



Los Angeles County
Metropolitan Transportation Authority



Sustainable Communities Planning Framework

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Sustainable Communities Planning Framework

Establishing a framework for embedding sustainability throughout Metro's functions, using a Triple Bottom Line approach that recognizes its social, economic and environmental dimensions.



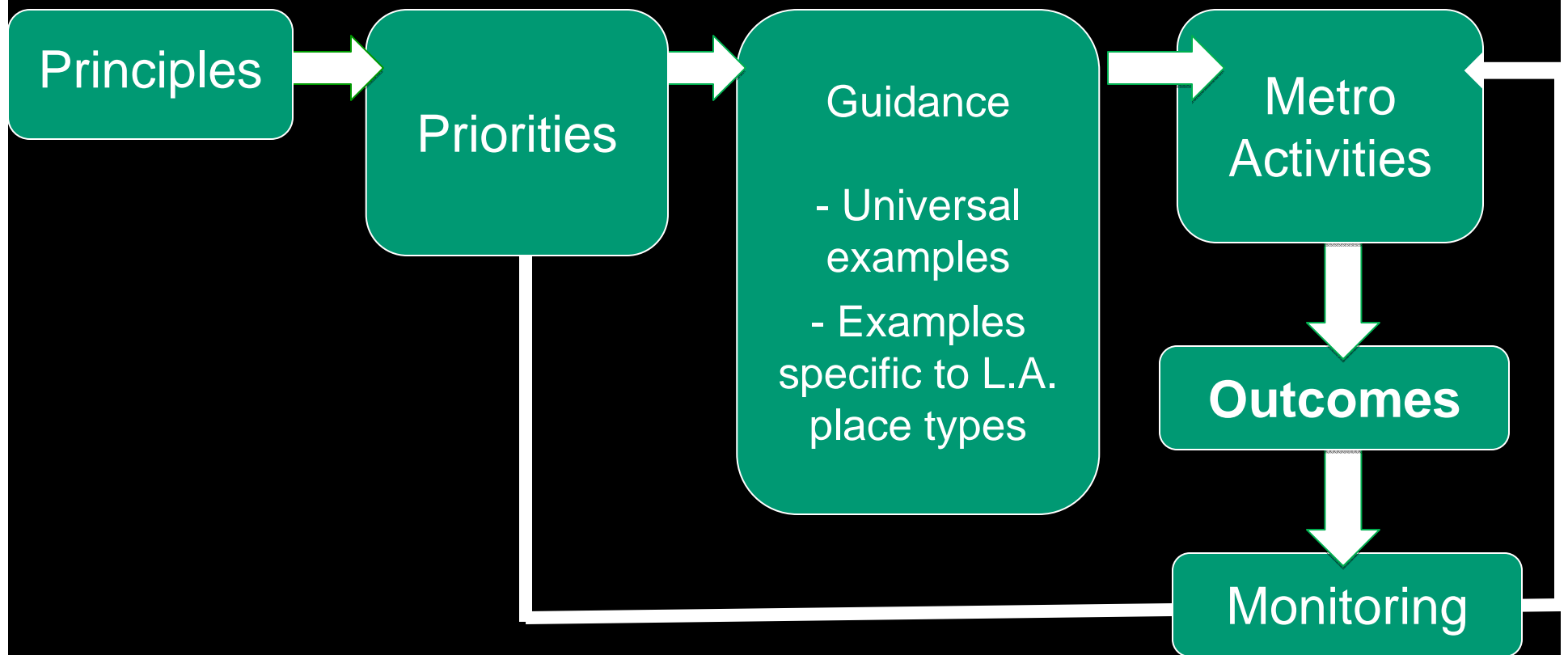
Defining the Opportunity

- Metro influences the travel choices and experience of more than 10 million people living, working, playing or just passing through the region.
- Transportation infrastructure is a defining element of every community; it has a large physical footprint, shapes development patterns, and has significant impacts on natural ecosystems.
- Metro employs 8783 people, working at 35 facilities; operates more than 2,000 buses on 200 routes and 275 rail cars on five lines serving 70 stations; and more...

Purpose of Framework

- To drive Metro's overall direction
- To inspire project design, creativity, and innovation
- To guide and communicate agency policy
- To serve as a basis for soliciting and evaluating proposals

Framework Components



CalTrans Smart Mobility Framework

Compact Communities

Smart Mobility Framework

Compact communities offer the Smart Mobility benefits associated with a strong presence of Community Design elements, but without the benefits of regional accessibility that are created by central location in a metropolitan region. Many Smart Mobility benefits can be achieved in compact communities. However, because these places are either outside of or peripheral to metropolitan regions, as well as being small concentrations of activity when compared to major urban cores, prospects for increased transit use and other benefits of regional accessibility are limited. Nonetheless, Community Design elements such as compact development form, land use mix, relatively high densities, and centrally-located public institutions create efficiencies and opportunities for walk and bike trips to be important modes and for average vehicle trip length to be shortened. Particularly in areas with nearby large employment centers, rideshare may be an important Smart Mobility mode, and its share may exceed transit share for commute trips.

