

# Governing Metropolitan Regions in the US

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# Fragmented System of Local Government

Type of Government	2007
Total units	89,527
U.S. government	1
State government	50
Local governments	89,476
County	3,033
Municipal	19,492
Township and town	16,519
School district	13,051
Special district	37,381

# The Case of Los Angeles



# The city and metropolis

- City of Los Angeles  
3.8 mil
- Los Angeles-Long Beach-Santa Ana  
Metropolis 12.8  
mil
- Los Angeles-Long  
Beach-Riverside, CSA  
17.6 mil



# Regional Actors

- Southern California Association of Governments covers 6 counties (CSA +1)
- the Metropolitan Planning Organization for transportation planning
- 70 member regional council)
- South Coast Air Quality Management District covers counties (CSA -1)
- responsible for regional air quality plans including ability to regulate traffic congestion
- 13 member board (county supervisors, city council members and state designees)

# Assessment

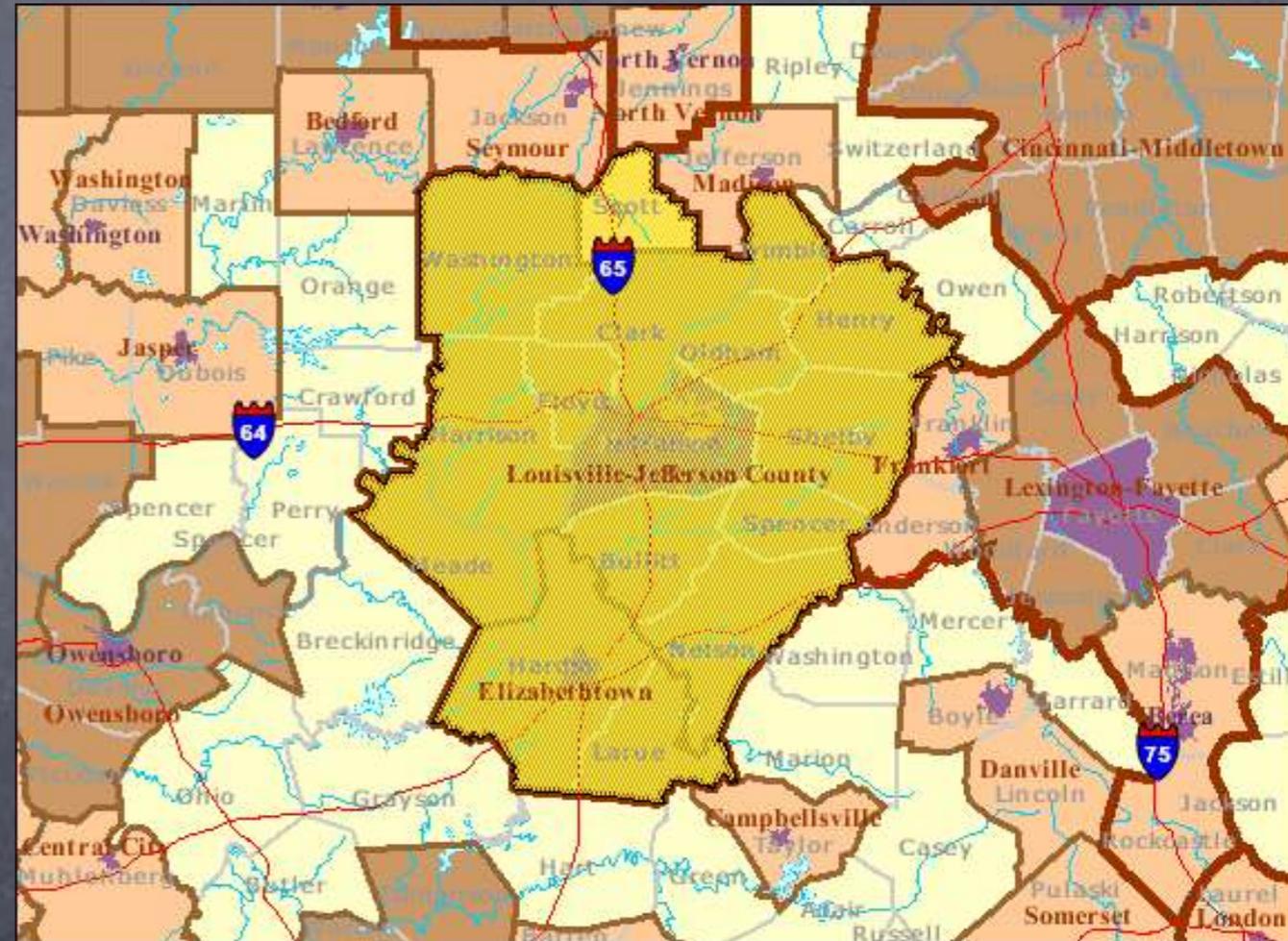
- Weak regional platform in divided and fragmented metropolis
- Middle class secession efforts in Los Angeles

