

Interagency Transportation, Land Use, and Climate Change Pilot Project

Regional Scenario Planning and Stakeholder Engagement

Client: USDOT Volpe Center, US Interagency Climate Change Working Group, Cape Cod Commission

General Location: Cape Cod, MA

The Volpe Center partnered with PlaceMatters, Placeways, and the University of Colorado to create a scenario planning pilot workshop for climate change built around CommunityViz.

First, four future scenarios were created in CommunityViz to paint a portrait of the Cape 20 years in the future, using population growth forecasts and present-day land use and transportation plans. Alternatives used combinations of development, transportation system improvements, and transportation programs varying from extremely dispersed with little change to transportation, to extremely compact with planned and expanded transportation improvements.

The scenario planning workshop engaged experts and stakeholders representing a wide range of local and regional perspectives. After hearing educational presentations on the current state and future prospects for Cape Cod, participants divided into groups to work on different scenarios. Equipped with the CommunityViz scenarios, the groups used interactive editing and sketching tools to explore potential variations. The set up included a custom infrared pen system that allowed participants to “draw” on a projected image of the CommunityViz map and have their data entered directly into the computer. After participants sketched on the map, the CommunityViz model gave them dynamically updated information on important results like population served by transit, new growth in vulnerable areas, and changes to GHG emissions.

