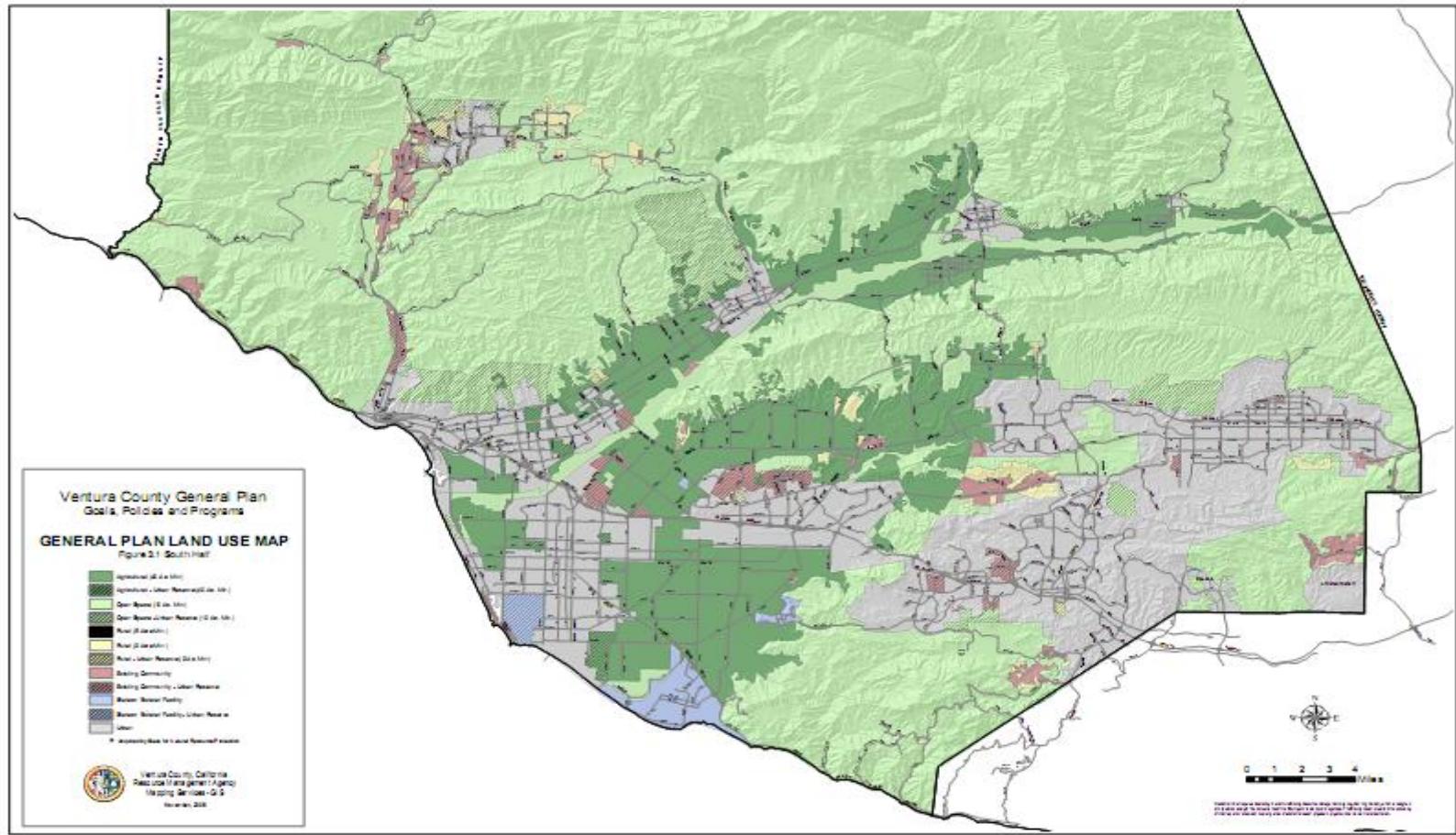


Lancaster County, Pennsylvania

Baltimore County, Maryland

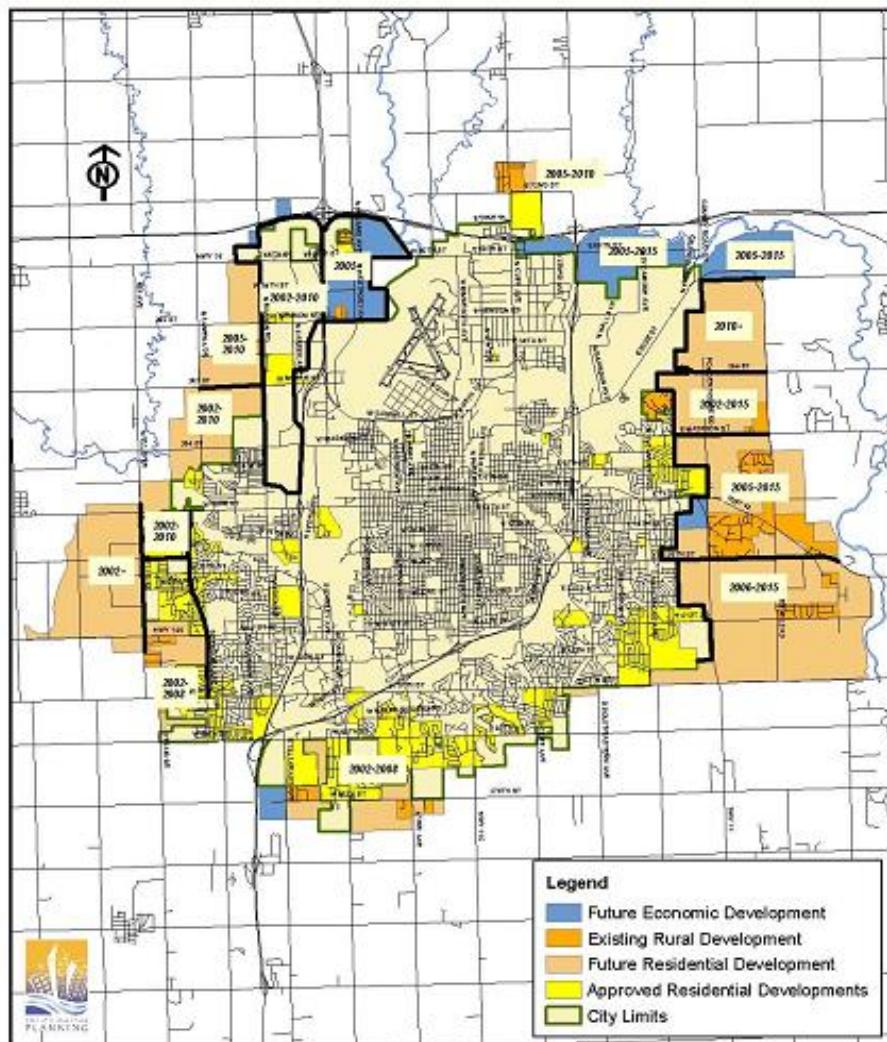


