



Waco's Scenario Planning Efforts



A Presentation by the Waco MPO
to The Texas Institute of Transportation
Engineers

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Amarillo, Texas



What is Scenario Planning?

- Military Origin
- Purpose is to identify a preferred outcome and what would be necessary to achieve that outcome.
- Identifies key decision points and how various decisions impact the ability to achieve the desired outcome.





Scenario Planning and MPO's

- Preferred outcomes are a matter of debate.
- The primary decision, however, is how and where are federal transportation dollars spent?
- By showing the forecasted impacts of these decisions, the region can better choose a preferred outcome.



What impacts can be measured?

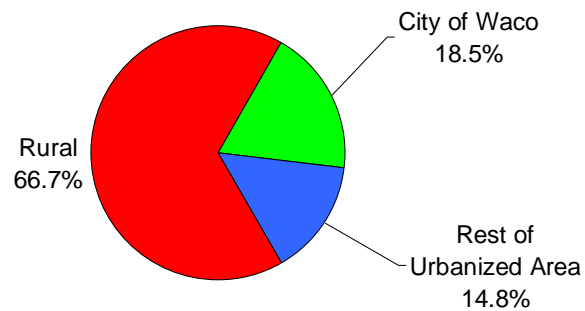
- Land use impacts
- The impacts of land use and transportation on the environment.
- The impacts of land use and transportation on the provision of essential governmental services.



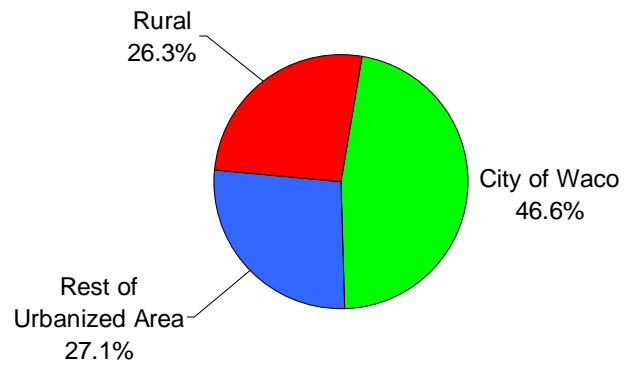
A Perfect Storm?

- Federal and state transportation funds for added capacity projects are anticipated to decrease by 70%.
- 67% of newly developed acreage occurred in rural areas.
- Although 70% of new residential was in rural areas, 75% of new commercial was in the urbanized area.

