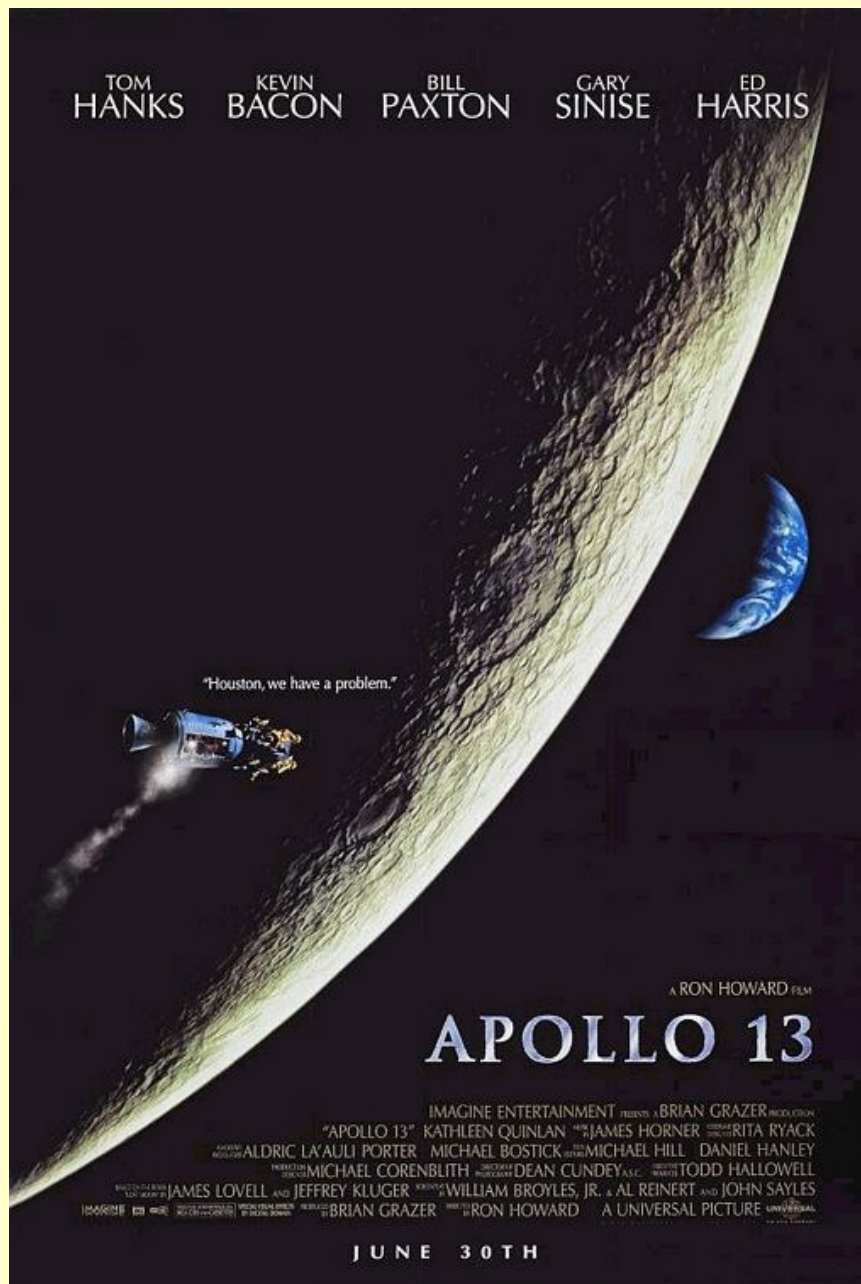


A photograph of a long, straight asphalt road stretching towards a horizon under a sunset sky. The sun is a bright, glowing orb on the left side of the horizon, casting a warm orange and yellow light across the sky and the road. The sky transitions from a deep orange near the horizon to a soft purple and blue at the top. The road is dark and has white dashed lines on the sides and a yellow dashed line in the center. The landscape on either side of the road is flat and appears to be covered in low-lying vegetation or grass. The overall mood is serene and expansive.

