



# Linking Conservation and Transportation Planning

Little Rock, Arkansas

May 31 – June 1, 2006

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# Agenda

## n Day One

- n Transportation Planning
- n Heritage Program
- n State Wildlife Action Plan
- n Conservation initiatives
- n Transportation initiatives

## n Day Two

- n NatureServe VISTA
- n Quantum
- n Other technologies
- n Discussion
- n Discussion
- n Discussion

# Focus Question

What information, tools and approaches are needed for transportation, resource and regulatory agencies to be effective in merging transportation and conservation planning?

# Workshop Goal

To exchange information and dialog on different approaches, data and technologies that can assist in meeting transportation planning challenges as they relate to conservation needs.

# Overview

Who?

- n MPOs
- n State DOT
- n FHWA
- n State Heritage program
- n State fish and game agency
- n Federal resource agency
- n Others

# Overview

What?

- n Overview of transportation planning and current initiatives
- n Major conservation approaches
- n Available technologies
- n Discussion

# Overview

Why?

- n To improve linkages between conservation and transportation planning
- n To emphasize the use of information, tools and methods between transportation, resource and regulatory communities

# Overview

Why?

- n SAFETEA-LU
- n Linking Planning and NEPA
- n Eco-Logical
- n Support for transportation project decision making
- n Vital Few
- n Cooperative Conservation



In your view, what would be most helpful towards integrating conservation planning into the transportation planning process?

“Networking with each other”

“Developing relationships among the resource agencies and MPOs. Also, for resource agencies to offer strategies to the MPOs to integrate resource conservation into transportation planning.”

In your view, what would be most helpful towards integrating conservation planning into the transportation planning process?

“Massive amounts of collaboration and data sharing, utilizing available resources and agencies, particularly the State Geographic Information Officers, Academia, MPOs and DOTs.”

“Knowledge of local and/or long-range conservation plans by other entities so that we could incorporate them into work we are planning at the AHTD.”

In your view, what would be most helpful towards integrating conservation planning into the transportation planning process?

“Integrating the very early planning stages into the NEPA process, especially defining environmental constraints to the Metropolitan Planning Organizations and the Planning and Development Districts.”

“Developing an understanding of the Clean Water Act requirements for county, city and state highway projects.”

“A better understanding of what is required by Federal regulations, especially in light of SAFETEA-LU and what State law makes possible.”

In your view, what would be most helpful towards integrating conservation planning into the transportation planning process?

“Identifying the habitats that need to be avoided early in the planning process. A detailed GIS based map system that could be easily referenced during early project development, something the planners could access and use.”

“Better ways to work together and avoid and minimize adverse impacts to fish and wildlife resources.”

In your view, what would be most helpful towards integrating conservation planning into the transportation planning process?

"I think educating planning engineers not only about conservation but also about implementing conservation ideas into their work with cost effectiveness in mind."

"A well-developed and proactive educational program(s) in order to inform local and state governments of the beneficial impacts of these planning initiatives. The program(s) should be developed utilizing case examples, best practices, and peer exchanges."

In your view, what would be most helpful towards integrating conservation planning into the transportation planning process?

“Finding systematic ways to conduct transportation planning that is linked to state wildlife comprehensive conservation strategies and to local mpo's.”

“Finding an agreed upon systematic evaluation process for determining impacts and developing protection strategies.”

Systematic

In your view, what would be most helpful towards integrating conservation planning into the transportation planning process?

“Real life examples that have worked. We need a game plan for how to make it a reality and part of our standard process.”

“Networking, defining communication avenues and developing a realistic plan will help integrate conservation planning into the transportation planning process.”

“Identifying realistic goals and developing strategies to achieve the goals.” (2)

Realistic

In your view, what would be most helpful towards integrating conservation planning into the transportation planning process?

“Developing a multi-jurisdictional spatial database of all locations that should be considered in transportation planning.”



Most Ambitious



In your view, what would be most helpful towards integrating conservation planning into the transportation planning process?

“Not sure what could help integrate conservation planning into the transportation planning process, other than attending this course - especially since conservation planning is a specialized area that most transportation planners know very little about.”



Most Likely to Succeed