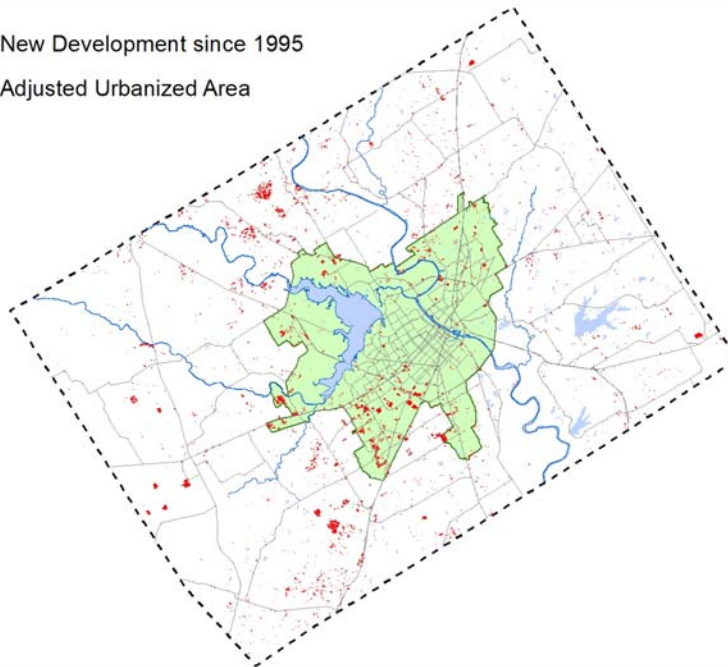
Percent of All New Developed Acreage



Percent of New Commercial Acreage



- New Development since 1995
- Adjusted Urbanized Area

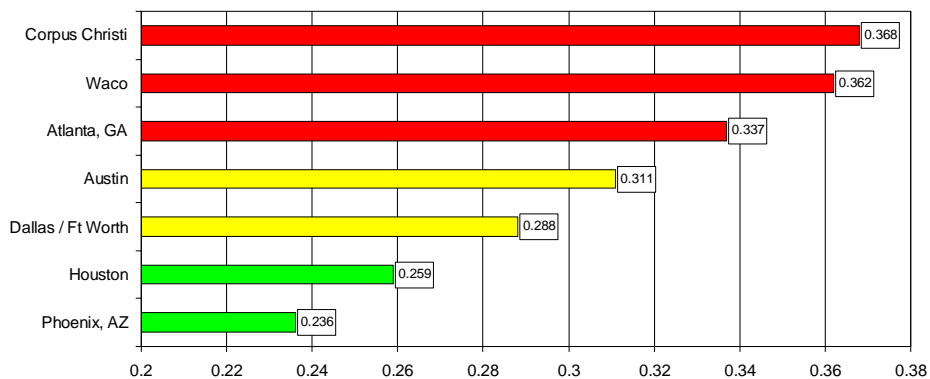




Urban Sprawl

- Sprawl index for Waco exceeds Atlanta, Austin or Houston.
- Development since 1995 uses nearly twice the acreage of prior development (0.646 vs. 0.331 acres per person).
- New development unfeasible for transit and bike / ped investments.

