

## LIVABILITY AND SUSTAINABILITY

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*A core element of the “business case” for public investments and public policies is their long-term effect on achievement of strategic goals for improving the well-being of residents, the health of the economy that they depend on, and the quality of the environment in which they live. EDR Group brings economic impact and benefit techniques to these issues, to evaluate their economic benefits and impacts.*

**Livability, Sustainability and Economic Impacts.** For the Federal Highway Administration’s Office of Human Environment, EDR Group was part of a team that assessed the state of the practice in assessing the methods and tools necessary to assess the economic impacts of proposed livability/sustainability investments on needs for transportation and related infrastructure. This project included an extensive review of existing literature and methods, outreach to government agencies and design of a plan to create web-based suite of tools designed to assist planners in assessing the economic impacts of investments in sustainable and livable transportation.

**Congestion and Disaster Resiliency.** For the Portland Business Alliance and Port of Portland, EDR Group performed a statewide analysis of the economic impacts of congestion and resiliency on Oregon’s economy. The study addresses the resiliency of the transportation system to disruptions caused by congestion, lack of investment in key corridors serving freight-dependent industries, and natural disasters that could potentially result in long-term failure of key elements of the state’s transportation infrastructure.

**Economic Impact of Intelligent Infrastructure (Smart Grid).** EDR Group was commissioned by Siemens to help them better understand the role intelligent infrastructure plays in economic growth. EDR Group analyzed the impacts of investing in public transportation in Salt Lake City, Utah, and energy efficient buildings in Louisville, Kentucky. These findings support the case for future investments in technologies that stimulate long-term regional economic activity through local purchases and a virtuous cycle of investment in sustainability initiatives and long-term energy conservation.

**Ports and Rising Sea Levels.** For the US DOT Maritime Administration, EDR Group analyzed the effects of Panama Canal expansion on US ports and inland trade flows, and recommended policies that MARAD should consider when evaluating investments in port infrastructure. This report included among many of its aspects, a review of information and policies related to port infrastructure and global and regional sea level rise.

**Transportation Connectivity to Support Economic Sustainability.** EDR Group is working in a collaborative effort with regional economic development and transportation professionals in the Lynchburg/Central Virginia region to assess the current role of transportation and other livability factors in connecting industries with each other, with an effective workforce, and with national and international markets. The study is assessing further connectivity issues such as the availability of communications infrastructure, as well as social and institutional connections associated with workforce availability.