MODULE 1: TOD AS A STRATEGY TO ACHIEVE A SUSTAINABLE CITY

Transit Oriented Development at a Corridor Scale
Course Objective

• **Transit-oriented development (TOD):** Planning and design strategy focused on compact, mixed-use, pedestrian and bicycle friendly urban development closely integrated with transit stations.

• **Objective:** Be able to have a general understanding of the central pillars of TOD planning and tools for implementation.

• The course introduces the concept of TOD *at the corridor level*:
  • TOD can also be a central strategy for city-wide and regional planning, and influences specific local-area planning around stations, connecting these frames together.

• **Complementary WB Courses**
  • Sustainable Urban Land Use Planning
  • Integrated Urban Transport Planning
  • Land Readjustment
  • Land Market Assessment
  • Land-based Financing
  • Flood Risk Sensitive Land Use Planning
Course Structure

Module 1: TOD as a Strategy to Achieve a Sustainable City
Module 2: TOD Corridors
Module 3: The Building Blocks of TOD
Module 4: Design & Urban Planning Components of TOD
Module 5: Investing in TOD
Module 6: Sequencing for Implementation of TOD Corridors
Module 7: Housing Strategies & Local Economic Development Tools for Inclusive TOD
Module 8: Monitoring and Evaluating TOD Projects
Module 1:
TOD as a Strategy to Achieve Sustainable Cities

Bicycle parking in Kathmandu, Nepal

Module Objective and Outline

• **Objective:** Understand the concept of TOD, its benefits and how it can help cities become more sustainable. Become aware of main barriers for implementation.

• **Outline:**
  - The context faced by cities
  - TOD definition
  - The benefits of TOD
  - The history of TOD
  - Scales of TOD
  - Lessons from the field
  - Barriers to implementation
The Context: Urban Sprawl
The Context: Unsustainable Urban Growth

Ghost towns in China

Photo by: Kai M. Caemmerer http://kaimichael.com/
[copyright provided]
The Context: Rapid Motorization

Figure 1.1  Actual and projected number of motorized vehicles in the world, 1975–2050


The Context: Energy Consumption and Density

The Context: Energy Consumption and Density

Whitby, Toronto: Sprawling suburb 13.0 tCO2e per capita

Etobicoke, Toronto Single family homes near city center 6.6 tCO2e per capita

East York, Toronto Dense inner-city neighborhood 1.3 tCO2e per capita

tCO2e = tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent - a standard unit for measuring a carbon footprint

The Context: Additional Costs of Urban Sprawl

- Lost Time
- Increased Infrastructure Costs
- Poor Health
- Loss of Public Space
The Context: High Cost of Sprawl

Suburban
City’s Annual Cost, per Household

- Parks & Recreation: $120
- Fire Department: $406
- Transportation: $171
- Culture / Economy: $36
- Sidewalks & Curbs: $194
- Storm & Waste Water: $613
- Roads: $280
- Transfers to Provinces eg. School Boards: $435
- Solid Waste: $185
- Police: $360
- Water: $197

Total: $3462

Urban
City’s Annual Cost, per Household

- Parks & Recreation: $69
- Fire Department: $177
- Transportation: $91
- Culture / Economy: $19
- Sidewalks & Curbs: $37
- Storm & Waste Water: $147
- Roads: $36
- Transfers to Provinces eg. School Boards: $232
- Solid Waste: $185
- Police: $192
- Water: $42

Total: $1416
Sprawl’s Harm on the Urban Poor

Urban Sprawl and automobile-dependency have a number of adverse effects on the urban poor:

• Sprawling cities remain largely inaccessible to the urban poor

• Urban poor are generally concentrated on periphery of city, often in informal settlements

• Difficult to access public services and economic opportunities located in city center

What is TOD?

TOD is a planning and design strategy used to achieve well-designed, high-density, mixed-use, mixed-income, pedestrian and bike-friendly urban development, organized around mass transit stations.

