



PIANIFICARE
CITTÀ SOSTENIBILI:
IL RUOLO DELLE
INFRASTRUTTURE
USA e Italia a confronto

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# PLANNING SUSTAINABLE CITIES: an infrastructure-based approach

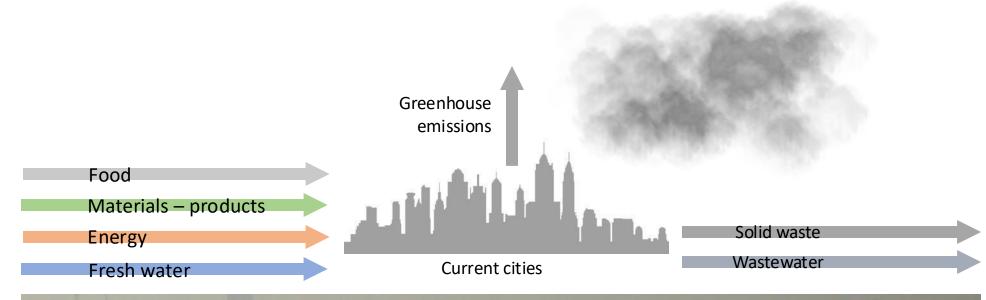
Spiro N. Pollalis

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Management at the Harvard Design School
Director of the Zofnass Program for Sustainable Infrastructure (ISI)



#### Toward a sustainable city

Current cities consume vast resources while polluting the natural environment and downgrading the quality of life.



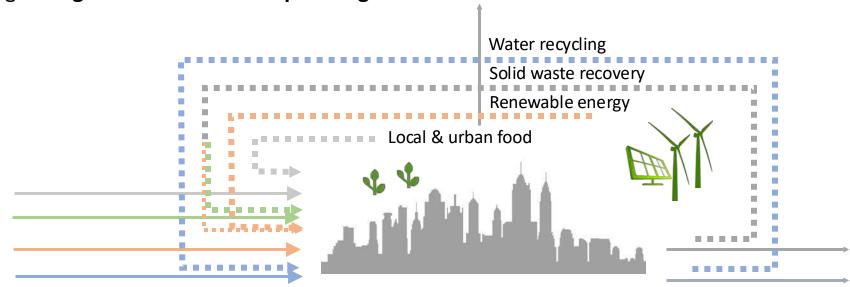




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#### Toward a sustainable city

Sustainable cities should be able to work as a 'closed circuit' recycling and reusing resources through **integrated infrastructure planning**.

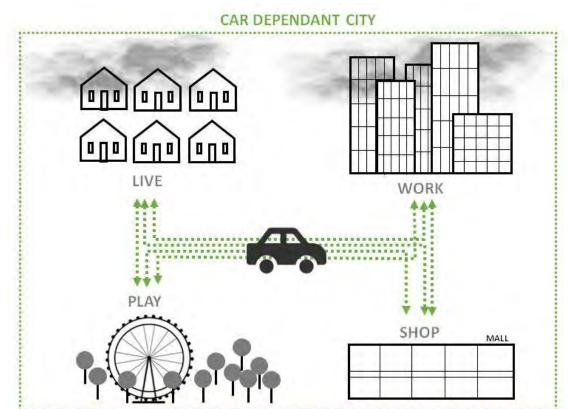


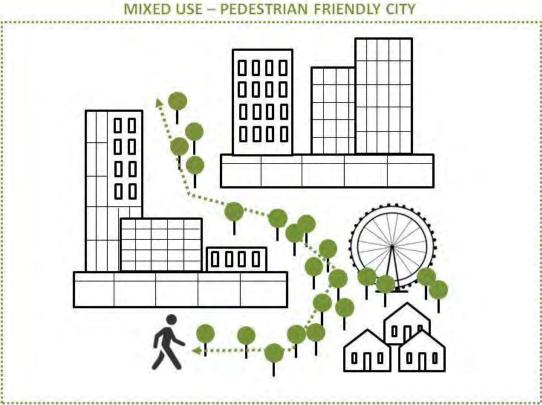




#### Toward a sustainable city

The polluted, inefficient, private car-dependent city should be replaced based on the principles of a pedestrian-friendly and mixed-use city.







# The Zofnass Program & the Envision® Rating System



#### **About the Zofnass Program**



**Zofnass.org** 



The Zofnass Program for Sustainable Infrastructure was founded in 2007 at Harvard University through a generous donation by siblings Paul and Joan Zofnass.

Its mission is to develop and promote methods, processes, and tools for the sustainability of infrastructure projects.



#### **About the Zofnass Program**

In 2022, the Zofnass Program integrated with the Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure (ISI) to support the research and development of Envision.

The industry and research foundations support the Zofnass Research Program through an Industry Advisory Board.









