



A Regional Partnership of  
**East Tennessee Communities**  
ANDERSON • BLOUNT • KNOX • LOUDON • UNION

**PlanET Working Group Meeting #5**  
**Healthy Communities**

March 18, 2013  
Cansler YMCA, 1-3 pm

**Meeting Summary**

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**Meeting attendees:** John Lamb (Blount County Planning Department), Stephanie Welch (Knox County Health Department), Jeremy Pearson (City of Alcoa), Nancy Lofaro (Knoxville-Knox County CAC Office on Aging), Joy Cook (Tennessee Dept. of Health-East TN Region), Angie Ryals (HOPE Resource Center), Jan Johnson (Senior Citizens Information & Referral Service).

PlanET Staff: Ellen Zavisca (TPO), Liz Albertson (MPC), Amy Brooks (TPO), Sherith Colverson (City of Knoxville), Tim Kuhn (MPC), Kevin Tilbury (Gresham, Smith and Partners), Linda Daugherty (Univ. of TN-Social Work Office of Research and Public Service), Buz Johnson (MPC), Jeff Welch (TPO), Jo Ella Washburn (MPC)

**WELCOME & Check-In**

Ice breaker and welcome provided on behalf of the working group chairperson, Jim Dickson, by Stephanie Welch, Knox County Health Department and PlanET Community Leadership and Equity Team member.

Stephanie Welch asked the group: "Name one thing you see in your community that is really encouraging to you about the future health of our region?"

- A: Gym use, walking trails, etc.(in Lenoir City),
- A: Walking, biking, jogging of neighborhood trails
- A: Greenways
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- A: Food Policy Council, Local Food meetings – about 45 or 50 farmers came to a meeting to see how to get their products into the local food system.

- A: Cycling for community
- A: Input that the City is accepting and encouraging from the communities
- A: More people getting tested for STDs, etc.
- A: Farmers are interested in getting out to the local community, youth is interested in getting access to these foods.
- A: People are pulling together and more willing to help
- A: Growing awareness of childhood obesity, safe routes to school, getting kids more active
- A: Local Food
- A: Greenways growing

### **WHERE ARE WE**

Brief recap of where we are in the PlanET process by Stephanie Welch.  
 -Working groups have been instrumental in reviewing the data that we've collected thus far in the region.

### **CONCEPT EVOLUTION**

Review by Tim Kuhn of how we got from the chip maps to conceptual maps seen today.  
 -Everyone except one person was at the last working group meeting.

### **PlanET INTERACTIVE EXERCISE**

Sherith Colverson facilitated a modified Meeting in a Box Metroquest activity and asked for feedback from the WG members.

Feedback Notes:

Sherith asked meeting attendees what are their top priorities for region, the following is a summary of the responses given regarding their top choices.

- Why is Local Agriculture important?
  - It's important to have food available, as cost of gas, etc., rises, local agriculture will become more and more important.
  - You know more about how it's being grown, non-local food you know less about.
  - Preservation of the rural area is also important for future agricultural use
- Why is Convenient Transit important?
  - A growing elderly population will necessitate having opportunities to get around.
  - The very poor and the working poor, and college students really need this, as well as people from other countries and states, need convenient transportation to get to work, medical appointments, school, etc.
  - Increases social health, to be with other people, to feel safe.

- Public transportation increases peoples activity levels, so in communities where public transportation is more accessible, people are more active.
- Why is a Choice of Housing Types important?
  - Easier to age in place.
  - Diversity of ages and types of communities, getting to know different types of people is easier.
  - Reduce concentration of one types, such as multifamily housing
- Comments on the Growth Concept Maps
 

Sherith asked meeting attendees to comment on the growth concept maps that were developed at the last working group meeting – Trend or “Business-as-Usual,” Spread-Out, Corridors, Centers, and Cities and Towns.

  - Spread Out
    - There are a lot more roads
    - Expensive for new infrastructure
  - Corridors
    - Park and Ride corridors are new
- Sherith asked meeting attendees to comment on why they didn't like the Spread-Out Growth Concept?
  - Doesn't spur community growth, doesn't encourage you to knowing your neighbor, other people.
  - Negatively affected the priorities.
  - Transportation challenges aren't addressed, increases related problems, air quality, etc.
  - A scenario like this means that there's very little choice in the region.

**PRIORITIES & CONCEPTS ANALYSIS**

Kevin Tilbury, GS&P, led the WG members through a more detailed discussion of the concepts and priorities.

Additional Feedback Notes:

- You should put future sewer/utility expansion out to the Urban Growth Boundary to show sewer/utility costs because that is the area that is supposed to be serviced within the next 20 years.
- The places where the chips were concentrated were primarily in the western portions of the region/counties.
- Edge-of-map bias, particularly in Blount County, e.g. Seymour is neglected even though it's a booming area.
- Will be interesting to see how this compares to what comes out of the Fair Housing and Equity Assessment.

**NEXT STEPS**

Amy Brooks discussed what is next in the PlanET process and what we need from each WG in terms of participation and input over the next 3-4 months.

- 3-5 meetings between now and Fall.
- Please spread the word about the online tool.
- We're at over 500 people so far, so please share it around.
- Healthy Communities Working Group Survey, please fill this out.

**CLOSING** (5 minutes)

Thank you and closing by Amy Brooks.