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EVOLVING CONCEPTS OF TRANSPORTATION SUSTAINABILITY: U.S. EXPERIENCE

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Evolving Concepts of Transport Sustainability: U.S. Experience

Brundtland Commission

A sustainable condition for this planet is one in which there is stability for both social and physical systems, achieved through meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.



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1997 TRB Report on Sustainability and U.S. Transportation

- GHG emissions/climate change
- Disruptions of natural habitats/biodiversity



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“Sustainable Transportation” Characteristics (circa 2000)

- Increased bicycle/pedestrian use
- More public transportation options
- Pricing of highways (including external costs)



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Interrelated, Almost Interchangeable Terms (circa 2011)

- Sustainable transportation
- Smart transportation
- Smart growth
- Livable communities
- Context-sensitive design



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SHRP 2 Planning Tools and Models

Transportation for Communities

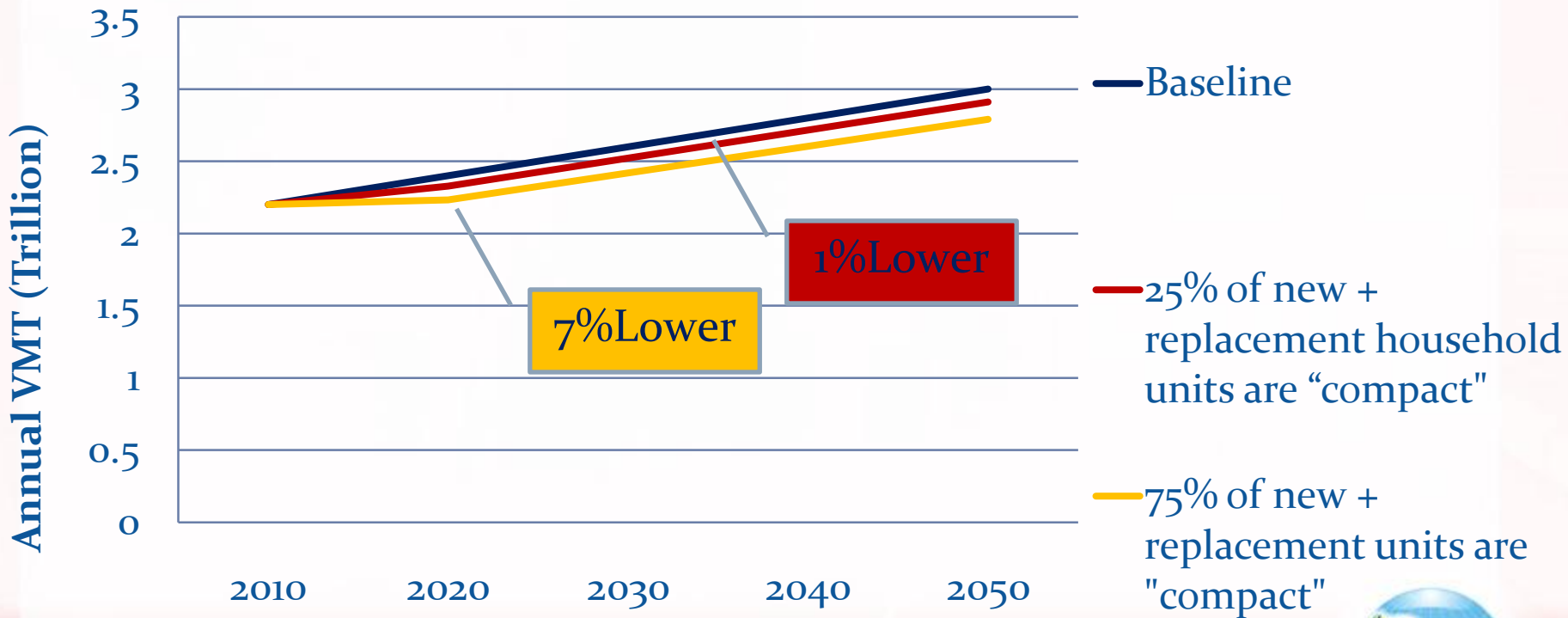
Advancing Projects through Partnerships

www.TransportationForCommunities.com



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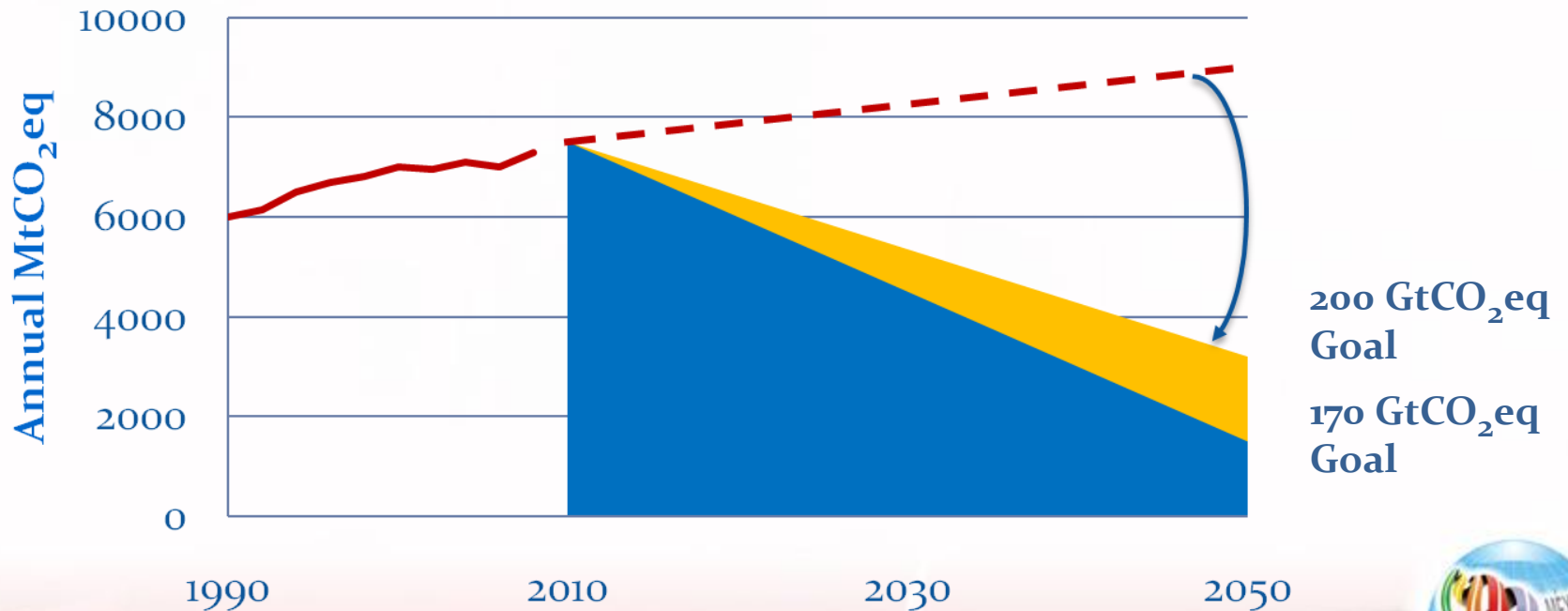
Marginal Effect on Metropolitan Auto Travel from Gradually Increasing Density of Land Use



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The Challenge of Limiting Climate Change

Slowing Growth in Fossil Fuel Use
Will Not Be Sufficient



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Conclusions

- “Sustainability” concepts applied with different meanings
- Locally, “sustainable transportation” consistent with planning and policy trends already under way
- Nationally, limited support for policies to address planet-wide sustainability challenges

