

Promoting Sustainable Transportation Through Site Design

Promoting Sustainable Transportation Through Site Design recommends site design practices that can be applied to promote the use of more sustainable modes of passenger transportation such as walking, cycling, ridesharing and transit.

The document also identifies a range of supporting policies and actions that agencies can implement to create an atmosphere conducive to promoting sustainable transportation through site design.

An underlying theme of this report is the integral relationship between land use and transportation based on the premise that:

- effective site design can enhance the attractiveness, convenience and safety of walking, cycling and transit use, and
- need not compromise the efficiency of travel by other modes.

Conversely, if a site is not designed to provide access for sustainable transportation modes, users could be significantly discouraged from its use – a preventable situation given the level of information currently available.



2004 Winner of the TAC Sustainable Urban Transportation Award.

CITE's Site Design Guidelines

A comprehensive guideline document promoting accessibility by travel modes other than single occupant vehicles (SOVs).

GREENMODES

A Planning Support and Knowledge Transfer System that empowers practitioners in the effective application of the Site Design Guidelines.

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Together we can promote the use of sustainable transportation in new development.

GREENMODES

An electronic knowledge transfer system for
Promoting Sustainable Transportation Through Site Design



GREENMODES is a partnership between:



Overview

Developed in 2004 by the Canadian Institute of Transportation Engineers (CITE), this resource helps municipalities and the land development industry to better design non-residential development sites that promote accessibility by walking, cycling, ridesharing and transit.

By utilizing the 200+ guidelines in the report, site planners can realize broad benefits that include:

- an improved environment,
- health benefits,
- quality of life,
- increased accessibility, and
- economic returns.

The scope of the guidelines includes the detailed consideration of:

- Building placement
- Pedestrian and bicycle facilities
- Transit planning and facilities
- Access and internal roads
- Parking supply and placement
- Loading and pick-up / drop-off facilities
- Guide signing
- Street furniture and landscaping
- Showers, change rooms and lockers

Promoting Sustainable Transportation Through Site Design is an ITE proposed recommended practice.

Knowledge Transfer

These guidelines provide design practices and processes that promote the use of more sustainable transportation by:

- examining each element of a site from the perspective of a pedestrian, cyclist, ridesharer or transit rider, and
- identifying both barriers and opportunities for these modes.

Successful implementation of these guidelines is dependent upon the extent to which the end user can effectively apply the new knowledge.

Conventional knowledge transfer techniques include the development of procedure and guideline documents, web-based content systems, and by offering training courses.

These conventional techniques are effective in raising awareness and improving understanding, but have limitations in empowering practitioners to effectively and consistently apply new knowledge.

Knowledge transfer systems such as Greenmodes facilitates the convenient and effective application of the guidelines by providing users with a self-teaching, just-in-time training mechanism and project support system for applying the new knowledge.

Reports can be filtered as input to a LEED accreditation process.

GREENMODES

The basic approach to the system is to:

- systematically lead users through consideration of the guidelines,
- provide supporting knowledge for each guideline, and
- provide features for users to incorporate the guidelines in their project.

The system can be applied prior to planning to identify those areas that require focused attention, or after to evaluate how well the plans comply with the guidelines.

This web-based system also offers the following features:

- distinct approaches for simple and complex applications,
- filters for showing only those guidelines relevant to the current stage of planning, discipline, project characteristics, and topics of interest,
- accommodates single and multi-users, as well as multi-disciplines,
- generates reports that include a qualitative rating on how well the guidelines have been addressed, required next steps, and discipline responsibility,
- provides for remote project communications and a web-based forum for peer interaction, and
- the ability to maintain the currency of the content of the guidelines, to reflect the evolving knowledge base in this subject area.

The end product of an application, the Greenmodes report, provides an action plan on how to better promote the use of sustainable transportation on the study site.

