



Compact city policies: a comparative assessment

TADASHI MATSUMOTO

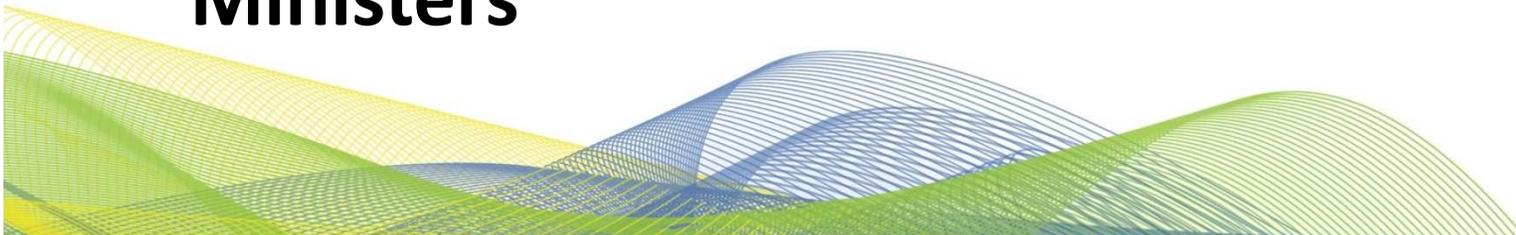
**Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
(OECD)**

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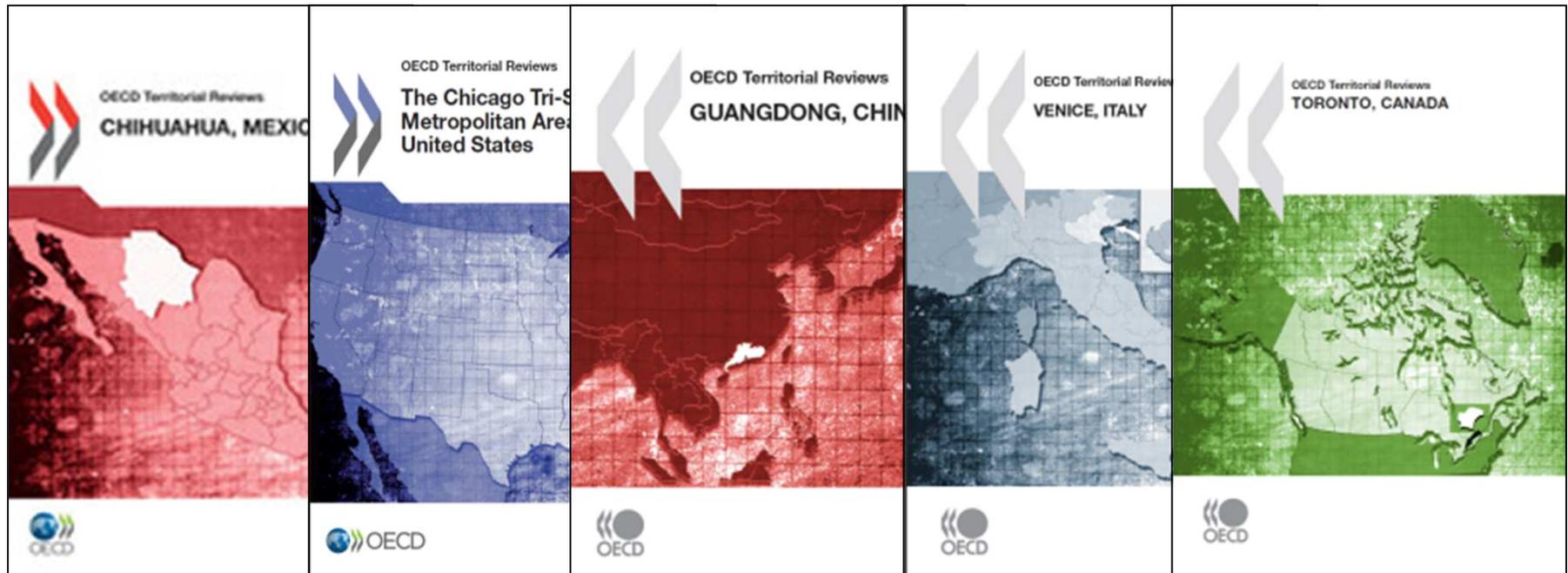
Urban Development at the OECD

- **Territorial Reviews in Metropolitan Regions**
- **National Urban Policy Reviews**
- **Statistical indicators on urban and metropolitan regions**
- **Comparative and thematic reports on urban policy and governance**
- **The OECD Urban Roundtable for Mayors and Ministers**



Territorial Reviews of Metropolitan Regions

- 34 metropolitan regions, including, most recently, Chicago, Toronto, Venice, Gauteng, Chihuahua and Guangdong



