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In the face of increasing complexity and uncertainty, planners, public officials, and community residents need new tools to anticipate and shape the future. Opening Access to Scenario Planning Tools examines the current state of scenario planning and scenario planning tools that can help communities and regions prepare for that future through a variety of visioning, land use, transportation, and other planning efforts. A unique opportunity presents itself to use the best and latest technology to help citizens visualize the future of their cities and regions, so that they might chart a course for sustainable growth.

Decisions about the future are often controversial due to competing economic interests, different cultural values, and divergent views about property rights and the role of government. Broader and more effective civic engagement is needed to ensure community support for decisions about development and other land-related policies, and public investments. The traditional predict-and-plan paradigm is inadequate to address all of these challenges. The authors identify a clear need to develop and implement planning tools and processes that foster anticipation and adaptation.

Three concepts will be critical to the scenario planning and tool-building process: collaboration, capacity building, and creation of an open environment for engagement. Collaborative problem solving facilitates resolution of interrelated issues that cannot be resolved by one organization alone. Capacity building is needed to enable individuals and organizations to apply scenario planning methods and tools effectively to their specific planning concerns. An open environment for information sharing and education will help accelerate the use and improvement of scenario planning tools in multiple settings.

The emergence of new and improved scenario planning tools over the last 10 years offers promise that the use of scenario planning can increase and that the goal of providing open access to the full potential of scenario planning tools is within reach. This report recommends seven immediate actions that could be implemented quickly to facilitate this goal. A group of tool

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developers, planners, and other users convened by the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy and the Sonoran Institute, including the co-authors of this report, are already working to advance these efforts. A new website, www.ScenarioPlanningTools.org, will be the online host for this initiative.

- * Create an online platform to foster collaboration in the development and application of scenario planning tools.
- * Develop a curriculum on scenario planning for the next generation of professional and citizen planners.
- * Establish a model process for conducting scenario planning and show how it can be used with existing community planning processes.
- * Illustrate different uses of scenario planning tools in various stages of the planning process to facilitate increased use of scenario planning.
- * Establish data standards to improve information sharing, starting with development and place types for land use patterns.
- * Initiate a model collaborative project to demonstrate the potential for integrated tools, models, and modules.
- * Advance new concepts of anticipatory governance by using foresight and anticipation to address uncertainty and future challenges.

About the authors:

Jim Holway directs Western Lands and Communities, the Lincoln Institute's joint venture with the Sonoran Institute, based in Phoenix, Arizona.

C.J. Gabbe, an urban planner with Freg-onese Associates, Inc., in Portland, Oregon.

Frank Hebbert is the director of civic works at OpenPlans in New York City.

Jason Lally is the director of the Decision Lab at PlaceMatters, a nonprofit organization based in Denver, Colorado.

Teléfonos: 55 44 73 40 y 55 44 72 91

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Robert Matthews is project director for the Decision Commons initiative in Seattle, a joint project of the University of Washington's Runstad Center for Real Estate Studies and the Quality Growth Alliance.

Ray Quay is a research professional at the Decision Center for a Desert City, a National Science Foundation-funded Decision Making Under Uncertainty Center within the Global Institute of Sustainability at Arizona State University.