Ontario's Roads & Ecopassages Strategy



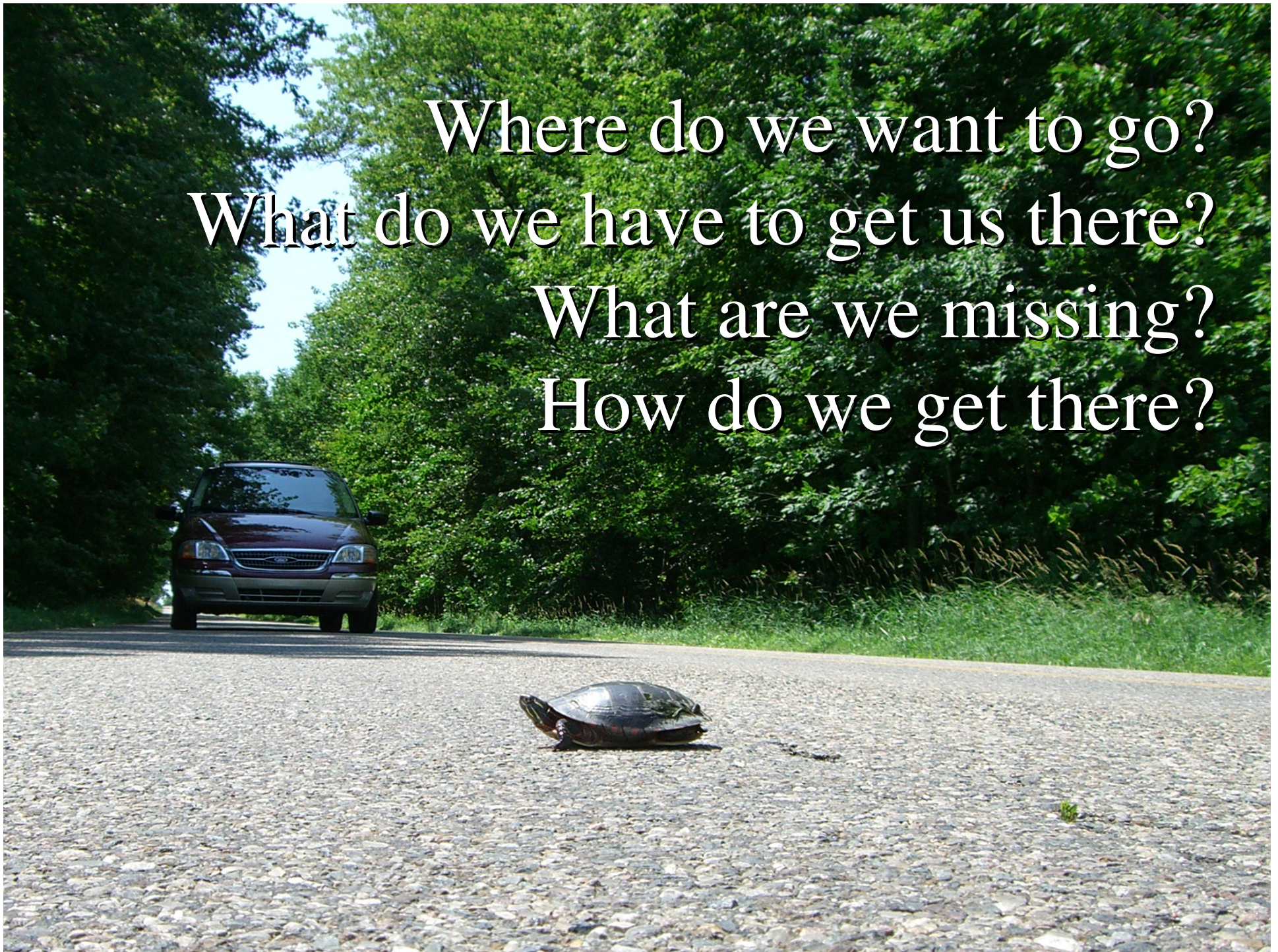
“Houston, we
have a problem.”