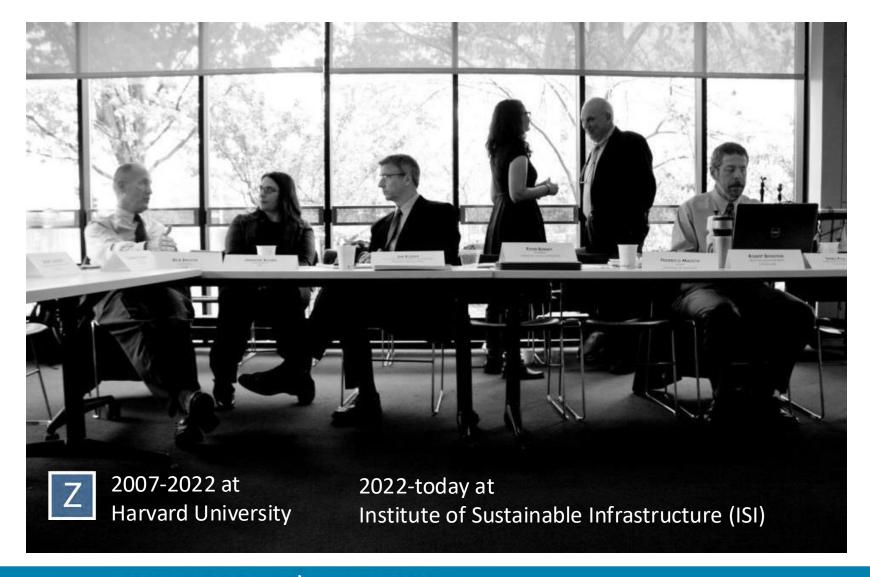






#### **About the Zofnass Program**

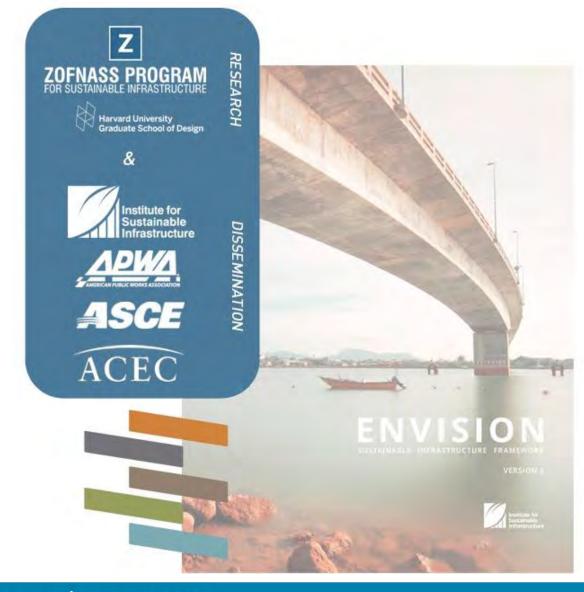
The Zofnass Program research aims to facilitate the adoption of sustainable solutions for infrastructure projects and systems and expand the body of knowledge for sustainable infrastructure.





### The Zofnass Program & the Envision® Rating System

The Zofnass Program research in collaboration with academic experts and industry specialists has led to the development of **Z-simple**, the Zofnass Rating System, that has been integrated into the **Envision**® system of the Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure.

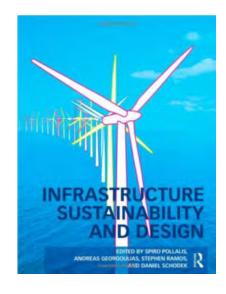


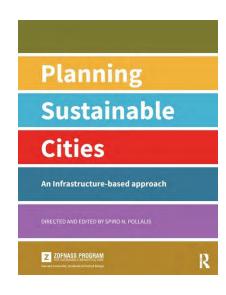


#### The Zofnass Program Research based on Envision

Since its inception, the Zofnass Program has developed research **based on the Envision framework.** 

This presentation will focus on the **research on expanding** sustainability from the infrastructure project scale to the city scale. The study resulted in the 2016 publication 'Planning Sustainable Cities: An Infrastructure-based Approach.'



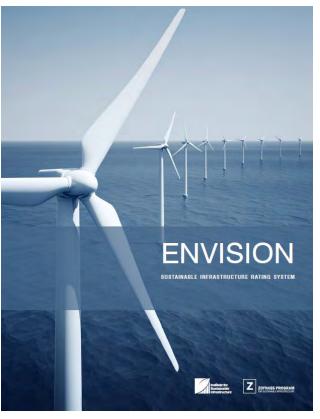




## The Zofnass Program Infrastructure-based Approach



#### **Building on Envision® V2:**



#### **Research hypothesis**

Integrated planning at the city scale can be based on infrastructure

A city is a project, and as such, its sustainability is defined in these five Envision Impact Categories







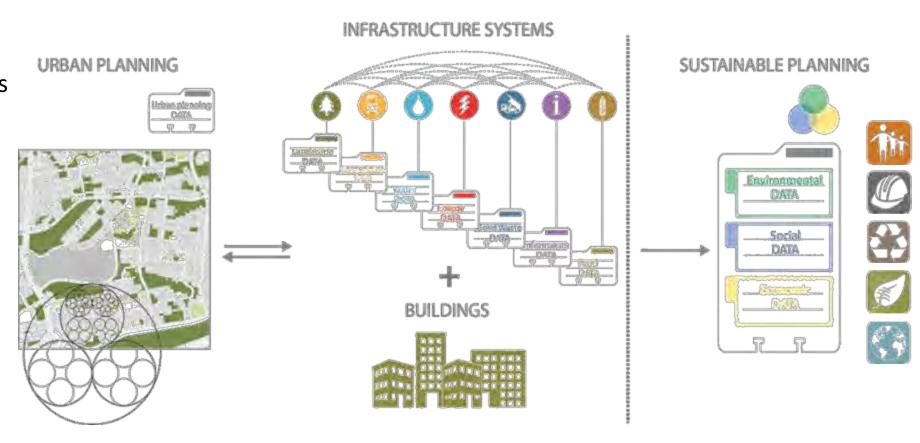






#### The Zofnass program considers the city as a project:

- Infrastructure development is inextricably linked to city scale planning.
- Infrastructure processes and entities constitute the infrastructure systems of the city.





