Northeast Michigan Integrated Assessment (NEMIA)

Planning and Zoning Evaluation
Dr. Richard Norton
Nina David
Carolyn Loh

Talking points

- Survey results – recap
- Plan Evaluation – Results
- What next?
- Questions

Recap of survey results – key points

Assessment of resource issues

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Adequacy of current management efforts

Management emphasis

Importance of specific goals

Needed local and regional emphasis

Goals
Current and Likely Future Level of Coordination

Conceptual Framework

Comprehensive plans
Inform and guide decision making

Zoning Ordinances
Enforceable policies for implementing a plan

Officials / administrators
Adopt, interpret and implement plans and zoning ordinances

Methodology

Plan Content Evaluation
- Quality of plans
- Consistency of plans
- Plan policy / goal focus

Zoning Code Evaluation
- Quality of codes
- Code policy / goal focus

Surveys
- Use of plans and codes for decision making
- Attitudes and motivations
- Views about planning and land development
Plan Content Evaluation - The process

Literature review

Plan Evaluation Protocol

Plan Evaluation Components

- Quality of plans
- Consistency of plans
- Plan policy / goal focus

Criteria for evaluating plan quality

- Presentation
- Public participation
- Factual basis and analysis
- Infrastructure capacity analysis
- Land suitability analysis
- Implementation
Overall Plan Quality

Criteria for Consistency Analysis:

- Vertical – State requirements (Mandate)
- Vertical – Coordination
- Horizontal consultation and coordination
- Internal
  - Inter-policy
  - Spatial
  - Inter-plan
- In implementation (as analyzed by or evident in the plan)

Plan Consistency

Overall Plan Quality: Counties – 57  Cities – 44  Townships - 35

Criteria for Consistency Analysis:

- Vertical – State requirements (Mandate)
- Vertical – Coordination
- Horizontal consultation and coordination
- Internal
  - Inter-policy
  - Spatial
  - Inter-plan
- In implementation (as analyzed by or evident in the plan)

Plan Consistency

Overall Plan Consistency: Counties - 22 Cities - 31 Townships - 33
Analysis of Plan Policy

• General Approach Toward Growth Management
  • Manage growth for good and efficient service provision
  • Manage growth to address a variety of quality of life issues

• Landscape Focus
  • New-urban or urban revitalization
  • Rural, open space, and natural area protection

Plan Policy Focus

Comparison - Overall Plan Quality
Comparison - Plan Consistency

Comparison- Plan Policy Focus

What next?
Get a second coder to code plans
Code more plans to add to sample size
Code zoning ordinances
Interview decision makers
Add other elements of analysis
Questions

- How do local governments actually use their plans for making decisions on zonings, infrastructure improvements, etc.? Do they use them for other purposes?
- Do other entities (e.g., state parks) look to local plans for information or policy guidance?
- Does it make sense to evaluate plans the way we've been evaluating them given the ways in which they are used?
- Are we asking too much of plans or too little? (i.e., as a tool for helping to inform decision making?)

Questions

- Other planning activities in the region?
- Key planning consultants in the region?
- Background studies / reports on planning?