

UNSW **Transport Systems 1**Week1: 12th March 2009

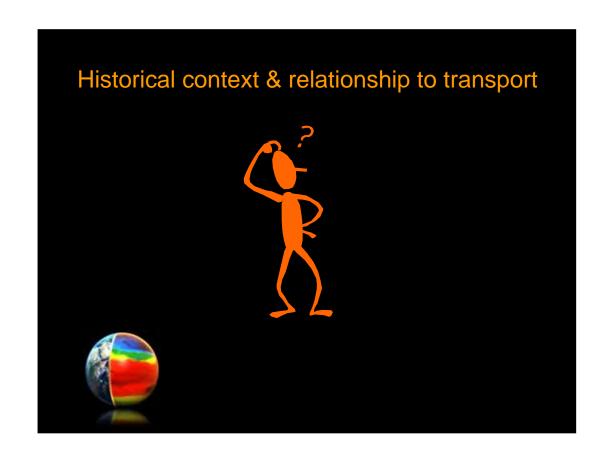
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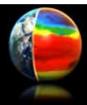
INTRODUCTION - Transport Systems1: The essential meaning of sustainability in the context of transport systems

- Historical context & relationship to transport
- Developing urban & network system requirements
- Optioneering & engaging community
- Principles of sustainability assessment





Definition



- "Sustainability" is the ability to sustain, which means continue or uphold (Macquarie University NSW, 1982).
- Sustainability, can become one of those words which is widely used: we know it to be a worthy societal goal, but no one is too sure of its precise meaning.

Historical context



- Late 1960's, impact of urbanisation and development on the environment >>community concern
- Declaration of the Report of the UN Conference on the Human Environment, Stockholm, 1972
- principles espoused for a sustainable civilisation

By the late 1960's, humanity had begun to realise the impact that urbanisation and development in the post World War Two economic boom was beginning to have on the environment. Increasing community concern leading to the elevation through national levels of government and international discussion and resolutions.

To defend and improve the human environment for present and future generations has become an imperative goal for mankind-a goal to be pursued together with, and in harmony with, the established and fundamental goals of peace and of worldwide economic and social development

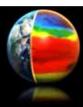
Principle 1:



- Man has the fundamental right to freedom, equality and adequate conditions of life, in an environment of a quality that permits a life of dignity and well-being,
- bears responsibility to protect and improve the environment for present and future generations.

Principle 1: Man has the fundamental right to freedom, equality and adequate conditions of life, in an environment of a quality that permits a life of dignity and well-being, and he bears a solemn responsibility to protect and improve the environment for present and future generations. (p. 1)

Principle 2:



 The natural resources of the earth must be safeguarded for the benefit of present and future generations through careful planning or management

Principle 2: The natural resources of the earth, including the air, water, land, flora and fauna and especially representative samples of natural ecosystems, must be safeguarded for the benefit of present and future generations through careful planning or management, as appropriate. (p. 1)

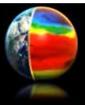
Principle 15:



- Planning must be applied to human settlements and urbanisation with a view to avoiding adverse effects on the environment
- and obtaining maximum social, economic and environmental benefits for all

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More Definition



- a new type of development paradigm was required
- the concept of sustainable development

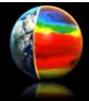
(World Commission on Environment and Development, 1987).

Report "Our Common Future" in 1987 which made it clear that the world's current pattern of economic growth was not sustainable on ecological grounds and that a new type of development paradigm was required to meet the foreseeable human needs

development was often a pattern of rapid depletion of available resources, rapid use of the ecological capacity and an increasing gap in share of the development benefits between the developed and undeveloped world.

The Report introduced the concept of sustainable development, defining it as 'development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs'

More Definition



 economic development, social development and environmental protection are interdependent and mutually reinforcing components of sustainable development

(World Summit on Social Development, 1995 & World Summit on Sustainable Development, 2002).

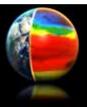
By 1995, at the World Summit on Social Development, in Copenhagen the interrelationship between the economic, social and environmental components of sustainable development were being thoughtfully discussed, coming to this conclusion.

