

Land-Based Classification Standards Update

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Abstract

The Federal Highway Administration — along with HUD, FAA, BTS and DOD — has entered into a three- year cooperative agreement with the American Planning Association (APA) to develop an enhanced Land- Based Classification/Coding System. Unlike the 1965 Standard Land Use Coding Manual, the new system will be broadened to cover three categories; land-use information related to the existing built environment, land-cover information related to the natural environment, and land-rights information related to fee/less- than-fee ownership and development rights.

The principal purpose of the project is to ensure that a broad variety of land-based data now being collected and stored at the local, regional, state, and national levels in a variety of formats and classification systems be standardized so that such data would be compatible and, thus, easily transferable between jurisdictions, agencies, and institutions. While the use of such a revamped system would be voluntary, potential users would be strongly inclined to embrace such a system because it would increase opportunities for reciprocal data sharing, both horizontally, from geographic area to geographic area, and vertically, between local, regional, state, and national jurisdictions. In addition, the new and revised classification system will broaden the subject matter of the original 1965 Standard Land Use Coding Manual (SLUCM), which addressed only matters pertaining to land use. Presently, practitioners are collecting, storing, and manipulating three broad categories of land-based information: (a) land-cover information related primarily to the existing natural environment; (b) land-use information related primarily to the existing built environment; and (c) land-rights information related primarily to fee and less-than-fee ownership and to development rights, such as those prescribed zoning and other regulatory measures.

This presentation would be designed to provide the conference participants with an opportunity to hear progress-to-date from the project sponsor as well as to provide input into the standards development process.