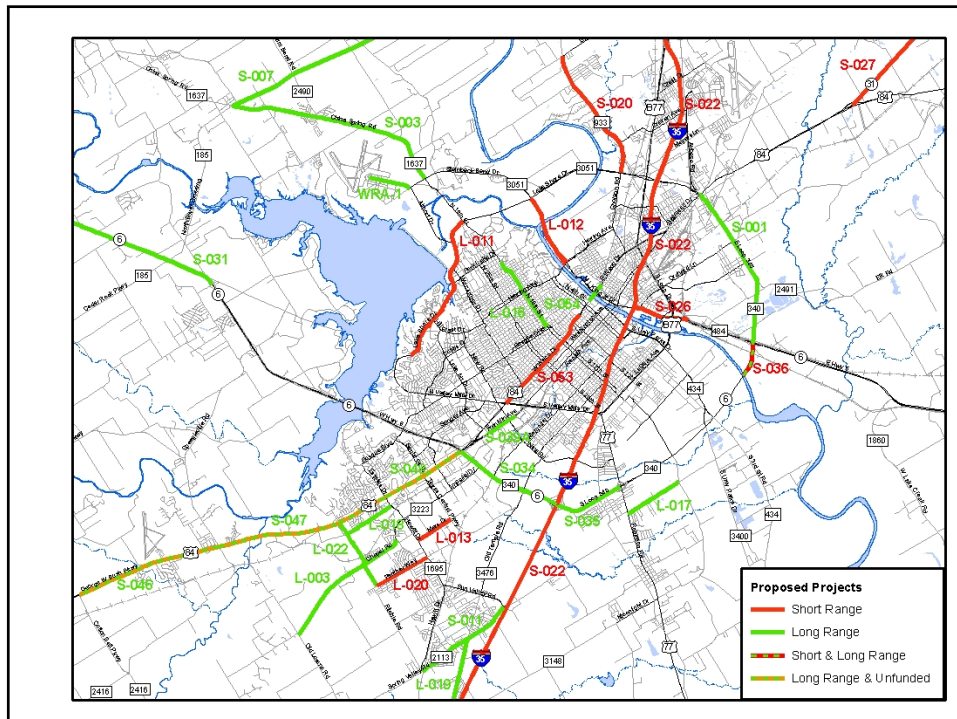
Developed Acres per Person



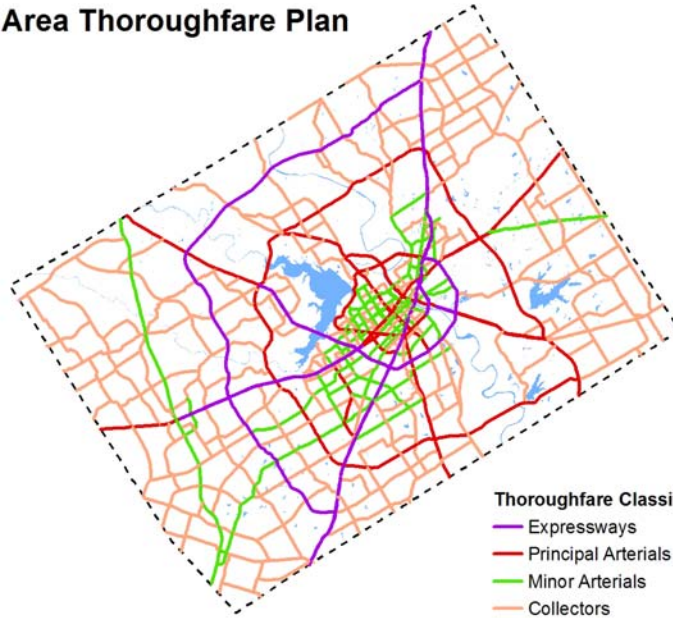


Transportation Plan

- Recognizes need for additional highway capacity due to sprawl.
- Total cost to meet all highway needs \$3 billion
- Total funds available \$700 million.



Waco Area Thoroughfare Plan



Thoroughfare Classifications

