

Traffic Impact Studies

When and How

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Traffic Impact Studies

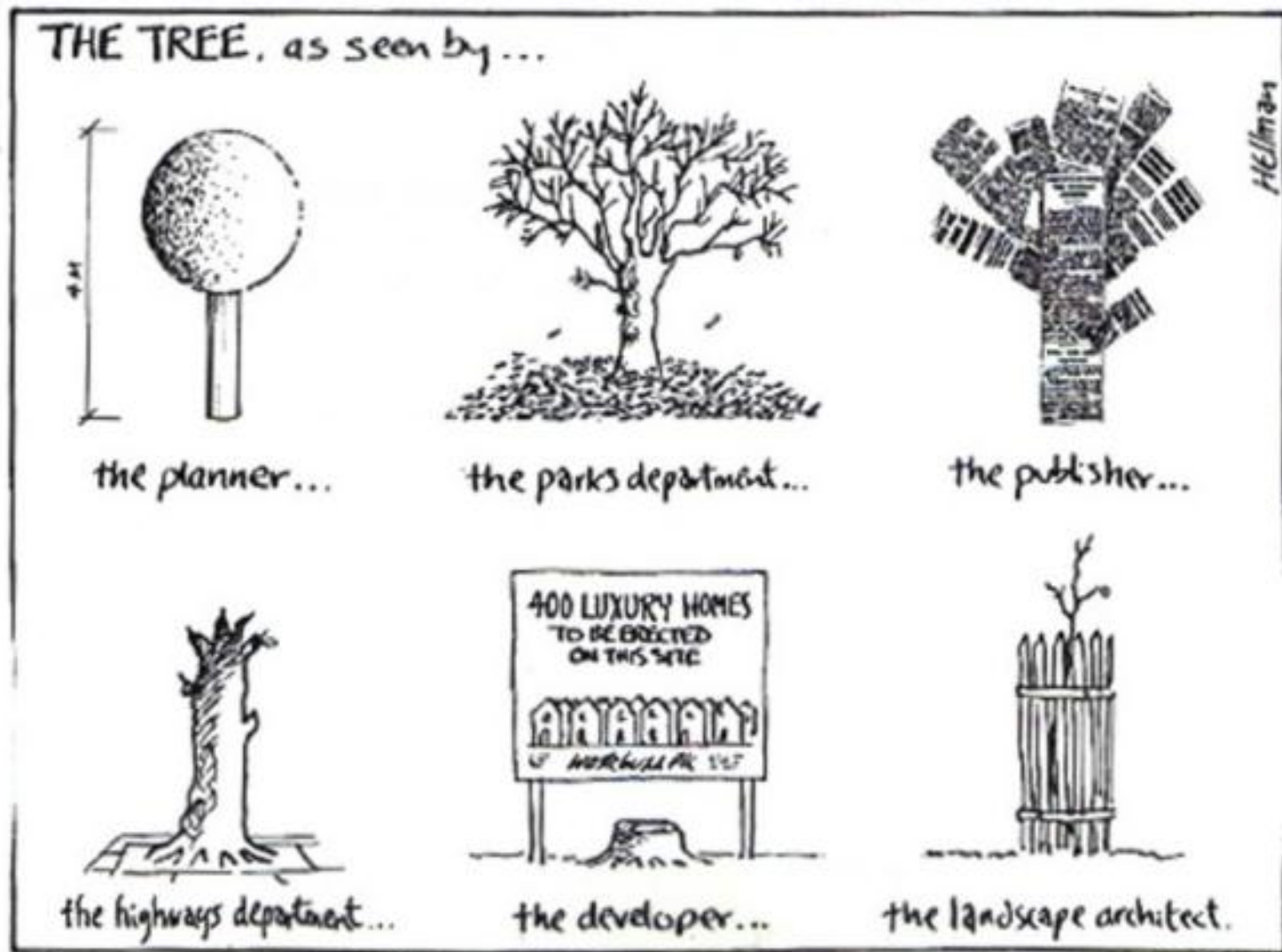
- Players and perspectives
- A successful scoping meeting
- Latest resources and tools for analysis
- Ethics issues in reporting the results
- Ways to fund the recommended improvements
- Questions

Players and Perspectives

- Developer – land owner, broker, builder
- Agency – elected officials, boards and commissions, staff engineer
- Study preparer – engineer, could work for either side, often a consultant

- What is your role?

Players and Perspectives



Players and Perspectives

Influences

Elected officials,
public opinion

Agency

Health, safety,
and welfare of
the public

Study Preparer

\$

Developer

Players and Perspectives

Considerations

Economic
development
vs. traffic jams

Agency

Caught in the
middle?

