

Update on Oregon's Mosaic: Value and Cost Informed Planning

(Formerly "Least Cost Planning")

In Oregon, we are thoughtful about the underlying issues and tradeoffs in transportation decision-making. We use planning tools and decision processes — including travel demand models, multimodal level of service analysis, scenario planning, and cost/benefit studies — to help us make the best decisions. However, sound policy and resource allocation decisions are becoming increasingly complicated as decision-makers need to accommodate multiple modes of travel and diverse community needs — all against a backdrop of diminishing funding levels, and changing societal values.

Mosaic is an evaluation process and an Excel spreadsheet-based tool that considers supply and demand focused transportation actions, incorporates monetized and non-monetized indicators, and allows a range of projects and programs to be considered. Mosaic improves our ability to clearly measure the true costs and benefits of transportation strategies and actions. In doing so, it can increase transparency and the diversity of information considered in transportation decision-making. Designed to provide a more accurate assessment of potential benefits relative to costs and impacts, Mosaic then presents those results in a way that is consistent across bundles and easy to analyze.

A wide range of stakeholders helped develop Mosaic. The Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Stakeholder Committee (SSC), technical teams with members from the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) and other agencies, and the Oregon Transportation Commission (OTC) participated in the development process.

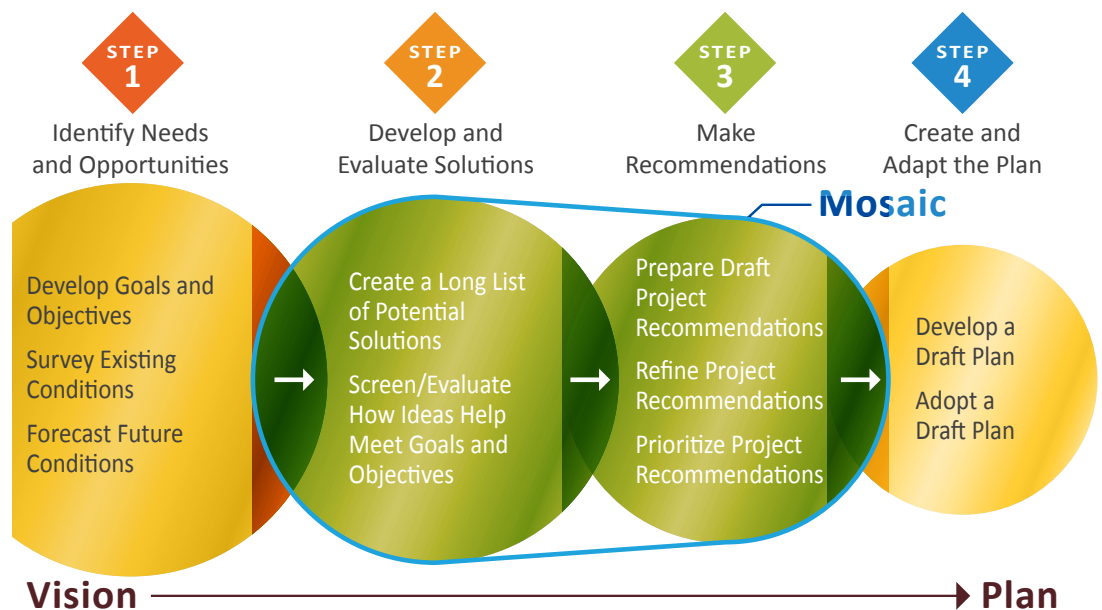
LEAST COST PLANNING HAS A NEW NAME...

*Mosaic:
Value and Cost
Informed Planning*

Stakeholders told us that "least cost planning" as a name was confusing. Mosaic is about considering goals and finding cost-effective options to achieve them. The new name better reflects the values imbedded in the tool, that the sum is greater than its parts, and the unique nature of its end result.

Mosaic's Role in the Planning Process

Mosaic is designed to evaluate potential solutions within a planning process, as shown in the diagram at right. It helps transportation planners and decision makers monetize, evaluate, and compare the social, environmental, and economic effects (both costs and benefits) of transportation investments. Mosaic outputs help make tradeoffs among bundles more explicit, but the tool does not dictate decisions or provide a solution.



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Before applying Mosaic, planning agencies will identify “bundles” of transportation actions they wish to analyze (the “long list of potential solutions” in the diagram on page 1). Examples of actions may include investments in roadway capacity, transportation system management programs, parking pricing, bicycle infrastructure, transit frequency, or carsharing programs. Mosaic then takes users through a series of eight steps (illustrated at right) to help analyze, score, and integrate information about each bundle for nine categories of Transportation System Performance.



Staff, stakeholders, and decision-makers are all involved in Mosaic, from helping define options for evaluation to determining weights, and from technical tasks to reviewing output charts and tables to determine what these impacts mean to the community.

Mosaic is Undergoing Testing and Review

After intensive research and development, Oregon is testing its Mosaic process and tool in 2014. A multi-disciplinary Test Committee is helping to determine how well Mosaic is working and what adjustments are needed. Also, Mosaic’s innovations are being peer-reviewed by a small team of experts. These activities will establish how to best use Mosaic to assess tradeoffs among transportation actions and support fully informed transportation investment decisions.

NINE CATEGORIES OF TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM PERFORMANCE

-  Mobility
-  Funding the Transportation System/Finance
-  Accessibility
-  Land Use and Growth Management
-  Economic Vitality
-  Quality of Life and Livability
-  Environmental Stewardship
-  Equity
-  Safety and Security

TO FIND OUT MORE

please visit

<http://oregonmosaic.org>

or

<http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/TD/TP/pages/lcp.aspx>