Three interdependent and mutually reinforcing components: economic development, equitable social development and environmental protection (stewardship) became known as the so-called "three E's" of environment, economy and equity. These became the interdependent and mutually reinforcing **pillars** of sustainable development at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg (United Nations, 2002), where Agenda 21 was reaffirmed by member countries.

also known as triple bottom line

The United Nations World Summit for Social Development held at Copenhagen in 1995 identified that the physical sustainability implies a concern for social equity between generations, a concern that must logically be extended to equity within each generation

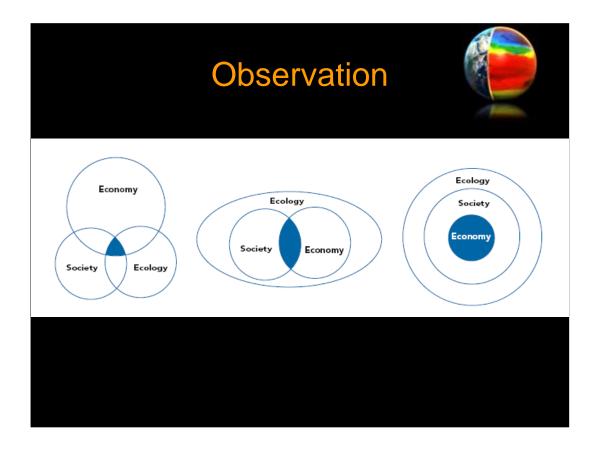
Action



- UN provide broad principles and supporting role
- National governments prime responsibility for leading

The United Nations General Assembly, and United Nations agencies to facilitate sustainable development saw that they needed to provide supportive roles but the effectiveness depends on the actions of national governments, who have the prime responsibilities and were encouraged to lead and set up institutional arrangements that facilitated sustainable development in their own countries.

A particular role and function for the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development is to provide a forum for consideration of issues related to integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development.



The interrelationships between the three pillars of environment, economy and equity in society stimulated various debates in Australia about the relative importance for these pillars and which was the more important pillar.

These figures represent some of the variations in thinking on the equivalence of each of the pillars. For example whether some pillars are more important then others or whether while each pillar is of equal importance, the ecological pillar has absolute constraints providing the framework in which the other pillars need to fit.

The appropriate equivalence may vary with the community and the values that the community holds.

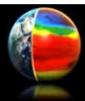
Often the natural and social systems are assumed to be in equilibrium.

However, in practice accumulated changes can result in a vulnerable system where additional change can shift the system into instability.

Resilience in a system instead can provide the system with capability to recover from shocks rather than be brought to a point of vulnerability. Researchers such as Walker and Salt (2006) are endeavouring to understand the existing resilience in natural and social systems.

Understanding these characteristics could define some limits on balancing the three pillars of sustainability.

Summary



 Environment degrading>>Community concern >>national >>>international>>>economic & social equity of response? >> UN define sustainable development>>>3 mutual pillars environment, economy, social equity>>>National governments prime responsibility for leading >>>> integrated approach to the assessment of the three pillars? >>>>continuing

Community concern throughout the developed world over the past thirty five years has lead to the elevation of environmental degradation and social equity concerns to national and international levels. The concept of sustainability has gained popularity through the course of these events and come to be defined in terms of sustainable development, with clear goals of environmental stewardship, social equity and economic efficiency. Action needs to be led at the national level for each country.

A need for a holistic, integrated approach to the assessment of the three pillars of sustainability (environmental stewardship, social equity and economic efficiency) is recognised as a challenge that continues today.