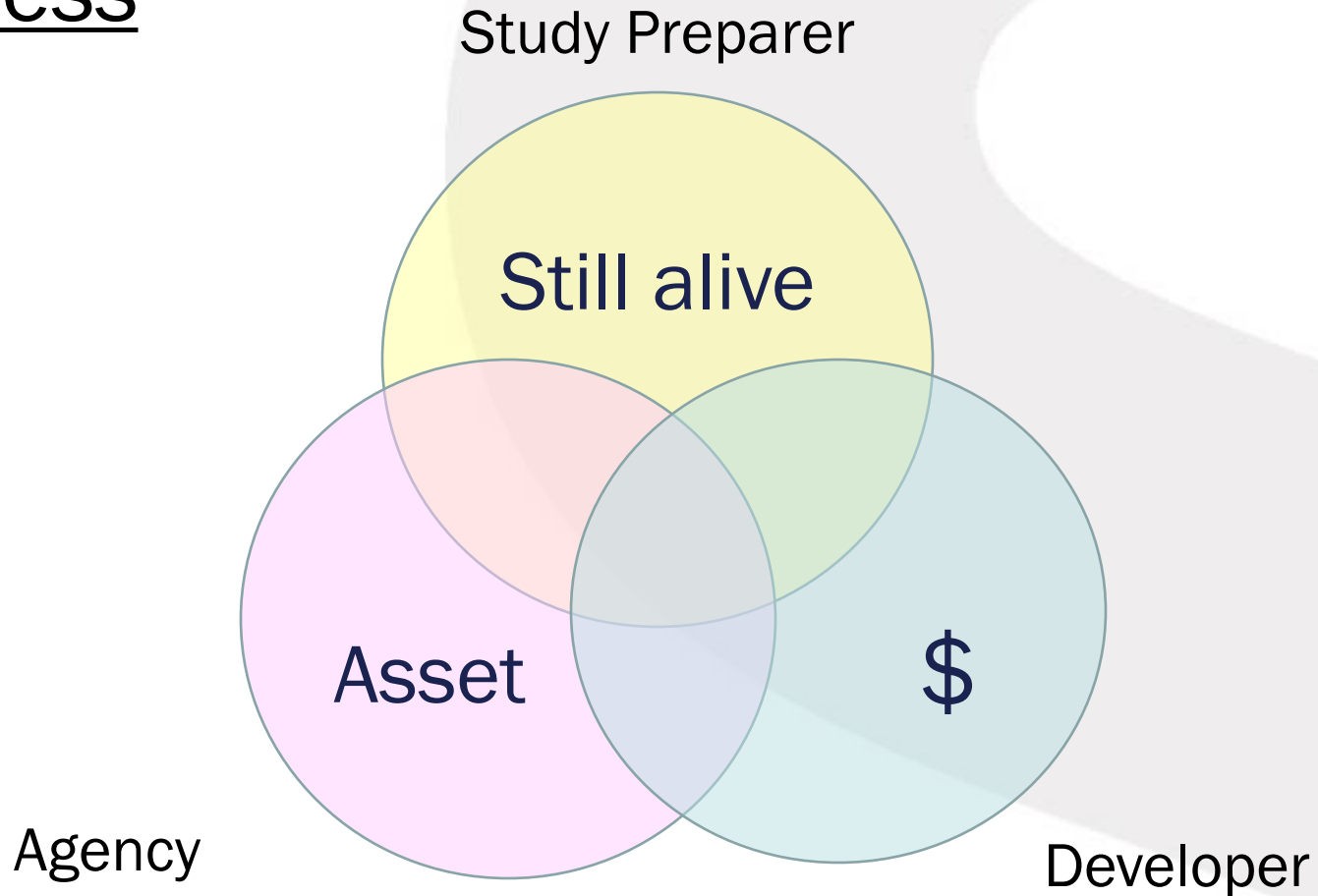
Study Preparer

Time
(Time = \$)

Developer

Players and Perspectives

Success



How to Stay Alive

Conduct a successful scoping meeting

1. Have a scoping meeting
2. Limit participation
3. Discuss access points
4. Note agency's biggest concern
5. Bring/use checklist
 - INDOT Applicant's Guide Appendix A
6. Distribute meeting minutes

Resources

- Trip Generation
 - ITE Manual
 - ITE Journal articles
 - Corporate data
 - Conduct a study



Resources

- Traffic Data
 - Use existing data
 - Collect new data, various technologies
 - Ensure data validity



Resources

- Capacity Analysis (and Simulation)
 - Synchro/SimTraffic
 - Highway Capacity Software
 - Rodel, Sidra
 - VISSIM, Paramics
 - Others?

Reporting Results

- Explain assumptions
- Cite resources
- Display results in tables, figures
- Review meeting checklist



Reporting Results

- How to handle results that are not favorable to your client
- Potential ethics issues?

ITE Journal October 2011 ethics forum



Reporting Results

ITE Conclusions

- It is unethical for the consultant engineer to omit adverse impacts (driveways).
- It is unethical for the consultant engineer to not follow standards (MUTCD).
- It is unethical for either engineer to recommend access that fails to meet health, safety, and welfare of the public.
- City/consultant engineers work together.

Reporting Results

How to prevent this situation: City Engineer

- Have policies and procedures in effect:
 - Access policy, study requirements, LOS standards, etc.
- Seek officials' input and adoption
- Refer to and enforce these policies



Reporting Results

How to prevent situation: Consultant Engr.

- Explain agency's policies to developer
- Manage client's expectations
- Agree upon access possibilities at scoping meeting
- Don't submit the study
- Don't take the job

Funding Improvements

- Impact fees
- “Voluntary” contributions
- Percent impact
- Other methods?



Questions?

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