National Urban Policy Reviews

- Focuses on central government's policies designed and introduced to *explicitly* address urban development policies
- Analyses how national spatial planning for urban regions along with specific sectoral policies may *implicitly* impact urban development.
- Addresses issues of governance, including inter-governmental fiscal relationships and the various institutional, fiscal and policy tools aimed at fostering co-ordination

Thematic reports on urban policy and governance

- **Forthcoming (2013) | Green Growth in Cities**
- **2012 | Urban Trends and Policies in OECD Countries**
- **2012 | Compact City Policies**
- **2010 | Cities and Climate Change**
- **2009 | Cities, Climate Change and Multi-level Governance**
- **2006 | Competitive Cities in the Global Economy**



Statistical indicators on urban and metro-regions

- Fundamental tools for enhancing cross-country comparability and improving the analysis and evaluation of policies
- *The OECD Database on Metropolitan Regions* includes more than 90 metropolitan regions with over 1.5 million inhabitants.
- *The OECD Regional Database* contains demographic, economic, social and institutional statistics for two sub-national territorial levels.

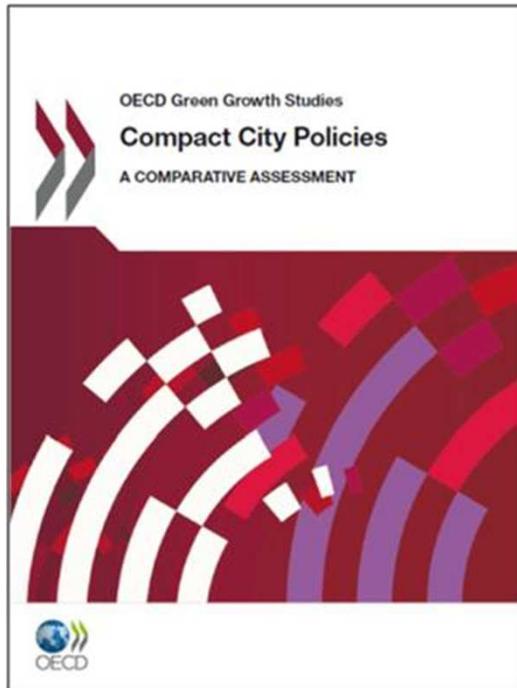


The OECD Roundtable for Mayors and Ministers

- **2012 | Mobilizing Investments for Urban Sustainability, Job Creation and Resilient Growth (Chicago)**
- **2010 | Cities and Green Growth (Paris)**
- **2008 | Cities and Climate Change (Milan)**
- **2007 | Cities in the Global Economy (Madrid)**



OECD report: Compact City Policies



1. To better understand the compact city concept and the implications of today's contexts
2. To better understand potential outcomes
3. To develop indicators
4. To examine current compact city practices in OECD
5. To propose key compact city strategies



Compact City?

Not at a city scale, but the metropolitan scale:

Dense and proximate development patterns

- Urban land is intensively utilised
- Urban agglomerations are contiguous or close together
- Distinct border between urban and rural land use
- Public spaces are secured

Urban areas linked by public transport systems

- Effective use of urban land
- Public transport systems facilitate mobility in urban areas

Accessibility to local services and jobs

- Land use is mixed
- Most residents have access to local services either on foot or using public transport

Compact city policies can achieve integrated urban sustainability goals

- They can generate synergistic impacts:

How compact city policies can contribute to urban sustainability [excerpt]

Compact city characteristics	Environmental benefits	Social benefits	Economic benefits
Shorter intra-urban distances	Fewer CO2 emissions, Less pollution from automobiles	Higher mobility of low-income households, due to lower travel costs	Higher productivity due to shorter travel time for workers
Better access to diversity of local services and jobs	-	Higher quality of life due to access to local services (shops, hospitals, etc.)	Skilled labour force attracted by high quality of life Greater productivity due to more diversity, vitality, innovation and creativity
More efficient public service delivery	-	– Public service level for social welfare maintained by improved efficiency	– Lower infrastructure investments and cost of maintenance