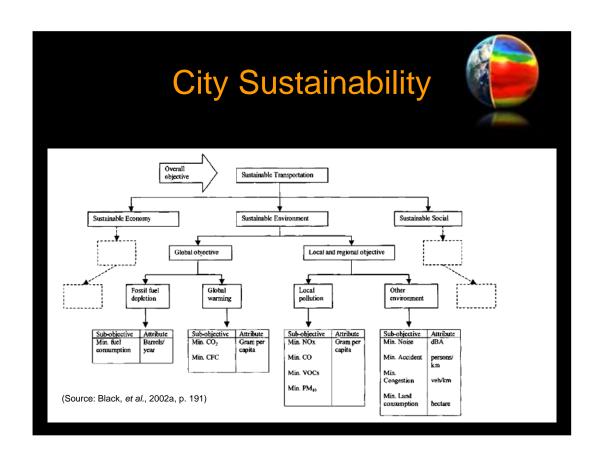
City Sustainability

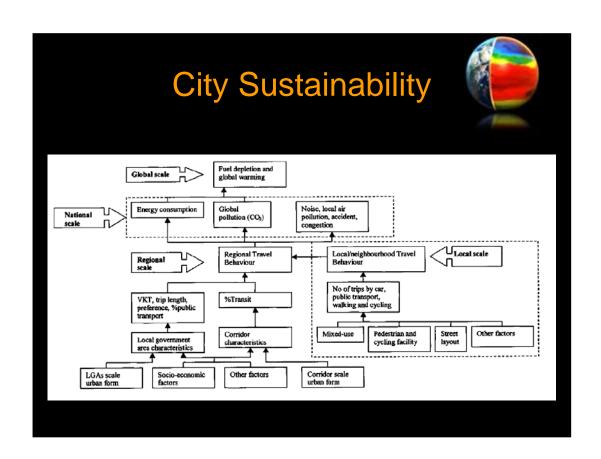


- 2008, > half human population, 3.3 billion people, are living in urban areas
- By 2030, UN forecasts are for the towns and cities of the developing world to make up 81 per cent of urban humanity
- urban form, transport and the interactions with communities

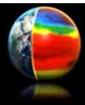
Various United Nations reports emphasise that the world's economic system is increasingly an urban one, providing the backbone for national development. The 1992 United Nation's Agenda 21 identifies that rapidly growing cities, unless well-managed, face major environmental problems.

The centrality of urban form, transport and the interactions with communities, to the question of sustainability in cities, is demonstrated in the responses from governments, non government organisations and the academic researchers over the past 15 years. Governments have initiated various programmes to provide frameworks, requirements, implementation support and methods of monitoring progress towards sustainability. Understanding of interaction between urban form, transport and community has been shown to be essential for meaningful interpretation of performance of the three pillars of sustainability.





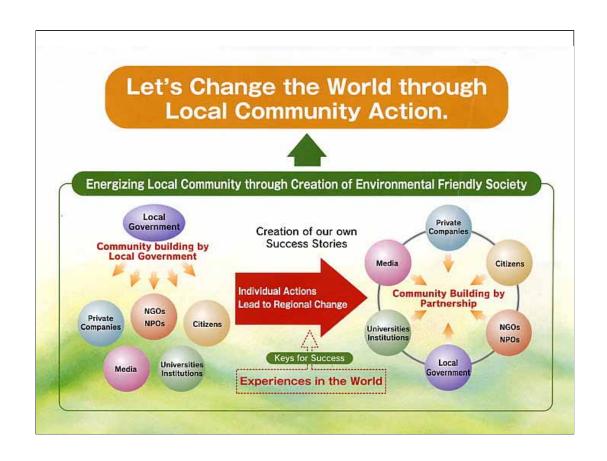
City Sustainability



- Cities must look urgently to the future. The projected expansion of the urban population in Asia and Africa, from 1.7 to 3.4 billion over a period of only 30 years, and the reduced level of available resources, stress the need for a more imaginative but pragmatic response.
- In turn, this will demand a realistic vision for the future, better information at the local and regional level, as well as participatory approaches and negotiated agreements that build on the knowledge and experience of the poor.