- Expressways
- Principal Arterials
- Minor Arterials
- Collectors

New Development by 2030 – Current Trend



Legend

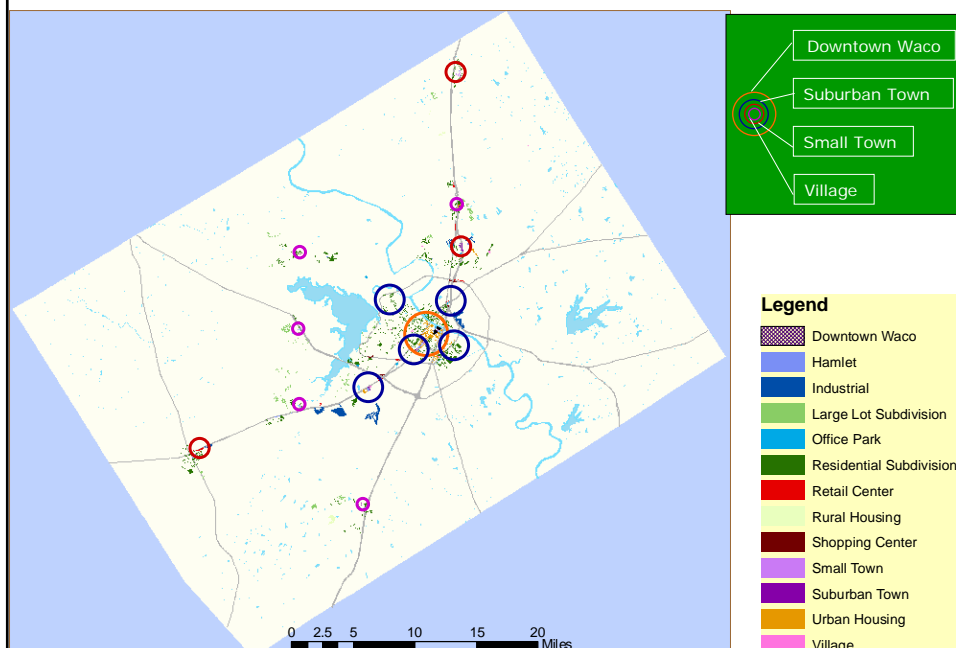
- Downtown Waco
- Hamlet
- Industrial
- Large Lot Subdivision
- Office Park
- Residential Subdivision
- Retail Center
- Rural Housing
- Shopping Center
- Small Town
- Suburban Town
- Urban Housing
- Village

