Market and Capacity Analysis for Commercial District Planning

11.439 Revitalizing Urban Main Streets



- Understand the economics of a district
- Assess market potential to support new stores or existing business expansion
- Gain insight into how to better serve existing customers
- Identify under-served or growing segments and how to attract them
- Define competitive strengths and weaknesses



Market Analysis Audiences

- District planners and managers
 - Main Street program board & committees
- Business owners and business groups
- Property owners and developers
- Other non-profit organizations
- City agencies

Three Approaches

- Quantitative analysis of district demand, sales gap & competitive niches
 - Brattleboro report exemplifies this method
 - Integrates several secondary data sources
- Customer-driven analysis: lifestyles, values, consumption preferences
 - Demographic data, surveys, focus groups
- Niche or store-based analysis
 - Assess demand, competition and expansion potential for specific business type



District Quantitative Analysis

- Define trade area and "visitor" segments supporting the commercial district
- Calculate number of households, income and spending by product/service type
- Estimate annual "visitor" spending by product/service
- Convert product spending to demand by store type
- Estimate total sales based on square feet and sales per square foot for comparable stores
- Project district sales gap/leakage by store type
- Potential applications of this analysis?

Sample Results: Brattleboro

Table 8. Brattleboro Sales Gap Analysis

	19	99 Estimated	19	99 Estimate	d	Spending
	To	otal Annual	An	nual Sales	Sales Gap	Capture
Store Type	Sp	ending (\$000)	(\$0	000)	(\$000)	Rate
Furniture and Home Furnishings	\$	21,156	\$	3,883	\$ (17,274)	18%
Electronics and Home Appliances	\$	12,986	\$	8,129	\$ (4,857)	63%
Bldg Materials, Garden Equip. & Supplies	\$	16,378	\$	12,824	\$ (3,554)	78%
Food and Beverage Stores	\$	98,870	\$	63,878	\$ (34,992)	65%
Clothing and Clothing Accessories	\$	28,455	\$	13,628	\$ (14,827)	48%
Sporting goods, hobby, book and music	\$	12,856	\$	5,238	\$ (7,618)	41%
Services (restaurants)	\$	75,833	\$	26,825	\$ (49,008)	35%
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation.	\$	24,867	\$	9,083	\$ (15,784)	37%
Suppressed Retail Sales	\$	-	\$	31,610		
TOTAL	\$	353,949	\$	175,097	\$(178,852)	49%

Source: Consultant calculations from Claritas, US Consumer Expenditure Survey, University of Vermont

Customer-Based Analysis

- Demographics of the market area, key customer types and impact on demand
- Shopping patterns & preferences
 - What consumers do & do not shop for in a district& how it varies by segment
 - Competition by product/store type
 - Options to expand district visitors & shopping
- Secondary data, surveys & focus groups
- How to apply this analysis?

Sample Results

Improvement	% of Shoppers Likely to
	Increase Shopping
More sales/promotions	71%
Special events/festivals	64%
Cleaner public spaces	58%
Attractive storefronts	52%
Better lighting	42%

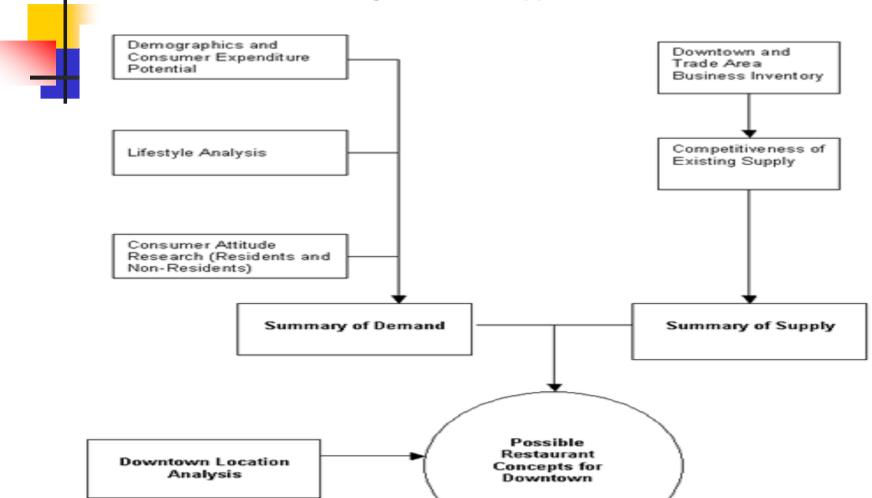
Responses Varied By Age: 63% of 18 to 35 year olds were positive about attractive storefronts vs. 48% for those 36 and older



Niche or Store-Based Analysis

- Identify strongest district niches
 - Concentration of stores
 - High sales and capture rates
 - Anchor or destination stores
 - Market share as a shopping destination
- New store and expansion potential
 - Position versus competition
 - Available locations and space

Evaluating Restaurant Opportunities



Source: http://www.uwex.edu/ces/cced/dma/11.html



- Study used several analytical tools:
 - Shopper survey, ACORN profiles, cluster analysis
- What did you find most valuable? Why?
- Was anything missing that would have made the report more helpful?
- What were major conclusions? How were applied to Hyde Park Main Streets?
- What would you like to duplicate or change in the market analysis for your district?

Asset and Capacity Analysis

- Capacity: the ability to get things done, to achieve one's mission & goals
- Asset: a resource to help achieve one's goals; something of potential value in improving a neighborhood
- Both contribute to effective revitalization plans
 - Understanding capacity is key to plan for feasible implementation
 - Identifying assets may uncover resources for the plan and fosters strategic decisions on where to act

Capacity Assessment

- Glickman/Servon 5-Point Framework:
 - 1. Resource: raising and managing funding
 - 2. Organizational: staff, board, systems
 - Network: nature & extent of relationships
 - 4. Programmatic: type of services provided
 - 5. Political: mobilize support & affect policy
- How useful is this for Main Street programs? What capacities are most critical for MS organizations?
- Can it apply to an entire district?
- Any gaps in this framework for a MS district?

Civic Capacity

- A community's ability to address problems and achieve goals
- Reflects the entire community's stake in commercial district
- Critical components:
 - Shared vision and goals
 - All key stakeholder are actively engaged
 - Supportive government
 - Effective and appropriate partnerships

Assets for Revitalization

- Asset framework can help change neighborhood perceptions and image
- Assets underlay & support improvement plans
- Risk is that almost everything can be an asset
- Focus on critical assets for revitalization:
 - Most valuable to achieve key goals
 - Are unique or provide advantages for the district
 - Improve its image or are valued by customers
- What are these assets for your districts?