Key Elements of TOD

- Access to mass transit
- High-density development
- Walkability and bikeability
- Access to opportunities
- Mixed-use development
- Mixed-income development

Image Source: EMBARQ India/WRI.
The Case for TOD: Sustainable City

- Competitive & Vibrant
- Increased Ridership
- Mixed-Use
- Livable & Inclusive
- Mixed-Income
- Health Benefits
- Resilient & Low-Carbon
- Public & Green Spaces

Image Source: WRI.
TOD and City-wide Accessibility

Image Source: LSE Cities.
A History of TOD

Like many cities in Europe, the city center of Florence, Italy, is dense and walkable.

https://www.flickr.com/photos/trikelef/3608043144/sizes/l.
City Development Always Limited by Range of Accessible Areas

• As transport technologies evolved, the amount of ground that could be covered in a day was increased
• Cities – their labor markets and commercial influence – grew with trains and then private cars
• In the 20th century, auto-centric infrastructure increased average speeds and cities spread out
  • In addition, buildings separated from each other to make room for car storage - parking
TOD as Envisioned by Peter Calthorpe

A diagram of Peter Calthorpe’s vision for TOD
TOD in Tokyo Metropolitan Area

- Mega-Cities in Japan = Chains of Walkable Cells connected by Railways

- A network of 800m radius walk-able areas from each railway station in Tokyo Metropolitan Area

Source: Hidetoshi Ohno, Tokyo 2050 fibercity, 2006, the University of Tokyo
TOD in Developing Countries: Curitiba's BRT Corridor Development
Scales of TOD: Regional/City Level

Boston, Massachusetts' Fairmount Indigo Railway Corridor

Scales of TOD: Corridor Level

Boston, Massachusetts' planned Fairmount Indigo Railway Corridor

Median Household Income
in the past 12 months, by census tract

- $100,000.01 - $218,419.00
- $50,684.01 - $100,000.00
- $35,000.01 - $50,684.00
- $22,314.01 - $35,000.00
- $12,429.00 - $22,314.00 (poverty threshold *)

*Weighted average poverty threshold for a family of four in 2010. 2010 American Community Survey, 5-year estimates

Scales of TOD: Station Area Level

The station area around a bus rapid transit stop in Bogotá, Colombia.

TOD Implementation Project Cycle

Image Source: WRI.
Barriers to TOD Implementation

- **Lack of integrated and coordinated planning:** Departments at national, regional, and local level must coordinate to ensure successful TOD
- **Lack of supportive TOD policies and regulatory framework:** Policies and regulations must encourage TOD- in particular, high-density development must be allowed
- **Lack of funding:** Land value capture schemes and BRT systems can make TOD more affordable

Political economy

• Political leadership and vision for the city
• Appropriate institutional structures
• Community participation
• Intergovernmental and metropolitan collaboration
TOD: Lessons from the Field

Planning and Regulation
• Holistic and integrated approach
• Supportive regulatory environment

Finance
• Leverage capital
• Use a combination of financing options
• Use public sector investment to encourage private sector investment
• Stakeholders must have shared vision
TOD: Lessons from the Field

Implementation

*TOD takes time and accordingly:*

• Create democratic, transparent, and fair processes
• Create new spatial identities through placemaking strategies to create vibrant communities
• Allow for adjustments over long-term market cycles
• Limited transit network diminishes TOD appeal
• Limit gentrification through increased access to low-income housing
Module Quiz

1. Which one of the following statements about Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) is true?
   a. TOD encourages visionary urban design, mass transit, walking and cycling.
   b. TOD aims to create an urban road system that is friendly to private vehicles.
   c. Private vehicles fueled by clean energy are encouraged by TOD because they are environmentally friendly.
   d. Social equity is not a consideration of TOD.

2. Which one of the following choices is NOT an element of TOD?
   a. Walkable access to public transport
   b. Fast and convenient networks of highways
   c. Compact and mixed use of land
   d. Mixed-income neighborhoods
   e. Easy access to public transport and economic opportunities

3. Which of the following choices is NOT an obstacle to the implementation of TOD?
   a. Lack of integration and coordination in planning and implementation
   b. Lack of supportive policies
   c. Lack of funding
   d. Lack of innovative designs
Module Quiz

4. Which was NOT a key lesson of TOD implementation? 7
   a. Create democratic, transparent, and fair processes
   b. Maintain spatial identities by limiting low-income housing
   c. Limited transit network diminishes TOD appeal
   d. Allow for adjustments over long-term market cycles

5. Which of the following aspects is NOT included in a TOD community?
   a. Commercial and residential development
   b. High-quality public transit
   c. Safe pedestrian and biking corridors
   d. Special lanes dedicated to accelerate travel by private automobiles