

Public Preferences and Priorities for a Mobility Implementation Plan

Local residents took part in a hands-on workshop to express their local preferences for enhancing the transportation systems in Champaign-Urbana-Savoy. Working on a two-by-two square mile map, and using Neighborhood TransopolySM to express their values, participants made the recommendations that are reported here. Many of the participants were affiliated with Regional Partner* organizations, groups that helped to recruit a broad cross-section of the community.

The sponsor of the workshop was the Champaign-Urbana Mass Transit District. This workshop was one of eight held throughout the area during October and November of 2006. The map for this workshop is shown below.

Northeast Urbana



What is Neighborhood Transopoly?

Neighborhood Transopoly is a tool to help diverse individuals build consensus in a short period of time about local transportation needs. The tool uses a game-like format to break complex issues into manageable concepts and “levels the playing field” for people who do not ordinarily participate in transportation planning discussions.

Transopoly groups generate data on two-mile-by-two-mile maps, to simulate their priorities for up to \$30 million of transportation investment (see photos of completed maps for this meeting on pages 8 and 9). The data from each of eight meetings in Champaign-Urbana-Savoy will be combined into a final report, to be released early in 2007.

Neighborhood Transopoly offers five ways for participants to express preferences, all of which are reported on the following pages.

- **Problems and Opportunities** are discussed to develop a context for each group’s recommendations.
- **Basic Infrastructure** like roads, transit services, sidewalks and bicycle paths can be selected.
- **Other Amenities** includes smaller improvements like signage, lighting, planters, trees and similar amenities.
- **Packages** represent streetscape themes like safety or economic development (see page 4 for the full list of packages).
- **Policies and Innovations** reflect additional ideas that are not standard in the Neighborhood Transopoly tool.

In addition to the group exercises above, individual surveys were completed by most Transopoly participants. Survey results are also included here.

* See the back of the report for a list of Regional Partners

Problems and Opportunities

Before making any recommendations about future transportation improvements, the groups created their own list of problems and opportunities, which are recorded below. The starred items were identified by each group as priorities.

GROUP 1

PROBLEMS	OPPORTUNITIES
Lack of bike paths	Acquire more grants, pair with city dollars to add bike paths
*Too many cell phones in cars	Cell phone ordinances/increased fines, consequences
Congestion on campus	Sticker fee or pricing to reduce traffic on campus
Lack of parking on campus	Alter bus routes to improve directness
Buses too big	
*Buses impractical – too much backtracking, indirect routes	
Heavy pedestrian traffic where there is rush traffic and no stop lights	
*Sidewalks in disrepair or missing	
*Lack of street lighting	
Lack of cycling etiquette, attention to safety	
Economic development	

GROUP 2

Illinois Union – not enough close parking	Shuttle to drop off
Around campus, bus route not efficient	
Campus bus does not stop everywhere for non-students	
*Gaps in bus circuit	Mini-bus to fill gaps
*Poor sidewalks in inner city	Repair sidewalks
Brick sidewalks uneven	
Increased safety by cutting out bus stops	More bus stops
School busing out of neighborhoods	Minimize school busing out of neighborhoods
Unsafe bicycle travel	Add bike paths
*Disconnected living and shopping areas	

GROUP 3

Lack of on-street bike paths	Walkable neighborhoods
*MTD service too time consuming	Scenic walking in downtown and other areas
*Safety in many areas is lacking	Rickshaw bicycles
Businesses in neighborhoods, lack of business diversity	More policing
*Lack of sidewalks	Better MTD service – Lite Rail
	Better passenger rail service
	Walkable neighborhoods
	Alarm flashlights

Basic Infrastructure Selected

Each group had the option to select road lanes, sidewalks, bike paths and transit service and similar, larger units in a transportation network. These ranged in price from \$50,000 per half mile to \$5,000,000 per half mile. The chart below displays the units purchased and the streets to which they were applied. Some groups chose additional amenities.

