

Interagency Transportation, Land Use, and Climate Change Pilot Project



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration



Pilot Project Overview

The goal of the Interagency Transportation, Land Use, and Climate Change Pilot Project is to establish a successful and replicable process for integrating climate change mitigation and adaptation measures into a transportation and land use planning strategy. Through federal, state, and local stakeholder coordination, the project will employ a scenario planning exercise to develop and evaluate several potential transportation and land use planning strategies that identify areas suitable for varying levels of growth or preservation based on vulnerability to climate change impacts, such as sea level rise, erosion, and storm related events. The process will also identify opportunities for implementing transportation mitigation measures to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from transportation.

As part of the pilot project, local and regional stakeholders will attend a scenario planning workshop and will develop a preferred transportation and land use scenario for Cape Cod. Among other factors, this preferred scenario will be selected based on its reduction of GHG emissions and adaptation to anticipated climate change impacts. The project team will then draft action plans that will consider how each key agency with jurisdiction in the project area can best incorporate the preferred scenario into its long-range land use and transportation planning processes. The pilot project will also result in guidance for how other regions can use this process to achieve similar results.

What is Scenario Planning?

Scenario planning is an analytical tool that evaluates the performance of a shared vision for the future against a range of internal and external forces. Scenarios are not forecasts or predictions, but agreed-upon possibilities for future conditions. By testing several scenarios against performance indicators, decision-makers can select a preferred scenario and identify an appropriate set of actions that will lead towards this desired vision of future conditions.

Scope and Participation

The study area for the pilot project is defined as Cape Cod, MA, and includes 15 towns, the Cape Cod National Seashore, and the Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge. Local planning, transportation, and environmental stakeholders will be responsible for developing and implementing a preferred development scenario for the region. A Planning Group consisting of federal and regional stakeholders provides oversight and guidance for the project. Planning Group members represent the FHWA, NPS, FWS, EPA, NOAA, FTA, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Defense, and Cape Cod Commission. A Technical Committee of state and local coastal, climate change, and transportation experts provides technical assistance in areas such as sea level rise impacts and transportation mitigation strategies. FHWA, NPS, and FWS are jointly funding the project.

Cape Cod, Barnstable County, MA



The project grew out of the Federal Interagency Working Group on Transportation, Land Use, and Climate Change, which met regularly in 2008 and 2009. Established by the FHWA and comprised of more than a dozen federal agencies, the purpose of the working group was to identify opportunities to align federal programs and resources to support stakeholders in achieving GHG reduction through transportation and land use planning decisions.