“Failure is not
an option.”

Food for thought



Where do we want to go?
What do we have to get us there?
What are we missing?
How do we get there?



Who?



- All areas
(local to federal government)
- All disciplines
(science, engineering, policy, economics, law)
- All levels
(leadership, administration, worker-bees)
- All walks
(citizens, kids, recreationists, sportsmen, motorists)

What?



- Information
- Time
- Money
- Legislation
- Policy
- Enforcement
- Science
- Technology
- Political will
- Labor
- Cooperation
- Champions
- Vision
- Partners
- Property
- Group
- Organization
- Training
- Communication
- Commitment
- Public support
- Responsibilities
- Meetings
- Goals
- Change
- Values
- Inspiration
- Outrage

When?



- Now
- Schedule
- Outline goals
- Outline expectations

Where?

- SCALE!
 - Spatial
 - Temporal

Also applies to:

- People
- Money
- Support
- Information

Don't get hung up

Too big = overwhelmed and don't get anything accomplished

Too small = don't accomplish anything meaningful



Why?



- It's our future
- We share the planet
- We have an ethical responsibility
- We can't afford not to
- Why stop now?
- Who else is going to do it?

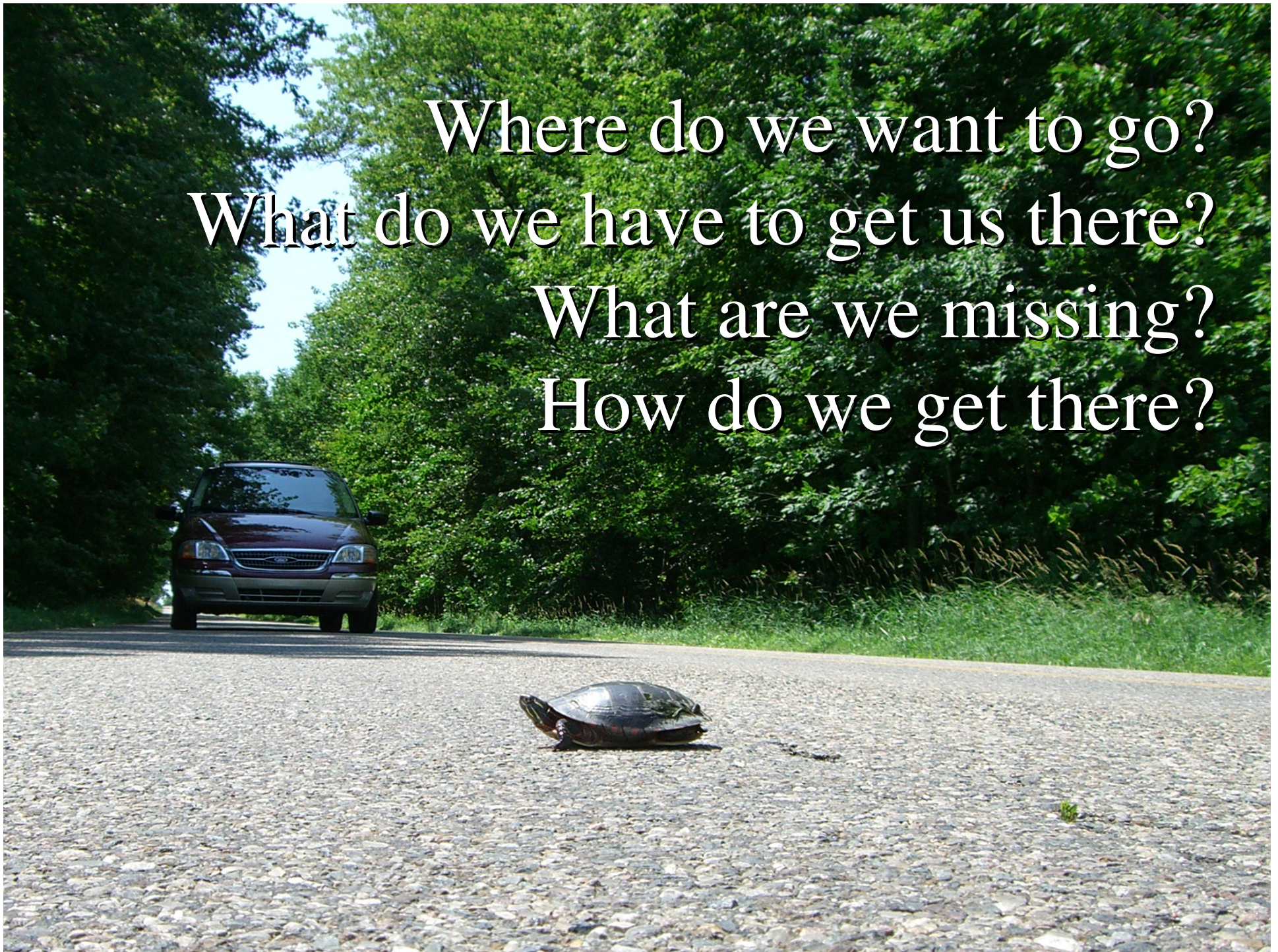
How?