	GROUP 1	Locations	GROUP 2	Locations	GROUP 3	Locations
Bicycle path \$50,000/half mile	6	Cunningham Ave, Windsor Rd east to Champaign	5	Richards Dr south (extension) connecting Weber Park with AMBUCS Park, Brownfield Rd under I-74, link Brownfield Rd and Richards Dr via E Perkins Rd, E University Ave	4	EW along RR tracks
Bicycle/pedestrian overpass \$2,500,000 each						
Sidewalk \$200,000/half mile	6	Downtown & residential streets south of Main and east of Vine	4	Under I-74 at Brownfield Rd, neighborhood streets east of downtown Urbana	1	S Dodson Dr
Increase bus service \$1,000,000/half mile			9	University Ave, Cunningham Ave, E Perkins Rd, subdivision north of I-74		
Express bus service \$1,000,000/half mile	3	From Cunningham to mall on I-74				
Street car or light rail \$3,000,000/half mile					1	Green St from downtown Urbana toward campus
Neighborhood circulator \$5,000,000 each					7	Residential neighborhoods throughout area
Station \$5,000,000 each						
Turning Lanes/Signals \$400,000/intersection						
Road construction \$5,000,000/half mile						
Publicly owned parking structure \$4,000,000 each						

Streetscape Packages Selected

Each group had the option of choosing streetscape packages, which ranged in price from \$200,000 per half mile to \$5,500,000 per half mile. The chart below displays the number of packages each group purchased and the streets to which the packages were applied.

Half Mile Packages	GROUP 1	Locations	GROUP 2	Locations	GROUP 3	Locations
Safe, Physically Active Streets \$600,000	2	E Florida Ave	7	E University Ave, Cunningham Ave	4.5	E University Ave
Congestion Relief, grid \$200,000						
Congestion Relief, not a grid \$550,000						
Economic Development by Auto \$5,500,000	3	Cunningham Ave, Philo Ave				
Economic Development by Transit, Foot and Bicycle \$1,000,000	2	Philo Ave	4	North of downtown Urbana, Cunningham Ave, small shopping areas in three neighborhoods	3	S Dodson Dr, Green St (downtown Urbana), Cunningham Ave
Quieter, Greener Residential Streets \$500,000			6	Three neighborhoods north of E University Ave		

Additional Amenities Selected

GROUP 1	Locations	GROUP 2	Locations	GROUP 3	Locations
1 – Sidewalk Lighting	Main Street	25 I-Go car sharing cars	Not allocated	7 Streetlights	With each neighborhood circulator/flex route

Policies and Innovations

Participants were not limited to the prepared materials standard to the game (Basic Infrastructure and Streetscape Packages). They were encouraged to list Policies and Innovations that they considered important, whether they could apply a “cost” to it or not. The Policies and Innovations these groups offered are listed below.

GROUP 1

Distracted driving (cell phones) – consequences and penalties
Bicycling etiquette

GROUP 2

Shopping in neighborhoods
Sunnycrest economic development

GROUP 3

More passenger train service
Light rail for in town
Rickshaws pulled by bikes

Individual comments for the record

Neighborhood Transopoly is a group experience, but allows for individuals who were not able to make a specific point in the course of the game to submit their ideas afterward. Individual comments are noted below.

Only working on one town section makes it hard to “vision” the more broadly defined and expensive options available. Feels disconnected.
1) Mandatory bike parking for businesses with parking lots, e.g., 1 bike parking spot per 3 car parking spots 2) On-street bicycle lanes 3) Bike compatible streets, RR crossings, gutters 4) Sheltered bike parking encouraged for employers 5) Shower/locker rooms for bike commuters
Some people have “inside” knowledge as a result of their jobs or volunteerism. It is difficult to express this to others.

Survey Results

Individuals provided information and opinions through a survey immediately before playing Transopoly. The results of most of the questions are below. Some questions, including home and work location and the amount of time and distance for frequent trips, vary too widely to be reported in this tabular format but will be analyzed as part of the larger study.

Employment status

Employed	Employed at home	Student	Employed + Student	Homemaker	Unemployed	Retired
8	2	-	1	-	-	6

If a student, where?