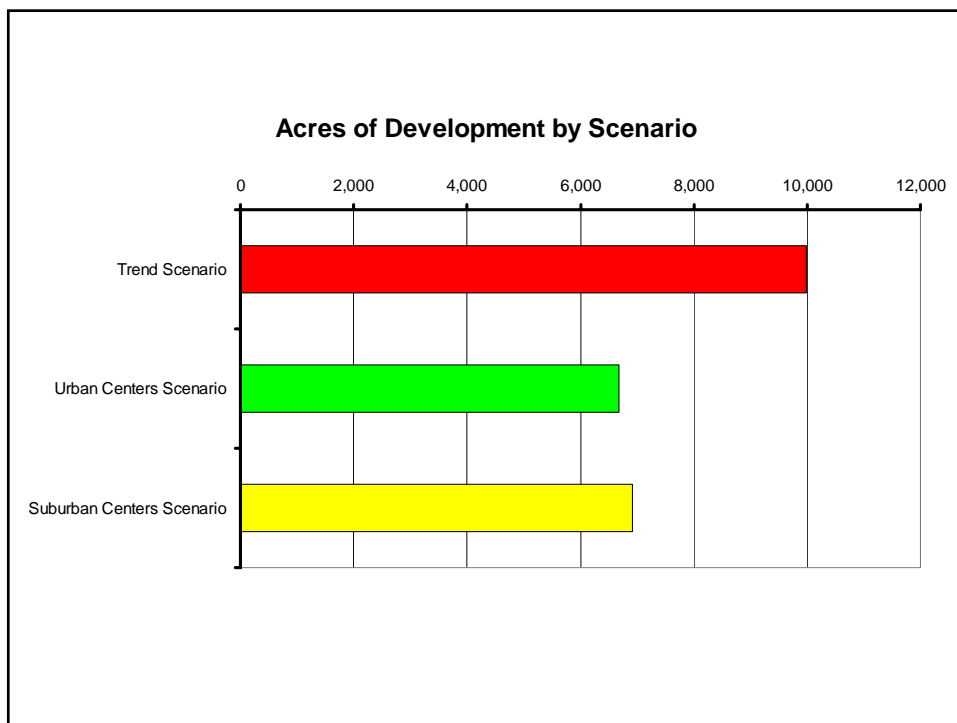
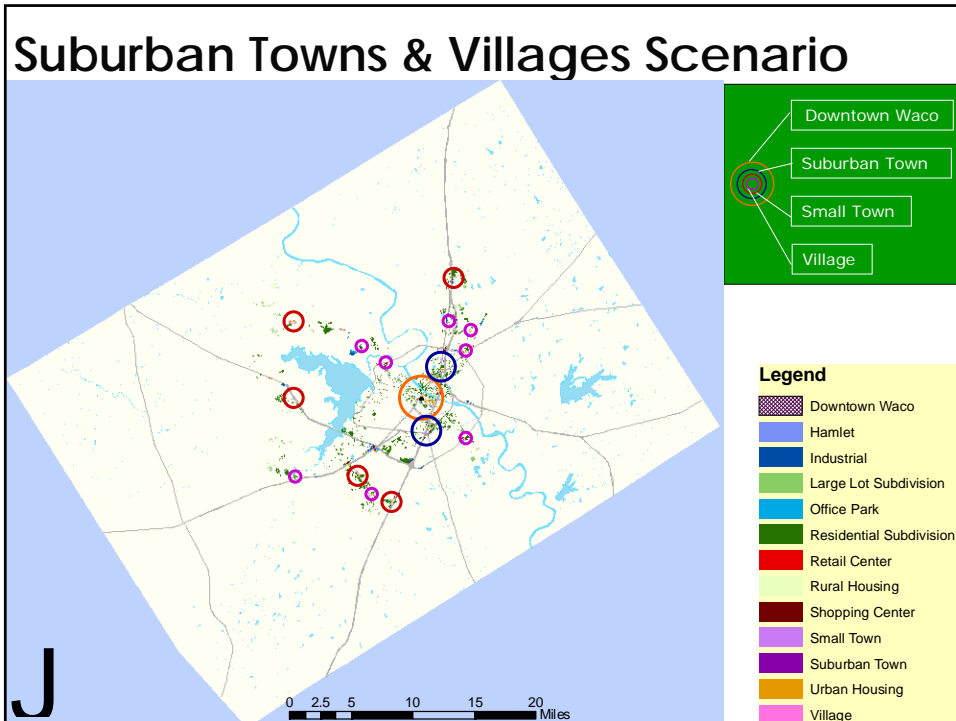
Potential Outcomes

