Scenario Planning Perspectives (1) from Utah

MARC Scenario Planning Workshop

Ted Knowlton, WFRC
January 31, 2017
“A vibrant, walkable community that offers a healthy mix of homes, shops, businesses, trails and parks”
Group of Layton residents challenge plans for West Layton Village

Referendum Results

- For 48%
- Against: 52%

“an urban nightmare of crime, pollution, traffic jams, overburdened schools, the loss of family farms and the end of the area's rural feel”
Traditional Planning Approach

Decide – through analysis and research
Educate – the public about the solution
Announce – the plan
Defend – the plan and yourself
Traditional Planning Approach
West Layton Village Impacts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LOCAL</th>
<th>REGIONAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Change from the norm</td>
<td>Housing affordability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local traffic</td>
<td>Lower driving distances</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School impacts</td>
<td>Cleaner air</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People not like us?</td>
<td>Transit supportiveness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Places to shop</td>
<td>Less impact on farmland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lifecycle housing</td>
<td>Reduced Greenhouse Gases</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Discussion that informed voting
Utah Faced Serious Challenges in 1997

• A million new residents by 2020
• Air quality problems
• New water sources needed
• Infrastructure needs outstripping resources
• Founded in 1997
• Nonprofit, nonpartisan, voluntary
• Partnership of business, government, & community
The Premise of Envision Utah

• The “public” has the right to choose its future—public officials should serve that vision

• The “public” will make good choices if presented with real options
Scenarios used to explore long-term, regional implications
### Implications of each scenario...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Scenario A</th>
<th>Scenario B</th>
<th>Scenario C</th>
<th>Scenario D</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agricultural Land Consumed: 1998 - 2020</td>
<td>174 sq mi</td>
<td>143 sq mi</td>
<td>65 sq mi</td>
<td>43 sq mi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infrastructure Cost 1998-2020 (Transportation, water, sewer, utilities)</td>
<td>$38 billion</td>
<td>$30 billion</td>
<td>$22 billion</td>
<td>$23 billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single Family Homes vs. Condos, Apts, &amp; Townhomes</td>
<td>SF 77% Condos, etc. 23%</td>
<td>SF 75% Condos, etc. 25%</td>
<td>SF 68% Condos, etc. 32%</td>
<td>SF 62% Condos, etc. 38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation Choices</td>
<td>![Car]</td>
<td>![Bus]</td>
<td>![Bicycle]</td>
<td>![Bus]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walkable Communities (Walk to work, stores, school, transit)</td>
<td>![Person]</td>
<td>![Person]</td>
<td>![Person]</td>
<td>![Person]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
BROAD PUBLIC AWARENESS EFFORTS

Television, Radio and Newspaper
Choosing a Scenario (Weighted vs. Unweighted Results)

Unweighted results (as represented by the black dashed line) are nearly identical to weighted results.
The Vision: “The Quality Growth Strategy”

- Grow inward
- Protect the Wasatch Back
- Build Rail Transit
- Walkable Communities
- Conserve Critical Lands
The Results
FUTURE TRANSIT

- $185 million acquisition
- Purchased 175 miles of rail right-of-way
- Created nine future transit corridors
Average Single Family Lot Size

1998: 0.32 acres
2013: 0.25 acres

22% Decrease

Source: Salt Lake County Assessor 2012, Weber County Assessor 2013, Davis County Assessor 2012, Utah County Assessor 2012, lots <5 acres
Square Miles of Developed Land

Source: National Land Cover Data
Infrastructure Savings

- Capital costs
- Maintenance costs

Because we saved 200 square miles!
25% Decrease

1998
319 Gal. per day

2013
240 Gal. per day

2020
279 Gal. per day

Source: Envision Utah Quality Growth Strategy and Technical Review, Census 2010 SF1 100%, Utah DNR
Envision Utah
How we grow matters.

Neutral  Values  Stakeholders  Scenarios  Public Input  Vision
A process to create lasting change

Neutral Facilitation Stance:

- Present choices and consequences
- Empower participants
- Stand up for the results of the process
Values research
- Why people care
- How to talk about issues
Prominent, Balanced Stakeholders
A process to create lasting change

Use scenarios to ask important questions.
Model potential choices and their outcomes.
Meaningful and Transparent Public Engagement

Public Input
A Vision captures imagination and motivates action

Clear near-term strategies are tied to the vision
Scenario Planning in Utah

**Motivation**

- Create a strongly supported regional vision
- Bridge local actions with the regional vision
## Scenario Planning in Utah

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Motivation</th>
<th>Approach</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Think regionally</td>
<td>Broad, regional scenarios</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Create shared vision</td>
<td>Trust the public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Understand market interactions between infrastructure and</td>
<td>Use model to forecast development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>development</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Explore the fit between Infrastructure and Development</td>
<td>Explore urban design of key corridors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clarify the gap between the vision and local actions</td>
<td>Refined, small area scenarios</td>
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