

## Visualizing Alternative Urban Futures

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Creating Opportunities for Communication, Conversation,  
and Policymaking Using Spatial Multimedia

Laxmi Ramasubramanian, PhD  
Assistant Professor  
Department of Urban Affairs and Planning  
Hunter College  
City University of New York  
Email: [laxmi@hunter.cuny.edu](mailto:laxmi@hunter.cuny.edu)

- Overview
  - Planning with spatial technologies
  - Case Studies
  
- Digital Spatial Multimedia
  - Data Organization
  - Representation
  - Argumentation
  - Implications for Policymaking
  - Sites and Scales of Engagement
  
- Benefits and Constraints
  
- Concluding Thoughts



# Planning with Spatial Technologies

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- ❑ Tools/Techniques
- ❑ Planning Processes and Frameworks
- ❑ Models of Citizen Engagement
- ❑ Scale
- ❑ Contextual Issues
- ❑ Resources



# What about GIS?

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- What does GIS mean to you?
  - Grossly Inconsistent Software
  - Grand Imperial Strategy
  - Great Intellectual Status Symbol
  - Generally Intrusive System
  
- Benefits of Using GIS
  - Citizens reframe problems
  - Participation processes are energized
  - Local knowledge is validated
  - Community Cohesion?
  
- Barriers to GIS adoption and use
  - Enduring Concerns
  - Practical Limits....



# Enter Spatial Multimedia

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- ❑ Enhancing GIS
- ❑ Working without GIS
- ❑ Working Around GIS
  
- ❑ How?
  - Annotating PDF maps  
(Adding text, audio, photos, panoramic views, video)
  
- ❑ Online Tools
  - Visual Preference Surveys
  - Animated Maps
  - Sketch Planning Tools
  
- ❑ Interactive Websites
- ❑ Interactive (Stand Alone) Products



# Example: Annotating Maps

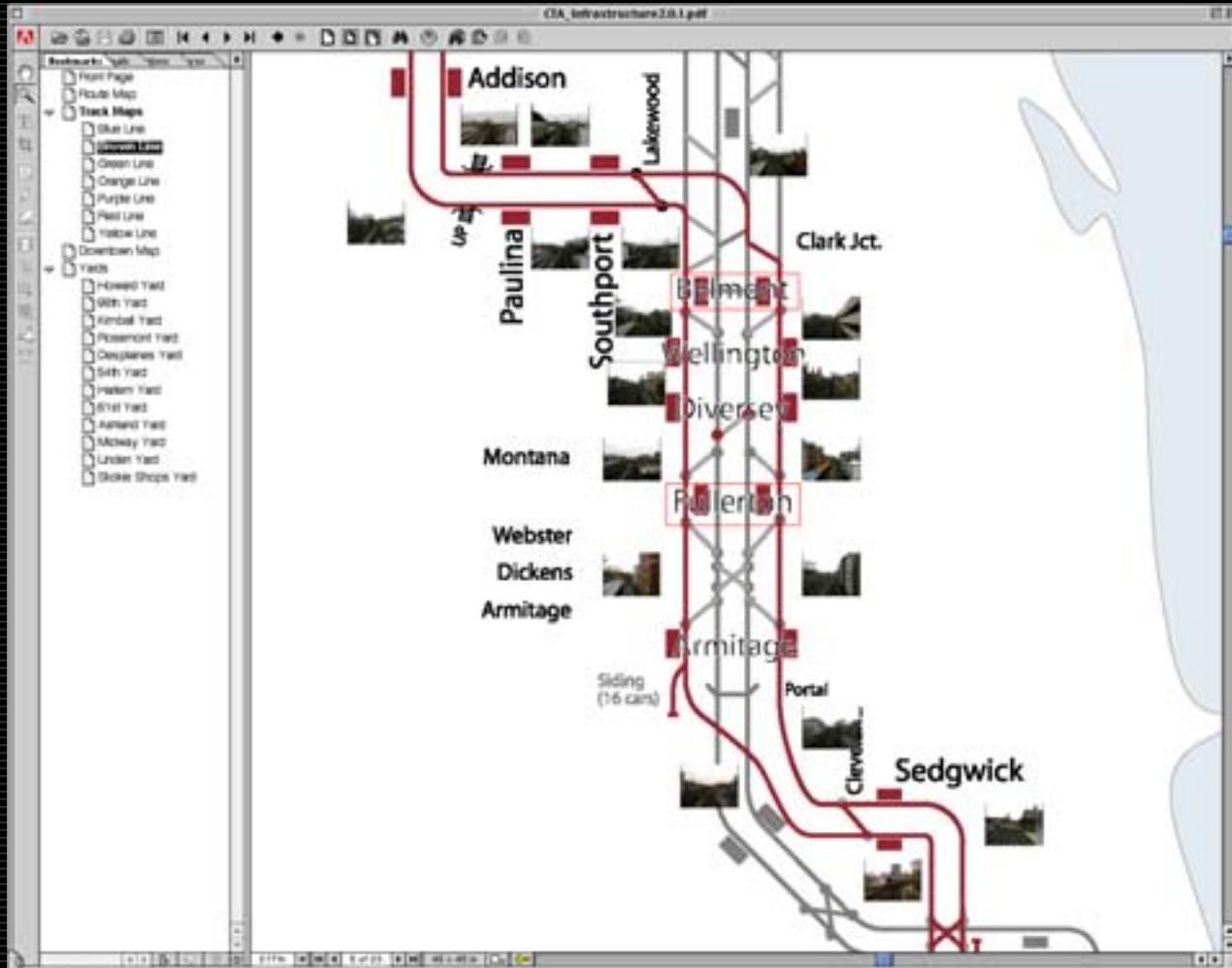
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Aerial view of Harrison Street in Oak Park



