Participatory Planning
A Chicagoland - Experience
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PARTICIPATORY PLANNING

A Chicagoland Experience
northeastern illinois planning commission

THE REGION

- 6 Counties
- 272 Municipalities
- 8,091,720 citizens
- 3 million households
- 4,420,000 jobs
- 2,769 miles of bus & rail transit
- 54,600 Lane Miles of Road network
- 768,000 acres of agricultural land
- 200,000 acres of protected open space & forest preserves
HOW WE HAVE GROWN?

1910 1950 1990
About NIPC

The comprehensive planning agency for the six-county metropolitan area.

Created by the Illinois General Assembly in 1957 and assigned three broad responsibilities.
NIPC Mission

• Conduct Research Required for Planning

• Assist Local Governments on Planning Issues

• Develop Advisory Plans for the Six-County Region
NIPC’s principal regional planning partners are –

- The Chicago Area Transportation Study (CATS)
- The Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) w/ CTA, METRA, PACE
- The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT)
WHAT DOES COMMON GROUND DO?

Community Based Regional Planning

- Reaches out to residents of all ages and ethnicities
- Identifies regional challenges and opportunities
- Drafts Goals for 2030 Comprehensive Regional Plan
- Develops local & regional action strategies to implement goals
- Integrates existing plans with future land use scenarios
- Creates the comprehensive plan for northeastern Illinois to guide future transportation planning
- Works with government agencies & other organizations to implement the Plan
WHY PUBLIC PARTICIPATION?

- To hear and learn from the engaged public about their communities and values
- To connect residents with public officials & other stakeholders in a regional community
- To work for consensus on actions towards a shared future with public and private sector
- To plan the region for a better future
WHO PARTICIPATES?

Residents of the Region

Elected Officials

Youth

Under-represented Groups

Committed Civic leaders & Activists

Planners & Professionals
Participation Support Technology

• KEY PADS
  ▪ Instant Feedback
  ▪ Provides anonymous & candid response
  ▪ Quantifiable measures

• COMPUTER NETWORKS
  ▪ Instant analysis of the feedback
  ▪ Quick video projection of the analysis and next questions
  ▪ Records agreements & priorities
Participation Support Technology

• PAINT-THE-TOWN
  ▪ Allows participants to designate areas for future development or redevelopment
  ▪ visualize the future land uses
  ▪ calculate their effect on transportation, housing, economic, environmental & other forecasts

• GIS BASED MODELING
  ▪ Community Plan Builder
Participation Support Technology

- Web-Based Conferencing & Survey Tools
  - Community/region/state/nation wide access to the issues
  - Online visualization of planning and design proposals, alternative scenarios & proposed strategies
  - Live survey analysis
  - Live graphic visualization and mapping of responses
Meeting Facilitation
Facilitation – Maximizes participation, maintains agenda, mediates conflicts, supports group

Four levels of facilitation

1. Room Facilitator
2. Quad Facilitator
3. Table Facilitator
4. Emergency Help
Putting It All Together - Deliberative Cycle: 40-90 min.

1. Pose Question & Illustrate
2. Poll the Question
3. Facilitate Dialogue on Choices
4. Enter Paint the Town Consensus
5. Poll Preferences
Facilitation Techniques

1. Central Coordination

2. Focused, generative thinking in smaller workgroups

3. Recording the discussion and outcomes as group work

4. Generating and managing structured discussions
Planning Process
COMMON GROUND PROCESS: To Date

Leadership Workshops
Regional Forum
Strategic Plan Goals
Work Groups 5@4

Special Interest Focus Groups
Goals Adopted
Draft Goals were written & categorized in 11 policy areas:

1. Balance & Sustainability
2. Community Redevelopment
3. Diversity & Equity
4. Education
5. Housing
6. Jobs & Economic Development
7. Open Space & Environment
8. Planning & Governance
9. Public Services & Infrastructure
10. Quality of life
11. Transportation

6 month-long process with over 120 work group meetings
Regional Themes

- Five Themes developed from Common Ground’s 52 Goals

Northeastern Illinois will be
- **globally competitive**
- a region of livable communities
- known for its healthy natural environment
- built on the diversity of its people
- governed collaboratively
CG Next Phase: Nov. ’03 – Dec. ’04

Potential Regional Scenarios

Municipal Cluster Workshops

Cluster Synthesis Workshops

Public Forums

Regional Land Use Framework Plan
Building Regional Community Clusters
Thank You

Visit us at

www.nipc.org/cg

Other Resources

www.PlaceMatters.org
www.AmericaSpeaks.org
www.IAP2.com
www.schwarzassociates.com/sfa.htm
http://www.interactionassociates.com