Decomposing the **city as a project**, three distinct parts that affect its **sustainability** are distinguished:

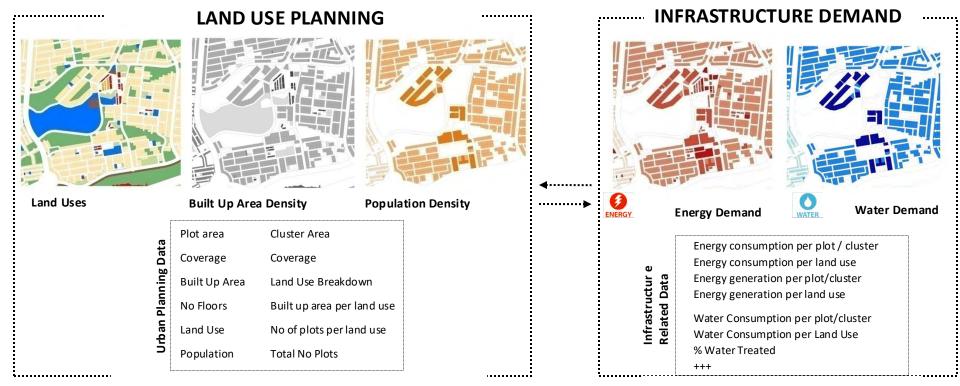
- the planning of the city
- the infrastructure systems of the city, and
- the buildings of the city





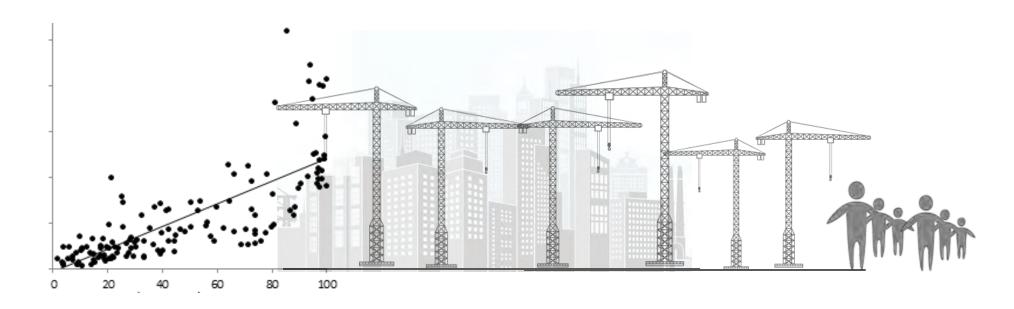
#### **City planning and infrastructure planning are interconnected:**

Land use planning will determine the end-users and the demand for services and resources that infrastructure should cover.





**Infrastructure provides the quality and type of services** that affect the economic development of the city and its social environment.







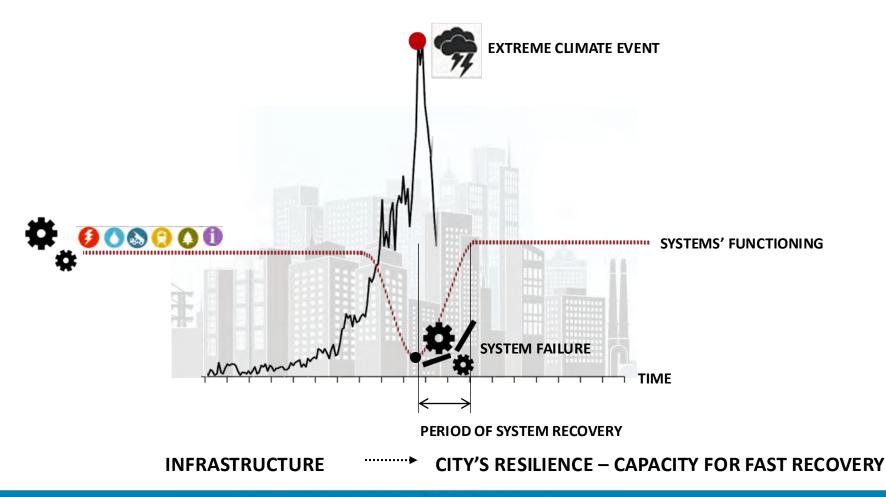


**SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT** 



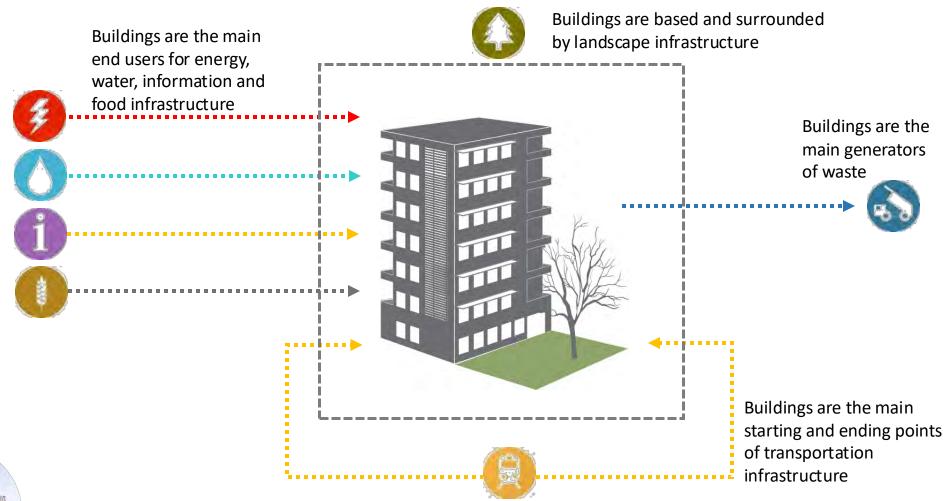
**ENVISION CONFERENCE 2024** 

Infrastructure affects the city's resilience against extreme events.





