Mexico City Airport Planning

... in four Scenes
Scene One

Analyzing Texcoco
Conversation between the
D.F. Planning Director and D.F. Mayor
Failure of Airport Planning Process

Process failed because:
• Closed-door political decisions
• Excluded stakeholders
• Limited frame of reference
• Invalid decision rules
Planning Structure Needed to Guarantee D.F. Involvement

- Events of the last year created a unique opportunity for a more equal distribution of power
- Regional planning council would ensure adequate involvement of all stakeholders
Political Strategy

- To get political buy-in from State and Federal government for this new planning structure, D.F. needs to establish strategic alliances with opposition groups, especially the campesinos
- Furthers your political ambitions
- Expands PRD’s political base
Scene Two

The Alliance
Meeting with D.F. Mayor,
D.F. Planning Director and
Ignacio Del Valle (Leader of
San Salvador Atenco campesinos)
Concerns

• No reason to trust new promises, need concrete actions on part of D.F.
• Historically non-responsive to indigenous
• Left outside power structure
Reasons for alliance

- We need continued support
- Interests connected from desire to stop growth
- D.F. government helpful in stopping airport
What we want

- Guarantee to protect land rights
- Representation on airport decision making body
- Veto power over site
- Indigenous rights bill support
- Measure of autonomy over local decision making
Building an Alliance

- Can’t provide all these things
- Can provide
  - Seat at the table on airport planning process
  - Place on decision making bodies about social impacts of airport siting
  - PRD support for passage of Indigenous Rights Bill
Scene Three

Vision for Airport Planning
D.F. Mayor calls a meeting with
President Fox
Governor of State of Mexico
Ignacio del Valle
and D.F. Planners
Airport Planning
Process Failed

• Stakeholders were excluded in the decision making process
• People have expectation of democratic rule; it is our responsibility as politicians to fulfill this
• Political process has been discredited; government needs to redeem ourselves

D.F. Mayor
Where We Are Now

• Solution still needed to airport problem; Benito Juarez lacks capacity to meet air travel needs
• Problem-solving process needs reworking
• Possibilities need to be explored, e.g., new airport, expanding current airport, sites in other cities, etc.

D.F. Mayor
Moving Forward

- Forum for all stakeholders to be heard
- Expand scope of planning participants
- More transparency in decision-making
- Increased coordination of interests
- Balance national, regional and local interests
- Balance government and popular interests

D.F. Mayor
Mandate of MZMC Regional Airport Planning Commission

• List all alternative sites for the airport
• To examine all alternatives in light of five concerns:
  – Economic interests and impacts
  – Technical requirements for airport
  – Social costs
  – Environmental impacts
  – Infrastructure connecting airport to city
• To elaborate a new regional airport plan
Approval of Regional Airport Plan

• Constant communication between citizens, representatives, politicians, and planners.
• Citizens in neighborhoods provide both source and ultimate approval of plan
• Final approval by DF Mayor, Governors, and President
• If this process is successful, the structure could be institutionalized as a Regional Planning Body.
Scene Four

Agreeing to the Plan
Conversation between the
President of Mexico and
Governor of State of Mexico
Initial Doubts

- Limits Federal power in decision making
- No guarantee that national interests are met
  - Global competitiveness
  - Economic growth
  - Employment
  - Improved infrastructure

President Fox
Dilemma

• With the airport problem left unresolved, it is difficult to achieve the nation’s goals
• Cannot revamp airport planning process because the project’s credibility has been jeopardized
How the MZMC RAPC can Help

- Restore credibility to the airport project: through citizen participation, transparency, and coordination
- Re-legitimize the Federal government
- Confirm commitment to democratic principles
- Establish support of all stakeholders
State Government Agrees

• Process can help
  – Restore PRI reputation
  – Guarantee PRI participation in the decision-making process
  – Address the interests of my constituents (new infrastructure, attract new industries, raise property values)
Governor of State of Mexico

Additional Benefits

• Establishes common priorities for the region
  – Employment
  – Quality public services
  – Infrastructure and transportation
  – Environment

• Reconciles tensions regarding how to achieve these priorities (means to the ends)
Tensions Between Groups

• Will the solution to the airport problem
  – Promote economic development? For whom?
  – Provide an efficient allocation of resources?
  – Be sustainable?

• These tensions need to be reconciled for agreement to be reached – the process can help do this
Cast

D.F. Planning Director……Chris Hodges
Mayor Lopez-Obrador….Elizabeth Bast
Ignacio del Valle……Will Bradshaw
President Fox……Claudia Canepa
Governor Motiel…Mark Emmert
D.F. Planner……Sarah Connolly
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