Strategy

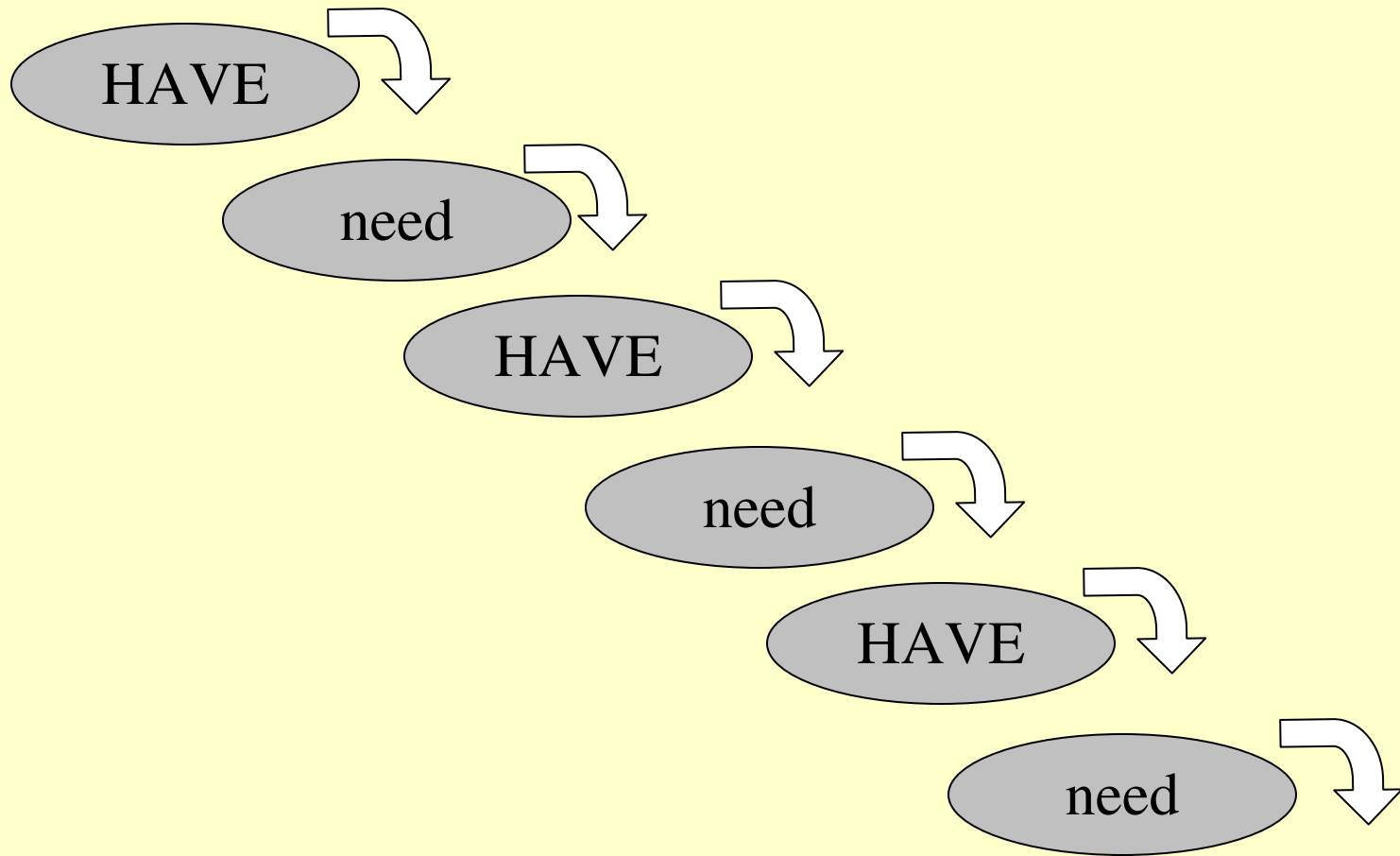


1. Habitat Connectivity Analysis
2. Task Force
3. Communication
4. Schedule next meeting

Where do we want to go?
What do we have to get us there?
What are we missing?
How do we get there?



Here, today



GOALS

Where do we want to go?

- Consider roads and road crossings in planning process for all roads
- Municipal government co-operation; to have government change their culture and have ownership
- Municipal level environmental committee
- Elimination of single purpose trips by automobiles
- Natural heritage features as standard features looked at when designing roads
- Look at whole transportation system and take multiple modal approach
- Big picture of Ontario, unified vision based on development and connectivity
- Short-term goal – convert existing culverts, bridges structures to accommodate wildlife, make improvements
- Standardized mitigation techniques
- Every road improvement project viewed as a possible ecological restoration project
- No negative impact
- Ensure both terrestrial and aquatic connectivity (include roads, railways and dams)
- Shared information
- Increase awareness and understanding, and to create a social norm
- Continued populations of small mammals, amphibians, reptiles and all wildlife
- Permeability - 100% permeability in all human transportation pathways for other organisms in our environment
- Remove animals from SAR lists

GOALS

What do we have to get us there?

- Concerned citizens who are willing to collect data and communicate road problems