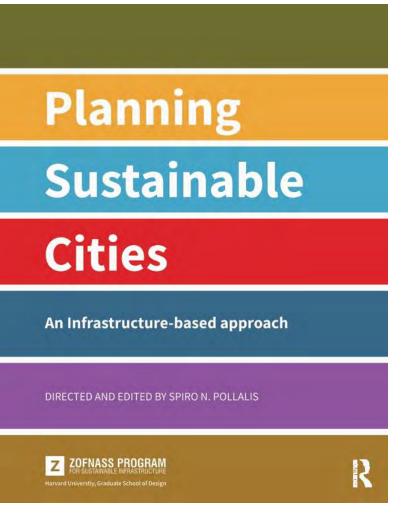
#### Buildings, as components of each infrastructure system, become critical for a sustainable city.





## The Zofnass Program Sustainable Planning Guidelines





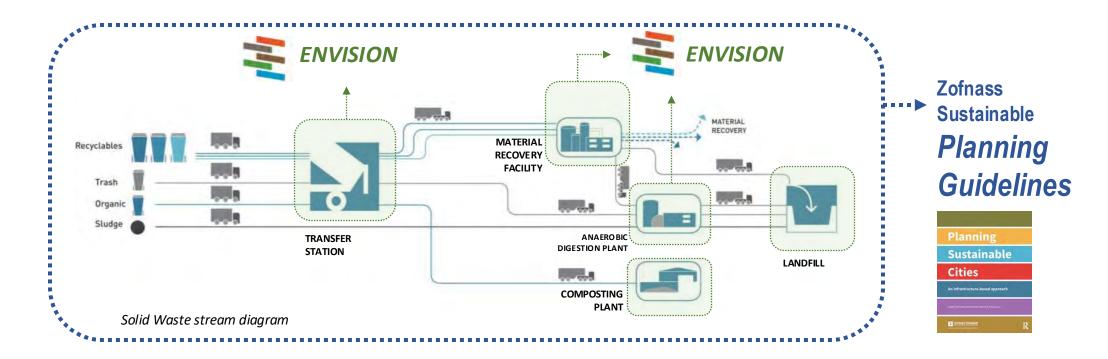
#### Zofnass research at the city scale:

- **Fills a gap** between the professions of planners and engineers, contributing to the fundamental process of planning and building infrastructure for cities.
- Responds to the urgency of integrating these practices to develop cities through a unified, crossdisciplinary process.
- Forms the foundation of a joint collaborative
   platform among public authorities, planners, and
   engineers, enabling those who have traditionally
   functioned in silos to work together in
   infrastructure planning.



#### **Relation between Envision & the Planning Guidelines**

Infrastructure projects/entities are managed as **integrated components** of extended Infrastructure Systems.







#### **Urban infrastructure is organized in seven systems:**

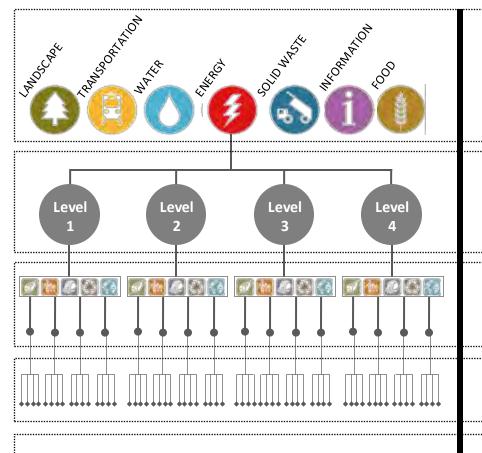




# Input from Envision



Impact
Categories
& Credits



Each Infrastructure System is decoded in **four** "System Levels."

#### **System Levels:**

- Group processes and entities within the systems
- Organize a high-level planning and decisionmaking process

**Sustainability Objectives** are set for each System Level based on the Zofnass impact categories.

Each Objective is then analyzed into one or more **Planning Guidelines**.

The Planning Guidelines do not describe specific solutions. Their role is to prompt project teams to **develop a set of Actions** adapted to each context project.