UIUC	Parkland	High School	Other
1	-	-	-

How do you most often travel?

Drive alone	Drive with another adult	Ride with others	Bus	Walk	Bicycle	Other
8	5	1	1	3	1	-

How many days a week do you

<i>Number of days per week</i>	Number of responses						
	<i>One</i>	<i>Two</i>	<i>Three</i>	<i>Four</i>	<i>Five</i>	<i>Six</i>	<i>Seven</i>
Drive a car	-	-	-	-	5	2	5
Ride the bus	2	2	-	-	-	-	-
Bicycle to a destination	2	-	-	-	-	-	1
Walk to a destination	2	-	-	3	2	-	3

How important is each of the following factors in your travel choice decisions? (on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being not important and 5 being very important)

	Trip time	Safety	Trip cost	Effect on environment	Parking: free or paid	Ease and convenience
Avg of responses	3.8	4.2	2.7	3.1	2.7	4.3

How likely are you to try a mode other than driving alone, based on the following incentives? (on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being not likely and 5 being very likely)

	Avg of responses
Direct buses that ran frequently on all major streets	3.3
Express commuter buses from outlying neighborhoods to the downtowns and UIUC	2.2
Improved bike lanes and bike paths on all major travel corridors	2.6
Improved sidewalks in your neighborhood	2.9
Shuttle bus that connected the stores in the Market Place and North Prospect area and ran every 10-15 minutes	2.5

Assuming that Champaign-Urbana’s population will grow over the next 20 years, how important to the community do you think each of the following improvements will be? (On a scale of 1 to 5 with 1 being not important and 5 being very important)

	Avg of responses
Sidewalks in more neighborhoods and commercial areas	4.2
Expanded bike path system	4.0
Widening of key streets to handle more traffic	3.1
More frequent transit service throughout the city	3.9
Faster, more direct bus service to UIUC an the downtowns	3.5
More street lighting	3.4
Increased parking around UIUC campus	2.7
Increased parking in the downtown areas	2.7

Experts say that land us and transportation shape one another. Should we use land use tools (such as zoning and density controls) to encourage more compact development within the cities of Champaign and Urbana in order to promote alternate modes of transportation including public transit, biking and walking?

