

Welcome!

Using the Tool: Smart School Siting Workshops, Part 2 - Webinar

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AIA CES

Request a certificate of attendance – via email. Wait for the last slide before sending request for certificate.

Certificate will be emailed to attendee after webinar.

AIA CES

Provider Name:

Ohio Facilities Construction Commission

Provider Number: G442

Course Title: EPA Smart School Siting Tool

Course Numbers: Web22

Credits: 1.0 LU/HSW

Speakers: Various

Dates: April 27, 2016



AIA CES

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Course Description

Participants will learn how the EPA Smart School Siting Tool can be used to engage stakeholders in an inclusive, constructive school siting process. The Webinar will examine how engaging a diverse group of stakeholders can better inform and align school siting decisions with community vision, improve transparency, and engender broad support for siting decisions and financing measures. Participants will learn about an approach for convening stakeholder workshops using the EPA Smart School Tool that support agreement on factual information and focus deliberations on school siting priorities that reflect shared values and encourage fair trade-offs.

Learning Objectives

- Be familiar with a structured approach for engaging stakeholders in school siting decisions using the EPA Smart School Siting Tool
- Understand how a structured deliberative stakeholder process can identify shared and diverse values and priorities for community health, safety, and well-being

Learning Objectives

- Know how to set up a collaborative fact finding process that supports transparency, builds trust, and promotes objective assessment of site-specific factors that affect community health

Will the Webinar be Recorded?

Yes – the webinar is being recorded and you will find the recording and the PPT in the OFCC Webinar Archive within five business days of the webinar.

Webinar Archive:

<http://ofcc.ohio.gov/NewsEvents/Webinars/WebinarArchive.aspx>



Have a Question?

Please use the Question feature on the right side of your screen at any time during the webinar.

Responses will be provided at the end of the webinar.

Today's Presenters

Regina Langton, US EPA: Office of Sustainable Communities

Bill Michaud, CSRA

Katherine Moore, Georgia Conservancy



EPA Smart School Siting Tool

A new tool to help communities site schools that promote healthy learning and community well-being

Using the Tool: Smart School Siting Workshops

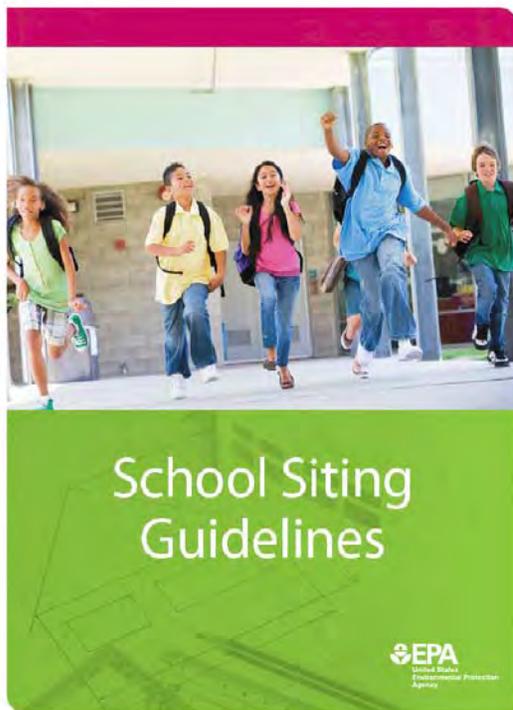
Site Comparison Workbook

Webinar: April 27, 2016

Agenda

- 1) Background
- 2) Overview of the Smart School Siting Tool
- 3) Public Involvement
- 4) Site Comparison Workshop
- 5) Questions & Answers

SCHOOL SITING GUIDELINES



- Voluntary
- Directive from Congress to create model guidelines accounting for:
 - Special vulnerability of children to hazardous substances or pollution exposures
 - Modes of transportation available to students and staff
 - The efficient use of energy
 - The potential use of a school as an emergency shelter

www.epa.gov/schools/siting

SCHOOL SITING GUIDELINES

Old School,
New School,
This Place,
That Place.

An introduction
to utilizing the
EPA School
Siting Guidelines



Training Modules

- 1-hour training
 - Frames issue for decision makers
- 3-hour professional training
 - Includes User's Guide and supplemental break-out exercises
 - Detailed review of issues
- 30-minute parent/community training
 - Frames issues from community's view
 - Layman's terms

www.gaconservancy.org/schoolsiting

SMART SCHOOL SITING TOOL

The tool is designed to...

