

UTCM

*Improving the Quality of Life
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University Transportation Center for Mobility™

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Conference on Performance Measures for Transportation and Livable Communities: Summary of Work Performed

Final Report

Tara L. Ramani and Katherine F. Turnbull

Performing Organization

University Transportation Center for Mobility™
Texas Transportation Institute
The Texas A&M University System
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16. Abstract Livability is primarily concerned with issues such as transportation choices, neighborhood character and access to destinations, affordability, and maintaining cohesive rural, urban and suburban communities. As transportation agencies work toward addressing livability goals, it is important that they monitor their progress. Performance measurement is highly relevant in this context and can help transportation agencies better understand and apply livability concepts and enhance decision making processes. The aim of this project was to plan and conduct a workshop or conference on transportation and livability performance measures, involving researchers and transportation practitioners from different agencies in the U.S. The conference was held in Austin, Texas, from September 7–8, 2012, with over 130 attendees who participated in plenary sessions, breakout sessions, and interactive discussions. The conference was co-sponsored by the Transportation Research Board, by the Center for Transportation Studies at the University of Minnesota, and TTI's Transportation Economics Center. The outcome of the conference was summarized in conference proceedings, published at: http://utcm.tamu.edu/LivabilityConference/proceedings/documents/Conference_Summary.pdf . This report summarizes the work performed and results achieved in planning and implementing this conference.			
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Conference on Performance Measures for Transportation and Livable Communities: Summary of Work Performed

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The aim of this UTCM project was to plan and conduct a workshop on transportation and livability performance measures. The topic of livability has been the focus in many transportation-related activities in recent years. Performance measurement can help transportation agencies better understand and apply livability concepts and enhance decision-making processes.

The conference was held in Austin, Texas, from September 7–8, 2012, with 135 attendees who participated in plenary sessions, breakout sessions, and interactive discussions. Some of the topics covered in the conference sessions included:

- Sustainability, Livability, Planning, and Policy Performance Measures.
- Urban and Rural Livable Communities.
- Transportation Performance Measures for Communities of all Sizes, Shapes, and Forms.
- Land Use, Social Justice, and Environmental Performance Measures.
- Livable Communities and Transit Performance Measures.
- Access to Destinations Performance Measures.
- Freight, Economic Development, and Return on Investment Livability Performance Measures.
- FTA Livability Performance Measures Projects.
- State, MPO, and Local Examples.
- Bicycle and Pedestrian Performance Measures.

The conference was co-sponsored by the Transportation Research Board, by the Center for Transportation Studies at the University of Minnesota, and TTI's Transportation Economics Center. The conference participants and speakers included representatives from federal agencies (such as the Federal Highway Administration, the US Department of Transportation, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Federal Transit Administration, the Department for Housing and Urban Development), state and local agencies in Texas and elsewhere (such as the Texas Department of Transportation, the Houston-Galveston Area Council, the North Central Texas Council of Governments, Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization), university-based researchers and university transportation centers, as well as private consultants.

The conference planning committee members published a conference proceedings document, which is available for download at this link:

http://utcm.tamu.edu/LivabilityConference/proceedings/documents/Conference_Summary.pdf.

The conference planning committee received very positive feedback at the conclusion of this event, and successfully conducted technology transfer in line with UTCM's goals. The conference also generated program income for UTCM from registration revenues.

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

Background

“Livability” is a concept that has been at the forefront of much recent discussion in the transportation sector. In general, livability is considered in the context of communities and encompasses elements such as transportation choices, affordability, accessibility to destinations, walkability, safety and human health, and an overall “sense of place” for residents. Many of these livability considerations overlap with issues related to sustainability, environmental justice, accessibility, and other transportation-related topics.

The U.S. Department of Transportation (U.S. DOT) and the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) launched a sustainable communities initiative in 2009. The six main principles of livability as put forward by this initiative are as follows:

1. Provide more transportation choices.
2. Expand location- and energy-efficient housing choices.
3. Improve economic competitiveness of neighborhoods by giving people reliable access to employment centers, educational opportunities, and other basic services.
4. Target federal funding toward existing communities—through transit-oriented development and place-based policies.
5. Align federal policies and funding to remove barriers to collaboration, leverage funding and increase the effectiveness of existing programs.
6. Enhance the unique characteristics of all communities, whether rural, suburban, or urban.