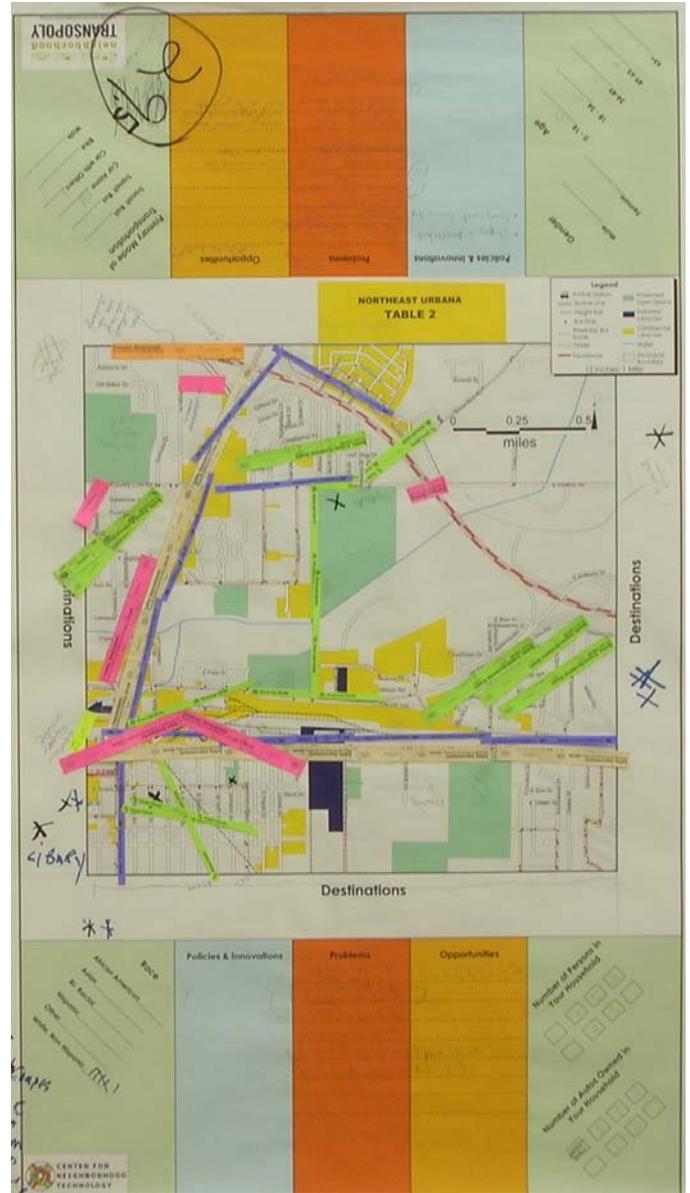
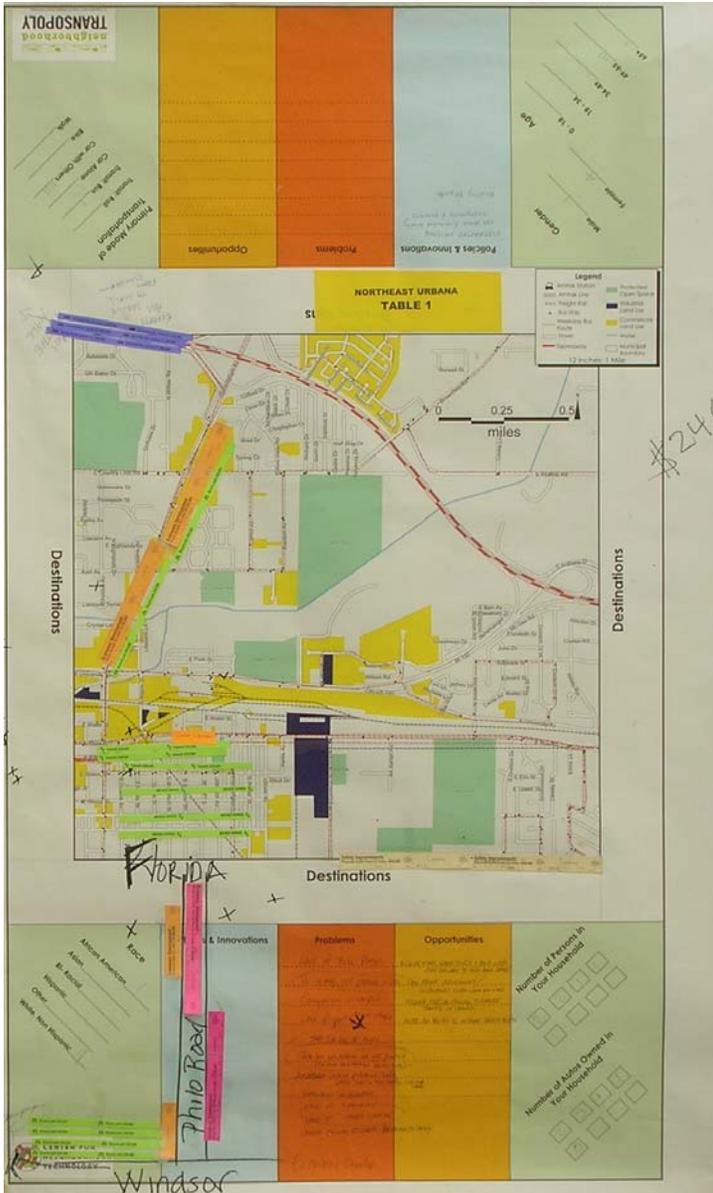
Yes	12	No	2
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Do you support increasing the level of tax funding for transportation in order to provide increased transportation choices in Champaign County? If yes, how should the increased funds for transportation be obtained?

