Class 3: Types of Plans, Planning Foundations—Initial Conditions

- Kent’s plan definition
- Urban plans
- Sub-area plans
- Consistency
- Planning Support Systems (PSS, ugh)
- Discussion

Kent: General Plan Definition

“The general plan is the official statement of a municipal legislative body which sets forth its major policies concerning desirable future physical development; the published general-plan document must include a single, unified general physical design for the community, and it must attempt to clarify the relationships between physical-development policies and social and economic goals.” p. 18
Comprehensive Land Use Chapters

Required, Common, and Optional

FLUM = FUTURE LAND USE MAP

Subarea, Neighborhood or District of a City
Purposes and Functions of the Plan

1. Improve the physical environment in the community as a setting for human activity
2. To promote the public interest…rather than the interests of individuals or special groups
3. To facilitate democratic determination and implementation of community policies (on physical development)
4. To effect political and technical coordination in community development
5. To inject long-range considerations into short-term actions
6. To bring professional and technical knowledge to political decisions
Purposes and Functions of the Plan

• Policy determination
  – Preparation, review, amendment, today’s decisions and long term policies

• Policy effectuation
  – Day-to-day guide for decision-makers w/r/t a unified explicit policy set
    • Is council referring to the plan when decisions get made?

• Communicate
  – What is the City’s plan for…policy for…

• Advise and Educate

---

Purposes and Functions of PSS

• Facilitate understanding of urban/regional systems: Aid planning intelligence
  – Measure, classify, monitor, analyze, identify problems/opportunities, assess choices, create visions, goals and benchmarks, compare scenarios.

• Public role and input(?): the devolution of data
  – What if? Sketch Up, GIS, Interweb, data(!)
  – Role of technology

• Models and Indicators
  – all models are wrong, but some are useful
  – We measure what we want to know
Learning Team Discussion Questions

1. The Standard Enabling Act has been criticized for not including social/economic conditions. How does Kent feel about this? You?

2. Whom is the plan designed to serve? Immediately? Ultimately? Whom should it serve?

3. Based on the readings, has that changed?

4. Does a developer have to “lose” for a plan to be socially just? Is there such thing as Pareto optimality? What are the implications?