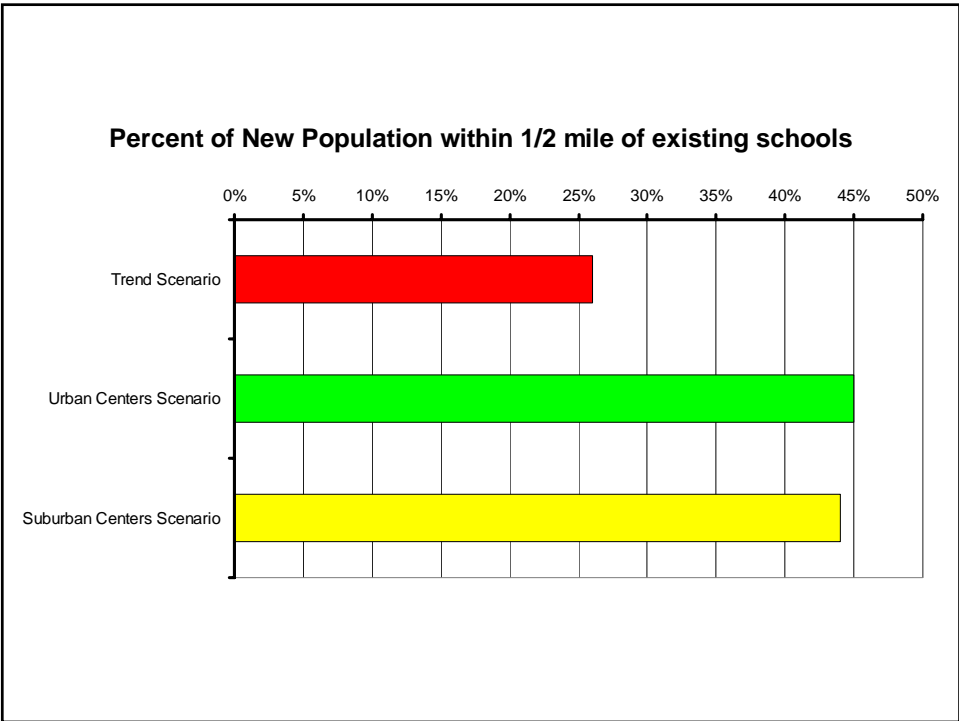
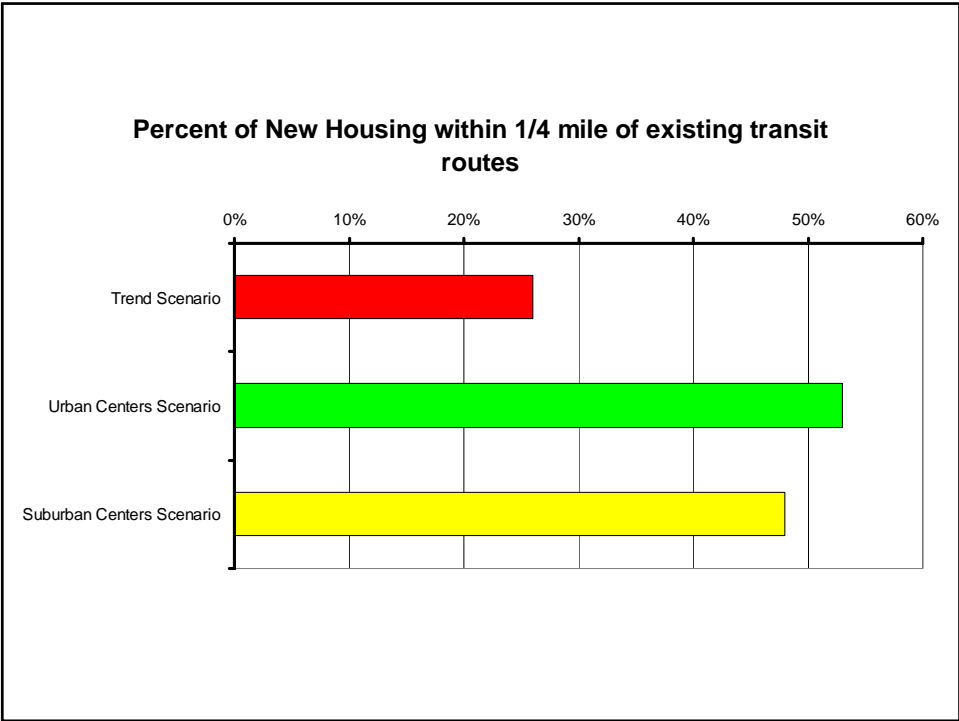
- Trend Scenario – No changes in transportation projects, thus no changes in land use patterns.
- Urban Center Scenario – Focus transportation dollars in the urban core and on creating walkable & transit friendly neighborhoods.
- Suburban Center Scenario – Focus transportation dollars on existing development, including suburbs. Less focus on pedestrian and transit modes than urban scenario.