To ensure a sustainable infrastructure system each system is decoded in four "system levels":















Level 1	DEMAND ANALYSIS	Determine <b>the demand</b> or consumption that must be covered by the system.
Level 2	CORE STRATEGIC DECISIONS	Focus on the strategic approach and the resources that will be employed in order to meet the demand.
Level 3	FACILITIES AND OPERATIONS	Focus on planning for the facilities performing as <b>nodes</b> of the system.
Level 4		Focus on planning for the <b>networks</b> set in place to cover the spatial needs



#### The 7 Infrastructure Systems with their "system levels":





E

SW

Landscape

Solid Waste

Information

Water

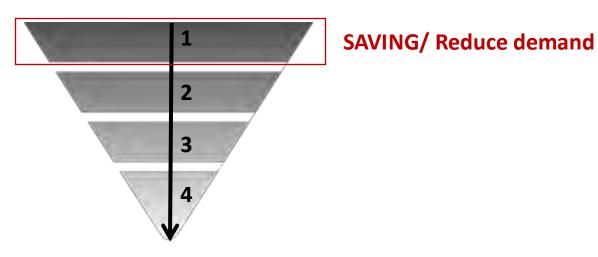
Energy

Food

Transportation

To ensure a sustainable infrastructure system, **objectives and** strategies are hierarchized:

Every infrastructure system has its first strategy, "SAVING," which is the reduction of consumption to reduce the demand for infrastructure.



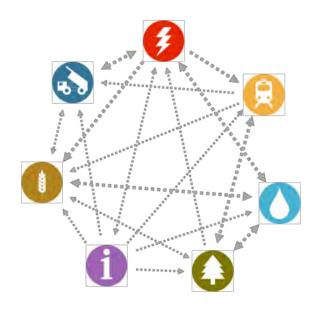
Less installed capacity for infrastructure Less production need



A **systemic approach** is emphasized in the Zofnass Planning Guidelines. Infrastructure systems are considered **sub-systems of the city** that should function **in synergy**.

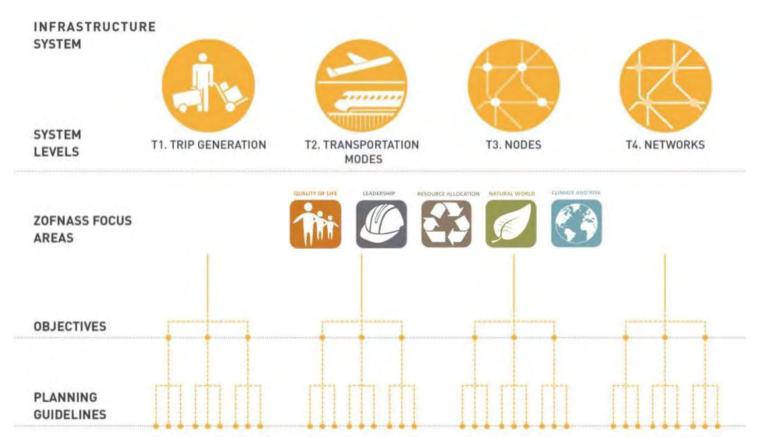
#### Synergies usually refer to:

- Reducing the initial demand for other systems and the challenges for their operation
- Connecting by-products and feedstock needs
- Optimizing the placement of entities
- Combining entities
- **Mitigating** negative impacts of processes





#### Planning Guidelines Example: Transportation Infrastructure





#### Planning Guidelines Example: Transportation Infrastructure

OBJECTIVES	GUIDELINES		SYNERGIES
T1 TRIP GENERATION	▲ TO + WITH ▼ FROM		
<ul> <li>T1.1.     Reduce number of unnecessary Trips</li> </ul>	T1.1.1.	Provide and promote remote access and e-services	000000
● T1.2.	T1.2.1.	Promote mixed-use development	000000
Reduce length of Trips	T1.2.2.	Include basic amenities within each residential area	000000
	T1.2.3.	Promote compactness in urban fabric	000000
	T1.2.4.	Optimize placement of infrastructure facilities that generate significant traffic	000000
● T1.3.	T1.3.1.	Identify main city Trip attractors	000000
Monitor Trip Generation trends	T1.3.2.	Collect and organize data on Transportation needs of goods and passengers	000000
	T1.3.3.	Monitor daily and seasonal Trip Generation fluctuations across the city	000000
<b>■</b> T1.4.	T1.4.1.	Reduce peaks in Trip Generation	000000
Regulate Trip Generation rates and patterns	T1.4.2.	Optimize itineraries within other infrastructure systems	000000





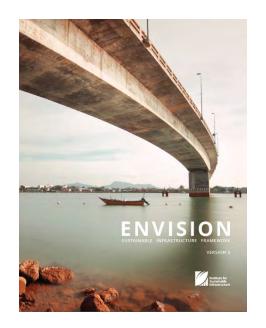
#### Planning Guidelines Example: Transportation Infrastructure

Adaptation to the **unique context**, circumstances and priorities of each city.

OBJECTIVES	GUIDELINES	SYNERGIES	
T1 TRIP GENERATION		▲ TO + WITH ▼ FROM	
<ul> <li>T1.1.</li> <li>Reduce number of unnecessary Trips</li> </ul>	T1.1.1. Provide and promote remote access and e-services	000000	
T1.2. Reduce length of Trips	T1.2.1. Promote mixed-use development T1.2.2. Include basic amenities within each residential area T1.2.3. Promote compactness in urban fabric T1.2.4. Optimize placement of infrastructure facilities that generate significant traffic	000000	<ul> <li>Project teams</li> <li>should translate</li> <li>the Guidelines to</li> <li>Context Specific</li> <li>Actions.</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>T1.3.</li> <li>Monitor Trip Generation trends</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>T1.3.1. Identify main city Trip attractors</li> <li>T1.3.2. Collect and organize data on Transportation needs of goods and passengers</li> <li>T1.3.3. Monitor daily and seasonal Trip Generation fluctuations across the city</li> </ul>	000000 00000 00000	Actions.
<ul> <li>T1.4.</li> <li>Regulate Trip Generation rates and patterns</li> </ul>	T1.4.1. Reduce peaks in Trip Generation T1.4.2. Optimize itineraries within other infrastructure systems	000000	