	Number of responses
Increase gasoline tax	7
Increase sales tax	1
Transfer funds from other public programs	-
Other or No	3

Demographics

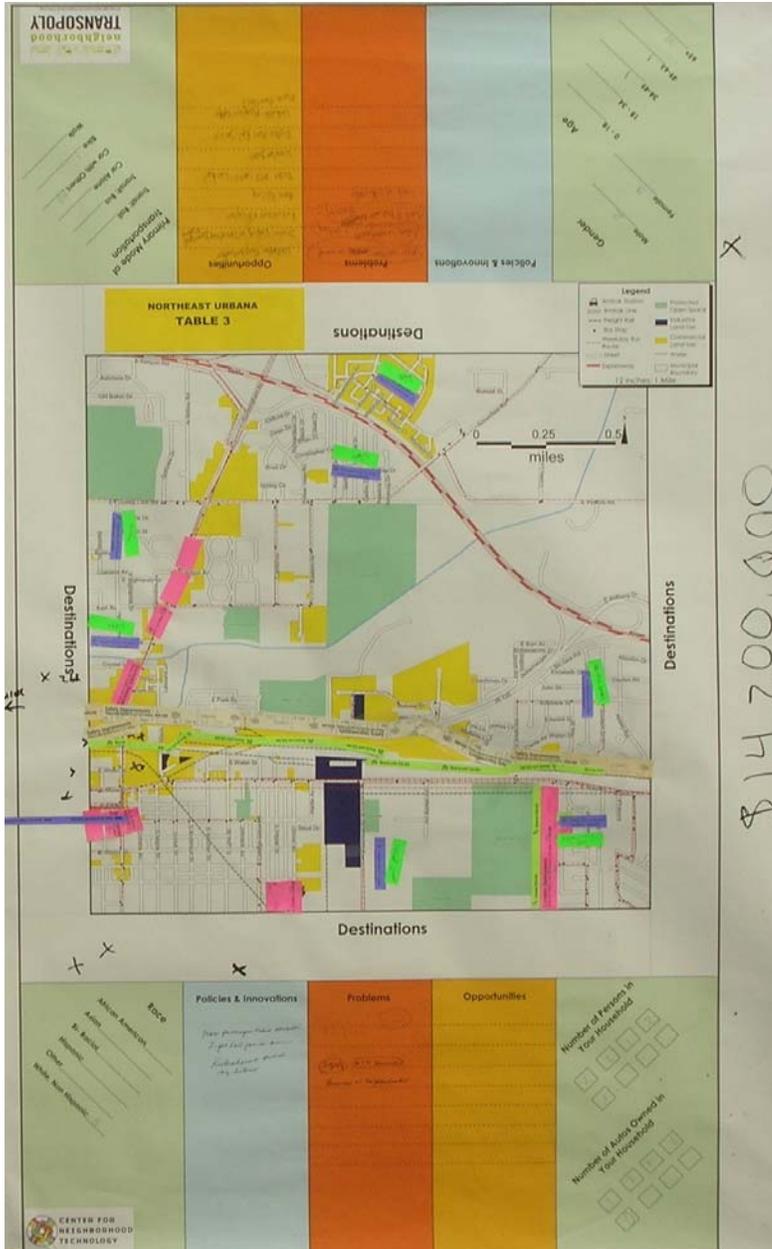
Average number of vehicles/household	1.9
Age: 35 or younger	1
Age: 36-65	8
Age: 66 or older	5
Gender: Male	5
Gender: Female	9
Racial/ethnic: African-American	-
Racial/ethnic: Asian	-
Racial/ethnic: Caucasiuan, non-Hispanic	13
Racial/ethnic: Hispanic	-
Racial/ethnic: Other	1
Household Income: Less than \$13,000	-
Household Income: \$13,000 to \$19,999	-
Household Income: \$20,000 to \$29,999	1
Household Income: \$30,000 to \$39,999	1
Household Income: \$40,000 to \$49,999	-
Household Income: \$50,000 to \$74,999	2
Household Income: \$75,000 to \$99,999	2
Household Income: \$100,000 or more	4



Color code

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| Narrow green strips | New Sidewalk or Bicycle |
| Narrow blue strips | New Transit Lines |
| Narrow orange strips | New Road Lanes, Parking |
| Wide buff strips | Safety Improvement Package |
| Wide salmon strips | Congestion Relief Package (Grid Streets) |
| Wide yellow strips | Congestion Relief Package (Highways) |
| Wide orange strips | Economic Development Package (Access by Auto) |
| Wide magenta strips | Economic Development Package (Access by Transit, Foot and Bicycle) |
| Wide green strips | Quieter, Greener Residential Street Package |

Other, smaller pieces may not be decipherable on maps but are recorded in text.



