A SCENARIO PLANNING TOOL FOR UNDERSTANDING A COMMUNITY'S ACCESSIBILITY

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Accessibility has become an increasingly popular topic and metric moving forward in transportation planning. Metrics such as access to jobs or walking accessibility scores have become a popular way to ensure our transportation systems are delivering people to their desired destinations. This presentation presents a new tool, Sugar Access, which allows planners to conduct accessibility analyses and compare scenarios using a prepackaged and integrated data source. The tool, which is an ArcGIS add-in, allows users to develop their own accessibility based metrics across different modes of transportation.

Planners now have the ability to understand one's ability to walk or bike to their daily errands, analyze the benefits of bike infrastructure improvements, and compute the increased accessibility resulting from simple transit improvements. Not only can Sugar Access analyze present day accessibility, but it also allows users to model and compare future scenarios based on these types of accessibility metrics. In addition to its analytic capability, the tool integrates with ArcGIS Online to easily share the benefits of a project with its stakeholders. A user case on bike accessibility and lessons learned during the evaluation will also be presented in this session.