# Example: Visualizing Urban Infrastructure



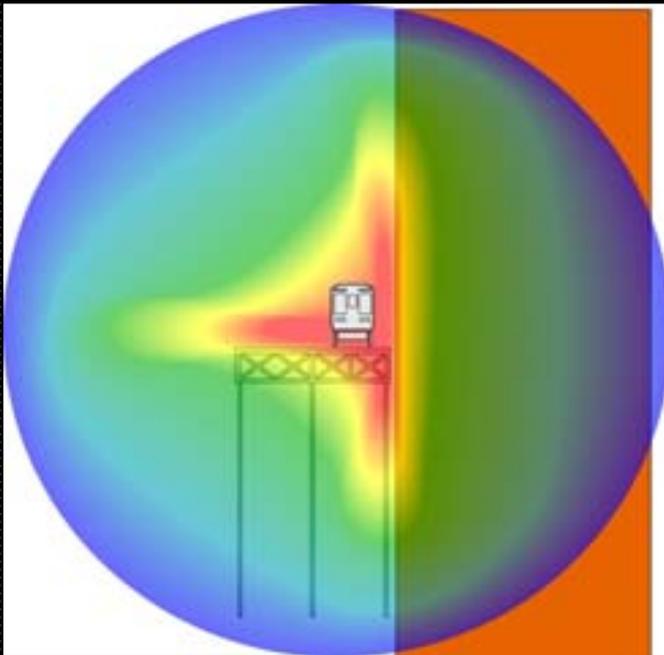
Client: CTA



# Example: Addressing Planning Problems

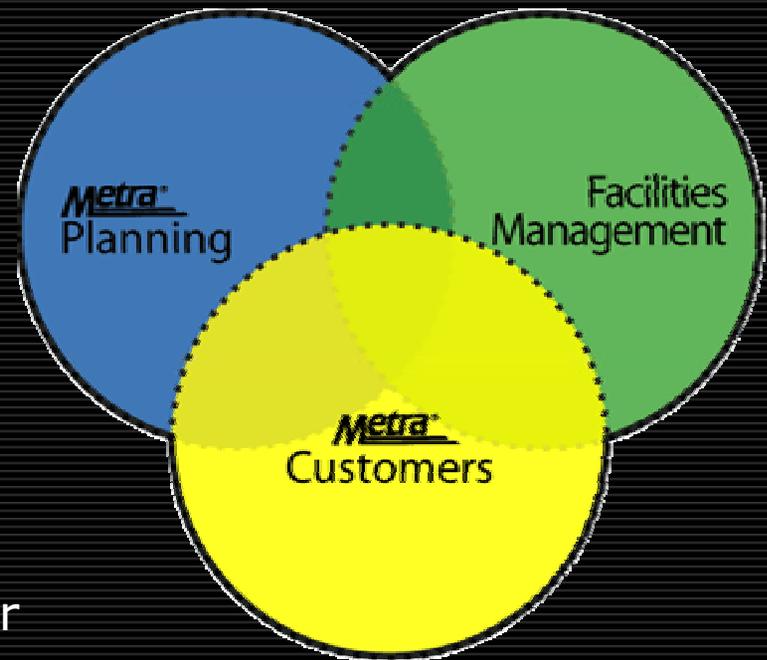
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- Harrison Street Noise Study
  - Demonstration of noise dissipation over distance
- Time Lapse Movie
  - Demonstration of the re-construction of a stretch of track