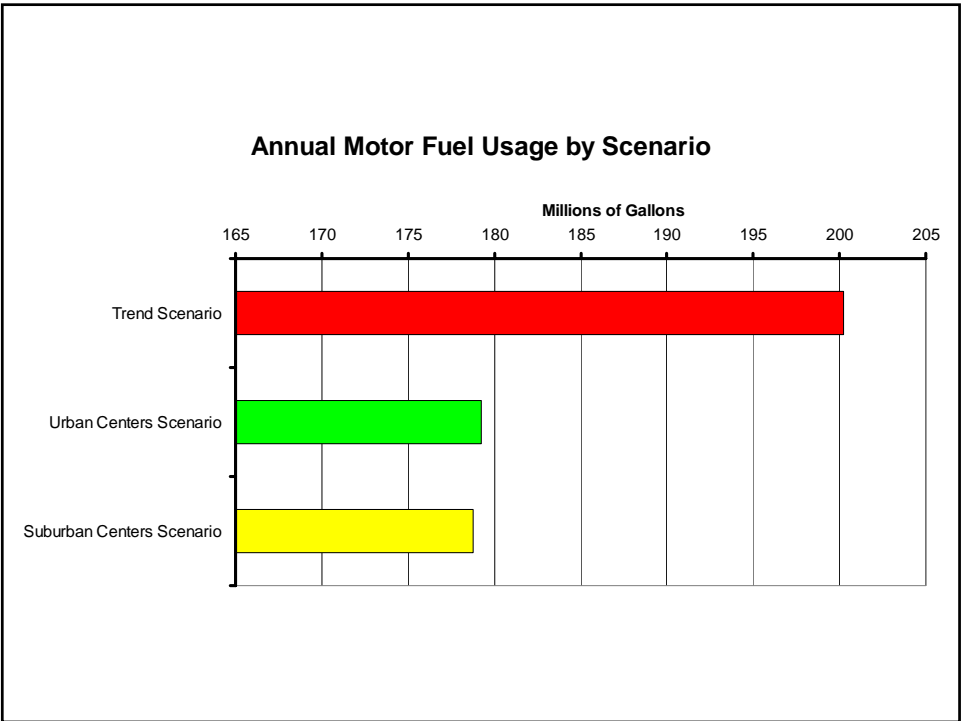
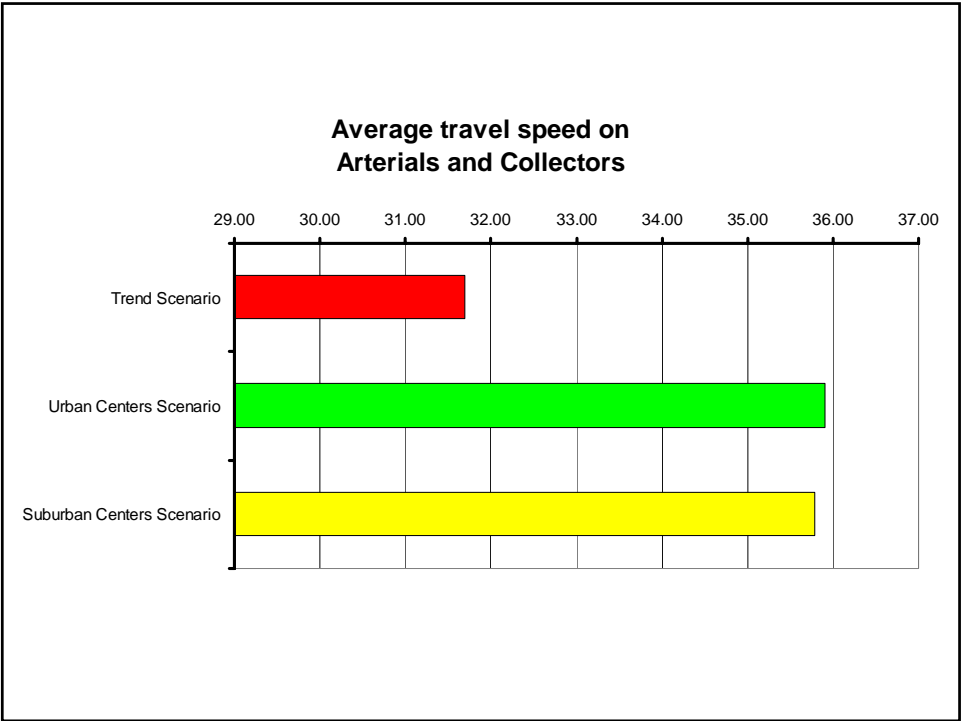


