Civic Engagement through Social



Many communities are searching for ways to break the 'public dialogue barrier' and get closer to the true essence of democracy.



Social Media

Social Media:

Enables shared community experiences through e-places, e-tools and e-services

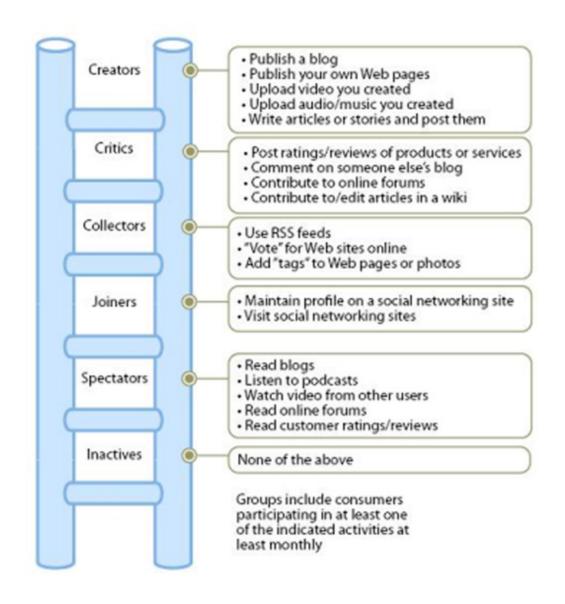
Is the fourth most popular activity on the Internet (and email is 5th!)



What are the possibilities?



Varying levels of Involvement



Social Media and Planning

As of 2008, nearly 1/3rd of American adults had a profile page on a social networking site



How appropriate are these tools for inviting public input and gauging support on community planning initiatives?

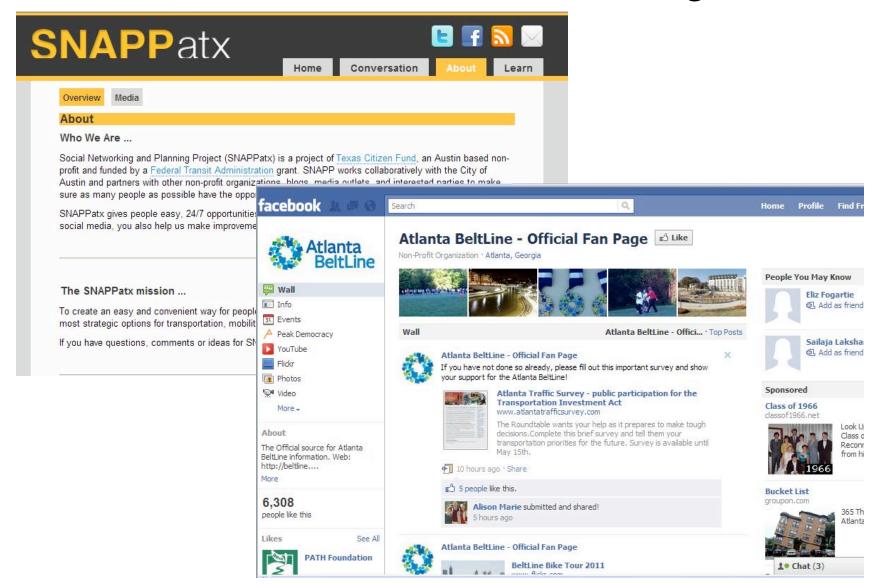
Social Media and Planning:

Considerations
Controlling information internally and externally

- Need leadership and staff resources
- The AICP Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct directs planners to
 - "seek social justice by working to expand choice and opportunity for all persons recognizing a special responsibility to plan for the needs of the disadvantaged and to promote racial and economic integration."

