



10th Annual Smart Growth Conference

- Regional Collaboration: Investing in Sustainable Communities
- Approximately 400 Attendees
- Federal perspective on sustainable community development
- State perspective on needs and opportunity
- Facilitated session input for SPC plan update
 - Six Questions
 - Demographic Questionnaire



Question #1

We heard from a number of speakers about the importance of walkable communities. In Pennsylvania land use regulations are local. What can all of us do to promote walkable design across regional, county and local planning?

- Promote walkable design
- Incentive projects/investments that meet walkability guidelines
- Create more pedestrian destinations
- Sidewalks
- Education, incentives, ordinances, zoning codes
- Trails
- Maintenance funding



Question #2

We heard about breaking down silos or integrating housing, transportation, environment, and land use, policy and program. What type of projects or programs would you like to see in this region to take advantage of this new direction?

- Promote Transit Investment Districts (TRID)/Transit Oriented Development
- Tie projects to comprehensive plan and funding
- Create more pedestrian destinations
- Retrofit/redevelop existing communities
- Promote neighborhood/community cooperation
- Involve municipalities with SPC and planning efforts



Question #3

We heard from EPA about future research into funding possibilities for the needed infrastructure to achieve sustainable urban infrastructure.

What innovative methods could be used to promote infrastructure investments in areas like transit, water, storm water, roads, bridges and housing rehab?

- Partnerships at local level as well as federal level
- Think corridors more than projects.
 - Coordinate projects across departments in corridors
- Take all the tax revenues generated from Marcellus Shale and put that money into infrastructure improvements
- Tax credits for donating land for open space; change TIF policy to support green infrastructure
- Consolidate municipal bond issues
- Location efficient mortgages for housing



Question #4

We heard discussion concerning some of the various issues surrounding Marcellus Shale. What can we do to ensure the benefits while mitigating any negative short and long term community impacts?

- Legal, regulatory, and financial, regulations that encourages responsible development
- Education and communication; enforcing regulations and monitoring
- Moratorium until studies are completed
- Identify and attribute real costs
- Develop state policies based on input from locals
- Treat drilling as industrial land use
- Encourage more wells on public lands and right of way to recapture the revenue for public needs



Question #5

We heard about the importance of community engagement, particularly reaching out to the historically disenfranchised populations. How can we effectively involve more people who cannot come to great meetings like the 2010 Smart Growth Conference?

- Public Access TV
- Connect better with “indigenous” leaders at the neighborhood level
- Get feedback and follow-up
- Conduct grade school programs so that kids take message back to parents
- Social media ads & surveys
- Go to them instead of them coming to you
- Piggy-back meetings onto other local events
- Finally realize “maybe some people are just not interested and don’t care”



Question #6

We heard a lot of information about policies and strategies to help achieve a sustainable, livable future for Southwestern Pennsylvania. How would you measure success for our region?

- Revenue & expenses for infrastructure
- Stable, predictable funding for transit
- Housing affordability
- Economic prosperity
- % of communities with sidewalk ordinances
- Population increase
- Reduction in Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT)
- Implementation of neighborhood/community cooperation programs
- Healthy population
- Decrease energy consumption
- Equity (in wealth & power), regional unity, local self-reliance, safety