As transportation agencies work toward incorporating livability goals and considerations, here is a need to better define what livability is, how it can be measured, and how transportation agencies can monitor progress toward achieving livability as an outcome of their plans and programs. Thus, the area of performance measurement for livability is of key importance to transportation agencies including federal agencies, state departments of transportation, metropolitan planning organizations, rural planning organizations, and transit agencies.

Project Goal

The overall aim of this project was to plan and conduct a workshop or conference on transportation and livability performance measures. The results of this workshop will advance of the application of livability performance measures and assist state departments of transportation, metropolitan planning organizations, transit agencies, and other groups in developing and using livability performance measures. The results will also be used to advance further research, outreach, and technology transfer. The funding received from UTCM was leveraged for additional in-kind support and sponsorship from the Transportation Research Board (TRB), the Center for Transportation Studies (CTS) at the University of Minnesota, and TTI’s Transportation Economics Center.

CHAPTER 2: CONFERENCE PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION

The project tasks as listed in the project plan were as follows:

- Task 1: Background and Preliminary Planning
- Task 2: Outreach and Publicity
- Task 3: Recruitment of Sponsors and Partners
- Task 4: Identification of Topics and Speakers
- Task 5: Workshop Agenda and Logistics
- Task 6: Program Finalization and Participant/Speaker Recruitment
- Task 7: Conduct Workshop and Compile Proceedings
- Task 8: Final Report and Documentation

The conference planning and implementation activities conducted to fulfill the above tasks are described briefly in this section.

Preliminary Planning and Co-Sponsorship

In addition to the UTCM, TTI's Transportation Economics Center, the Center for Transportation Studies (CTS), University of Minnesota, and the Transportation Research Board (TRB) were recruited as co-sponsors for this planned event. The conference planning committee was assembled, consisting of the following TTI and CTS staff:

- Katie Turnbull (Conference Planning Committee Chair), Texas Transportation Institute
- Tara Ramani (Conference Coordinator), Texas Transportation Institute
- Gina Baas, Center for Transportation Studies, University of Minnesota
- Linda Cherrington, Texas Transportation Institute
- Suzie Edrington, Texas Transportation Institute
- Shawn Turner, Texas Transportation Institute

The planning committee conducted background research and participated in regular conference calls during the planning stages. In January 2011, the conference dates and location was finalized, as September 7–8, 2011, in Austin, Texas. The conference's official title was finalized as "Conference on Performance Measures for Transportation and Livable Communities."

Session Development, Publicity, and Outreach

A call for abstracts was issued in January 2011, and included with a "save the date" flyer distributed at the 2011 TRB Annual Meeting held in Washington, D.C. This flyer and call for abstracts were also distributed electronically to committees and email lists by the conference planning committee members. A website was also set up for the conference, at <http://utcm.tamu.edu/livabilityconference/>.

After reviewing and organizing the abstracts received, the conference planning committee finalized the program, and invited additional speakers and session moderators. In addition to an opening session, a general session, and luncheon speakers, the conference included 10 breakout sessions, as listed below:

- Sustainability, Livability, Planning, and Policy Performance Measures
- Urban and Rural Livable Communities
- Transportation Performance Measures for Communities of all Sizes, Shapes, and Forms
- Land Use, Social Justice, and Environmental Performance Measures
- Livable Communities and Transit Performance Measures
- Access to Destinations Performance Measures
- Freight, Economic Development, and Return on Investment Livability Performance Measures
- FTA Livability Performance Measures Projects
- State, MPO, and Local Examples
- Bicycle and Pedestrian Performance Measures

The detailed final conference program is provided in Appendix A. Once the conference program was finalized and available on the conference website, and conference registration was open, the conference planning committee conducted further publicity and outreach activities at various conferences and meetings, and through mailing lists. The conference was also listed on TRB's website and newsletters, giving it visibility to interested participants.

Logistics and Registration

TTI's Event Management and Planning (EMP) staff was in charge of identifying the venue and organizing the conference logistics. The Omni Hotel in downtown Austin was identified as the venue, and the EMP staff worked with the hotel to reserve a room block for participants, and take care of catering and audio visual needs. EMP set up a conference registration website linked to the main conference website, to handle the registration process.