Location efficiency is often higher in compact communities than in surrounding areas, which may be rural or agricultural lands or isolated suburban communities. The priority is on maintaining transportation facilities and services that contribute to location efficiency, and integrating those with supporting development features. Increased development footprint should be avoided unless there is significant population or economic growth that justifies urban expansion.

Reliability is provided through convenient walk and bike trips, and is likely to be a priority for transit operations given the fact that these areas typically cannot support high service frequency.



The historic character that adds uniqueness to many of the state's compact communities makes compatibility of facilities with their surroundings particularly important. Stewardship of natural resources and agricultural production capacity calls for carefully planning any outward growth, and maintaining a compact development footprint.

Planning

Key Activities:

- Designate areas where there are opportunities to increase location efficiency through an emphasis on location-efficient community design elements and on providing a range of multi-modal transportation facilities and services.
- Designate areas that will evolve to become compact communities. These will typically be either (1) suburban communities, corridors and centers outside of or peripheral to metropolitan regions, or (2) rural settlements appropriate for future urbanization.

Applying the Smart Mobility Framework to Place Types

Transportation Projects and Programs

Likely priorities in compact communities:

- Pedestrian facilities with high amenity levels. (Health and Safety, Location Efficiency, Social Equity, Reliable Mobility)
- Extensive network of bicycle facilities; bike sharing programs. (Health and Safety, Location Efficiency, Social Equity, Reliable Mobility)
- Projects providing service, facility, and connectivity improvements to provide an equivalent level of activity connectedness to all population groups and all location-efficient places. (Social Equity, Reliable Mobility)
- Convenient opportunities for multi-modal transfers and transit transfers. (Reliable Mobility, Location Efficiency)
- High degree of design compatibility for all facilities. (Environmental Stewardship)
- Ongoing re-investment in existing roadway facilities to protect asset value. (Robust Economy)
- Allocation of street space to benefit fronting land uses and non-motorized modes ("complete streets")—e.g. road diets that reduce the number of through travel lanes and other cross section changes. (Robust Economy, Environmental Stewardship, Health and Safety)

Implementation: Development and Conservation Projects and Programs

Likely priorities in compact communities:

- Moderate-to-high density mixed-use development. (Location Efficiency)
- Mixed-income housing in highly-accessible locations. (Social Equity, Location Efficiency)
- Cultural, medical, and educational destinations in locations with excellent activity connectedness. (Location Efficiency)
- Public services including schools and parks in highly-accessible locations (Location Efficiency)
- Appropriate design character for all development in this place type. (Environmental Stewardship)

Compact Communities





CTOD Performance Based Place Types

Low-Moderate VMT, Residential Place

Low-Moderate VMT (9,100 - 11,600 miles per household per year)
Residential Neighborhood (0 - 33% jobs/jobs+residents)

Vermont / Santa Monica
Los Angeles, CA

What factors can lower VMT in Vermont / Santa Monica?

Metric	Vermont / Santa Monica	Compared to Normative Metric
Average Block Size	6.6 acres/block	
Residential Density	19 units/acre	
Employment Proximity*	127,000 jobs nearby	
Transit Access Index*	21 opportunities	

Higher VMT
→
Lower VMT

Lower than norm
Higher than norm

Sustainable Communities

Metro Responsibility

Sustainability Principle

Mobility – services and programs



Connect people and places

Infrastructure & Assets



Create community value

Business Practices



Conserve by doing more with less

Sustainable Communities: Preliminary Principles

Principle	Society	Economy	Environment
Connect	Access	Prosperity	Green Modes

Connect People and Places: **Priorities**

Access. Link places to live and work with the county's educational, cultural, visitor, natural, and health care destinations to satisfy Angelenos' need for independent mobility regardless of age, income or physical ability.

Prosperity. Link people to jobs, businesses to their customer base and suppliers, and goods to markets.

Green Modes. Provide a clean regional transportation network that reduces greenhouse gas emissions, threats to public health and dependence on foreign oil.

Sustainable Communities: Preliminary Principles

Principle	Society	Economy	Environment
Connect	Access	Prosperity	Green Modes
Create	Healthy Neighborhoods	Community Revitalization	Urban Greening

Create Community Value : Priorities

Healthy Neighborhoods. Improve public health through traffic safety, personal safety, reduced exposure to pollutants, and walkable design.