Source: OECD (2012), *Compact City Policies: A Comparative Assessment*

Visualise urban land cover

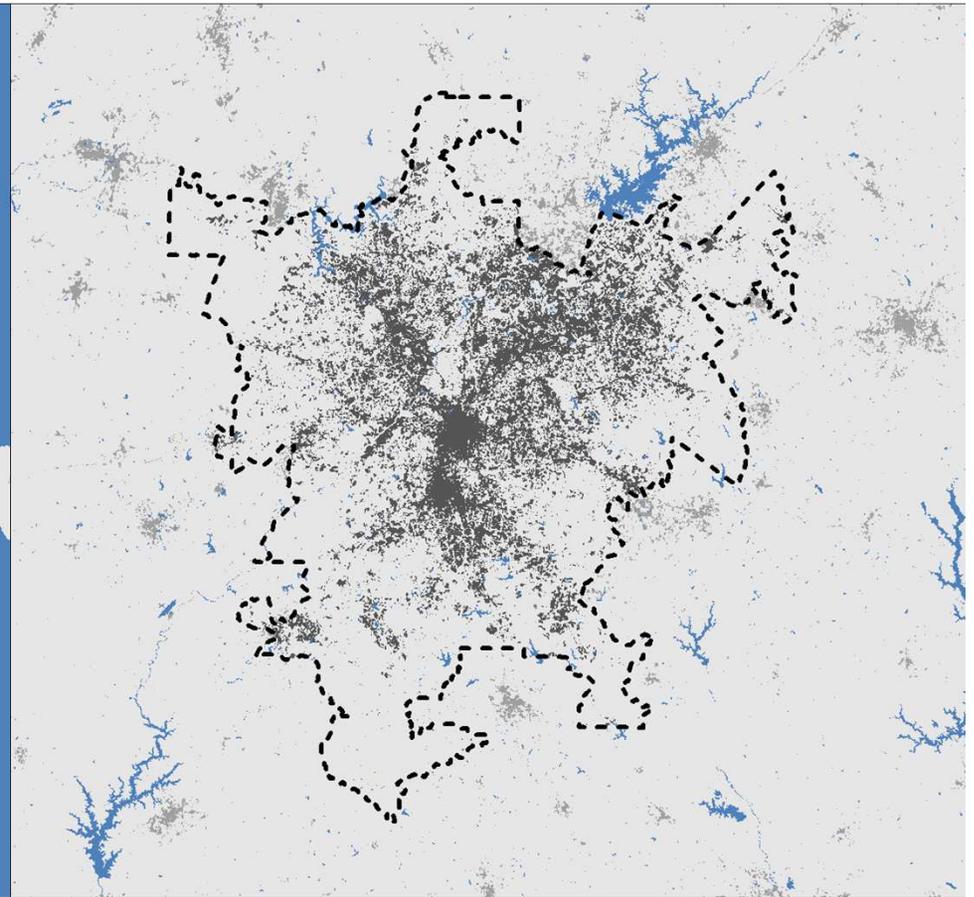
Athens (3.4 million)

Atlanta (4.6 million)



--- Athens metropolitan area
■ Urban land cover in the metropolitan area
■ Other urban land cover