# Visualizing Metra

- ❑ Develop a customized interactive application
- ❑ Customize for multiple purposes and users
- ❑ Integrate maps, data, photos, aerials, panos
- ❑ Considerations
  - Maintaining hierarchy
    - ❑ system, line, station, interior areas
  - Scale
    - ❑ Regional, local, neighborhood, station and surroundings

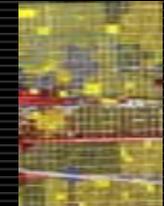
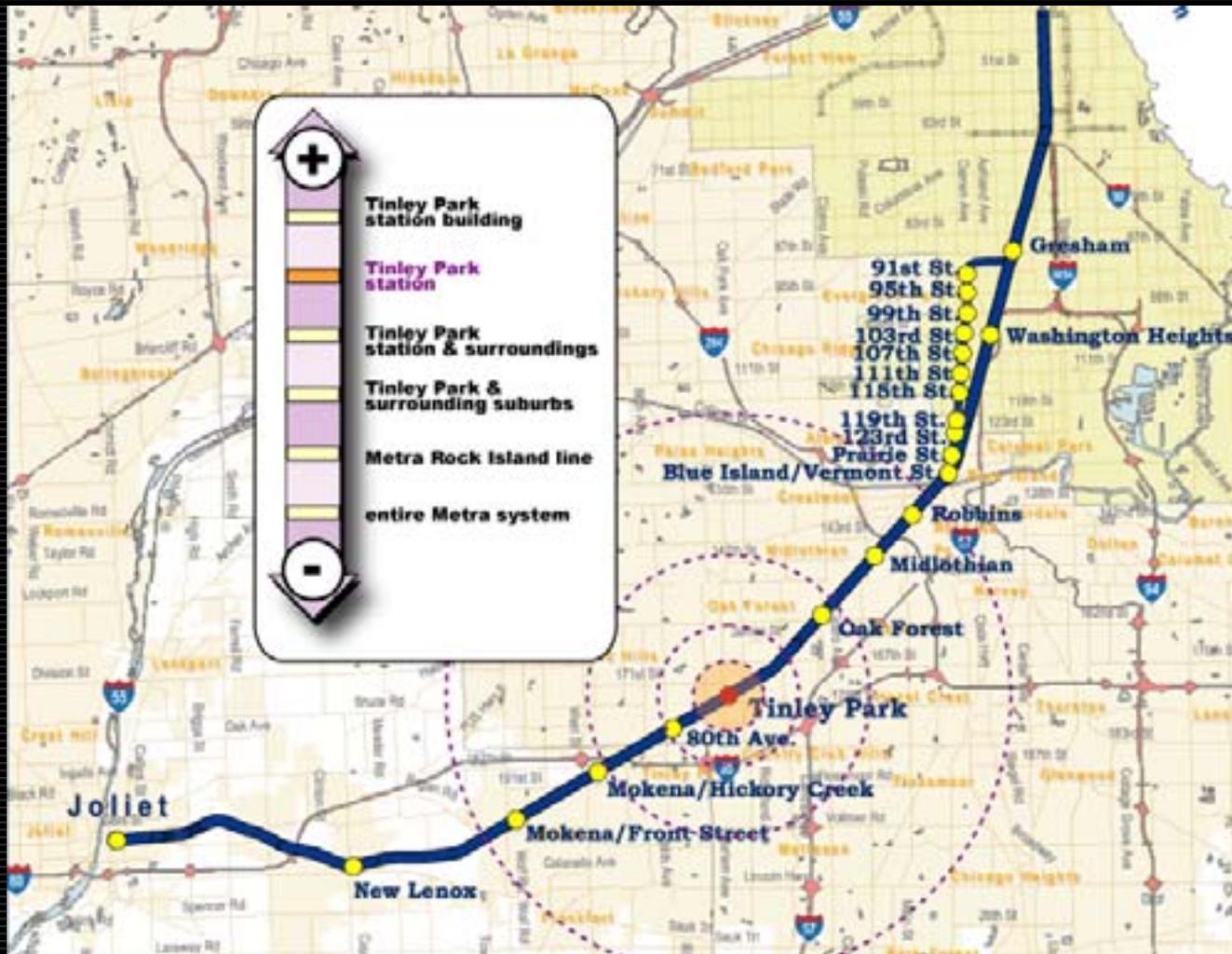


