

PlanET Working Group Meeting #4

Tuesday, October 23, 2012

East Tennessee History Center, 9 AM – Noon

SUMMARY

The combined meeting of PlanET working groups with 80 participants was called to order by Jeff Welch, TPO Director. The purposes of the meeting were to review the regional trend scenario, provide an update on the regional vision statement, and complete a group exercise that would lead to four alternative future scenarios for the region.

Update on Trend Scenario and Indicators

Kevin Tilbury, Principal, Gresham, Smith and Partners, presented the updated trend scenario. The trend indicates an additional 298,163 people, 240,274 new jobs and approximately 115,000 new acres of greenfield development. Adjustments were made to the allotment of new development in the trend based on PlanET staff and working group comments. Kevin also shared the results of several indicators detailing impacts of the trend; including new impervious surfaces, daily water use and access to transit.

Regional Vision Statement Update

MPC Executive Director Mark Donaldson provided a status on the preparation of the draft regional vision statement. He stated that all the comments from the working groups, project committees and PlanET staff have been compiled and are being incorporated into the draft vision statement. Mark also presented five vision statement themes that summarize the region's future vision in concise phases.

Developing Alternative Scenarios Exercise

The alternative scenarios exercise was the major activity for the meeting. Participants divided into smaller groups to work on one of the four scenarios. The four alternative scenarios were:

- Dispersed Growth Scenario: growth is scattered throughout the region
- Highway-Oriented Growth Scenario: growth occurs primarily in suburban locations along major highways
- Growth of Established Cities & Towns Scenario: new development is concentrated in existing cities and towns
- Growth of Established Cities & Towns & New Centers Scenario: growth occurs mainly in established cities and towns and new mixed-use centers in suburban locations

The goal of the exercise was to create future growth maps using a variety of "chips" representing various development types (e.g. community centers, retail services, low density residential, etc.) based on the scenario each group was assigned. A PlanET facilitator guided each group through the exercise, answering questions, encouraging the group to keep going, and involving everyone in the work.

Next Steps

The future growth maps from the alternative scenarios exercise will be consolidated into four maps—one for each of the four scenarios. These four maps will be translated into a concept diagram for each scenario, showing where people and jobs are and the intensity of development. This information will also be coded CommunityViz using place types, which will compute indicators of potential impacts of the alternative scenarios on the region.

A meeting of the working groups will be scheduled in January 2013 to review the future scenarios.