

VOLUNTEER CITY TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS



Tennessee Department of Transportation Context Sensitive Solutions Training Context Screening Tool

This exercise is intended for use as a tool to evaluate how well streets and adjacent land uses are performing as Places, and identify opportunities for enhancing them in the future.



Basic Information to Understand the Volunteer City Area

Identify the demographic characteristics of the area:

Income levels: Median levels is \$40,000-49,999 for most of project area, parts near the VC Bypass intersection and in areas far West of Volunteer City were \$50,000-90,197.

Race: 84.5% White, 10.3% African American, 4.8% Hispanic, 4.9% Other

Age groups: Median age 33, because of the proximity to schools, children ages 6-18 are a large part of the study locations A & C.

Identify any community facilities in the area (schools, churches, parks, emergency services, etc.)

Volunteer City High School	Recreation Center
Community College	Greenway
Elementary School	Parks

Identify the natural features in the area (i.e. streams, wetlands, etc.).

Scenic Town River
Wetlands surrounding river
Flood Plain at VC Bypass interchange

Identify the cultural/historic features in the area.

Main Street Historic District Archeological sites (possibly National Register eligible)
Scenic Town River Rural Historic District
Civil War era cemeteries (would there really be several?)
Civil War battlefields (would there really be more than one?)

List any notable people, places or events that have cultural or historic value to the community. Although the city has a vibrant Civil War history and various historical homes and battlefields, there are none specific to these study locations.

Identify visual/aesthetic/scenic features of the area.

Downtown trees within sidewalks, and metal benches
Scenic views of Town River
Scenic and pastoral views of and within Scenic Town River Rural Historic District
Aesthetically pleasing downtown streetscape views within historic district

Identify regional needs and uses of transportation facilities.

Volunteer Parkway provides major connection to I-9 to the east.
Capital City Boulevard provides major connection to Capital City to the north.

A. Evaluate the Place to Identify the Problems

After you have examined the photos of the assigned route, view the area indicated for study. Put yourself in the shoes of someone who lives or works in the area, and evaluate how well this site performs as a place.

1: Human and Social Characteristics



- | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1-1. Populated areas (a commercial area or residential area) have many different activities occurring. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 1-2. There are places to gather. It is easy for people to interact with each other. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 1-3. Access to community facilities (schools, parks, etc.) is safe and convenient | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 1-3. There are opportunities for active recreational Activities (e.g. walking, shopping, access to boating, fishing, hiking). | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 1-5. Activity locations are easily visible and inviting for drivers and pedestrians. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |

SUM of ANSWERS = _____

Average Answer (sum ____/5) =

2: Natural/Cultural/Visual Characteristics



2-1. Where streams are found, waterways have not been adversely affected by development (e.g. natural vegetation lines the streambank; where development has occurred, there are buffer zones between the development and any streams; streams have not been channelized or diverted into culverts.	1	2	3	4
2-2. The road is attractive and fits its surroundings.	1	2	3	4
2-3. Historic and cultural resources have been preserved.	1	2	3	4
2-4. The road respects and highlights important natural and scenic features (parks, rivers, pastureland, etc.).	1	2	3	4
2-5. The road respects and highlights important community and cultural features (skylines, historic places, etc.).	1	2	3	4

SUM of ANSWERS = _____

Average Answer (sum ____/5) =

3: Transportation/Mobility Characteristics



4-1. The road feels safe and well cared for.	1	2	3	4
4-2. Walking is easy.				
• Pedestrians can easily walk throughout the area.	1	2	3	4
• Pedestrian access is safe and convenient (e.g. sidewalks connect to adjacent areas; crosswalks are well marked; crossing distances are minimal).	1	2	3	4
4-4. Bicycling is easy.				
• Routes are safe and convenient	1	2	3	4
• Routes are well marked.	1	2	3	4
4-4. Transit availability is appropriate for the corridor.	1	2	3	4
4-5. Automobile traffic does not detract from the pedestrian experience.	1	2	3	4
4-6. Automobiles are able to use the road safely and efficiently.	1	2	3	4
4-7. There is adequate directional signage and location information.	1	2	3	4

SUM of ANSWERS = _____

Average Answer (sum ____/9) =

4: Economic and Land Use Characteristics



- | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|
| 4-1. The area appears vibrant and economically healthy. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 4-2. The road enhances the setting of and access to local businesses and community institutions. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 4-5. Adjacent land uses are compatible with each other. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 4-6. Business areas are attractive | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 4-7. Residential areas are attractive and easy to access. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |

SUM of ANSWERS = _____

Average Answer (sum ____/5) =

Average Answer of All Areas

- | | |
|---|-------|
| Average Human and Social Characteristics | _____ |
| Average Natural/Cultural/Visual Characteristics | _____ |
| Average Transportation/Mobility Characteristics | _____ |
| Average Economic and Land Use Characteristics | _____ |

SUM of ANSWERS = _____

AVERAGE ANSWER (Sum: ____/4) =



B. ADD ANY OTHER PROBLEMS YOU SEE:

C. PRIORITIZE THE PROBLEMS YOU HAVE IDENTIFIED

1.