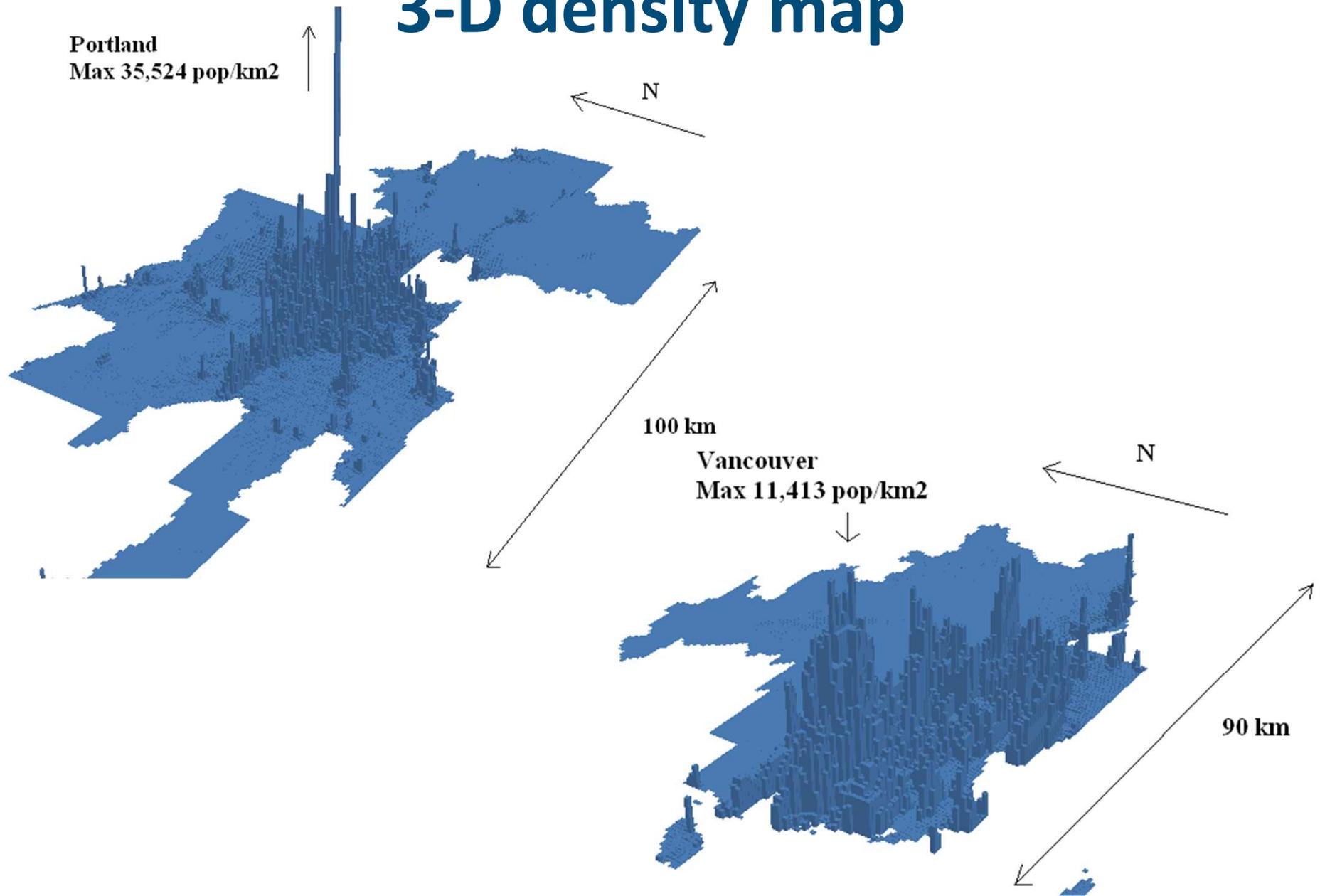
0 15 30 km



--- Atlanta metropolitan area
■ Urban land cover in the metropolitan area
■ Other urban land cover

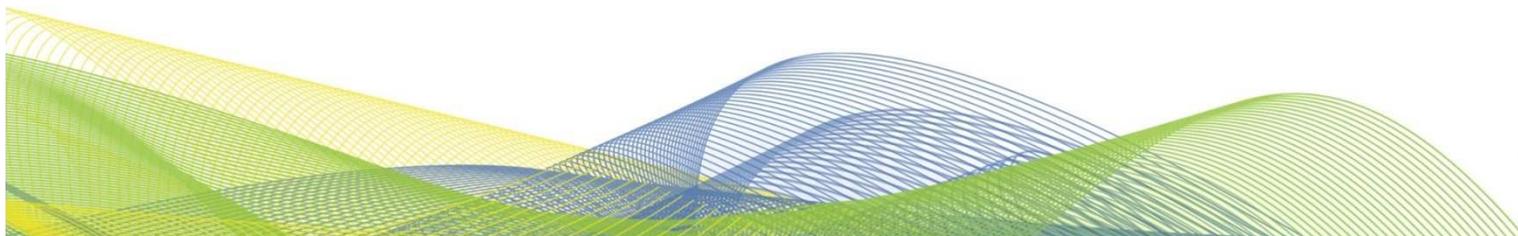
0 15 30 km

3-D density map

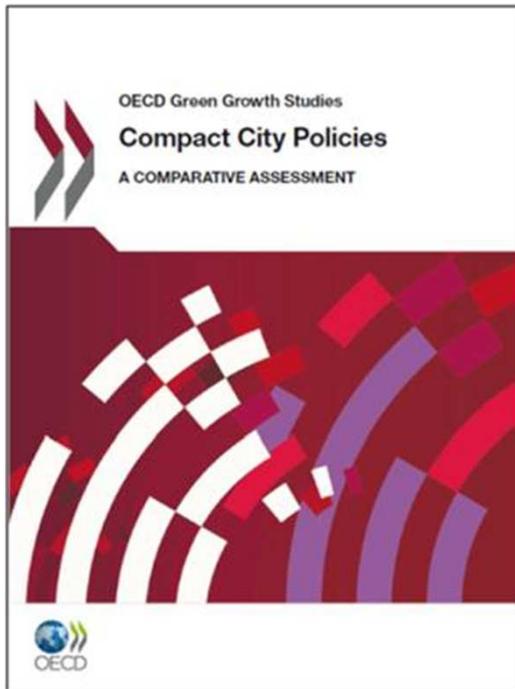


The five key policy strategies

1. Set explicit compact city goals
2. Encourage dense and contiguous development at urban fringes
3. Retrofit existing built-up areas
4. Enhance diversity and quality of life in urban centres
5. Minimise adverse negative effects



Find out more:



OECD (2012), Compact City Policies: A Comparative Assessment, OECD Green Growth Studies, OECD Publishing.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/9789264167865-en>

Also visit our website:

www.oecd.org/regional/compactcity