(UN 2007 report on the state of the world's population)

The importance of participation between government, non government organisations and local community is seen in the following extract from the United Nations 2007 report on the state of the world's population (http://www.unfpa.org/swp/2007/english /chapter_6/ preparing.html, Jan 2008):



STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION Inquiry by design Agency views Workshop process Futures Forum Sapporo (Japan) strategic transport plan (1000 persons)

Visioning

An example of this is the "Accessible City" strategy (Sydney City Council, 1995). The approach differed from previous strategies by the Council in that it approached the whole transport question from the point of view of accessibility, not as only one of a number of objectives. The first steps were to visualise the city as it should be in terms of ease of access, both moving about within the city and in relation to getting to the city from neighbouring communities and regions. Sydney City Council used accessibility to first shape the city form scenario it perceived the community would like to see, that is to visualise it and only then looked at strategies and programmes to form the framework for the years ahead.

City Sustainability Visions

- Canberra initiative
- "sustainable communities program"
- "to put into effect a planning policy framework for more sustainable living that draws on the inherent qualities of Canberra and builds a greater sense of place, spirituality and responsibility".

The aim of the Government's sustainable communities program is "to put into effect a planning policy framework for more sustainable living that draws on the inherent qualities of Canberra and builds a greater sense of place, spirituality and responsibility".



Canberra vision:

A series of objectives are derived from major drivers of change, as shown in this figure

Under each of the drivers of change are a set of objectives grouped under Built Form, Urban Ecology and Community

The Figure identifies these interrelationships between the various elements of Canberra's form and urban systems.

Allows for a diversity of land uses and encourages enterprise, innovation and increasing self-sufficiency within the local community;

The Vision

In 2025 we live in vibrant, healthy communities. Our towns and villages are distinctive and contained.

We have maintained the bush between our settlements and protected the World Heritage environment that surrounds us.

Our local economy is strong and diversified, providing employment and educational opportunities appropriate to our location in a World Heritage area.

We promote safe accessible and environmentally responsible ways for people to get where they need to go.

Caring for each other, we sustain our communities. We recognise all Blue Mountains people especially our children and young people in whom we inspire the values that create a more sustainable future.

We use our available resources wisely, ensuring their fair distribution.

We celebrate the rich creativity, culture and heritage of the Blue Mountains.

People of all cultures and backgrounds are respected and enjoy equal rights. We acknowledge the Aboriginal presence in the Blue Mountains.

We have enhanced our Blue Mountains identity while forging strong regional partnerships. Our civic and community leadership and governance are inspirational – at one with community.

The Blue Mountains is recognised nationally and internationally as a centre of excellence for learning about sustainable living and sustainable communities.

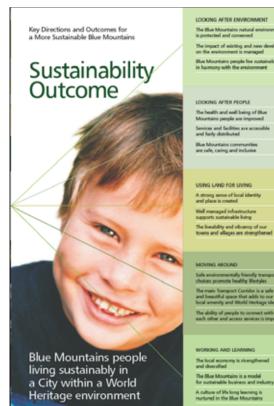
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The Blue Mountains natural environing protected and conserved

The impact of existing and new develop on the environment is managed Blue Mountains people live sustainably in harmony with the environment

The health and well being of Blue Mountains people are improved Services and facilities are accessible and fairly distributed

USING LAND FOR LIVING

A strong sense of local identity and place is created Well managed infrastructure supports sustainable living

MOVING AROUND

Safe environmentally friendly transport choices promote healthy lifestyles

The main Transport Corridor is a safe and beautiful space that adds to our local amenity and World Heritage iden

The local economy is strengthened and diversified

The Blue Mountains is a model for sustainable business and industry A culture of life long learning is nurtured in the Blue Mountains

LOOKING AFTER ENVIRONMENT

The Blue Mountains natural environment is protected and conserved

The impact of existing and new development on the environment is managed

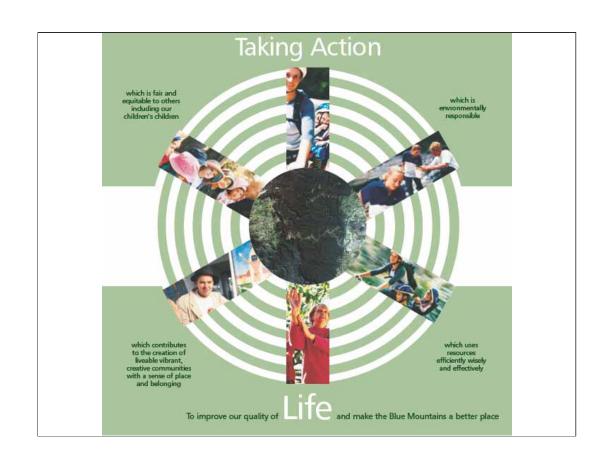
Blue Mountains people live sustainably in harmony with the environment

