



Highlights of the LI 2035 Visioning Initiative

The Long Island 2035 Visioning Initiative was established to help achieve a regional public consensus on where the next generation of Long Islanders could live and work, the transportation systems needed to support these settlements and the public and private actions required to ensure a prosperous, equitable and environmentally sustainable Long Island. The analysis and findings of this initiative, which was funded by the New York Metropolitan Transportation Council, will be incorporated into the Long Island 2035 Comprehensive Regional Sustainability Plan that is currently under development by the Long Island Regional Planning Council.

Components of the Visioning Initiative

- An inventory and analysis of local plans and studies
- Lessons learned from other regions
- Analysis and mapping of existing conditions, constraints and opportunities
- Projections of current trends
- Organization of committees of municipal officials and private stakeholders
- Visioning workshop bringing together participants from across the Island
- Alternative 2035 scenarios to frame development and policy choices

Baseline Scenario for 2035

- Both population and employment are likely to grow more slowly on Long Island than in other suburban parts of the New York metropolitan area.
- Individuals age 65 and older will grow from 14% of the population to an estimated 21%.
- Long Island will continue to become more racially and ethnically diverse.
- The number of multi-family units, including two-family homes, townhouses and larger apartment buildings, would need to grow to accommodate population growth.
- Without aggressive programs to preserve open space and transfer development rights, most of Long Island's remaining unprotected developable land could be developed.
- New housing and jobs would be located farther from current infrastructure, such as rail transit and sewers, than are existing housing and jobs.

Priorities Expressed by Participants of the March 2009 Visioning Workshop

- Emphasize mixed-use redevelopment in downtowns, near railroad stations and in large redevelopment sites.
- Preserve as much open space as possible.
- Avoid new large lot development in favor of multi-family and small/medium lot single-family development.

- Avoid new commercial strip development.
- Invest in system-wide improvements in public transportation, including rail, bus and ferry.
- Improve north-south connectivity.
- Address the increased congestion and parking problems that come with denser development.

Alternative Scenarios for 2035

- Scenario A: Distributing Growth Throughout Long Island: Of the three scenarios, population and job growth in Scenario A would be the most dispersed throughout the Island and use the largest amount of undeveloped land.
- Scenario B: Concentrating Growth Around the Existing Transit Network: Most employment and population growth would be concentrated in downtowns and other areas around existing transit centers.
- Scenario C: Developing New Centers of Population and Jobs: A large share of new population and employment would be concentrated in large underutilized spaces, such as former industrial sites or airports, and intensifying development in designated areas that are appropriate for larger-scale mixed-use environments.

Recommendations for Further Study

- Validate the priorities expressed by participants at the visioning workshop with those of the wider public, either with additional public workshops or other forms of outreach.
- Fully evaluate the feasibility and costs of implementing these priorities on an Island-wide basis
- Articulate the implications of Island-wide scenarios for specific municipalities
- Evaluate the impacts of development choices by race, age, gender and income
- Reach consensus on an optimum level of growth for the Island by 2035
- Clarify the impacts of different forms of density on congestion, costs, equity and other variables
- Evaluate and develop consensus on specific transportation solutions