The funds provided by UTCM were used for staff salaries (for planning and attending the conference), travel for TTI staff, and incidentals such as printing of flyers, etc.

A registration fee was therefore collected from participants to cover costs of food and the location. Reduced registration rates were provided for speakers, moderators, students, and higher registration fees were collected from late and on-site registrants. Complimentary registration was also provided to conference planning committee members and selected participants. A total of 135 participants registered for the conference (list of participants is provided in Appendix B) and brought in \$25,525 in revenue. An amount of approximately \$6,000 was generated as program income for UTCM, after offsetting the revenues by the expenditures incurred.

CHAPTER 3: CONCLUSIONS AND FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES

The UTCM-sponsored Conference on Performance Measures for Transportation and Livable Communities was successfully conducted on September 7 and September 8, 2011, in Austin, Texas. The conference was co-sponsored by CTS and TRB, and had a diverse and well-balanced program with participation from federal agencies (such as the Federal Highway Administration, the US Department of Transportation, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Federal Transit Administration, the Department for Housing and Urban Development), state and local agencies in Texas and elsewhere (such as the Texas Department of Transportation, the Houston-Galveston Area Council, the North Central Texas Council of Governments, Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization), university-based researchers and university transportation centers, as well as private consultants. The conference agenda consisted of plenary and breakout sessions, covering a range of topics (Appendix A), and the list of 135 conference attendees is provided in Appendix B.

All the conference presentations and speaker bios were posted on the conference website. The conference planning committee members also published a comprehensive conference proceedings document, which is available for download at this link: http://utcm.tamu.edu/LivabilityConference/proceedings/documents/Conference_Summary.pdf, Links to this material were sent to all conference participants, as well as circulated among other email lists and interest groups. The conference planning committee received very positive feedback at the conclusion of this event and will investigate potential for a follow-up conference or other activities in the next few years. In the meanwhile, TTI researchers involved in this conference have used the opportunity to further their participation in livability-related initiatives through TRB and other venues.

APPENDIX A: FINAL CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Wednesday, September 7

7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Registration

7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

Continental Breakfast

8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Opening Session

Moderator – Katie Turnbull, Texas Transportation Institute

Conference Welcome and Overview, Katie Turnbull, Texas Transportation Institute

Livable Communities: The Critical Role of Performance Measures from Concept to Implementation, Robert C. Johns, Associate Administrator and Director, Volpe National Transportation Systems Center

Federal Highway Administration and Livable Communities, Jim Thorne, Federal Highway Administration

10:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

Break

10:15 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

General Session

Moderator – Laurie McGinnis, Center for Transportation Studies, University of Minnesota

Federal Transit Administration and Livable Communities, Keith Gates, Federal Transit Administration

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Guide to Sustainable Transportation Performance Measures, Christopher Forinash, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and The Sustainable Partnership, Mark Brezina, Department of Housing and Urban Development, Fort Worth

12:00 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.

Luncheon

Introduction – Linda Watson, President/CEO, Capital Metropolitan Transportation Authority

Speaker – Texas State Senator Kirk Watson

1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Breakout Sessions

Complete Streets Performance Measures

Moderator – Fred Dock, City of Pasadena, California

Principles for Measuring and Understanding Livability to Guide Transportation Planning and Design Decisions, Bruce Appleyard, University of Utah

Washington State Main Street Highways Initiative, Paula Reeves, Washington State Department of Transportation

Performance Measurement of Contact Sensitive Solutions (CSS) in Urban Thoroughfare Design, Brian Bochner and Beverly Storey, Texas Transportation Institute

Sustainability, Livability, Planning, and Policy Performance Measures

Moderator – Antoinette Quagliata, Federal Transit Administration

NCHRP Project on Sustainability Performance Measures, Joe Zietsman, Texas Transportation Institute

Oregon Statewide Project, Mariah Vanzerr, CH2M Hill

Planning for Sustainability at a Regional Scale, Carissa Schively Slotterback, Humphrey School of Public Affairs, University of Minnesota

Performance Measures or Indicators: Methods for Evaluating Transportation Policy Effectiveness, David Hitchcock and Jennifer Ronk, Houston Advanced Research Center