MOVING AROUND

Safe environmentally friendly transport choices promote healthy lifestyles

The main Transport Corridor is a safe and beautiful space that adds to our local amenity and World Heritage identity

The ability of people to connect with each other and access services is improved



- The values of Blue Mountains people will shape a 'whole of City' vision for the kind of City we want to pass on to the community of 25 years time
- We will encourage residents to work together across the City to achieve broad agreement about the way forward
- We will seek broad ownership by the community and key stakeholders/partners through involvement and input in all stages of the project
- 4. We will promote partnerships with stakeholders critical to the success of the Key Directions and Outcomes identified for a more sustainable future.
- The way forward will build on our existing strengths and capabilities while being open to new ideas and creative responses
- The vision for the future will respond to and support diversity within our community
- The City Strategy action plan for the future will be flexible so it can be consistent with changing trends. It will also promote the effective and efficient use of resources
- 8. Council will have a leadership role
- A range of scenarios for the kind of City we want will be considered
- Our communication will be clear and not full of technical jargon
- We will provide a framework within which Council's four yearly Management Plans and Annual Business Plans can be developed (in

Visioning process known as the Oregon Model (Ames, 1993). The project was fortunate to benefit from a number of guest lectures from Steven Ames, the developer of the model.

The Oregon Model comprises a comprehensive four-step process. Each step focuses on a driving question, involves different activities and results in specific products.

Using the Oregon frameworks as a base process, two components were added – Where have we come from? and a fifth step, How will we know we are on track? The Blue Mountains – Our Future project was a three stage process as as detailed in the Table below:

Table: Staged Project Methodology		
Stage One		
Step 1:	Profiling the community and the City	
Driving questions:	Where have we come from and where are we now?	
Activities:	Research and data collection, community survey and consultation	
Products:	1976 Strategy documentation, Community Profile, Values Statement	
Step 2:	Assessing the trends	
Driving question:	Where are we going?	
Activities:	Assessment of current and projected trends and their future impact	

Stage Two	
Step 3:	Creating the Vision
Driving question:	What kind of Blue Mountains will the people of 2025 appreciate we have passed onto them?
Activities:	Creation of a preferred scenario and final vision through consultation
Products:	Preferred scenario, City Vision and Key Direction statements, 25 year Outcomes and Strategic Objectives

1.5. Consultation Approaches

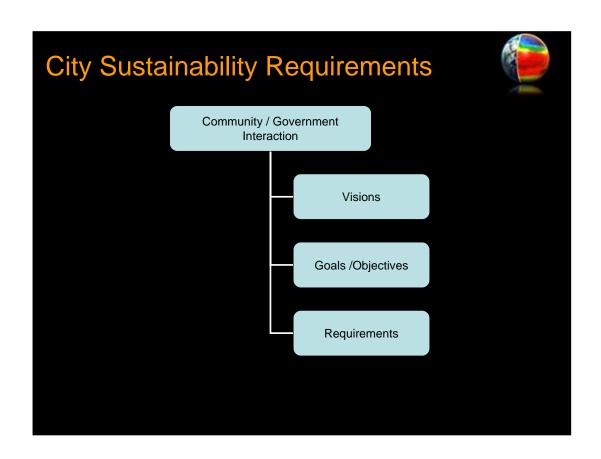
Different approaches were used in consulting events and processes including:

- Surveys
- Focus groups
- Workshops
- Celebratory events
- Story writing competitions
- Exhibitions at community events
- Formal Council public exhibitions
- Communication by letter, household package and in media outlets
- Stakeholder forums
- Oral communication through local radio station

