

10 PRINCIPLES FOR USE IN REDEFINING

TRANSPORTATION EXCELLENCE

1. Well-balanced transportation systems must serve three elements of mobility:
 - Access (local movement);
 - Circulation (movement between nearby neighborhoods and commercial areas); and,
 - Travel (regional and interstate movement).
 Most transportation investment today is too focused on serving high-speed travel at the expense of balanced mobility.
2. A well-connected network of narrow streets provides better mobility and is safer and more efficient than a poorly-connected network of wide streets. The inexorable widening of arterials represents a bad investment.
3. The design of streets should reflect the scale and character of abutting and nearby land uses. It is rarely justifiable to build a street or roadway that detracts from the value of, or forces undesirable changes in, abutting land uses.
4. Traffic forecasting is of limited value in designing streets. Virtually all of the details of street network and facility design should be based on planned community form and desired character of abutting land uses. Basing street design on traffic demand forecasts is self-fulfilling and self-defeating.
5. Public transit systems improve personal travel choices and economic vitality. Flexible mobility is a realistic transit objective; reduced traffic congestion is not. Good transit service increases personal mobility; it generally does not reduce vehicular traffic.
6. High quality walking and bicycling environments enable active living, which improves community and individual health and well being. This represents the largest category of unmet mobility demand in virtually all North American communities.
7. Streets provide the principal infrastructure network for all modes of transportation. Corridor "improvement" projects that ignore the multimodal functions of travel corridors are irresponsible and result in incomplete streets.
8. The most sustainable transportation systems are those that enable families and individuals to minimize daily vehicle miles of travel, while at the same time enabling them to maximize the benefits of personal motor vehicle ownership.
9. Good transportation planning requires the direct, committed and continuing involvement of a broad cross section of empowered community members. This is expensive, time-consuming and difficult. However, it also is essential.
10. Successful development and management of transportation systems requires routine public monitoring and reporting of system performance based on community objectives. Community support for progressive transportation requires unambiguous honesty and accountability about the condition of the transportation system and about the effectiveness of the public's transportation programs.