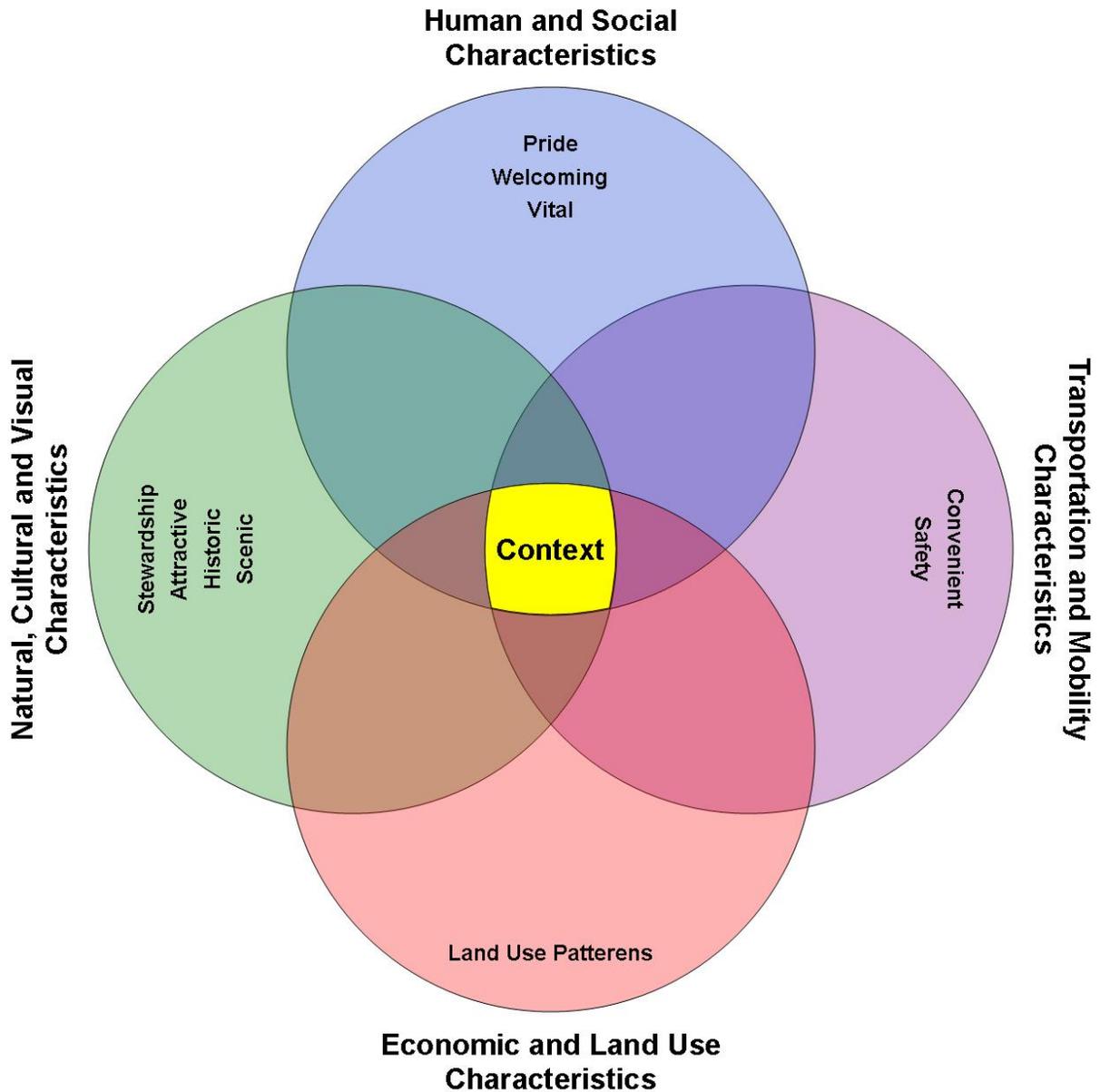
2.

3.

4.

5.

Understanding the Elements of Context



The Tennessee Department of Transportation wishes to acknowledge the inspiration for this Context Screening Tool from Project for Public Spaces, Inc.'s Place Audit, a tool of that organization's program of Placemaking through Transportation.