Map 22
Urban Land Management Areas



Ventura County California & Cities

Map III(d)
2015 Growth Area Map



Sioux Falls & Minnehaha County, South Dakota

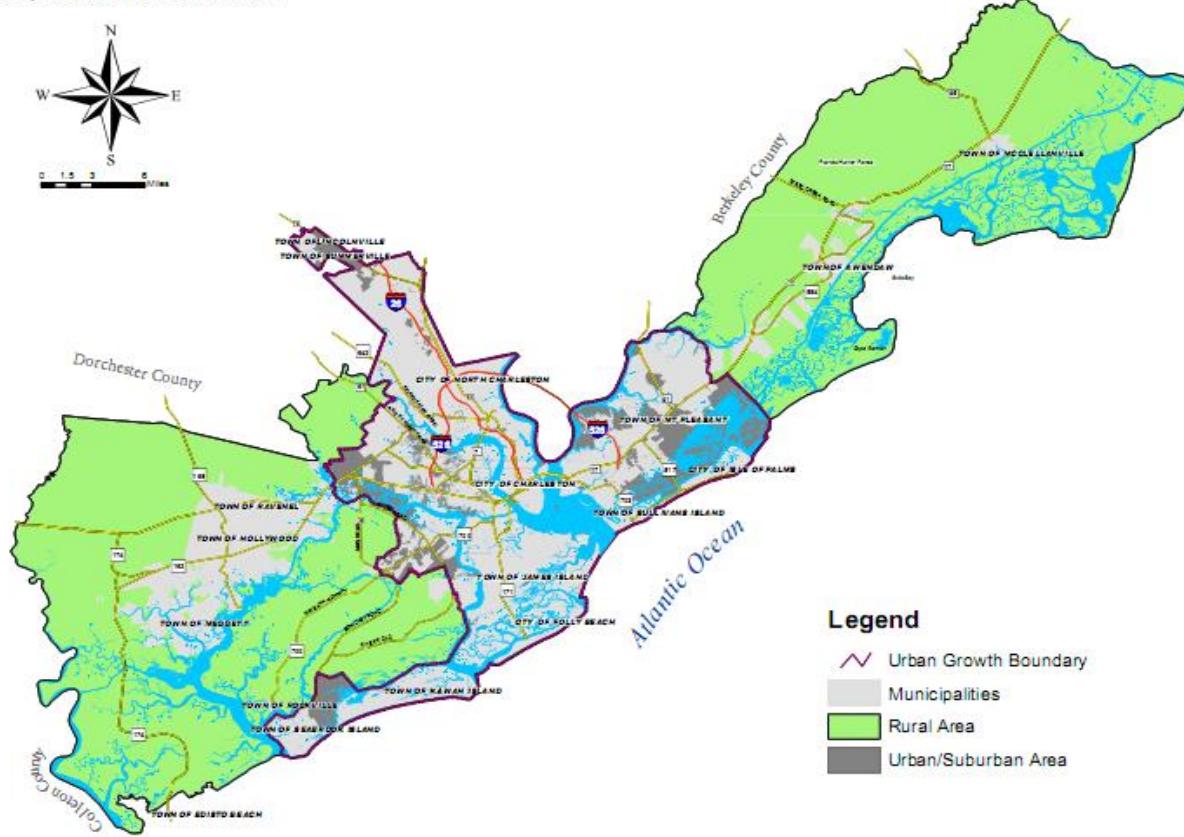
Charleston City & County, South Carolina