# The Case of Louisville



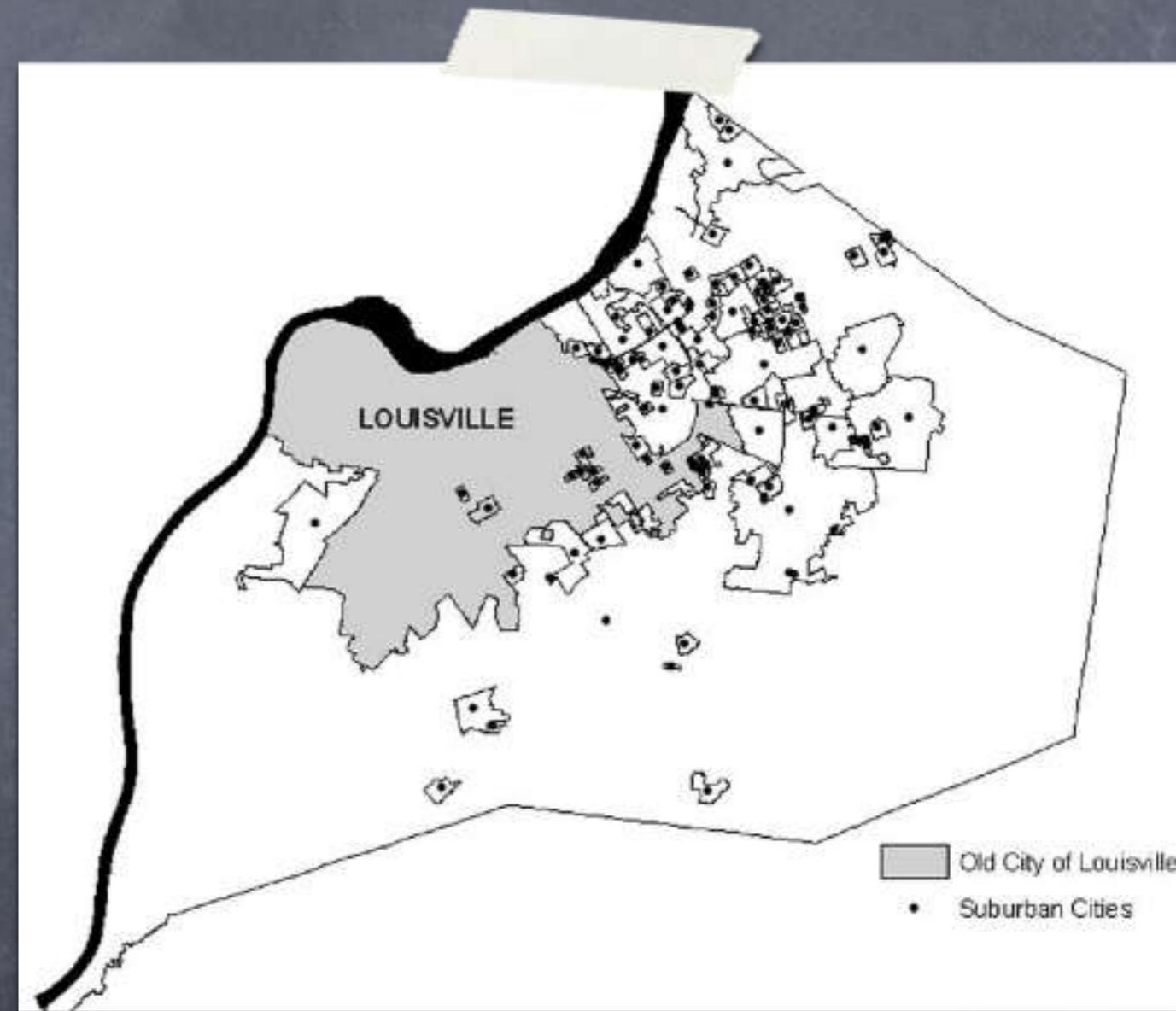
# The city and metropolis

- new City of Louisville  
562,000
- Louisville Metropolis  
1.2 mil (13 counties)
- Louisville/Jefferson  
County-Elizabethtown-  
Scottsburg, KY-IN CSA  
1.4 million