- Generalists/holistics who can 'hear' the various ecosystem messages and input them into processes
- Carolinian Canada Coalition 'big picture project', habitat connectivity of Carolinian zone
- Provincial Policy Statement
- Natural Heritage Reference Manual
- Municipal Official Plans
- MNR and Conservation Authorities mapping natural heritage systems
- Expertise and experiences outside of the province that we can learn from
- Champions – people who are able to reach broad range of others
- Participants of this forum – researches, consultants, government, non-profit, public citizens
- Media, CBC – can use climate change angle
- Endangered species legislation that will benefit other species
- Transportation master plans
- Maps, pool of data across all kinds of organizations to share
- Hunting organizations – potential support

HAVE

What do we have to get us there? (*cont'd*)

- Large models along the road (*i.e.*, snake at Narcisse snake dens)
- Federal Fisheries Act, Dept. Fisheries and Oceans
- Transportation planning system that has Environmental Assessment and provides public input (project level)
- Funding, grants
- Growing list of mitigation measures, examples of fencing and passages
- Large awareness of environmental issues, good political position
- Environmental Bill of Rights (EBR) - a toolkit of rights
- Ontario Nature greenway strategy
- Organizations with wide audience
- Ministry of Transportation of Ontario (MTO) bridge database
- Motivation, passion, energy
- Education alliance, Biodiversity strategy
- Ontario Herptofaunal Summary
- Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas

HAVE

What are we missing?