Stage Three		
Step 4:	Developing an action plan	
Driving question:	What action will we take?	
Activities:	Developing a course of action Decision making to take action now	
Products:	Map for Action – 5-10 Year Priority Action Areas and Sustainability benefits	
Step 5:	Taking action and monitoring our progress	
Driving question:	How will we know we are on track?	
Activities:	Developing a system for monitoring progress Empowering and engaging with community Building partnerships with key stakeholders	
Project: State of City Monitoring 2004-2008 in progress	State of City Monitoring – development of a range of tools and approaches for understanding the effects of our decision making and action – where we have achieved the Vision and Outcomes and what we will do differently as a result of what we have learnt	









Sydney Metropolitan strategy gives an indication of the goals at a high level and some indication of measures and targets.



Table 1: Performance Measures of Sustainable Transportation

Sustainability Aspects	Sustainable Transportation <u>Issues</u>	Sustainability Objectives and Targets	Possible Performance indicators
Environmental Aspects	Climate Change	Reduce air emission contributing to the	 GHG emissions from all transport (CO₂).
	Air Quality/Air Pollutions	 atmosphere from all forms of transport. Reduce the air quality impacts on human health. 	Index of emissions of air pollutants from roads transport (VOCs, NO _X). Air quality levels or exceedances. Number of vehicle registrations.
	Land Use and Infrastructure Planning	Sustainable use of land released for transportation. Enhance the interrelations between urban design and sustainable transport system. Reduce travel length and travel cost (both time and economic cost) by proper land planning and management	Urban land use per capita. Urban land use by size class and zone. Land use mix (per cent walking to work; ratio of jobs to employed labor force). Travel and modal split by urban zone. Length of paved roads and sustainable infrastructure. Transit seat-kilometres per capita.
	Negative Environmental Impacts	Decrease consumption of other mineral and capital resources in transportation equipments and infrastructures. Minimise adverse impacts on natural habitats and ecosystems	Transport effects on ecosystem health. Proximity of infrastructure to sensitive areas, and ecosystem fragmentation. Waste from road transport. Water Pollutions (wastes discharge into seawater and freshwater).
	Innovative Technologies of Transportation Fuels	Increase the use of alternative fuels. Reduce the use of fossil fuels. Sustainable use of non-renewable resources. Enhance automobile energy efficiency.	Index of emergy intensity of cars and trucks. Index of emissions intensity of the road-vehicle fleet. % of alternative fuel vehicles in the fleet. % of passenger-km and tonne-km fuelled from renewable energy.
Social Aspects	Road Safety	Maximise road safety Minimise car accidents. Reduces the no. of fatal and serious injured accidents from car crash.	Index of casualties (killed or seriously injured, and slight) for all vehicle classifications. Number of people killed or seriously injured in road traffic collisions. Number of children (aged under 16 years) killed or seriously injured in road traffic collisions. Number of crime incidents at transport interchanges.
	Accessibility to Public Transport	Satisfy community demands for public transport. Encourage community to use public transport and reduce the usage of automobiles. Provision of diverse forms of public transport (including light rail).	User rating. Transport diversity. Inclusive planning.

Transport Canada likewise gives guidance on goals (objectives) but also links these to issues and to the three broad pillars of sustainability in environmental stewardship, social equity and economic efficiency.