Color code

Narrow green strips
 Narrow blue strips
 Narrow orange strips

New Sidewalk or Bicycle
 New Transit Lines
 New Road Lanes, Parking

Wide buff strips
 Wide salmon strips
 Wide yellow strips
 Wide orange strips
 Wide magenta strips
 Wide green strips

Safety Improvement Package
 Congestion Relief Package (Grid Streets)
 Congestion Relief Package (Highways)
 Economic Development Package (Access by Auto)
 Economic Development Package (Access by Transit, Foot and Bicycle)
 Quieter, Greener Residential Street Package

Other, smaller pieces may not be decipherable on maps but are recorded in text.

miPLAN Regional Partners

- CCRPC-Senior Services
- Champaign County Board
- Champaign County Chamber of Commerce
- Champaign County Farm Bureau
- Champaign County Regional Planning Commission
- Champaign-Urbana Mass Transit District
- ChampaignCountyBikes.org
- City of Champaign
- City of Urbana
- Comprehensive Program of Refugee and Immigrant Services
- Illinois Department of Transportation
- PACE
- Parkland College
- Prairie Group of the Sierra Club
- University of Illinois/Urbana-Champaign
- Urbana Public School District
- Urban League of Champaign County
- Village of Savoy

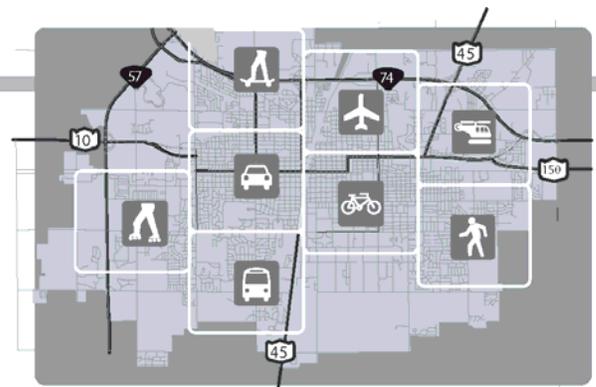
dates & locations for Transopoly

RSVP required

-  Central Champaign
Oct 10 6:30pm
Illinois Terminal
45 E University, Champaign
-  North Champaign
Oct 16 6:30pm
Spalding Recreation Center
910 N Harris, Champaign
-  City Line South
Oct 17 6:30pm
Illinois Terminal
45 E University, Champaign
-  Northeast Urbana
Oct 18 5:30pm*
Urbana Free Library
210 W Green, Urbana

* please note—different meeting time

-  Southeast Urbana
Oct 19 6:30pm
Urbana Middle School
1201 S Vine, Urbana
-  City Line North
Nov 28 6:30pm
MLK Elementary School
1108 Fairview, Urbana
-  West Champaign
Nov 29 6:30pm
Bresnan Meeting Center
706 Kenwood, Champaign
-  South Champaign
Nov 30 6:30pm
Bresnan Meeting Center
706 Kenwood, Champaign



you must RSVP to guarantee a seat (dinner included).
if you can't attend a meeting in your neighborhood, please join another meeting!
RSVP at rsvp@ihavemiPLAN.com or 217.278.9069

more info online at: www.ihavemiPLAN.com

Neighborhood Transopoly, the public participation tool used for the eight miPLAN meetings listed above, is a product of the Center for Neighborhood Technology (© 2006), created to facilitate group decision-making. For more information see www.cnt.org or transopoly.cnt.org.