While RTPs are important vision documents for their city-regions, few methods exist for evaluating their policies, projects, or impacts. This is quite surprising, given

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While the two plans were ranked equally when the section on implementation was not taken into account, *The Big Move* ranked higher overall when this section was considered, due to its far greater provision of implementation guidance.

<u>Table 2 – Elements of a "Good" RTP</u> Detailed examination of the challenges that the RTP is designed to address Clear identification of implementation problems

Explicit identification of goals and objectives, with clear connection to

Based upon the elements of "good" RTPs displayed in Table 2, five recommendations for future RTPs to follow were generated:

Recommendation 1 - Place extensive focus upon

the land use/transportation connection.

Recommendation 2 - Frequent updates

(preferably every five years or less) help ensure

that the plan is responsive to change.

Recommendation 3 - Strong implementation guidance is necessary to help keep the

plan " on track " .

Recommendation 4 - A robust consultation process helps ensure that the plan

addresses the concerns of a broad segment of the population.

Recommendation 5 – **Be bold**, yet reasonable.

Table 3 – RTP Evaluation Criteria

<u>Adequacy of Context</u> (Explain the context and the setting: the what and the why of the document. They are not self-evident to the public.)

- 1. Is the political/legal context of the RTP explained?
- 2. Is the administrative authority for preparation indicated?
- 3. Is the role of the preparing agency adequately presented?
- 4. Is background information presented?
- 5. Is it clear who the RTP is for?
- 6. Is the RTP's purpose explained?
- 7. Is the RTP's scope reported early on, to alert the reader about what to expect?
- 8. Is an overview/summary provided?
- 9. Is the source of funding for the RTP shown?

<u>"Rational Model" Considerations</u> (Show basic planning considerations based on underlying theory and its criteria. Even beyond the list here, there many theories and types of plans. The plan authors must be

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Adequacy of Scope (continued)

- 7. Have legal/political implications been considered?
- 8. Does the RTP relate to the province's transportation plan? If so, how?
- 9. Is maintenance and operation of the existing system given consideration, in addition to the addition of new capacity?
- 10. How does the RTP deal with the land use/ transportation connection?

<u>Guidance for Implementation</u> (Most plans are intended to do something. Consider the instruments [ordinances, regulations, budgets, schedules, etc.] and the agencies and persons responsible for making the plan work. Should they be included? [A vision plan would not have an implementation aspect; rather, it would have a section dealing with the " next steps".])

- 1. Are implementation provisions included in the RTP?
- 2. Are there priorities for implementation?
- 3. Is cost of implementation vs. nonimplementation considered?
- 4. Is there a time span for RTP implementation?
- 5. Is there a program or proposal for an impact analysis?
- 6. Is the agency or person responsible for implementation identified?
- 7. Can the responsible agency realistically be expected to implement the RTP?

Approach, Data, and Methodology (Make clear the technical bases, if any, of the plan; where the data may come from and how they are used, so that others may check the plan's thinking by use of the same sources.)

- 1. Is the RTP based on a wide spectrum of data where feasible?
- 2. Is the plan sufficiently flexible to permit new data and findings to blstew?