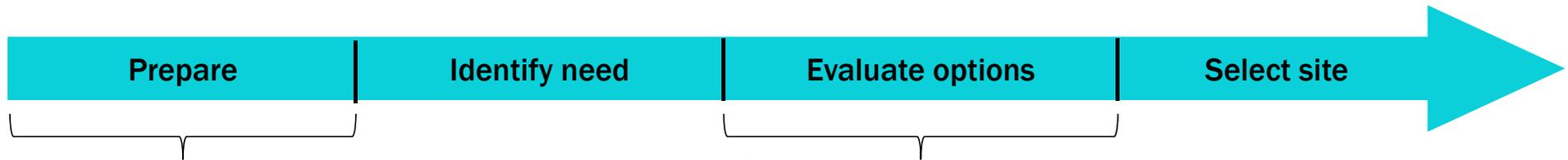
- Engage a more diverse group of stakeholders
- Encourage more holistic analysis of school siting decision implications
- Foster and facilitate collaboration
- Support (not supplant) community decision-making

Available at:

<http://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/smart-school-siting-tool>



SMART SCHOOL SITING TOOL (3 PARTS)



2

Assessment & Planning Workbook

Resource to help communities prepare for siting decisions by assessing coordination between school siting and other planning processes

3

Site Comparison Workbook

Resource to help communities compare and evaluate school siting alternatives, including renovation, expansion, and new construction

1

User Guide

- Background on smart school siting
- Overview of the Smart School Siting Tool
- How to use the Workbooks
- Glossary and resources

SMART SCHOOL SITING TOOL

Assessment and Planning Workbook

Design:

- User-friendly downloadable Excel file
- Three assessment sections with ~200 closed (“select one”) questions, with space for comments

Yes	To some extent	Unclear	No	Not Applicable	Answer Later
<input type="radio"/>					

SMART SCHOOL SITING TOOL

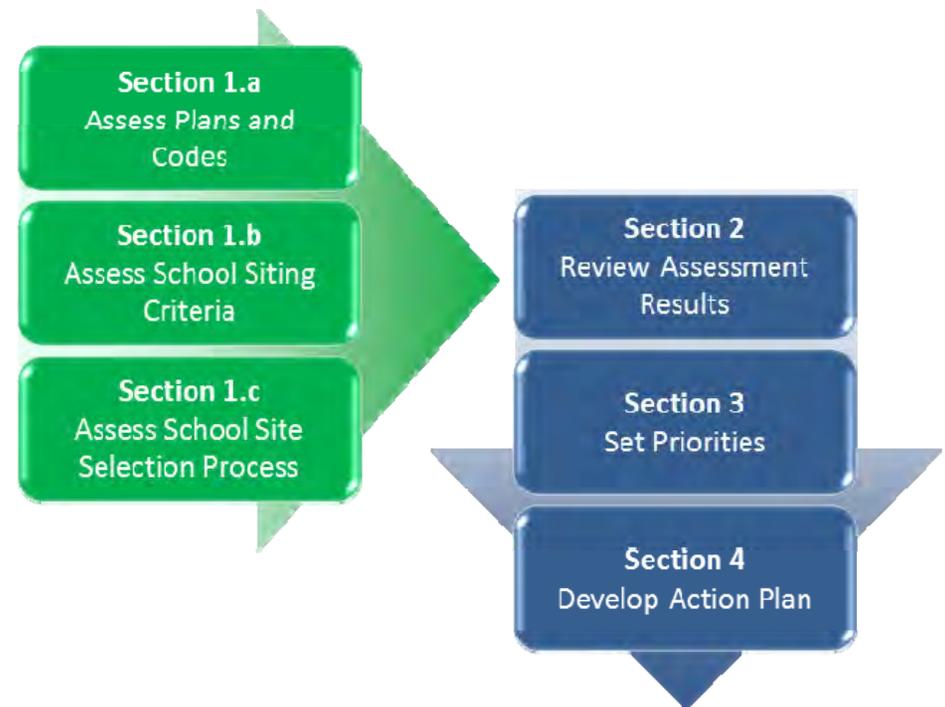
Assessment and Planning Workbook

Three Assessment Areas:

- Coordination between school and community plans and codes
- Alignment of school siting criteria and community planning priorities
- Coordination between school siting and community planning processes

Priority-Setting Worksheet

Action Planning Worksheet



SMART SCHOOL SITING TOOL

Site Comparison Workbook

Design:

- User-friendly downloadable Excel file
- Site summary sheet, 5 worksheets with 25 multiple choice questions, and two cost calculators
- High-level and detailed summary sheets

Select the scenario that most closely represents the school site:

One street, dead-ending at the school site.



One street, adjacent to the school site.



Two or more streets, adjacent to the school site.



