

Long-term Economic Requirements in Transportation Planning

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Transportation corridors typically align to serve market forces. In the past two decades a combination of technological, regulatory and economic factors have been influencing regional and national economies and stretching the bounds of labor markets as well as supply chains. This has resulted in shifting reliance on various parts of our nation's transportation system to move people and move freight regardless of whether the capacity is in place. These factors will persist into the future. As a result the types of industry our regions will be characterized by continues to evolve sometimes drastically, and so do the factors that determine how far from employment centers a working age household will settle. Tomorrow's industry mix will likely have different market access requirements than the current transport nexus was designed to efficiently serve. Drawing on findings from our recent work for Illinois and Massachusetts, this presentation will show how different patterns of economic activity "involving people and freight" can guide future transportation system planning.

This presentation will be of interest to business growth advocacy organizations (Chambers of Commerce, state/local economic development agencies) as well as transportation planning