#### The Envision® Holistic Approach to Sustainability



The research on the Planning Guidelines **reaffirmed** that Envision Categories of Impact and the sustainability topics of Envision credits **are fundamental for sustainable planning across all scales.** 







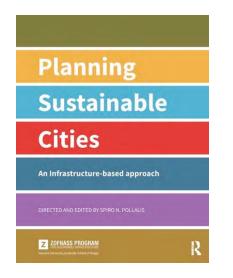


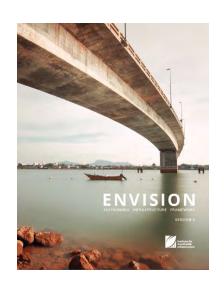


Envision's holistic approach to sustainability maximizes opportunities and minimizes trade-offs. It safeguards against isolated or narrowly focused approaches that will likely do more harm than good in the long term.



### **Tools for Sustainable City Planning**





The Sustainable Planning Guidelines and Envision are critical resources for sustainable city planning:

- Systemic planning ensures that the right project is prioritized and the interdependencies between different infrastructure systems are leveraged
- Sustainable infrastructure planning ensures that the project is done right.

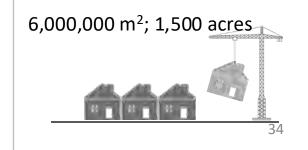


# **Example of Planning with Envision** and the Zofnass Planning Guidelines

Development of the Hellinikon former airport Athens, Greece.

#### AN EXPANDING DEVELOPMENT

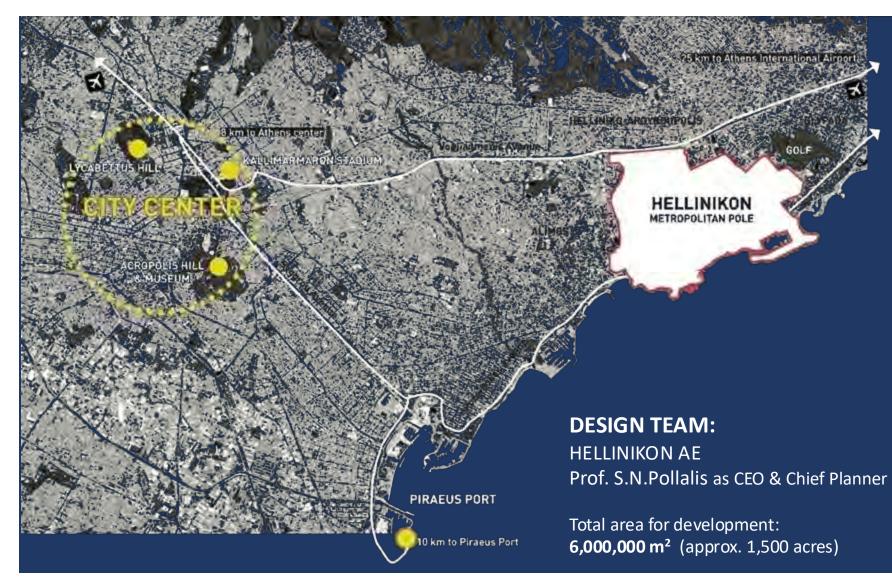






## **Development of the Hellinikon Former Airport, Athens**

The redevelopment of the former Hellinikon airport of Athens provided a unique opportunity for sustainable urban development of a 1,500-acre site within a metropolitan area and along a 3.5 km pristine coastal zone.



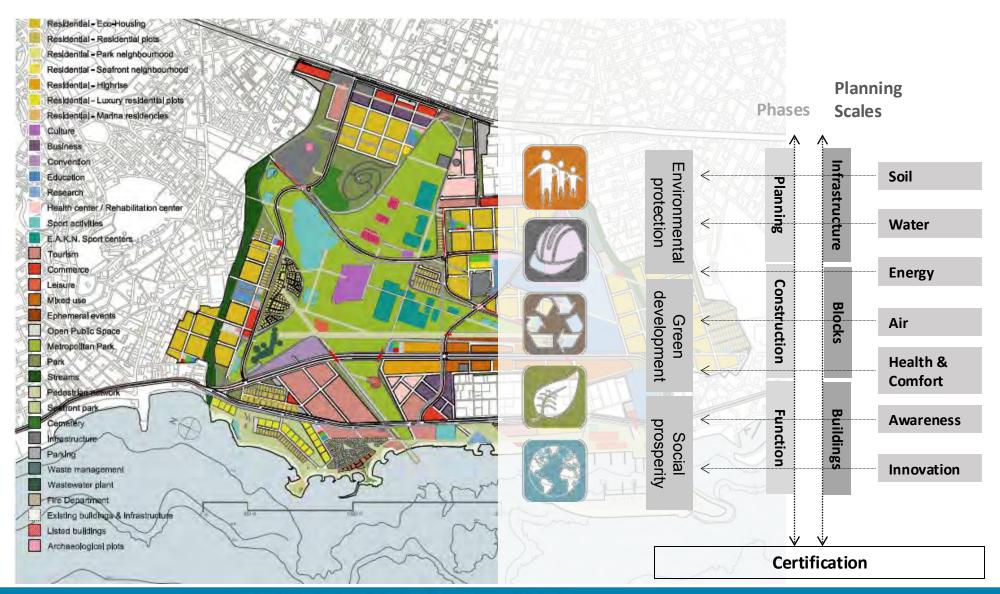


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#### **Holistic Planning using Envision and the Planning Guidelines**

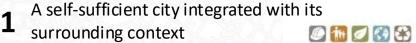
Planning followed the holistic approach of the Envision and the Zofnass program.





