

MONTANA TRANSPORTATION AND LAND USE RESOURCES FOR GROWING COMMUNITIES

The Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) has published an on-line set of resources, Montana Transportation and Land Use Resources for Growing Communities, which can be accessed at:

<http://www.mdt.mt.gov/research/toolkit/>.

This site is a guide to off-the-shelf policies, practices, analytic methods, data sources, and software to assist communities coordinate transportation and land use planning. Successful transportation and land use applications are illustrated in communities throughout Montana and similar states by a series of examples and cross-cutting case studies.

Tools and examples can be accessed by category or a “How do I?” list of typical questions and situations faced by local planners as they seek to coordinate land use and transportation planning. “How do I...” topics cover a range of practical problems, such as:

- Funding transportation improvements;
- Assessing and mitigating the impacts of new development; and
- Coordinating plans with other agencies and stakeholders.

Resources for Growing Communities also links users to national and state-level transportation planning resources.

How Can these Resources Help Me?

Through explanations, examples, and links to other resources, Resources for Growing Communities illustrates how other local communities have approached transportation and land use issues faced by small, growing cities and counties. Whether you are looking for general ideas on how to begin approaching transportation and land use coordination, or specific analysis and policy ideas, this set of resources should be your first stop.

Each tool includes a summary “dashboard” indicating the types of communities for which a tool is most applicable and gauges the tools’ cost and complexity.

The dashboard is joined with more detailed information that provides an overview of each tool, who can most benefit from using the tool, keys to success and potential pitfalls, examples of tool usage in other communities, and suggestions on how to get started and where to turn for additional information.



THIS STRATEGY IS USEFUL FOR:

- Urban, suburban, and rural communities.
- Fast-growing and declining communities.
- Rural areas.

COST



COMPLEXITY

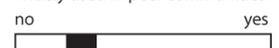


MONTANA APPLICABILITY

Widely used in Montana?



Widely used in peer communities?



Required? No
Statute(s): N/A



Images courtesy of www.city-data.com

How Were the On-Line Resources Developed?

This site is the result of 18 months of research into best and promising practices in local land use and transportation planning that sought to identify current resources and strategies useful in small and growing communities. The effort was advised by local planners and policy specialists. The research focused on critical problems of:

- Development and extension of local street networks;
- Local transportation system financing;
- Assessment of development impacts of local and state roads; and
- Directions for multimodal and transit development.

Where Can I Get More Information?

The Montana Transportation and Land Use Resources for Growing Communities can be accessed at:

<http://www.mdt.mt.gov/research/toolkit/>.

Further information on the Transportation and Land Use research project, including project reports and a video overview of the toolkit, are available from MDT's Research web site at:

http://www.mdt.mt.gov/research/projects/planning/smart_trans.shtml.

We welcome ideas and feedback about how to improve these resources. Comments can be sent using the "Contact Us" form at <http://www.mdt.mt.gov/research/toolkit/>, or by sending an e-mail to mdtcommres@mt.gov.

