



Niagara Communities Comprehensive Plan

Stakeholder Communities Plan Steering Committee Meeting #2 Detailed Agenda March 26, 2008

Topic - Land Use & Environment

I. Introduction of Topic, Maps & Instructions (15 minutes)

Break out sessions will involve dividing the municipalities within the County into five (5) planning sub-region discussion groups. CHA will provide the list of municipalities in each group. Each group will include about 3 or 4 stakeholder community representatives and varying numbers (ideally about 8-10) of other stakeholder groups invited to participate in the discussions.

Each group will assign a leader, a note taker, and a spokesperson. Leaders will be responsible for making sure that the discussion stays on topic and schedule. CHA will facilitate each group's discussions. Note takers need to accurately reflect what is discussed in the group and will be responsible for the lists described below. A spokesperson will be asked at the conclusion of both breakout sessions to summarize what was discussed and concluded in each group.

II. Break-out Session One (total for this session 25 minutes)

Discussion Question #1 (20 minutes)

*Based on your experiences and knowledge of your community what do you consider to be the most pressing **land use/transportation issue or challenge** facing your community today? Do not consider your sub-region at this time, only your community and refer to some consideration points below to help with the discussion. We are considering land use and transportation together because they are interrelated topics. Decisions on land use influence transportation needs and decisions on where to invest in roads and transit affect future land use patterns.*

Each group should provide the following:

- Create an overall list of the issues and challenges identified by your group.
- Identify the top three issues and challenges as voted on by your group that represent shared issues or challenges with other communities in your planning sub-region.

Some Points to Consider

1. Think about recent changes in land use patterns, development projects, and community character by considering different types of land use categories in your community: Agriculture, Residential, Commercial, Industrial, Institutional, Open Space and Recreation, Vacant. Refer to the Existing Land Use Map. What do you see happening in your community?
2. Think about what types of transportation services are provided in your community (public roads, public transportation, access to multimodal transportation, etc.), and if there have been significant changes in transportation services or in public access to those services in recent years. Under transportation, consider conditions and capacities for pedestrian, bicycling, personal auto, bus, heavy truck, train, air, and marine uses.
3. Does the character of your community differ from neighboring communities? In what way?
4. How would you best describe your community as it now exists:
 - Developed: built-out with virtually no “greenfield” development potential
 - Developing: a mix of established and emerging development
 - Redeveloping: e.g., re-use of formerly vacant properties
 - Undeveloped: e.g., agricultural areas are not being developed
5. How would you best characterize your community as it now exists – urban, suburban, or rural?

Discussion Question #2 (5 minutes)

*What is the most significant **land use/transportation asset or opportunity** that currently exists in your community? Again, do not consider your sub-region at this time, only your community and consider the same points above.*

Each group should provide the following:

- Create an overall list of the assets and opportunities identified by your group.
- Identify the top three assets and opportunities as voted on by your group that represent shared assets and opportunities with the other communities in your planning sub-region.

III. Ten Minute Break

IV. Break-out Session Two (total for this session 25 minutes)

Discussion Question #3 (20 minutes)

*Based on your experiences and knowledge of your community what do you consider to be the most pressing **environmental issue or challenge** facing your community today? Do not consider your sub-region at this time, only your community and refer to some consideration points below to help with the discussion.*

Some Points to Consider

1. Think about the different natural features of your community such as its waterways, floodplains, open space areas, wetlands, wildlife and wildlife habitats, and scenic views. Refer to the Environmental Features Map. Have any of these features changed recently? In what ways?
2. Does your community provide access to natural areas, scenic views, parks and open space? In what ways?
3. Have any actions been taken to protect environmental features in your community? Have any actions jeopardized environmental features?
4. Are the environmental features in your community an important part of your everyday life? In what ways?

Each group should provide the following:

- Create an overall list of issues and challenges identified by your group.
- Identify the top three issues and challenges as voted on by your group that represent shared issues or challenges with other communities in your planning sub-region.

Discussion Question #4 (5 minutes)

*What is the most significant **environmental asset or opportunity** for the future that currently exists in your community? Again, do not consider your sub-region at this time, only your community and consider the same points above.*

Each group should provide the following:

- Create an overall list of assets and opportunities identified by your group.
- Identify the top three assets and opportunities as voted on by your group that represent shared assets and opportunities with the other communities in your planning sub-region.

V. Reconvene as a Group to Summarize Discussions (45 minutes)

The Plan Steering Committee members and invited stakeholders will reconvene at the end of the second breakout session. Each of the five groups will be asked to provide a summary of their discussions, conclusions reached, and the lists of issues and opportunities each created. After each group has summarized their discussions, the Steering Committee members and stakeholders will discuss the common issues and opportunities among the communities and the five planning sub-regions.