- Contact list, who to contact, names and numbers
- Partnerships and opportunities to build them, networking
- Forum for communication amongst us
- Data share, willingness to share data, make data available/accessible
- Legislation on data sharing; innovative MOU's (memorandum of understandings)
- Standardization of data
- Endorsement and acceptance from members of our government, senior level buy-in
- Healthy relationship with hunters, anglers, recreationists (*i.e.*, ATVers)
- Better story telling ability, knowing the audience, how to get message out, bridge gap between science and public
- Cultural change to responsibility, acceptance of ecosystem integration
- Participation from the public and NGOs in the public consultation process
- Incentives
- Appropriate level of staffing so the job of managing natural resources is manageable
- Funding, effective distribution of funds



need

What are we missing? (*cont'd*)

- Champions – people that can take this and run with it
- Citizen guide to transportation planning
- Enforce political will – send proceedings to provincial, municipal level
- Readily available set of design guidelines for wildlife-friendly roads
- Ask for EA process on projects, better use of what is available to us
- People to listen, involvement
- Engineers to be involved and provide innovative ideas
- Policy wording so that mitigation is not optional, something we have to do
- Connectivity analysis
- Natural heritage criteria in planning process of roads
- Parks be responsible to sections of mandates i.e. ecological integrity
- To know how things work, process, influences
- Understanding, view from other side, recognize other pressures/influences
- An education component
- Professional training and certification programs to ensure issues are identified and addressed

need

How do we get there?

- Summary, clear statement, hard copy communication tool – send clear statement from this meeting to government
- Issue press release of this meeting
- ‘Take our hats off’ - release reluctance of saying things because representing an agency/organization, be honest
- Appreciation, letters of thanks
- Promote our successes, what we’re doing well, that there are people creating solutions. Show people road kill is avoidable, demonstrate through ‘crown jewel’s like the Banff ecopassage
- Task force
- Habitat Conductivity Analysis
- Communication strategy
- Inter-agency connectivity
- Invitation to Federation of Anglers and Hunters
- Take on list of contacts
- Set up web forum or chat room

how

How do we get there? (*cont'd*)

- Make a submission on the Environmental Bill of Rights - government to establish processes, training certification programs, standardization
- Approach engineering faculty to set up curriculum with roads/permeability
- Approach ERSI about GIS data availability
- Set up depository for data, central place
- Use media (t.v., web, web casts), send letters, open houses, get on the street, face to face
- Get feedback, public participation
- Lobby exceptions
- Speak at facilities – children, seniors
- Schedule next meeting, pick a date

how

Interim Task Force – to get things going!

- Bob Johnson (Toronto Zoo)
- Christopher Gosselin (Region Municipality of Waterloo)
- Ellen Schwartzel (Office of the Environmental Commissioner of Ontario)
- Fred Schueler (BMNHC)
- John Middleton (Brock University)
- Kari Gunson (State University of New York)
- Marlo Johnson (MTO)
- Rod Bilz (FRi Ecological Services)
- Stephane Bruneau (Parks Canada)

Suggested Task Force members:

- Carolinian Canada
- Conservation Ontario & Authorities – Jackie Scott will look for a person
- Consultant (Ecoplans)
- Engineer
- Federation of Anglers and Hunters – Victoria Evans will look for a person
- GIS specialist
- MNR Species At Risk Biologist
- Municipal Affairs and Housing
- Municipal engineer and planner
- Municipal Environmental Advisory
- Ministry of public infrastructure and renewal
- NGOs, Ontario Nature
- University representative
- Urban development institute



who

Assignments

- Ontario Parks integrate info from this meeting
- Point Pelee comments and suggestions added, presentation to office
- Presentations to engineers
- Compile education info gained
- Learn driver motivations
- Contact agent for task force, chair meetings
- Outline for what we need for habitat connectivity analysis (K.Gunson)
- Compile SAR recovery teams that have identified roads threat (K.Querbach)
- Consultant report to municipalities, report back their responses/concerns (G.Gartshore)
- Long Point study report back to others involved
- Continue research
- Natural Heritage Connectivity in the economy
- All participants to promote issues related to road design and ecopassages within their own organizations

TASK FORCE

Conference Call

April 2, 2007