Community Revitalization. Design and build transportation facilities that welcome appropriate development intensity and support social and economic activity.

Urban Greening. Bring the presence of nature into urban settings to create environmental value, improve community health, and contribute to placemaking.

Sustainable Communities: Preliminary Principles

Principle	Society	Economy	Environment
Connect	Access	Prosperity	Green Modes
Create	Healthy Neighborhoods	Community Revitalization	Urban Greening
Conserve	Engagement	Innovation	Resource Efficiency

Conserve by Doing More With Less: **Priorities**

Engagement. Implement partnerships to leverage Metro assets, increase public support for Metro, and build Metro's understanding of community priorities.

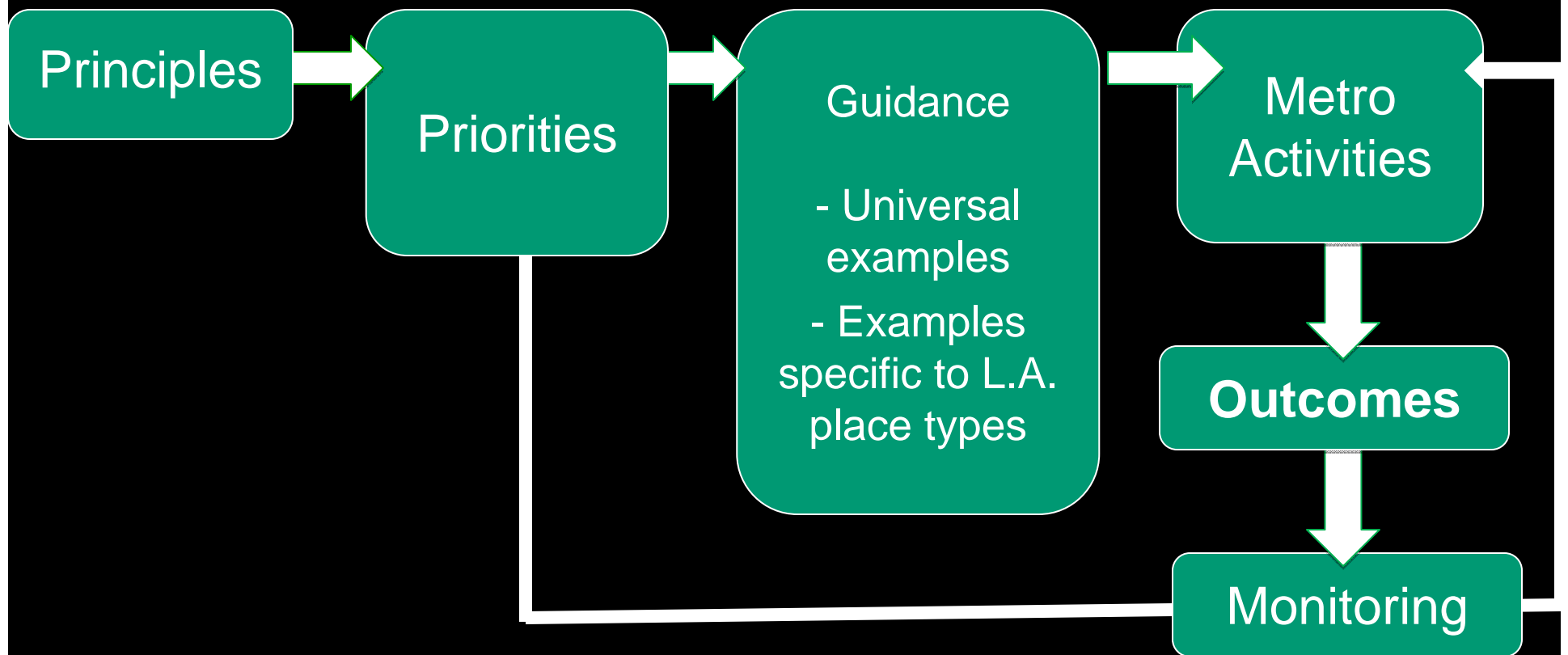
Innovation. Adopt new clean technologies, improving Metro's programs and services and helping to spread innovation.

Resource Efficiency. Reduce material and energy use and increase recycling and environmentally preferable procurement.

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Framework Components



Next Steps: Analysis and Case Studies

- September-October – Performance Indicators, regional spatial analysis, local case studies, best practices
- November-December – Draft Framework and Supporting Tools
- January-February – Final Framework and Supporting Tools



Next Steps: Stakeholder engagement

- October – Workshop 1 & Technical Review
- November Board Report - Draft Framework
- January – Workshop 2
- February Board Report –Final Framework & Supporting Tools

