Implementing LUTED Through a Project Prioritization Process:

A Case Study of North Central PA

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1982 – 1997
PA urbanized nearly four acres of land for every new resident – more than any other state but Wyoming.

PA ranked 12th in the nation for growth in developed land (+47%), but 45th for population growth (2.5%).
The Evolution of Regional Planning in the Commonwealth

2002 - National Governor’s Association Policy Academy on LUTED
2003 – Statewide Conference on Transportation and Land Use for Economic Development
2004 – Statewide Action Plan developed
2005 – Nine (9) Regional Conferences on Transportation and Land Use for Economic Development
2006 – State contracts with 9 regional agencies to undertake Regional Strategic Plans (1 remains)
2007 – State contracts with South Central Region to undertake a Regional Strategic Plan
2008 – Nine (9) Regional Strategic Plans completed
2008-2009 – State Agencies assisting with implementation of plan priorities

Regional Action Plan - Regions by Counties

The map shows the regions of Pennsylvania divided into counties, with different colors indicating various regions. The legend in the bottom left corner identifies the color codes for each region.
Keystone Principles For Growth, Investment & Resource Conservation

1. Redevelop First.
2. Provide Efficient Infrastructure.
3. Concentrate Development.
4. Increase Job Opportunities.
5. Foster Sustainable Businesses.
6. Restore And Enhance The Environment.
7. Enhance Recreational And Heritage Resources.
8. Expand Housing Opportunities.
10. Be Fair.

What is LUTED?

• An innovation – An opportunity to undertake a useful measure (if not comprehensive) of planning at a regional scale to:
  – Provoke more coordination – and indeed integration of Land Use, Transportation, Economic Development (and conservation). Because of the large scope and impact of these matters, regions make sense as a level for coordination.
  – Identify community and economic development projects that stand out as region-wide priorities.
What’s the Benefit?

- Regions to refine and refocus their planning
  - Zero in on the most critical issues in the region
  - And would work more cooperatively to get important things done
- State agencies to learn what projects are of highest regional priority and impact, and can make direct state financing investments more strategically to those projects **AND** to learn of ways to better coordinate state investments in LU, T, ED (and conservation).

Current Status

- Nine (9) Regional Plans Completed
- South Central Regional Plan to be Completed by end of Year
- Two (2) regions defined a short list of Priority Investments – State Agencies are working with these regions and communities to implement these projects (Lehigh Valley and Southern Alleghenies)
- One (1) recent priority list submittal and one (1) draft list pending
- Many regions established, or re-established, regional goals and objectives.
- Many regions created a regional priority setting process with specific criteria and measures – of which NC process is a worthy example.