ADOPTED November 18, 2008

Chapter 3.1 Land Use Element

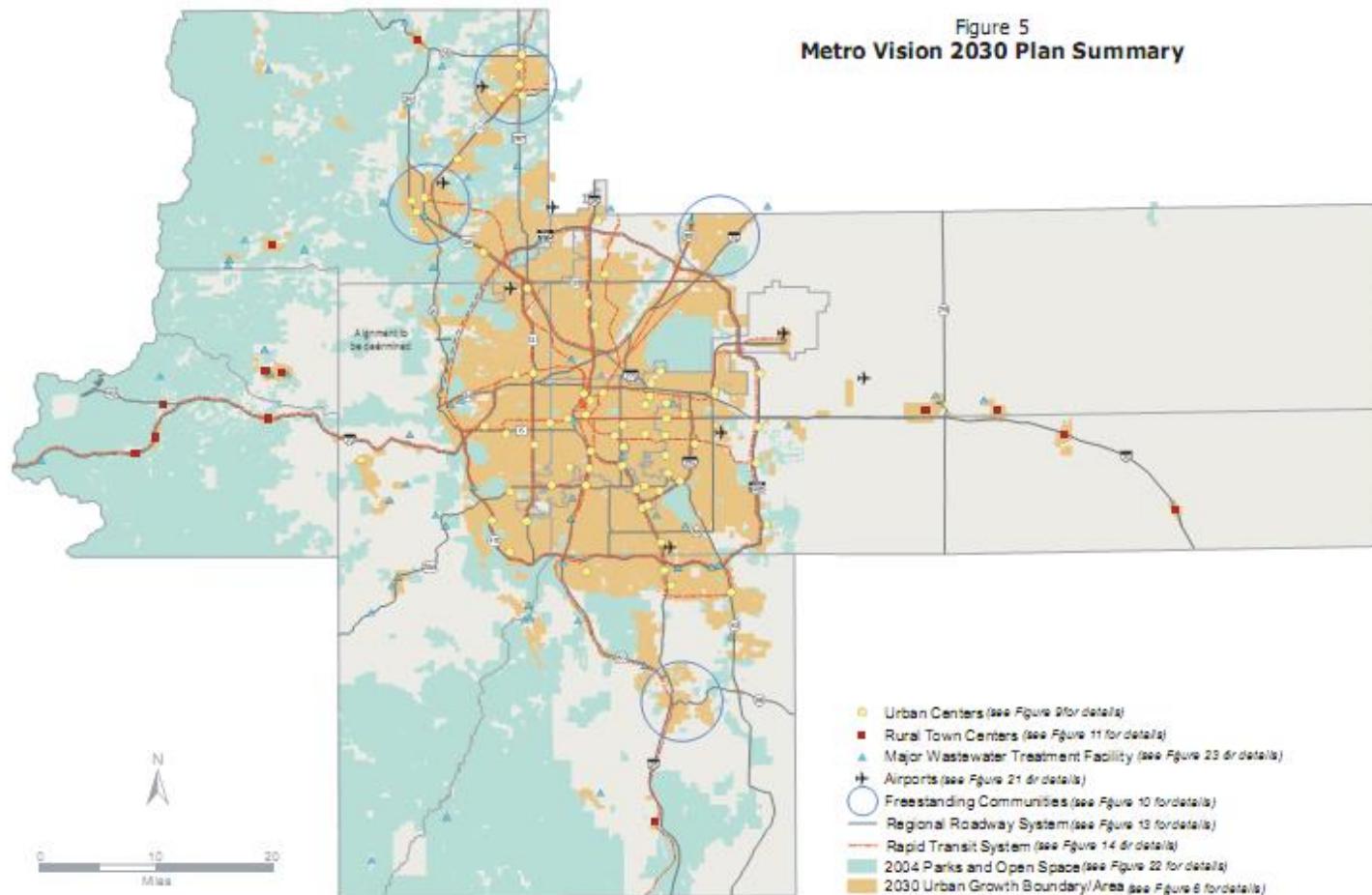
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MAP 3.1.2 GROWTH MANAGEMENT AREAS