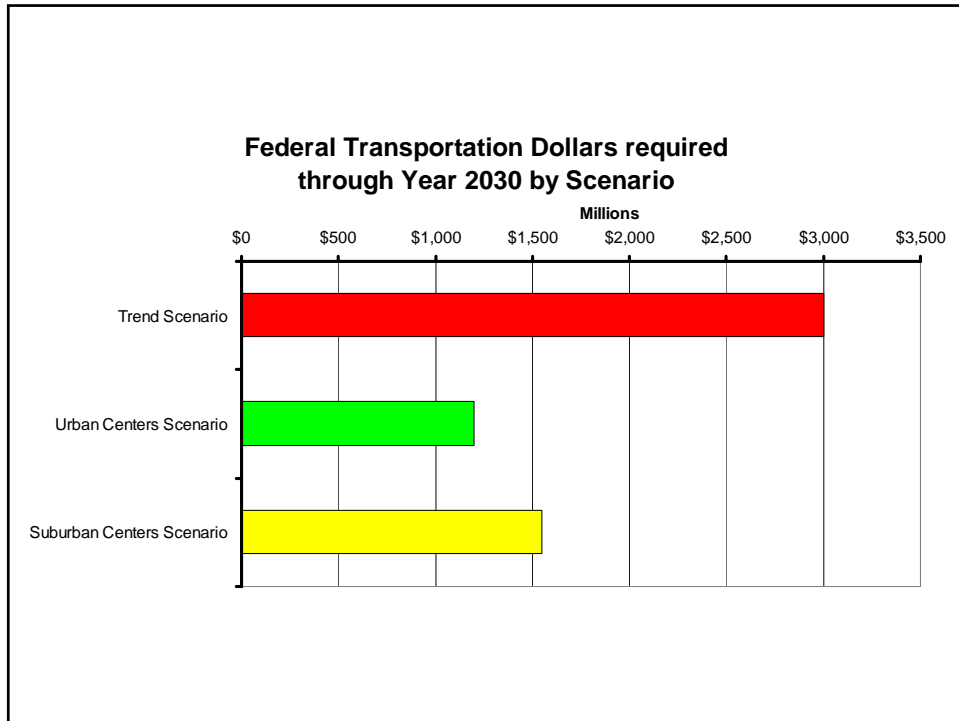
Urban Transit-Oriented Centers Scenario







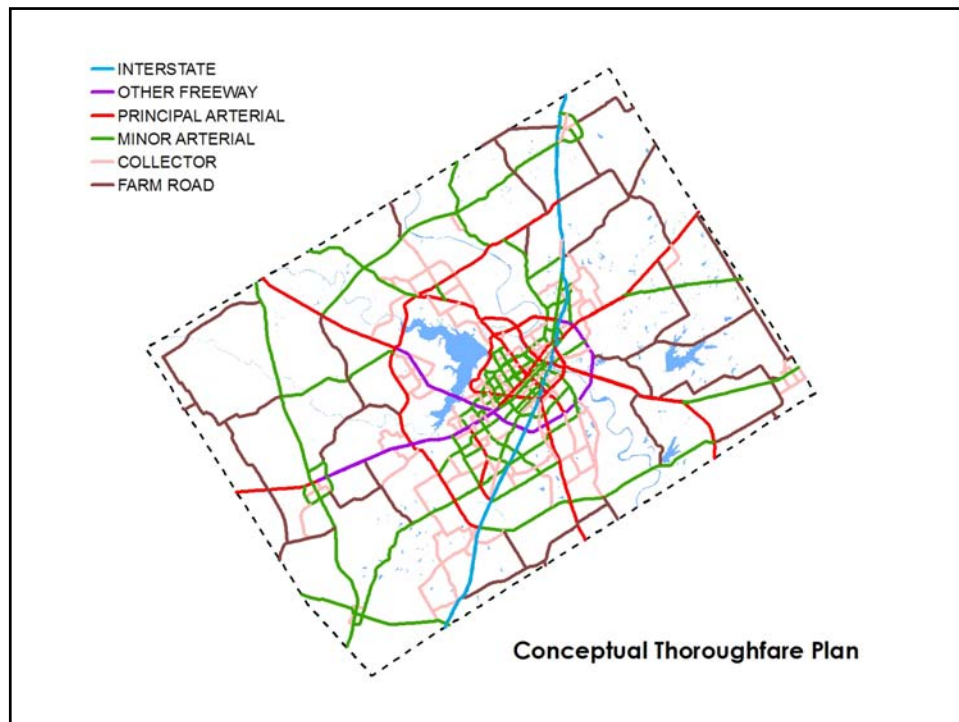






Policy Goals under Consideration

- Maintain existing highway system first
- Next address serious safety issues
- Focus resources on transit, bicycle and pedestrian modes
- Make existing roads as efficient as possible
- Fund new highways through user fees



Next Steps

- Identify preferred outcome with policy makers, community leaders and public.
- Adopt policy goals consistent with achieving preferred outcome.
- Amend plans and programs with projects that help achieve preferred outcome.