### Planning strategies are related to the **Envision Impact categories**:





- Minimization of car use & connectivity with adjacent municipalities
- Existing avenue relocation & restoration of coastline's continuity
- Creation of a metropolitan park and provision for an accessible waterfront
- Land use synergies
  - Sustainable infrastructures & renewable energy sources
- Compact neighborhoods with local centers & connectivity with surroundings
- "Eco-housing" the development's model urban blocks



# ENVISION

### **Planning strategies** & related Envision categories:

1

A self-sufficient city integrated with its surrounding context

2

Minimization of car use & connectivity with adjacent municipalities

3

Existing avenue relocation & restoration of coastline's continuity

4

Creation of a metropolitan park and provision for an accessible waterfront













# ENVISION

### **Planning strategies** & related Envision categories:

5
Land use synergies

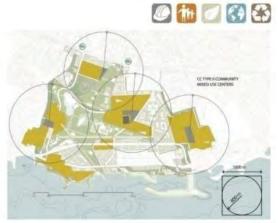
Sustainable infrastructures & renewable energy sources

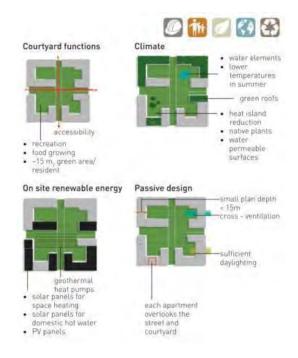
Compact neighborhoods with local centers & connectivity with surroundings

"Eco-housing" the development's model urban blocks









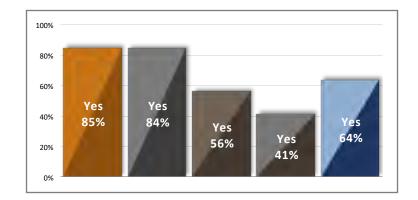






The **Envision checklist** has been used for self-assessment giving:

- an excellent performance in Quality of Life (Yes:85%, No: 4%) and Leadership (Yes:84%, No 16%)
- a very good performance in Resource Allocation (Yes: 56%, No: 17%), Natural World (Yes: 41%, No: 4%) and Climate Risk (Yes: 64%, No: 18%)







#### E.g. CATEGORY

→ SUBCATEGORY CREDIT



For the RA2.3 credit, the Hellinikon Project Design included:



- Reduction of fossil fuel use
- Energy saving technologies in the building & transportation sectors
- Exploitation of on-site Renewable **Energy Sources**
- **Distributed energy production** through building - mounted PVs
- Cogeneration for large units (e.g., hospitals, hotels)
- Energy mix for cooling, heating & domestic hot water (solar thermal, biomass, geothermal)
- Regulation & Monitoring of Energy Demand & Production with a combination of Building Energy Management Systems & **Smart Grids**





### Planning Infrastructure Systems using the Planning Guidelines

Planning
Sustainable
Cities
An unknowned acquired



Use of renewable energy sources



Water streams & soil management



Waste & Grey water management



Limitation of private vehicles & connection to the surroundings



Metropolitan Park & Accessible sea limit















USA e Italia a confronto

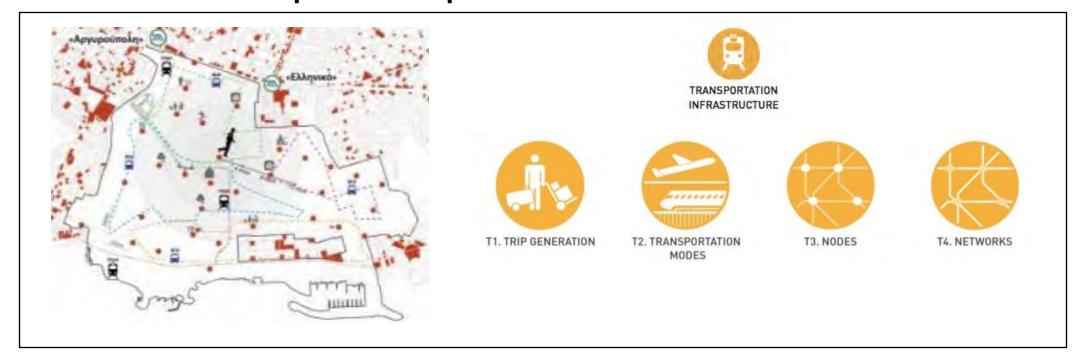


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### Planning Infrastructure Systems using the Planning Guidelines