Denver Regional Council of Governments

Figure 5
Metro Vision 2030 Plan Summary



International Roles for a Cascadia Urban Sustainability Laboratory



Canada





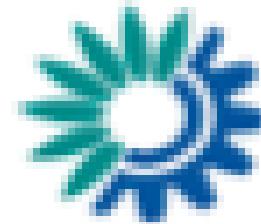
Italy

Russia



Ryan McCoy 2007

European Environment Agency



EEA Report | No 10/2006

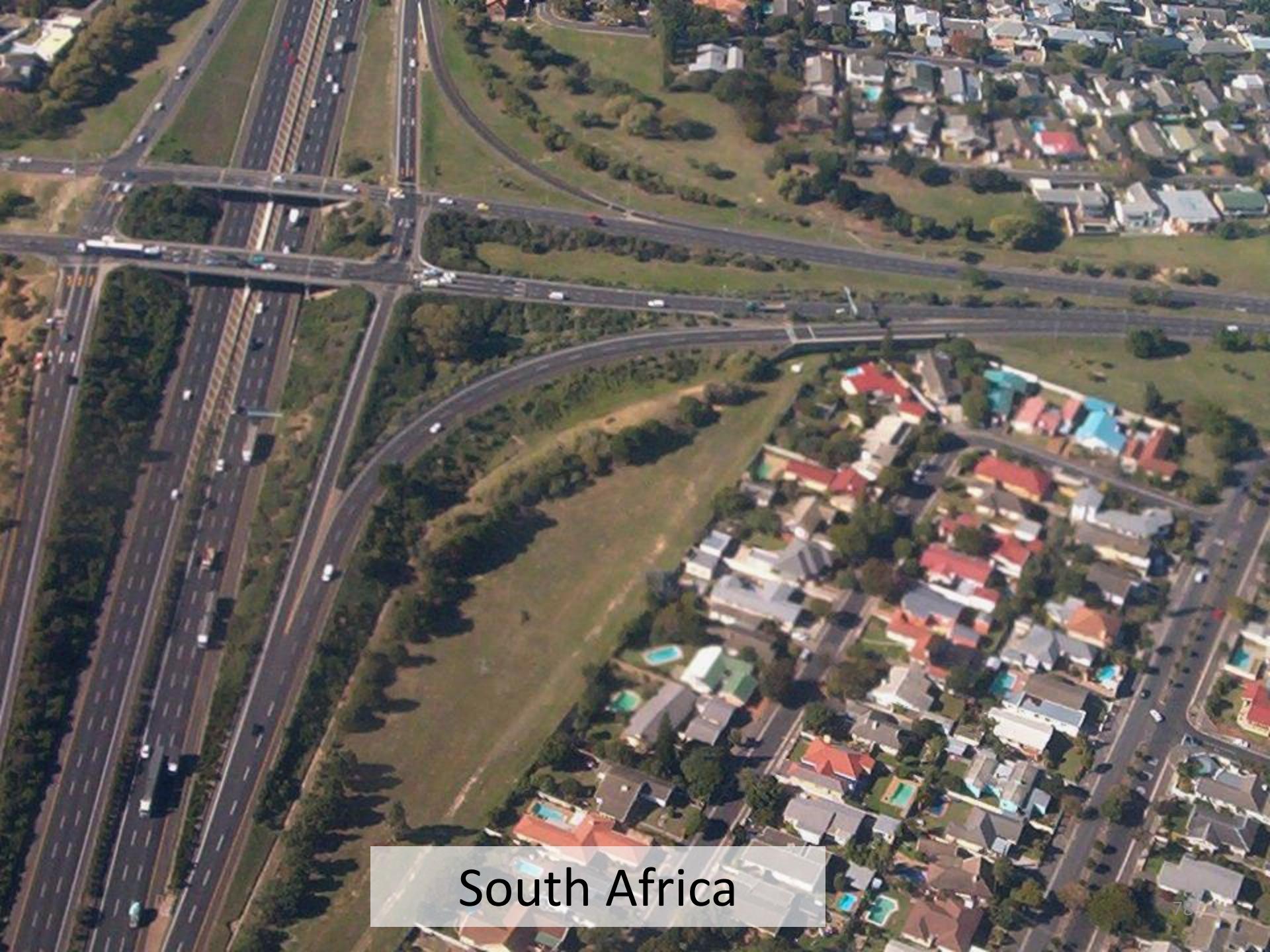
Urban sprawl in Europe

The ignored challenge



state of world population 2007
Unleashing the Potential of Urban Growth

In both developing and industrialized countries, the average density of cities has been declining quickly: at an annual rate of 1.7 per cent over the last decade in developing countries and 2.2 per cent in industrialized countries.



South Africa



China





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