Score

SMART SCHOOL SITING TOOL

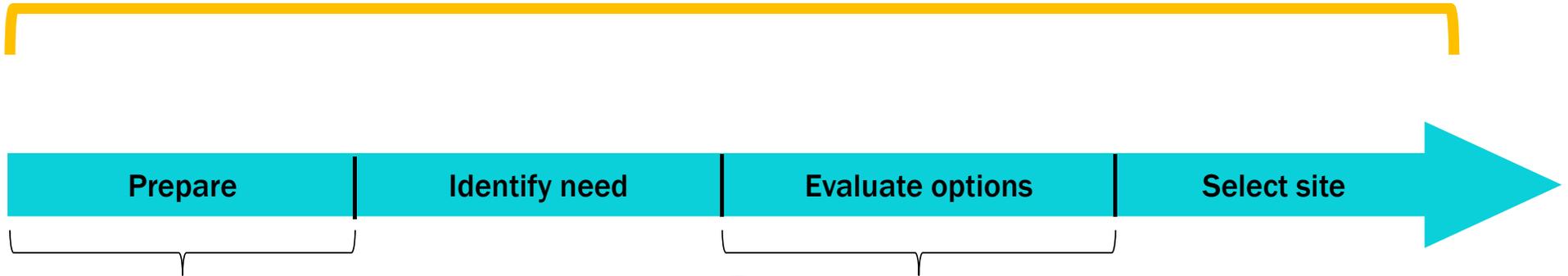
Comparison Factors		Community Implications			
Criteria Category	Example Considerations	Healthy environment	Healthy lifestyles	Social well-being	Fiscal soundness
Proximity to students and population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Near existing students Near dense residential areas Near future planned density 	✓	Less vehicular travel results in reduced air emissions	✓	✓
Availability/ adequacy of infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water/sewer infrastructure Road/drainage infrastructure Consistency with capital plan 	✓	Using existing water, sewer, and roads means lower capital and O&M costs		✓
Neighborhood schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Renovation Environmental improvement Serve underserved population Right-sized, shared use 		Easier access for those without cars (e.g., for teacher conferences, school events); improved neighborhood quality; neighborhood anchor	✓	✓
Street connectivity and site access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Street grid/accessibility Travel lanes and traffic Physical barriers 	✓			
Pedestrian and bike facilities and safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sidewalks/bike path facilities and connectivity Intersection safety 		Promote active, healthy walking and biking	✓	✓

SMART SCHOOL SITING TOOL + ENGAGEMENT



- 1) Form a stakeholder group (School Siting Committee)
- 2) Convene stakeholders and agree on process
- 3) Identify partners and gather information
- 4) Convene workshops
- 5) Follow through

MEANINGFUL PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT



2 Assessment & Planning Workbook

3 Site Comparison Workbook

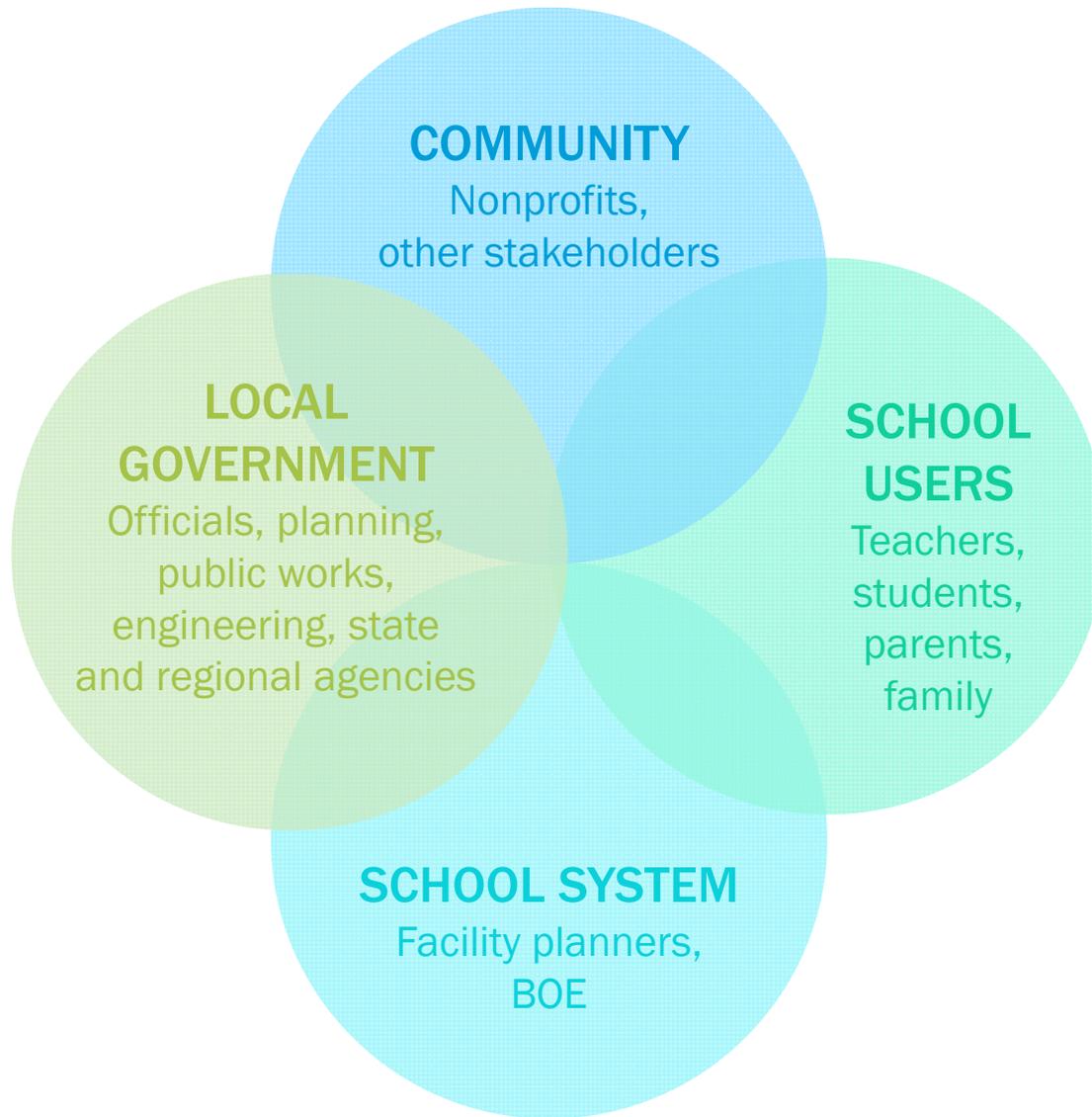
1 SSST User Guide
School Siting Guidelines



MEANINGFUL PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

- Encourages more holistic analysis of opportunities and impacts
- Fosters and facilitate collaboration
- Encourages consensus on facts
- Respects diversity of interests and values
- Supports (not supplants) community decision-making

IDENTIFY PARTNERS



SCHOOL SYSTEM

- What are the state requirements?
- What size should the school be?
- How much property do we need?
- How much will it cost to buy the property and construct the school?
- How much will it cost to own and operate the school?

SCHOOL USERS

- What will the school and classrooms look like?
- What amenities will be provided?
- Will the surroundings stimulate learning?
- How will students get to school? Can they walk?
- Is the school safe?

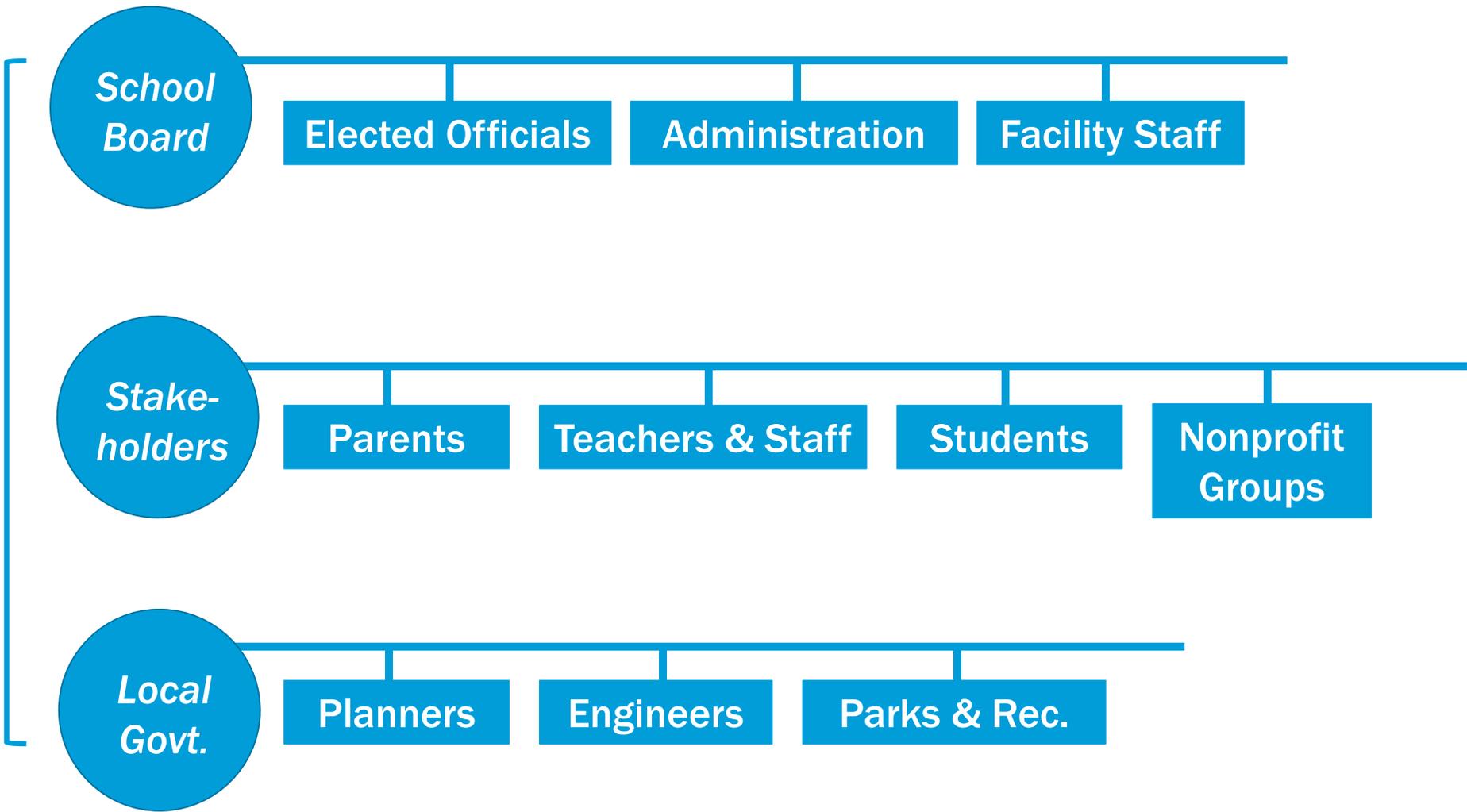
COMMUNITY

- Do we need a new school? Can the existing school be renovated?
- Will the current school close? What will happen to the building?
- How will students get to school?
- Will the school, playgrounds, etc. be accessible to the community?
- Are there environmental hazards?
- Can we have input about where new schools are located?

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- What are the water and sewer needs of the new school? Do we have adequate capacity?
- Will the surrounding roads support the anticipated traffic?
- Are the school locations coordinated with the future land use plan?
- How will the location impact the demand for local government services?

SCHOOL SITING COMMITTEE



PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Key Process Decisions

Public involvement strategy

- Communication plan
- Public input (information gathering, decision making)

Siting Committee roles and responsibilities

- Information gathering
- Public involvement
- Facilitation

Decision process

- Site evaluation criteria and process (and how the tool will fit)
- Role of community input
- Developing and communicating recommendations
- Final decision-making



PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT



Are you speaking about these issues with the public in an accessible way?

School siting decisions concern:

1. New school buildings
2. Closed school buildings
3. School site layout
4. Placement in the community



THE CHALLENGE

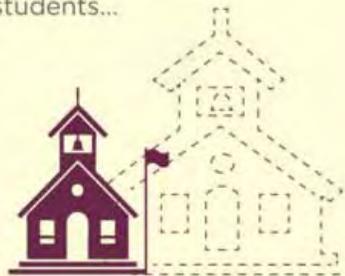
The number of students in our schools is growing rapidly...



But the number of our school buildings isn't...



So, schools are built larger to accommodate more students...



(which means class sizes are bigger, too)

Bigger schools need more land. But our town centers are filled in, so the schools are built far from the community center...



So what? Parents, students and staff are driving more, contributing to...



...poor air quality and traffic congestion



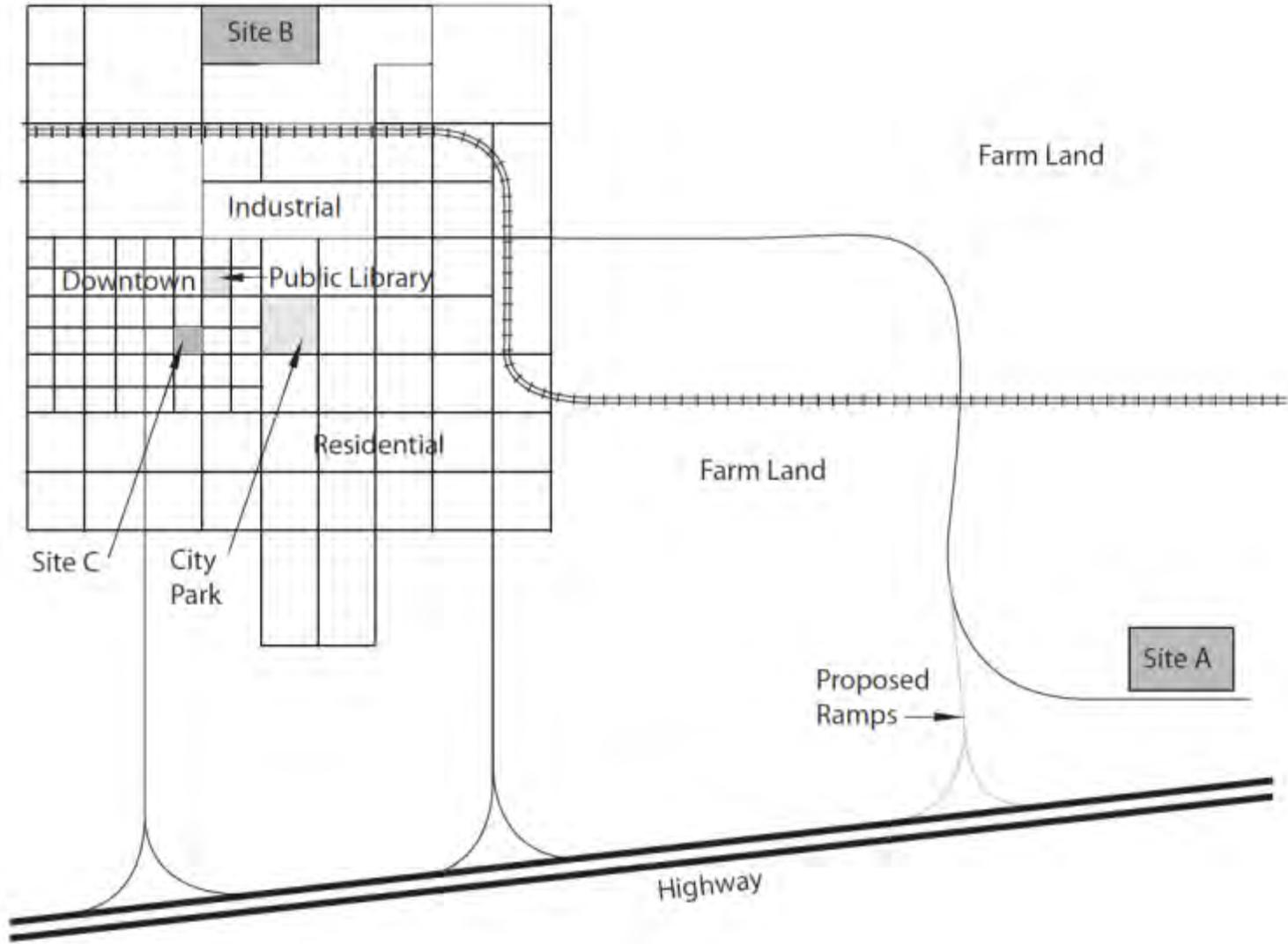
...less exercise, contributing to higher levels of obesity



...and less time doing things they actually want to do!

(State of GA statistics reflect national trends. From GA School Siting White Paper, prepared for GeorgiaPublic.net, March 2011)

Mock School Siting Exercise



GROUP EXERCISE 2

Old School, New School, This Place, That Place:
An Introduction to Utilizing the EPA School Siting Guidelines

	Site A	Site B	Site C
General description	Facility would include a state-of-the-art theater that could be used for community productions.	One-story administrative building, located in a former industrial area. The current owner, a pesticide company, will donate it and the surrounding land.	The existing school (c. 1927) sits on a small lot downtown and is surrounded on three sides by houses and a former gas station & drycleaners on the fourth. Demolition of the original building is not an option.
Size	50 acres to be donated by a developer with an approved new housing development	The entire lot is 10 acres in size but sits across from Henley Park, a 15-acre recreational park owned by the city but rarely used.	To build a new wing and ball fields, the district would need to either acquire 8 neighboring houses that were also built in the 1920s or purchase and reuse the former brownfields site. Either option creates a 13 acre site.
Construction cost	\$30 million	Renovation: \$16 M Abatement of hazards: \$10 M Total construction costs = \$26 M	\$35 million includes renovation of existing school, demo & abatement of hazards, plus construction of new wing and ball field
Roads/Parking	A road to the school would need to be constructed, along with a new highway exit. The city is reluctant to fund this construction and noted that the comprehensive plan does not support a school here.	The site could easily accommodate parking for teachers and 5 visitors.	Parking would remain limited and visitors would still have to park several blocks away.
Public water and sewer	None. The developer is waiting to finalize his subdivision plans until after extension of public water and sewer for the school.	Readily available	Readily available
Adjacent land uses	No zoning is in place to prohibit a concentrated animal feeding operation (CAFO) on the neighboring farm.	Renovation of this building could spur revitalization of the central business district which is within walking distance.	The directors of the downtown library and local YMCA are reluctant to share any space.
Walkability	Currently no students could walk or bike to the location. No sidewalks are planned (or required) for the housing development	Approximately 50 kids (within 1 mile) could walk or bike to this location on sidewalks that need to be repaired. Also more safe crossings are needed.	Approximately 75 kids (within 1 mile) walk or bike to this school along tree-lined sidewalks.
Annual bus transportation costs	Bus transportation costs for the district and for the state would increase by approximately 40%.	Bus transportation costs for the district would not vary greatly from current cost of \$100,000.	Bus transportation costs would not change.
Demographics	While the ethnic make-up of the student population wouldn't change, the lowest income students would have to travel about 30 minutes more each way each day.	The nearest neighborhood is 5 blocks away and has the lowest income levels in the city.	Approximately 75% of the neighborhood population is Latino and African-American. Income levels are low and about 50% of the children receive Free & Reduced Lunch.

Adapted from an exercise developed by the National Trust for Historic Preservation

SITE COMPARISON WORKSHOP

Facilitated priority-setting exercise

- Agree on scope/definitions of siting criteria
- Prioritization exercise, validation, and refinement

Interactive completion/review of Site Comparison Workbook

Facilitated comparative site evaluation

- Side-by-side comparison within context of priorities
- Discussion and documentation of recommendations and rationale
- Action plan, including roles and responsibilities and schedule

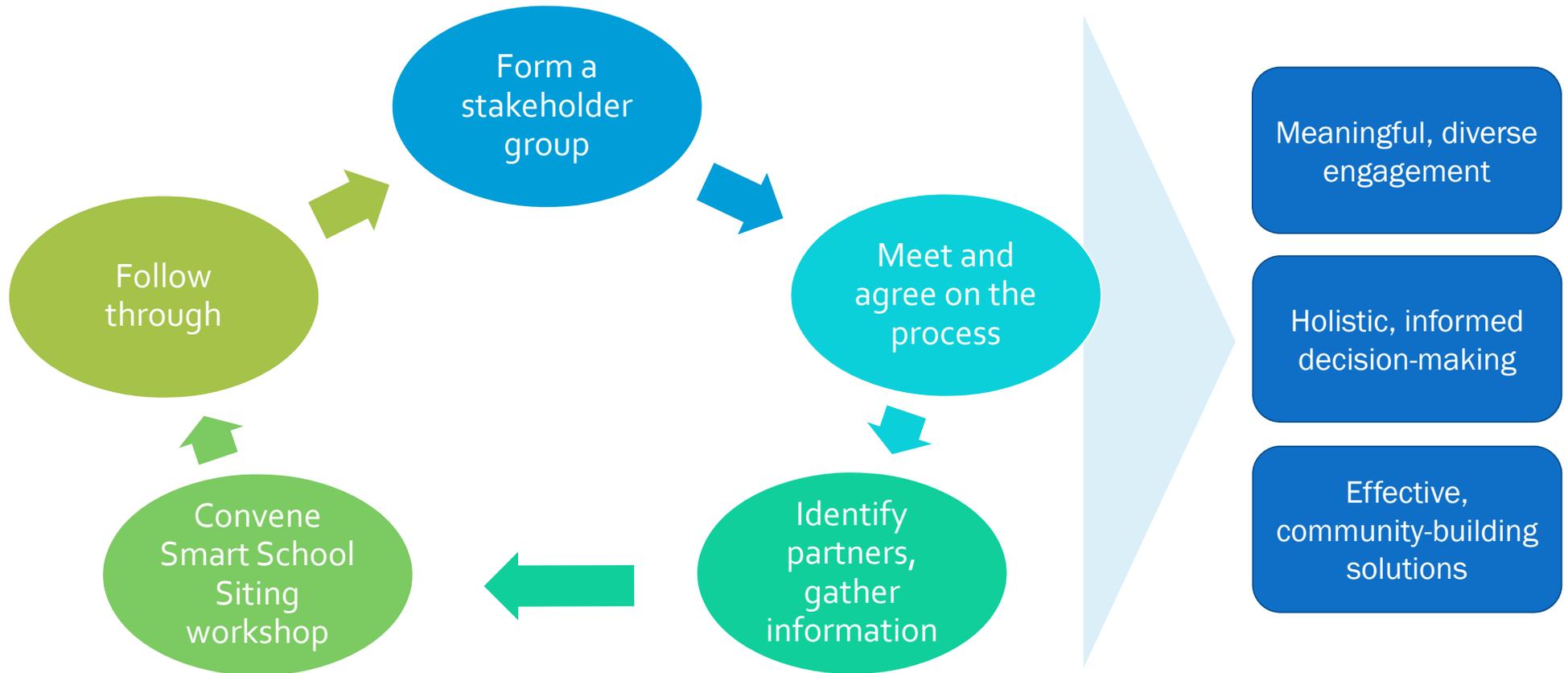


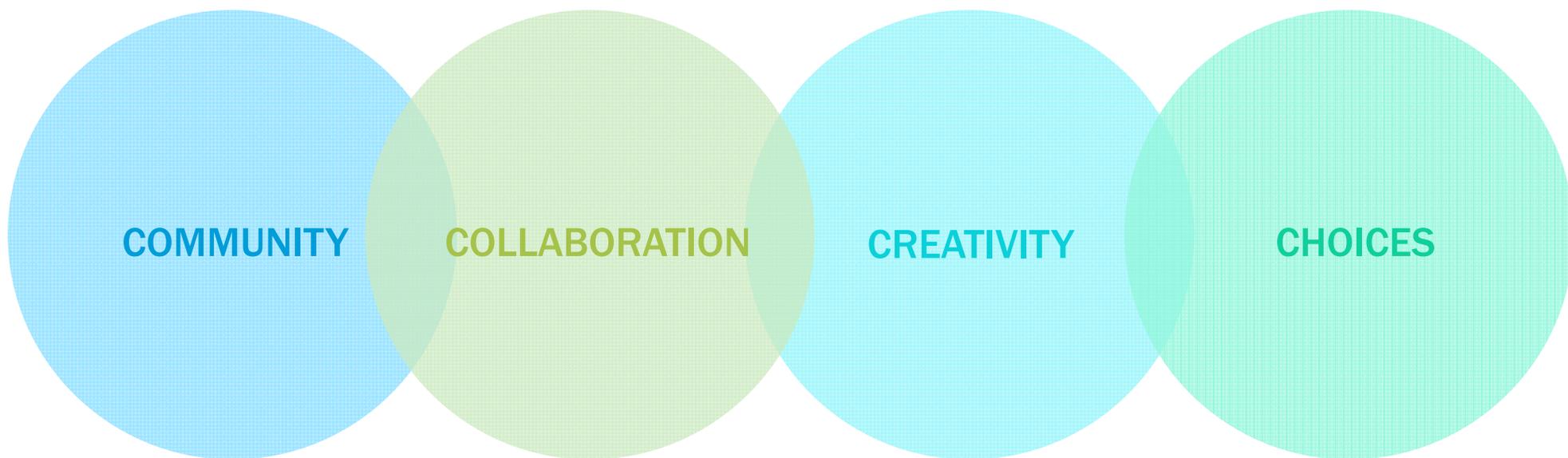
FOLLOW THROUGH



- Committee participation through remainder of the decision process
- Share information, ensure appropriate use
- Use committee and stakeholders as advocates in community to educate others

SMART SCHOOL SITING - WHY THE PROCESS MATTERS





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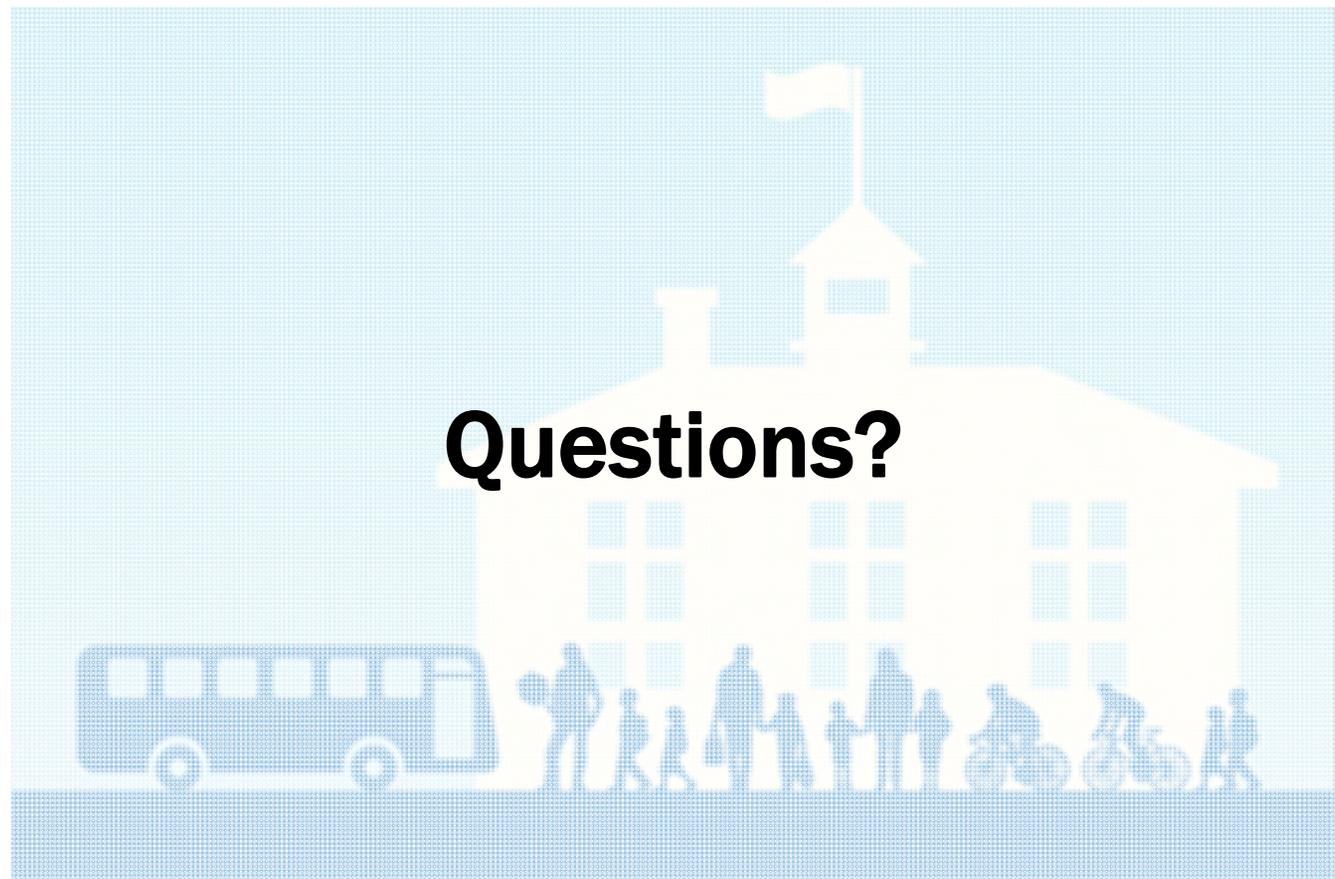


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- AIA CEUs or certificate for self-reporting to your professional organization or employer.
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Questions and Answers



For More Information

The Smart School Siting Tool is available at:

<http://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/smart-school-siting-tool>

For more information, please contact:

Regina Langton

EPA Office of Sustainable Communities

Washington, DC

(202) 566-2178

langton.regina@epa.gov

This concludes The American Institute of Architects Continuing Education Systems Course

Provider Name: Ohio Facilities Construction Commission

Provider #: G442

Contact: sue.meyer@ofcc.ohio.gov