Urban and Rural Livable Communities

Moderator – Tim Lomax, Texas Transportation Institute

Livability and Scenic Byways: An Exploration and Opportunity for Measurement, Brigid Tuck, Center for Tourism, University of Minnesota

Measuring Livability in Small Urban and Rural Communities with Disaggregate Data, Nathan Belz and Lance Jennings, Transportation Research Center, University of Vermont

An Evaluation of Automobile Use, Parking Provision, and Urban Activity, Christopher McCahill and Norman Garrick, University of Connecticut

Sustainability Performance Measures for El Paso's Transit Corridors, Tara Ramani, Texas Transportation Institute

3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Breakout Sessions

Transportation Performance Measures for Communities of all Sizes, Shapes, and Forms

Moderator – Maulik Vaishnav, Arup

New Tools for Measuring Livability, Jeff Taebel, Houston-Galveston Area Council

Targeted Transportation Programs for Livable Communities: Lessons from Three Pennsylvania Programs, Mark Stout, Consultant

Learning about Transportation-Related Livability: A Mixed-Methods Approach, Ingrid Schneider, Center for Tourism, University of Minnesota

Achieving Livability through Effective Transportation Planning, Kirk Fauver, Federal Highway Administration

Land Use, Social Justice, and Environmental Performance Measures

Moderator – Lucy Galbraith, Capital Area Metropolitan Transportation Authority

Measuring Transportation's Role in Supporting Quality of Life and Livable Communities, Chad McKeown, North Central Texas Council of Governments

Social Equity Impact Assessment, Marc Brenman, Social Justice Consultancy

Transportation, Sustainability, and Urbanization, Jason Zheng, University of Connecticut

On Modeling the Travel Behavior – GHG Emissions Linkage, Chandra Bhat, University of Texas at Austin

Livable Communities and Transit Performance Measures

Moderator – Kartik Sribarra, Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

FasTracks Quality of Life Study: Measuring the Effects of Implementing Rapid Transit, Genevieve Hutchinson, Regional Transit District, Denver, Colorado

Performance Measures for the New Houston METRO, Kim Slaughter, Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County, Houston, Texas

Using Integrated Data to Measure Performance at TriMet, David Crout, Portland TriMet

More than Lines on a Map: How Capital Metro is Using Performance Measurement to Shape Transit Service, Todd Hemingson, Capital Area Metropolitan Transportation Authority

Thursday, September 8

7:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Registration

7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

Continental Breakfast

8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Breakout Sessions

Access to Destinations Performance Measures

Moderator – Gina Baas, Center for Transportation Studies, University of Minnesota

Lowering the Barriers on Performance Measures: An Open Source Approach to Calculating Transit Accessibility, Mike McGurrin, Noblis, Inc.

Access to Destinations Study – Key Findings, Michael Iacono, University of Minnesota

Impact of Light Rail Implementation on Labor Markets Accessibility: A Transportation Equity Perspective, Andrew Guthrie, Humphrey School of Public Affairs, University of Minnesota

Accessibility Ratings of Massachusetts Municipalities, Anna Gartsman and Jessica Casey, Dukakis Center for Urban and Regional Policy

Freight, Economic Development, and Return on Investment Livability Performance Measures

Moderator – John Elias, U.S. Department of Transportation

Freight, Economic, and Global Competitiveness Performance Measures, Katie Turnbull, Texas Transportation Institute

Using Performance Measures/Indicators to Calculate the Triple Bottom Line, Leigh Lane, Center for Transportation and the Environment, North Carolina State University

Parking Policies and Livability, Valerie Knepper, San Francisco Bay Area Metropolitan Transportation Commission

Economic Development and Return on Investment Livability Performance Measures, Kevin Johns, City of Austin

FTA Livability Performance Measures Projects

Moderator – Linda Cherrington, Texas Transportation Institute

Overview of FTA Transit and Livability Performance Measures, Angela Dluger, Federal Transit Administration

Rural Transit Performance Measures, Suzie Edrington, Texas Transportation Institute

Spatial Display of Transit Livability Performance Measures, Martin Catala, Center for Urban Transportation Research

10:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

Break

10:15 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

Breakout Sessions

State, MPO, and Local Examples

Moderator – Sam Seskin, CH2M Hill

Ohio Futures Statewide Plan, Elizabeth Sanford, Cambridge Systematics, Inc.

