

Employ Macro-Analysis

Sidestep the Micro-Analysis Trap

It is the ability to choose which makes us human. Madeleine L'Engle

Macro-Analysis – Free Thinking

Step 1: Pick a subject – See all sides – Explore the literature – Call experts

Step 2: Gather agency data – See justifications – Include what they leave out

Step 3: Survey US and worldwide alternative solutions – Compare with home

Step 4: Review cost-benefit analysis – Make your case heard – Enjoy sharing



When we believe in the impossible, it becomes possible, and we can do all kinds of extraordinary things.

Madeleine L'Engle

Subject: Air Quality and Transportation

The Clean Air Act (CAA) Section 176(c) establishes the framework for improving air quality...[so that transportation] funding...[is] consistent with air quality goals.

The CAA requires that (TIPs) and (SIPs) will not cause or contribute to any new violations of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)...

Northeastern Illinois does not attain air quality standards...[for] 8-hour ozone...[or] (PM2.5). The region['s]... transportation [must] help to reduce pollutants...

“Conformity” the...project must not cause or contribute to any air quality hotspots...



IL DOT's Response – MICRO-ANALYSIS (hiding something?)

The annual PM_{2.5} design value for the receptor with the maximum concentration for each scenario ranged from 13.2 µg/m³ to 13.8 µg/m³ for the 2040 No-Build Alternative and 13.4 µg/m³ to 14.0 µg/m³ for the 2040 Build Alternative. The annual concentrations of PM_{2.5} for the 2030 interim year ranged from 13.4 µg/m³ to 13.8 µg/m³. The results of the analyses show that the modeled hot-spot PM_{2.5} concentrations do not exceed the annual PM_{2.5} NAAQS for the Build Alternative, No-Build Alternative, or 2030 interim year of the Build Alternative. As a result the project was found to conform and no PM hot-spot mitigation measures were required.



Like it or not, we either add to the darkness of indifference and out-and-out evil which surrounds us or we light a candle to see by.

Madeleine L'Engle

EPA Conformity Process Results

Using USEPA methods, IDOT and the Illinois Tollway prove that the \$4-5 billion new highway project to circle O'Hare Airport will do no more harm to our air quality.

“The Ring Road, says Elk Grove Village Mayor Craig Johnson (Illinois Tollway Board Director), will reduce travel times by 7 minutes (25% saved), ...accommodating 3 times as many vehicles per day as local roads previously carried.”

The math is bogus: \$5 billion + 3Xs more cars = conformity (no more NOx)? It is nonsensical. Funny (not) how hired analysis always finds the chink of light between build and no build that allows construction of the new auto highway.



This is what CONFORMITY looks like!

Conclusion

The 4-step macro-analysis method (explore, gather, compare, and share) can avoid the micro-analysis trap and lead to innovative change. You get what you pay for!

The above is just one example of how a good thing (Conformity) can be twisted to achieve an unjust end. Other examples abound...auto-congestion, infrastructure funding, gentrification, cost/benefit analysis, etc. All of these subjects can be a micro-analysis problem, or not. Continue to fall for micro-analysis, or free your mind and go macro.



“Don't try to comprehend with your mind. Your minds are very limited. Use your intuition.”
— Madeleine L'Engle, *A Wind in the Door*