

# Methods for Gauging Livability Improvements

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# Define and Develop Livability Performance Measures

The use of performance measures has become a key theme in transportation decision making in recent years: whether to select between potential solutions or to monitor the effectiveness of implemented solutions.

# What is Livability?

- Livability is about tying the quality and location of transportation facilities to broader opportunities such as access to good jobs, affordable housing, quality schools, and safe streets. This includes addressing safety and capacity issues on all roads through better planning and design, maximizing and expanding new technologies such as ITS and the use of quiet pavements, using Travel Demand Management approaches to system planning and operations, etc.
- It is about developing multimodal transportation projects—by working in multidisciplinary teams and involving nontraditional partners—to give communities the projects they want.

# Livability Principles

- **Principle No. 1: Provide more transportation choices**
- **Principle No. 2: Promote equitable, affordable housing**
- **Principle No. 3: Enhance economic competitiveness**
- **Principle No. 4: Support existing communities**
- **Principle No. 5: Coordinate policies and leverage investment**
- **Principle No. 6: Value communities and neighborhoods**

# Why Set Targets?

- “Sets the bar”
- Provides focus, direction
- Helps communication, marketing, and accountability
- Frames expectations, what you can/can't do
- Helps internal performance evaluation, resource allocation
- Sets priorities
- Establishes credibility

# Why Not Set Targets?

- Some outcomes difficult to measure
- Wrong targets, unintended consequences
- Targets/measures could compete with each other
- Lack of control over specific areas
- If the bar is too low, may not achieve what is really possible
- Not all measures suitable for targets

# Setting Goals and Selecting Measures

- 1. **Sidewalk example:**

Pedestrians and bicyclists must be considered in transportation planning, so a measure that might help determine the effectiveness of this action could be how many sidewalk gaps have been identified and subsequently how many have been addressed.

# Next Steps for Methods for Gauging Livability

1. Select a Consultant
2. Identify peer/experts in Divisions/Headquarters.
3. Research the literature on performance measures and the intersection of Livability
4. Develop performance measures
5. Convene a expert panel to assess the effectiveness of performance measure identified.
6. Deliver a webinar to ascertain from practitioners if performance measures are reasonable.
7. Create a electronic “how to book”
8. Pilot/Market the performance measures selected MPO.s



# For additional Information Contact

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See these web sites for more information:

FHWA Livability website

[www.fhwa.dot.gov/livability](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/livability)

HUD-EPA-DOT Partnership for Sustainable Communities

<http://www.sustainablecommunities.gov/>