Transportation Outlook 2040, Tom Gerend, Mid-America Regional Council

Livability Measures in Practice: Case Study Examples, Kevin Tilbury, Gresham, Smith and Partners

Data Points for Measuring Livability in the Austin Area, Betty Voights, Capital Area Council of Governments

Bicycle and Pedestrian Performance Measures

Moderator – Joan Hudson, Texas Transportation Institute

National and International Perspective in Bicycle and Pedestrian Data and Performance Measures, Shawn Turner, Texas Transportation Institute

Roadway Bicycle Compatibility, Livability, and Environmental Justice Performance Measures, Greg Griffin, Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization

Multimodal Arterial Level-of-Service Measures, Bruce Landis, Sprinkle Consulting, Inc.

12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Closing Luncheon

Review of Conference Themes

Moderator - Eric Gleason, Texas Department of Transportation

Joe Zietsman, Texas Transportation Institute

Lynne Bly, Minnesota Department of Transportation

Christopher Forinash, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Open Discussion of Research Needs and Future Activities

2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Tours

Walking Tour of downtown Austin

Tour of commuter rail line and transit oriented development

APPENDIX B: LIST OF CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS

Imad Aleithawe
Mississippi Department of Transportation

Pharr Andrews
City of Austin

Bruce Appleyard
Metropolitan Research Center, University of
Utah

Gina Baas
Center for Transportation Studies,
University of Minnesota

Rich Baldauf
Environmental Protection Agency

Genevieve Bales
Federal Highway Administration

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Kari Banta
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Federal Highway Administration

Chandra Bhat
University of Texas at Austin

Lynne Bly
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Leah Bojo
City of Austin

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The City Project

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Texas A&M University System

Jonathan Brooks
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Jessica Casey
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Gerardo Castillo
Capital Metropolitan Transportation
Authority

Martin Catala
Center for Urban Transportation Research

Linda Cherrington
Texas Transportation Institute

Jay Crossley
Houston Tomorrow

Dave Crout
TriMet

Emily Davis
Department of Defense
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Pima Association of Governments

Angela Dluger
Federal Transit Administration

Fred Dock
City of Pasadena, CA

Christine Eary
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Tim Lomax
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Richard Lopez
Department of Housing and Urban
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Silvia McCollom
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Sam Seskin
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Beverly Storey
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Jeff Taebel
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Linda Watson
Capital Metropolitan Transportation
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Environment

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Texas Transportation Institute/Strategic
Solutions Center

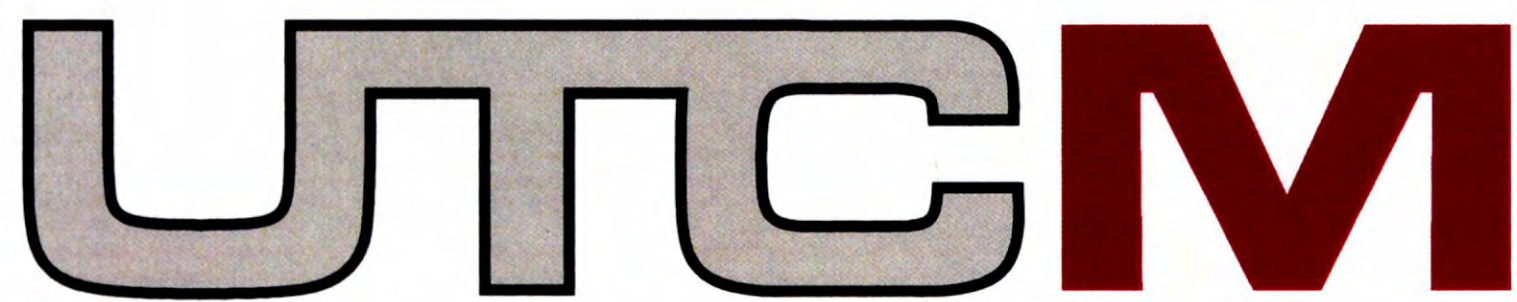
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