# Visualizing Metra

## **Metra** Planning, Facilities Management & **Metra** Customers have intersecting AND distinct needs







# Visualizing Metra

The screenshot shows a Microsoft Internet Explorer browser window displaying the Metra website. The address bar shows the URL: `C:\Documents and Settings\GUPPA\Desktop\Metra-11-9\stationr.htm`. The page header features the Metra logo with the tagline "The way to really fly.", the "Rock Island Line Chicago to Joliet" branding, and the "Tinley Park" station name and address: "17381 S. Oak Park Ave. Tinley Park IL, (708) 532-4331".

The main content area includes a navigation menu on the left with links for "home", "schedules", "fares", "parking", "accessibility", and "contact". A central map displays the station layout with various icons for parking, accessibility, and transit connections. A legend on the left of the map identifies different areas. To the right of the map is a "search" box and a "what's nearby?" link. Below the map are icons for accessibility services.

On the right side of the page, there are two image galleries. The top gallery, titled "aerial", shows an aerial view of the station area. The bottom gallery, titled "panorama", shows an interior view of the station entrance. Both galleries have "back" and "panorama" navigation buttons.

The Windows taskbar at the bottom shows the Start button, several open applications including "Metra-11-9", "Adobe Photoshop - [Unt...", and "Adobe Illustrator", and the system tray with the time "2:09 PM".



# Planning Together: Village of Oak Park, Illinois

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# Survey of Existing Conditions

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- 77% of respondents liked the type of business
- 69% said they liked the look of the building



# Data Organization

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- ❑ Facilitates better ways to share and use information
- ❑ Documents process as well as final outcomes
- ❑ Manages comments and reactions
- ❑ Increases efficiency



# Representation

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- ❑ Illustrates different dimensions of change
- ❑ Integrates multiple opinions and perspectives
- ❑ Provides alternatives ways of exploring data
- ❑ Facilitates conversations



# Argumentation

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- ❑ Provides powerful evidence to support policymaking
- ❑ Facilitates real time planning and decision-making
- ❑ Enhances community participation processes
- ❑ Builds community memory



# Visualization Tools for Participation

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- ❑ Manage comments, reactions
- ❑ Complement traditional methods of participation
  - Display and discussion regarding existing conditions
  - Consensus regarding best practice examples
  - Perceptions of different stakeholders
  - Recommendations from different stakeholders
  - Displaying and discussing existing conditions
- ❑ Virtual commons
  - Chat, sharing information
  - File sharing, data repository
  - Process Archive



# Enhancing conventional spatial analyses

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- ❑ Annotated PDF maps
  - text, audio, video, panoramic images
- ❑ Design of Visual Preference Surveys
- ❑ Customized Sketch Planning tools
- ❑ Interactive websites
- ❑ Interactive multimedia CD-ROMs



# Benefits

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- ❑ Integrates qualitative and quantitative information
- ❑ Enhances community participation
- ❑ Promotes civic engagement (place matters)
- ❑ Promotes interdisciplinary partnerships



# Constraints

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- ❑ Initial investment in software, training
- ❑ Convincing colleagues in-house
- ❑ Raising expectations of citizens, colleagues
- ❑ Dangers
  - Manipulation
  - False representations
  - Undermining community's trust
- ❑ Privacy, Ethical Issues related to image data



# Concluding Thoughts

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- What does it take to create sustainable planning initiatives that fully integrate spatial technologies and digital multimedia?
  - Technical competence
  - Understanding of participatory planning
  - Credible process
  - Communication with stakeholders regarding goals, outcomes, and expectations
  - Willingness to look for the right technologies for the job