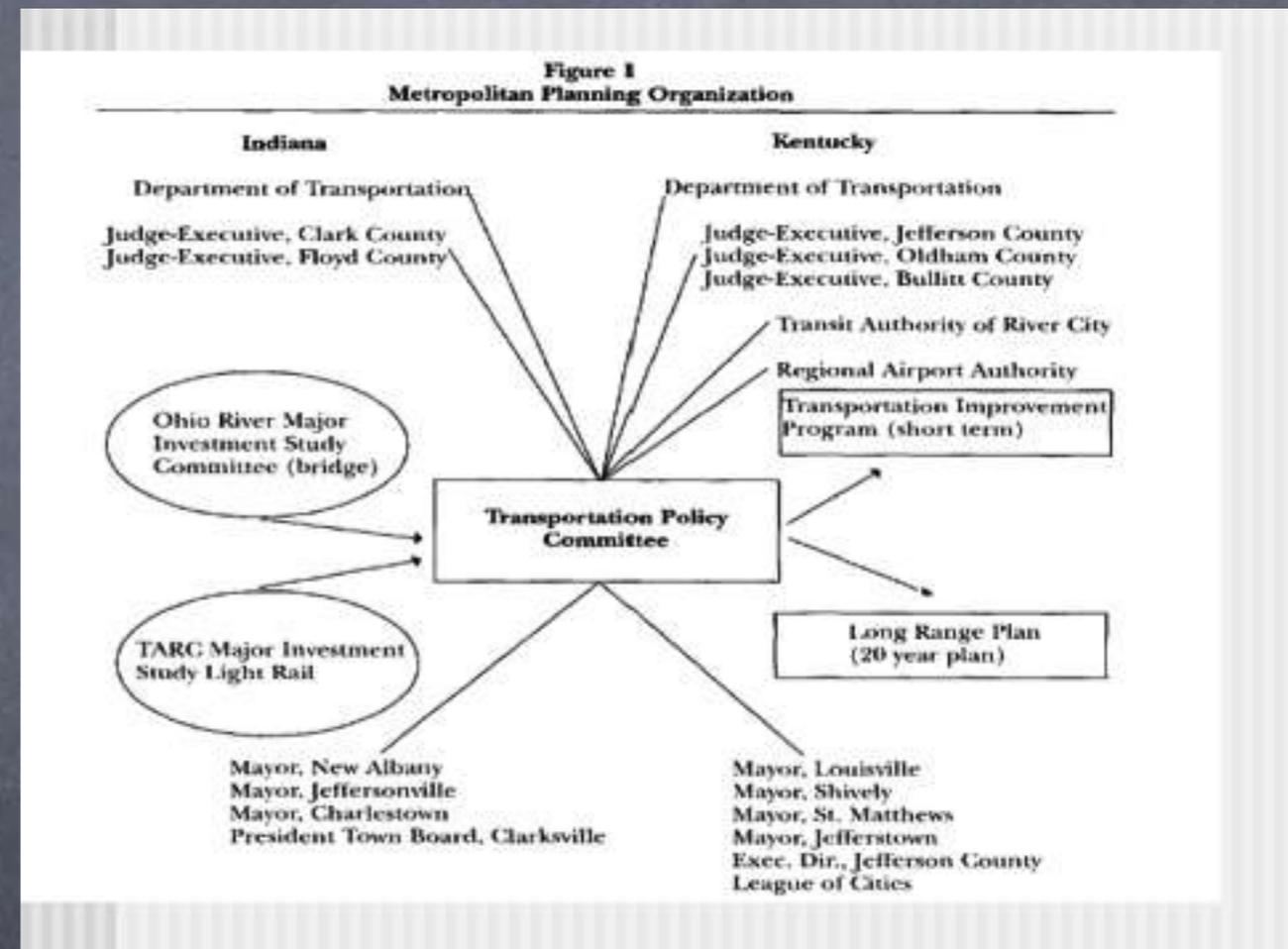
# the new city of Louisville (consolidated city-county)

- merged city of Louisville with county government in 2003
- left taxes and services alone



# Regional Actors

- Kentuckiana Regional Planning and Development Agency (KIPDA)
- the local MPO covering 5 urban counties of metropolis
- big issue was building 2 new bridges



# Assessment--city county consolidation

- results in minority dilution and suburban dominance
- ensures city remains largest in state
- expected economic boom, but not occur

# Assessment--MPO

- I.M. Barlow provides a useful benchmark for minimal conditions of "effective" metropolitan governance, including the existence of
  - "area-wide coordination and integration" among governments in the metropolis and
  - "an 'umbrella' body that has the capacity to view matters from a metropolitan perspective and to act in the metropolitan interest."

