

Performance-based Planning



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Performance-based planning requires an integrated, performance-based transportation and land-use plan that serves as a guide for long-term investment.

Over 80 cities and towns across the U.S. use performance-based planning to chart smart futures, connecting growth with transportation investments and the environment on a regional basis. It looks at factors such as land use patterns, density, and urban form to find innovative solutions to challenges such as housing, carbon emissions reductions, agriculture preservation, and regional economic development.

Transportation Authorization Bill

The next authorization should require States and metropolitan regions over one million in population to develop and adopt an integrated, performance-based plan for land use and transportation planning. These plans should cover a 20-year timeframe, replacing any existing long-range transportation plans, and demonstrate how proposed transportation plans will be coordinated with land use strategies to achieve national performance targets. Regional performance-based plans will grant MPOs direct project selection and contract authority of federal transportation formula funds, resulting in accelerated project delivery. Smaller regions (MPOs under 1 million in size) can choose to opt-in to the performance-based program to access direct project selection authority.

The Benefits to Towns and Cities

- » **Provides a framework and process for understanding** the many complex issues that surround regional growth.
- » **Builds regional consensus** by giving communities and the public the capacity and opportunity to actively participate in the planning process.
- » **Uses data tools and techniques to assess the impact** of transportation and other public policy choices on a community, and visually map the results, making the effects of potential scenarios easy to comprehend.
- » **Recognizes the impact of tradeoffs** among achieving competing goals in a fiscally constrained environment.



Want to find out more about Performance-based Planning?

Here are some great resources on how your community can get started:

t4america.org

See our resources section for informational toolkits

AASHTO

See performance management resources section for informational toolkits

NCHRP

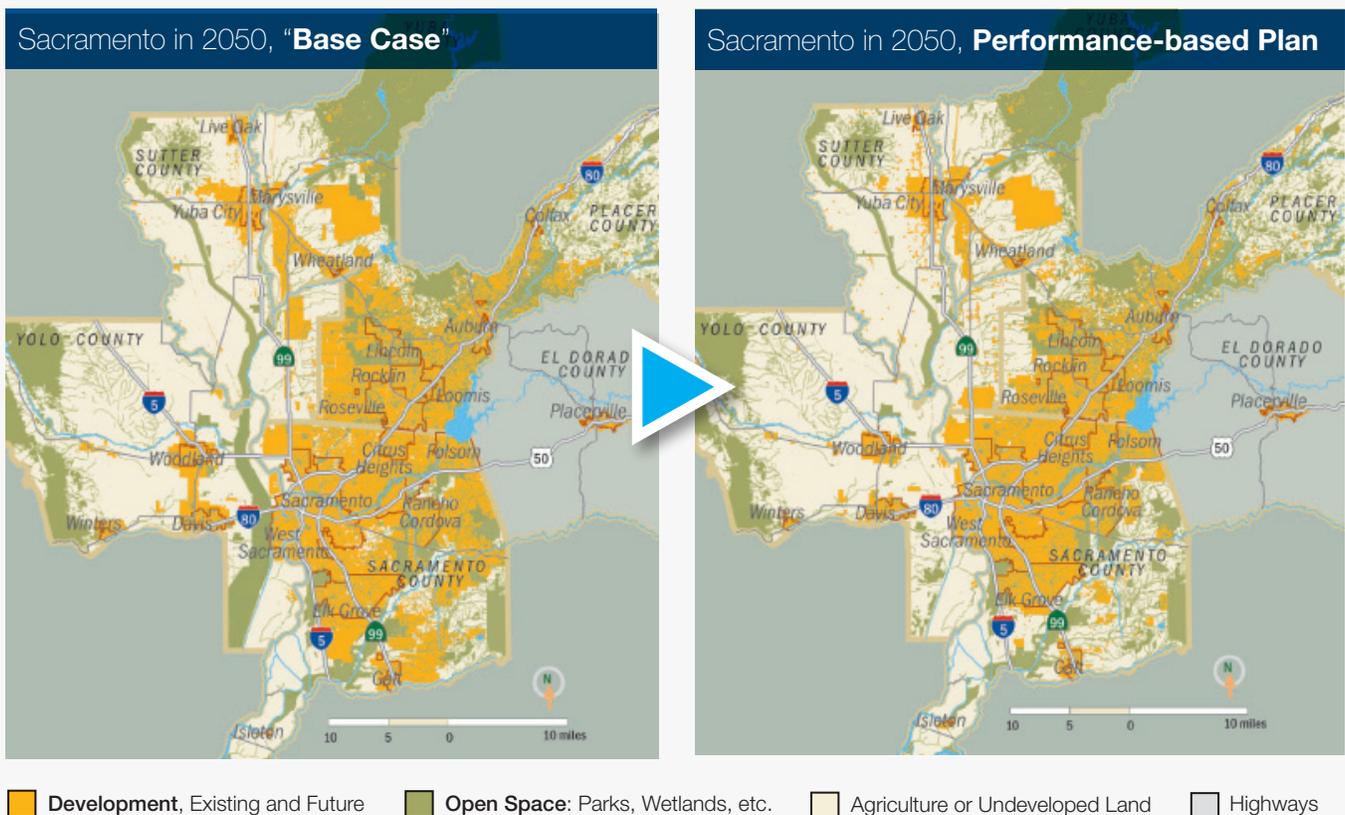
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How Does it Work?

- **Identify performance goals** for the region, based on the major forces of change like planned transportation investments, population growth, and land development.
- **Create a set of scenarios** that looks at how the adoption of different sets of policies and investments will affect regional quality-of-life, including environmental impacts, affordability, water quality, public infrastructure expenditures, and congestion.
- **Analyze the implications of different scenarios** using geographic visualization tools. Mapping the scenario data helps the public and decision-makers understand the potential impacts.
- **Provide the public, decision-makers, and city planners with opportunities to evaluate** each scenario by comparing indicators relating to land use, transportation, demographics, environment, economics, technology, and other driving forces.
- **Monitor progress.** Performance-based planning is an ongoing process. Real growth patterns need to be compared with which set of policies and investments are selected to ensure performance goals are met.

Case Study: More Open Space in Sacramento



If the two maps above appear similar at first glance, a close inspection reveals the “Base Case” scenario on the left urbanizing 166 square miles of agricultural land, with sprawling development across Sacramento’s urban fringes: eating up farmland and necessitating more driving to get from place-to-place. The preferred Performance-based plan by comparison urbanizes 102 square miles of farmland, shows more compact land use, and reflects a smarter, more diversified transportation infrastructure.