

## **Modeling Land Use, Transportation, and Environmental Impacts**

Panelists:

**Alan Borning** (moderator)

Department of Computer Science & Engineering, University of Washington

**John Britting**

Wasatch Front Regional Council, Salt Lake City, Utah

**Paul Waddell**

Evans School of Public Affairs and Department of Urban Design and Planning,  
University of Washington

**Christopher Forinash**

Office of Policy, Economics and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency

The overall topic of the panel was modeling urban land use, transportation, and environmental impacts over periods of 20 or more years, under alternate scenarios, with a particular focus on the UrbanSim system. John Britting described the local context at the Wasatch Front Regional Council, the Metropolitan Planning Organization for Salt Lake City and the surrounding area. He described the planning and community visioning projects that have been undertaken, and provided some background about the local situation, including a lawsuit over a proposed freeway project. He then described the current modeling practice at the agency, goals for using UrbanSim, and the process for review and feedback. Paul Waddell provided details of the UrbanSim modeling approach, presented a history of the project, and gave a demonstration of the system in operation (including map-based output of indicators). Christopher Forinash described EPA's work on Smart Growth, including projects in Atlanta and other cities, the agency's work on the Smart Growth Index tool, and its interests in more powerful tools such as UrbanSim. Alan Borning outlined future plans for UrbanSim, including building additional component models (such as a travel model and a variety of environmental models), and providing additional user interface functionality (including tools for visualizing uncertainty in the results, and web-based access).

For additional information on the UrbanSim project, please see [www.urbansim.org](http://www.urbansim.org)