Surrainability Aspects	Sustainable Transportation Issues	Sustainability Objectives and Targets	Possible Performance indicators
Social Aspects Social	Social Equity	Reduce disadvantages of age for community members (e.g. for those people who do not darve.). Enhance the accessibility of facilities for disable people at all ferms of trampert. Improve the performance of children travel facilities.	Affordability. Disabilities (Peocentage of pedestrian crossings with facilities for disabled people). Children's travel (Peocentage of primary and secondary schools with school road safety schemes implemented Proportion of school trips by modes other than ear).
	Mobility	Remove mobility barriers. Improve central interchange services or to extend the network inside of gubble transport in order to achieve comparable mobility. Reduce the impacts of fivight transports on passenger transports. Harmonising the use of transportation facilities and infrastructure share by different road users. Shorten time and other costs for travel.	Non-motorized transport (SMIT). Movement of light-dwty passengers vehicles. Share of passenger travel not by land-based public transport. Total meterized movement of freight. Total meterized movement of people. Use of passenger vehicles. Use of freight vehicles. Use of freight vehicles. Utban successful vehicle-kilometers. Travel by nen-motorized modes of whan areas. Journey-to-work mode shares. Utban and insectity person-kilometers. Freight model pastengation. Number of vehicle segitimations. Utban travet medership.
	Use Satisfaction Rate Community Leveability Community Cohesion	Satisfy community needs of transport facilities Reduce any negative impacts generated from transportation (e.g. all forms of pollutions and human health effects). Increase public awareness of sustainability source related to transportation.	Proportion of floatway in pose condition. Business satisfaction with fairness of enforcement of parking and loading regulations. Percentage of resident artisfaction with threst cleaning service. Percentage of principal reads with negative residual life. Local street and environmental cleanliness. Cultural proservation. Noise pollution by transpect (whield and aircraft). Transport effects on human health Public support for ministrative to achieve routsinable transport.
Economic Aspects	Electronic communication	Improved transport information which is focused on passengers via electronic communication. Enhance efficient use of freeways.	Per cent of transportation systems providing real-time traveler information Per cent of transit systems with smart card fare collection and per cent of tell roads with "open" tell collection systems Share of households with a computer and internet penetration sates



Sustainability Aspects	Sustainable Transportation <u>Issues</u>	Sustainability Objectives and Targets	Possible Performance indicators
Economic Aspects	Transportation/Consumer Cost Economic Efficiency	Minimise all forms of transportation cost. To better achieve economic efficiency.	Index of relative household transport cost. Index of relative cost of urban transport. Per cent of net government transport expenditures spent on ground-based public transport. Transport-related user charges. Expenditures by businesses on transportation. Commuting time. Congestion index (congestion delay). Freight efficiency.
	Contribution to Economic Activities	Ensure the transportation system is favourable to regional economic growth.	Efficient delivery services. Cash costs. Employment accessibility. Employment density by CMA, and urban size class and zone. Share of urban population and jobs served by transit. Share of population and employment growth on already urbanized lands.

(Sources: 1. TRB 2008; 2. Transport Canada, 2002 3. Litman, 2008)



Economic efficiency

Liveable streets and neighbourhoods

Protection of the environment

Equity and social inclusion

Safety

Contribution to economic growth

These are well recognised city wide goals for Sydney.



- Moving from vision to options
- Goals for the city as a whole
- · targets defined by the city's community itself
- Unpacking these goals to more specific lower level goals>>>>>

accumulated changes can result in a vulnerable system where additional change can shift the system into instability.



- Unpacking these goals to more specific lower level goals:
- relating to individual community sectors and their needs
- specific goals as requirements for parts of the urban system and sectors of the city,
- identify the functions it is expected to deliver, putting a boundary around the contribution.





Whilst community and government have been able to develop shared visions for the character of the cities into the future and suggest the goals and options, community participation beyond this has been limited.

When it comes to the question of which scenario should be selected, there is little scope for government and community to interactively shape the choice. This risks a disconnect between community and the planning agencies beyond this point.

Without quantifiable assessment methods, the connection between scenarios and sustainability outcomes are extremely subjective to the point where little benefit may come from public discussion.

City Sustainability Optioneering



- relating to individual community sectors and their needs
- specific goals as requirements for parts of the urban system and sectors of the city,
- identify the functions it is expected to deliver, putting a boundary around the contribution.
- Interactive community /government "what if and sustainability performance" process
- Use of simple visible assessment methods to display the system wide sustainability outcomes for each option

Improving the visibility of these connections for community and decision makers alike will increase the opportunity for better choices and community ownership of the options that are to be progressed.

City Sustainability Optioneering



- Assess against requirements
- How to assess
- How to visualise

Use the sustainability requirements but assess the city wide sustainability performance change.

Use building block methods of transport planning to provide the analytical basis and traceability to the levers that drive sustainability.