Abstract Descriptions

Geographic Information Needs for Community Sustainability Initiatives

Primary Presenter
Sungssoon Hwang
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Chicago, IL

Abstract text: As sustainability has been increasingly adopted as an overarching goal of community development, there is a need for developing integrated programs toward building sustainable community within and among community-based organizations (CBOs). GIS is particularly valuable to pursuing this endeavor since data of disparate sources across social and natural system can be integrated in GIS. Despite the crucial role of CBOs in building sustainable community, little is known as to how community groups understand sustainability. Potential of GIS is yet to be realized as GIS has been underutilized in CBOs in general. How can GIS be further utilized in CBOs toward building sustainable community?

To address the question above, we first gauge community groups conceptions of sustainability, and assess geographic information needs of those groups with regard to implementing sustainability initiatives. I will describe how community groups understand sustainability based on responses to online survey at http://www.accelerate77.net/home/depaul-sustainability-survey. Summary of survey responses will provide empirical data on community groups knowledge of, views of, and attitudes towards sustainability. Then I will explore what geographic information needs exist in CBOs pursuing sustainability initiatives based on in-depth interview.

The presentation will provide an opportunity to reflect on how GIS data and tools can be strategically deployed in a way that mission and programs of CBOs can be realigned with goals of community sustainability.
Multi-Modal Regional Thoroughfare Analysis

Primary Presenter
Annie McCabe
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Columbus, OH

Abstract text: This presentation is an overview of how GIS was used to develop a Regional Thoroughfare Plan. The project included a unique approach that used GIS to analyze roadway functionality against a variety of indicators associated with land use mix, density, building set-back, and many other indicators. Roadway segments were assigned to categories by evaluating the adjacent development characteristics they traversed. Using the development characteristics, assignments were made based on what type, or types of travel modes the roadway should be expected to support. Travel modes considered included autos, freight, bikeways, transit and pedestrian paths.

This Regional Thoroughfare Plan is a variation on a traditional thoroughfare plan which is typically a simple map of road classifications using expected vehicular traffic. Local governments use the maps as a reference to evaluate widths of public rights-of-way when constructing or modifying roadways. The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission serves as the Columbus, Ohio Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and administers federal transportation funds for a number of counties in central Ohio.