

## Great Streets Great Cities

Roxanne Qualls Director, Public Leadership Initiatives October 17, 2006

#### The Stewards of Place

#### Mayors, managers, engineers, department directors, administrators

- Trash picked up
- Roads paved
- Barking dog quieted
- Budgets balanced
- Jobs
- Housing

### **Quality of place**

Beautiful Green Clean Safe

#### Stewards of Place

#### Unique opportunity

Unavoidable imperative

### Great Cities and Regions

- What is it about Great Cities and Regions that makes us want to:
  - -Imitate them?
  - -Visit them?
  - -Live in them?

## Las Ramblas, Barcelona



# Champs Elysee, Paris





## Michigan Avenue, Chicago





## Niagara on the Lake



# College Avenue-Oakland



### It's the Streets

- Quality of the public realm
- Intersection of private life and public display at the sidewalk
- Place where community happens
- Place where the unexpected can occur

## They have Great Streets



#### Technically

- Facilitate mobility and are the location of ROW infrastructure









#### Socially

Form dense connective tissue between and among communities and people





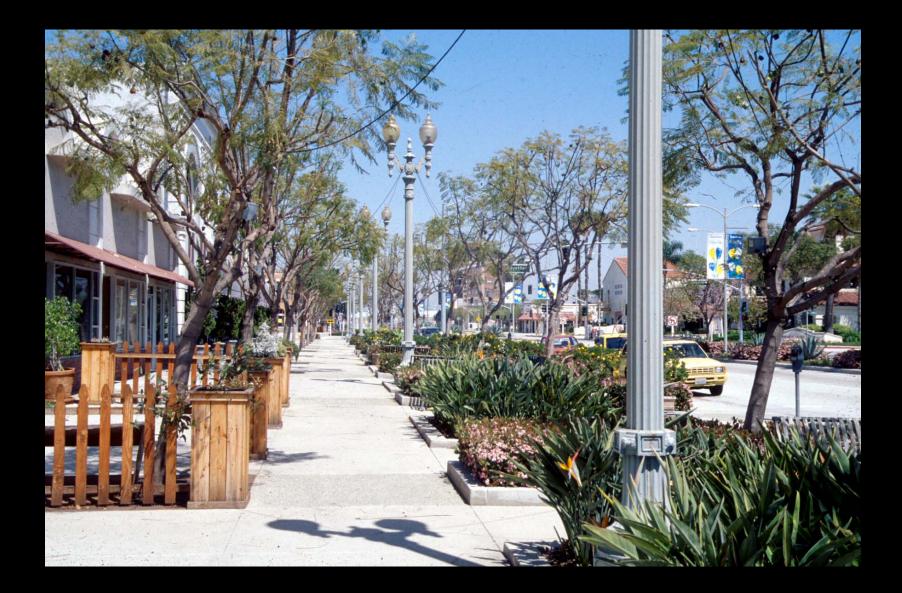
### <u>Streets</u>

#### Aesthetically

- Are the public sector's most significant contribution to a sense of place.
- Cities have more real estate in streets than in parks.
- Frame development and activities.









Reality





#### Public Leaders

#### Priorities

- Economic and Community Development
- Business Retention and Expansion
- -Transportation and Transit

### Public Leaders

- Overlooked Priority
  - -The quality of the built environment
  - The quality of the city's investment in ROW infrastructure
    - Streets, roads, bridges, sidewalks, bike paths, canals, etc

### The Mayor as City Architect and City Designer

- Translate the technical into the strategic.
- Insure public investments add value, not just meet the minimum requirements.
- Insure collaboration and coordination among internal departments and external agencies to achieve the city's objectives

Why?

## The Public Investment

- FHA published February 2006 for 2003
  - Total Disbursements of all governments for streets, road, highways
    - Capital
    - Maintenance and Service
    - Administration
    - Safety and Enforcement
    - Interest
    - Bond Retirement

\$143,602,691,000

# <u>Cities and the New</u> <u>Realities</u>

- Globalization
- The Rise of Mega Cities
- Demographic Shifts
- Mobility of Capital-Human and Financial

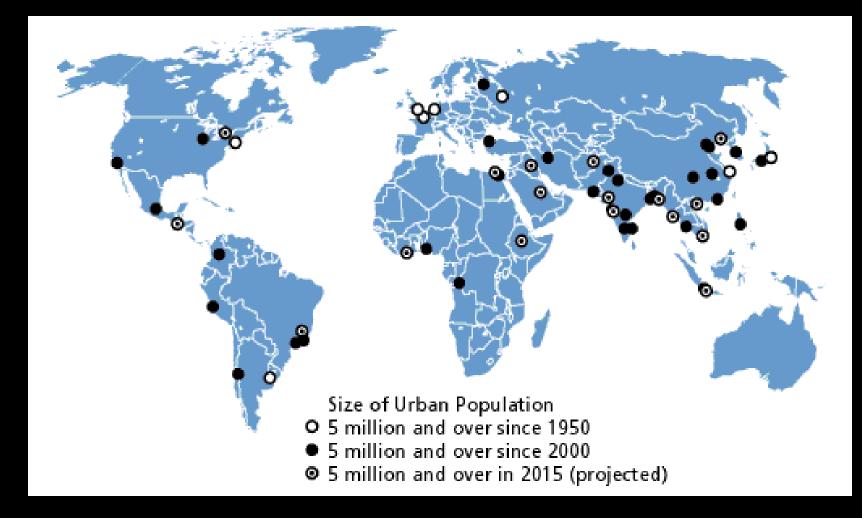
## **Globalization**

- Unique qualities of current process
  - Speed-technology and transportation
  - -Scale-global impact
  - Scope-all social, cultural, technical, political, economic dimensions effected
  - Complexity-new relationships without traditional mediating institutions or organizations

## **Urbanization**

- Three quarters of global population growth occurs in urban areas
- 40% of the population of developing countries live in cities
- By 2015, 153 of the world's 358 largest cities with more than one million inhabitants will be in Asia
- Of the 27 mega-cities with 10 million inhabitants, 15 will be in Asia

## Mega Cities



## **Demographic Shifts**

- Between 2-3 million people emigrate annually
- Most go to the United States, Germany, Canada, and Australia
- Nearly 120 million people live outside their country of birth

## The Great Transformation

Financial Capital is global and mobile, but tends to concentrate

Human Capital is global and mobile, but tends to concentrate New Realities for Cities Successfully Competing in a Global Economy

- Place Matters
- Diverse, multi-cultural environments matter
- Arts and entertainment matter
- A high quality natural environment matters
- A culture of excellence matters
- Educational opportunities matter
- The quality of work opportunities matters

# **Cities Creating Place**

## Portland, ME



# Portland, Oregon



San Francisco-Octavia Boulevard





Palm Springs-Palm Canyon Drive



## St. Paul

## Larpenteur Avenue



## Excelsior at Grand



Opportunity

Imperative

## **Great Streets**

## **Great Places**

**Great Cities**