Getting Real About Re-Imagination for 21st Century Communities

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This Re-imagining Discussion

- Why we need to re-imagine
- Generating collaborative dialogues
- Local, state, federal, and advocacy initiatives that invite re-imagining
- Political, policy, and bureaucratic traditions impeding reimagining
- Personal insights of a collaborative practitioner
- I will focus on a series of books I continue to employ in contemplating the future
Why Re-imagining

- Each community is different for reimagining processes for public spaces and cope with:
  - base institutional,
  - professional,
  - social, and
  - political norms
- Further challenges
  - own personal limitations for imagination,
  - shifts in intergenerational preferences, and
  - the evolving implications of technology
Habitat III (Quito, Ecuador, Oct., 2016)

- United Nations Conference on Human Settlements
- Cities are 2% of global land area; 70% of GDP; 70% GHG; 70% waste; +60% energy
- Includes planners, infrastructure professionals, scientist, and a wide range of political, social, and policy representatives
- Challenges all participants to anticipate and plan for the needs of future urban forms
The City We Need 2.1 (APA Planning, July 2016)

1. Socially inclusive and engaging
2. Affordable, accessible, and equitable
3. Economically vibrant and inclusive
4. Collectively managed and democratically governed
5. Fosters cohesive territorial development
6. Regenerates and resilient
7. Shared identity and sense of place
8. Well-planned, walkable, and transit-friendly
9. Safe, healthy, and promotes well-being
10. Learns and innovates
Conference Calls to Re-envision

- Adam Lyons discussion of Connected Vehicles and V21
  - Variable rates of adaption
- Robert L. Bertini research of state-level preparedness for connected/autonomous vehicles
  - Equity, readiness, and even awareness
- Charlie Coles research on the policy implications of autonomous vehicles
  - Experiences with technology adaptation
- Julia Luna discussion about long range planning
  - Technical guidance and the future
Perspectives From the Practitioners Realm

Changing Metropolitan America: Planning for a Sustainable Future; Hudnut III; 2008; The Urban Land Institute.
Perspectives from the Real Estate Realm

*Reshaping Metropolitan America*; Nelson; 2013; Island Press.

In-depth investigation of complex change from a real estate perspective

Market preferences

Demographic preferences

Strategies for moving forward…
Perspectives from the Public Policy Realm

Promoting Sustainable Local and Community Economic Development; Anglin; 2011; Taylor and Francis Group, LLC.

Discusses the complex relationships between community form, economic vitality, challenges of the 21st Century, and the need for innovative engagement among all actors...
The Collaborative Response

• The 21\textsuperscript{st} Century presents a wide range of challenges in which transportation plays a integral, but not singular role

• Collaborative Practitioners, such as those with the Center for Collaborative Policy (CSUS) and Kitchen Table Democracy (Portland) have identified fundamental theories for change dialogues

• As Habitat III reveals, there are many diverse and interdependent parties for coping with complex challenges
Argyris & Schon: Learning

- Systems Science
- Single-loop learning seeks to improve the system as it exists
- Double-loop learning questions underlying values and assumptions of the system that exists
Peter Senge: Fifth Discipline (1990)

- Systems Science
- Each step from observable data to action subject to the reflective loop
- Re-imagining requires a questioning of assumptions
- New data and new meanings arise
Ongoing “Re-imagining” Initiatives

- Active Transportation
- Complete Streets
- Livability
- Sustainability
- New Urbanism
- Smart Growth
- Among Others
Challenges

- Political Traditions: understanding the implications of technologies and other 21st Century initiatives
- Public Policy Traditions: history of discrete policy domains
- Bureaucratic Traditions: organizational and professional cultures
Pragmatic Perspectives on Implications of Change

Incomplete Streets: Processes, Practices, and Possibilities; Zavestoski & Agyeman (editors); 2015; Routledge.
Emerging Tools

**The Street: A Quintessential Social Public Space**; Mehta; 2014; Routledge.
Emerging Tools

Pedestrian and Transit-Oriented Design; Ewing & Bartholomew; 2013; The Urban Land Institute & the American Planning Association.
Emerging Tools


Note, Island Press has extensive reference material for 21st Century planning initiatives.
Emerging Tools

*Urban Street Design Guide*; National Association of City Transportation Officials; 2013; Island Press.
Quick Takeaways from these Sources

- Transportation is complexly integrated into all aspects of society
- Streets represent a critical opportunity in coping in issues in society
- Approaches to street design from users other than vehicles
- An extensively researched approach to judging urban spaces
- A “design guide” that advocates for intermediate approaches to assist stakeholders in conceptualize the future
Practical Insights

- Folks may not readily be able to realize the personal implications of 21st Century dynamics of transportation and society.
- Re-imagining requires purposeful attention to the process that accounts for the individual perspective each stakeholder begins with and intended outcomes.
- Be creative in helping stakeholders move from single-loop to double-loop learning.
- To move forward we all need to question underlying assumptions to see the emerging future.