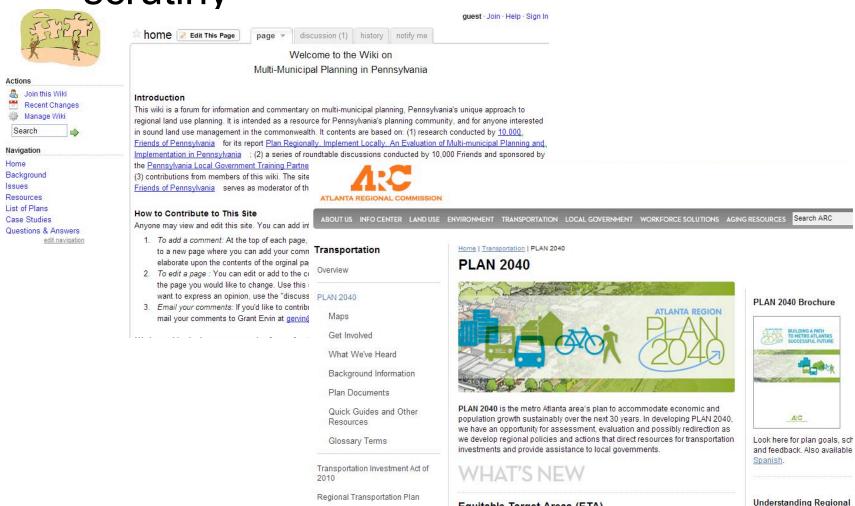
Social Media and Planning: Benefits

Effective tool for audience building



Social Media and Planning: Benefits

Opening up decision-making for review and scrutiny



Transportation Improvement

Program

Equitable Target Areas (ETA)

In early 2011, ARC developed the Equitable Target Area (ETA) Index to identify

Planning

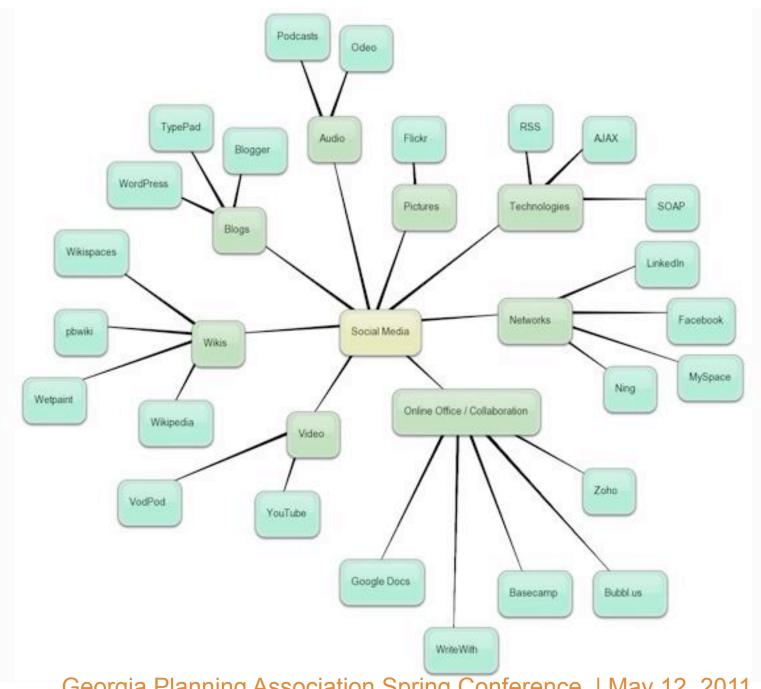
Social Media and Planning: Benefits

Foster common interest networking and advancing democracy



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Regardless, Social Networks Are Here to Stay

The social networking options offer planners:

- ✓ Excellent tools for disseminating information
- ✓ A more successful process when used in tandem with face-to-face communication

✓ A constant opportunity to educate on critical and timely issues through a more organic approach

- How can social media help us cope with the challenges of an aging community with different needs?-???????
- Are you having a challenge analyzing and reporting back the input collected in a timely manner so that you can indeed address the issue in a timely manner, which is what social media is best at?
- How do you get people to your site/ to engage in your platforms?
- If you receive a comment that isn't substantive, how do you handle answering these questions? Do you edit/ police your platforms?
- Words of advice for how others can chance their organization's culture and skills toward a social media/ network focus?
- Are there new skills/ new tools on the horizon that will help the planning community when it comes to communicating and engaging the public?