### The example of Transportation Infrastructure







### **Transportation Infrastructure: Demand Analysis**

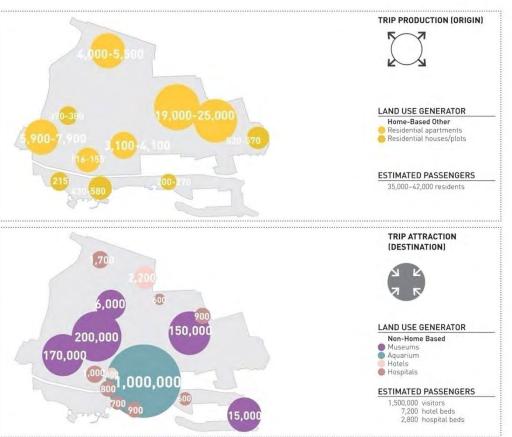




trends

OBJECTIVE	GUIDELINE
Monitor / Project Trip Generation	T1.3.1. Iden

T1.3.1. Identify main city Trip attractors



#### SUSTAINABLE ACTIONS

Identify land use properties, capacities, estimated population data, and their impact on everyday trips.

The 2,000,000 sqm metropolitan park, the Convention Center, the world-class museum, the Incubator center, and the marina's leisure facilities will become the development's main trip attractors.



## Planning Sustainable Cities An Ultriancies hand layered







OBJECTIVE

Reduce traffic congestion

Reduce greenhouse and air pollutant emissions

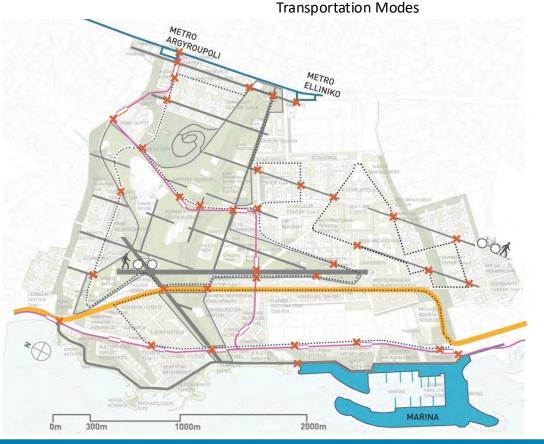
#### GUIDELINE

T2.3.1. Provide and promote reliable public and mass transit
T2.4.2. Promote non-motorized

#### SUSTAINABLE ACTIONS

Development of new bus lines, conversion of the existing auxiliary tram line into a fully functional passenger line, and their interconnection with the site's two existing metro stations.

Design a pedestrian and bicycle grid of 300mx300m, which will extend throughout the site, connecting the neighborhood centers with the supraregional facilities.



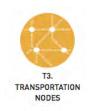




## Sustainable Cities An introduction hand represent

### **Transportation Infrastructure: Spatial Distribution**





#### OBJECTIVE

Place and distribute Transportation Nodes for optimized Transportation system performance



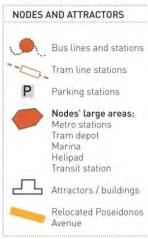
T3.1.1. Place Transportation Nodes in correlation to Trip attractors
T3.1.2. Ensure equal connection opportunities for all areas of the city

#### SUSTAINABLE ACTIONS

Interconnect the main trip attractors with current and new transportation nodes. Health and business centers are located near metro and tram line stations, and the park's cultural facilities, museums, and aquarium are connected through bus stops and tram line stations. In contrast, hotels and leisure facilities are approached via mass transit nodes and the supraregional node of the marina.

The conversion of the auxiliary existing tramway into a fully functional passenger line with multiple stations and its extension to the site's nearest existing metro station, as well as new bus lines with stops placed throughout the development.







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## Planning Sustainable Cities An University Name (Appendix Descriptions) Between Real (Appendix Appendix Appendix

### **Transportation Infrastructure: Spatial Distribution**





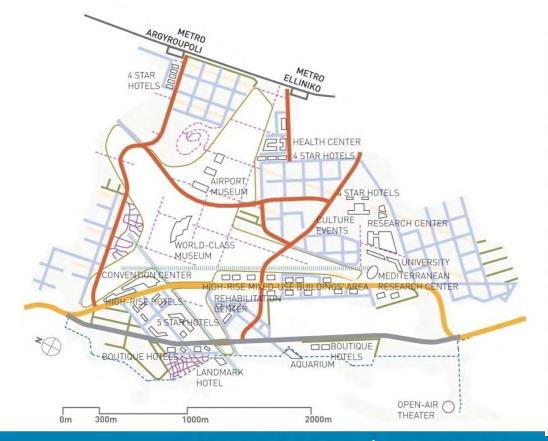
### OBJECTIVE Facilitate traffic flows

#### **GUIDELINE**

## T4.2.1. Define a clear hierarchy in Transportation Networks to serve different levels of flow intensity

#### SUSTAINABLE ACTIONS

Proposal for various road types according to the site's estimated demographic data and expected traffic flows —clear road hierarchy about the development's main attractors.

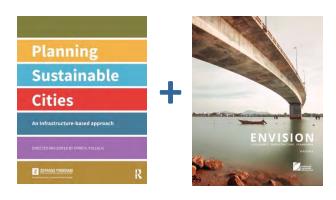






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### **Integrated and Holistic Planning**



Concluding, planning with Envision and the Planning Guidelines guided the design of the former Hellinikon Airport of Athens to:

- provide new, high-standard infrastructure
- minimize the impact on existing city infrastructure
- achieve a **clear identity** for the development
- **integrate** with the surrounding environment
- restore natural systems
- create engaged community





## Thank you

