

Past and Prologue of Metropolitan Transportation Planning: Learning from the Past, Building Institutions for the Future

Urban regions are increasingly recognized as important economic and social forces and as the scale at which contemporary transportation and other planning challenges must be approached. With over 400 of them, metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) are one of the most prevalent forums for U.S. regional planning and warrant attention from planners, policymakers, and scholars. This presentation examines the development of regional transportation planning before and after the 1962 Highway Act that first planted the seeds for MPOs. It also asks how MPOs might be more effective regional agents moving forward. It provides critical meta-review of federal transportation law, administrative regulation and guidance, and scholarship covering transportation history and planning practice.

This history of metropolitan planning is one of adaptation and incremental progress, and it lends cause for optimism to those who would strengthen metropolitan planning. Potential reforms are considered within metropolitan planning's existing legal and administrative framework. For instance, steps to amend MPO board and voting structures and to allow MPOs to generate their own funding could make these bodies more transformative forces for 21st century regions.

Dr. Gian – Claudia Sciara



Gian-Claudia Sciara is an Assistant Professor of Community and Regional Planning. She researches and writes about transportation and land use decision making in intergovernmental contexts. Regional institutions are a longstanding focus of her work. Dr. Sciara's publications have appeared in journals such as the Journal of the American Planning Association, Transportation Research Part A, Research in Transportation Economics, and the Journal of Land Use and Transportation. Her scholarship has examined the role of environmental mitigation in regional land conservation; regional strategies for transportation funding; and the impacts of Congressional earmarks on transportation planning. Dr. Sciara earned a Ph.D. in City and Regional Planning from the University of California, Berkeley, a Master of Urban and Regional Planning from UCLA, and a B.A. from Columbia University. She is an AICP certified city planner who served in the private, public and non-profit sectors prior to pursuing graduate studies. Before joining The University of Texas at Austin School of Architecture, she held a research appointment at the University of California-Davis Institute of Transportation Studies from 2010-2016. Washington DC Chapter.

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EVENT INFO

Wednesday

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FREE FOOD & DRINKS!

SPEAKER

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LOCATION

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