# Federal Role

- No formal or constitutional role in local government
- Federal law requires MPOs to access federal transportation funding

# New Regionalists propose greater federal role

- Regionalism proposed as a solution to concentrated poverty in the city
  - tear down public housing
  - open suburbs to poor and access to jobs and better lifestyles
  - build coalitions between inner city and first ring suburbs

# State role

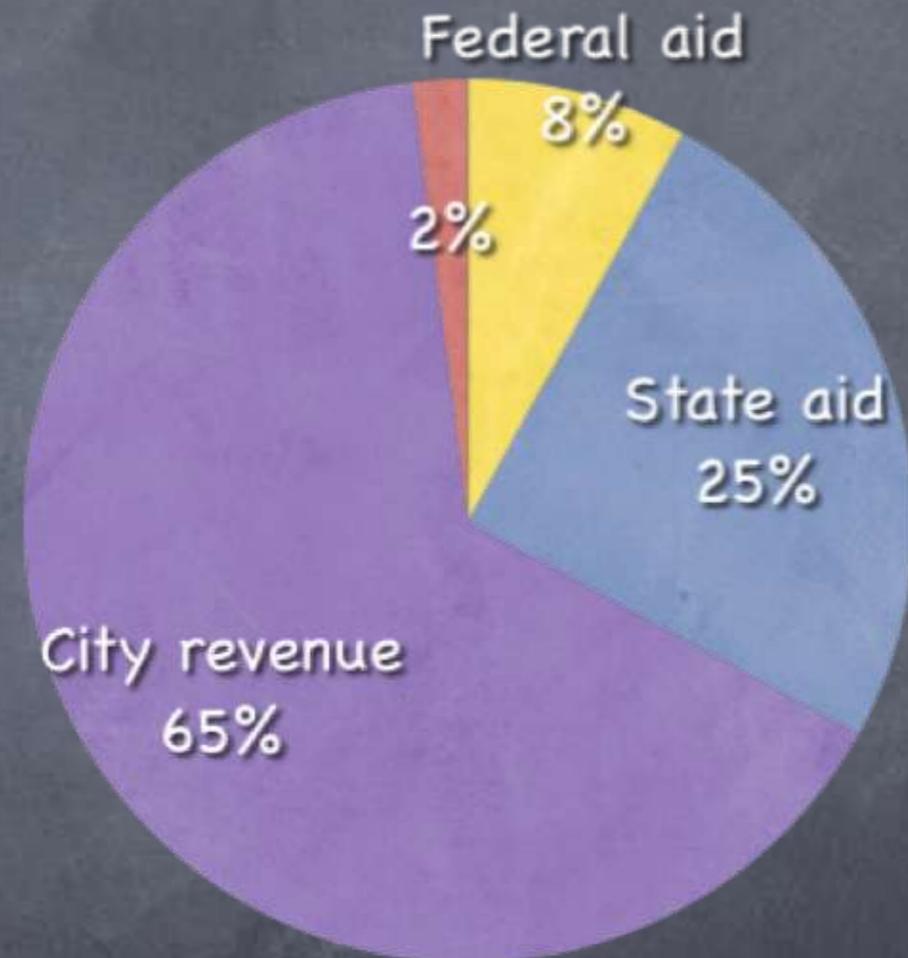
- Dillons rule--states create and destroy
- Political system, political culture reinforce localist values
  - state and federal representatives represent a state or local interest in legislative bodies
  - rural interests favored over urban

# Governance structure

- No metropolitan or regional government and unlikely to create
- Limited and special purpose regional bodies or agencies for selective purposes
- Focus on “governance” but limited expectations

# Roles, Responsibilities, Revenues

- Limited federal role in urban affairs,
- Entirely under state government authority (disinterested)
- Cities have strong revenue generation
- Strong mayor system



# Lessons from US

- Weak and selective regionalism
- What's the problem trying to fix?