Linking Conservation and Transportation Planning

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Agenda

- Day One
  - Transportation Planning
  - Heritage Program
  - State Wildlife Action Plan
  - Conservation initiatives
  - Transportation initiatives
  - Group discussion: Section 6001
- Day Two
  - NatureServe VISTA
  - Quantm
  - Community Viz
  - Environmental Geodatabase
  - STEP-UP
  - Discussion, discussion, 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?

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

Overview

What?

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

Overview

Why?

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

Overview

Why?

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

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

"Proactive, early planning..."

"...incorporate conservation planning as early in the process as possible."

"...incorporate consideration of environmental data early and throughout the entire planning process."

"Do it early!"

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

“Better communication amongst two sides.”

“Sharing data and plans...”

“...developing partnerships because one single group can’t do it all.”

“...coordination with local governments...”

“Interagency cooperation...”

Sharing / Collaborate / Cooperate / Coordinate : 10

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

"A common information system e.g. database to document environmental concerns in planning projects..."

"The development of consistent mapping, data collection and storage..."

"...conversion of all data into GIS format."

"High quality, available and affordable GIS..."

"Develop a routine data update cycle..."

"Easily accessible environmental data."

Data / GIS / Standardization

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

"Increased change in legislation and regulations to promote this integration."

"Remove duplication of efforts in planning and NEPA processes and speed up early NEPA process."

"...consistent interpretation of the regulatory framework..."

"Better analysis of cumulative impacts associated with RFD and access permits by CDOT."

"Guidance from FHWA on the extent such planning efforts can be used in the development of environmental documents."

Legislative / Regulatory

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

"Knowledge and education of those involved..."

"...awareness on the part of land management, resource and transportation agencies...a common understanding..."

"Recognition by all stakeholders that the Colorado public wants both a quality environment with wildlife and an effective transportation system."

"A broader understanding on the part of transportation professionals of ecosystem approaches..."

Education / Awareness

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

"Develop statewide inventories of important natural resources..."

"Information that describes affected ecosystems..."

"The first step is to define what it means."

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

"A regular and committed communication effort between all involved parties."

"...commitment of transportation agency directors...to place emphasis on, and provide human resources for ongoing conservation planning as it relates to transportation planning."

"Commitment on the part of resource agencies to identify (1) 'red flags' early in plan development..."

Commitment: 3

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

"...having even representation throughout the process."

"Make certain that all federal, state and local agencies are represented during the planning process."

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

"Get a system in place, by memoranda of understandi
that fully includes state and federal resource agenc
in the regional transportation planning process.
Develop a routine data update cycle for the resource agencies that meshes with the RTP update process.
Create a GIS tool that allows resource agencies to make comments and suggestions on RTP proposals at appropriate times during the RTP update. Make a place for resource agencies in the MPO decision-making and advisory committee structure."

Most Ambitious

NatureServe
A Network Connecting Science With Conservation
U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration
DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE