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Teaching Transportation Planning in Natural Amenity Regions

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TEACHING TRANSPORTATION PLANNING IN NATURAL AMENITY REGIONS

Communities throughout the nation face a variety of interconnected transportation, livability, and sustainability challenges that can only be effectively addressed through regional planning collaboration. These challenges are particularly pressing in gateway and natural amenity region communities throughout the U.S. Mountain West.

NITC researchers engaged graduate students in developing curricular materials to teach planning students, professional planners, and community members the core concepts of regional collaborative transportation and land use planning in gateway and natural amenity region communities. Students developed curriculum through an applied graduate-level studio course, as well as through the Zion Regional Collaborative: a collaborative regional planning effort aimed at enhancing livability along Utah State Route 9, the main transportation corridor leading to Zion National Park in southern Utah. Using this effort as a laboratory, faculty and graduate students studied real-world efforts to support collaborative regional transportation and land use planning.

Building on what they learned from the collaboration and from literature reviews, background readings and insights from experts, graduate students in the studio course developed **two complimentary toolkits, one for faculty and another for the public, to download and replicate the teachings in their region:**

- A toolkit for teaching university students the theory and practice of collaborative regional planning, particularly in gateway and natural amenity communities, via a set of role-play simulations, scenarios, and teaching guidelines.
- A toolkit aimed at community members and professionals, providing a set of resources to assist gateway and natural amenity region communities in addressing their key transportation, land use, and planning-related challenges.

National parks and other natural amenities, because of their influx of visitors, can experience “big city problems” like congestion and sprawl. This education project developed strategies for teaching transportation planning in these unique communities.

PROJECT TITLE

Tools and Techniques for Teaching Collaborative Regional Planning to Enhance Livability and Sustainable Transportation (#2017-1074)

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<http://nitc.trec.pdx.edu/research/project/1074>

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