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Blount Partnership To Co-Host a Meeting With PlanET

Maryville, Tenn. – By the year 2040, our five-county area is projected to grow to more than 1,000,000 residents. That means we'll have more than 298,000 new people and 240,000 new jobs. The Blount County Chamber of Commerce together with Plan East Tennessee, or PlanET, is hosting a Meeting in a Box, or small group meeting, to generate ideas on how we can grow stronger not just bigger. The meeting will be held on March 25, 6 p.m. at the Blount Partnership offices at 201 S. Washington St. in Maryville. Participants should RSVP for the event by sending an e-mail to sherith.colverson@planeasttn.org or calling her at 215-4396. Participants are also invited to engage online at their leisure at www.planeasttn.org.

"Today's decisions will help impact all of our futures, for many years to come," said Bryan Daniels, president of Blount Partnership. "PlanET is an opportunity for people to imagine East Tennessee in 30 years, including the condition of roads, housing, economy and public health, and to offer input that will help inform future investments in our communities," added Daniels. The success of our region depends on community involvement – the people who have the most at stake in its future.

The forum is one of several opportunities for Blount County residents to participate in this third phase of PlanET's effort to gather input about shaping the region's long-term growth. Some of the main questions PlanET seeks to answer are how to maintain what people presently love about their communities while also 1.) becoming more economically competitive, 2.) improving our health and protect the environment? and 3.) enhancing our housing and transportation choices.

This meeting comes on the heels of the release of a new survey conducted by the University of Tennessee. The survey of residents from Anderson, Blount, Knox, Loudon and Union counties showed that people in all of these regions are especially concerned with the economic growth and education over the long-term.

About PlanET

Plan East Tennessee (PlanET) is a regional partnership of communities building a shared direction for the future of Anderson, Blount, Knox, Loudon and Union counties.

PlanET seeks ideas about preserving valuable resources and addressing challenges regarding jobs, housing, transportation, a clean environment, and community health. The goal: to create long-term solutions for investments in the region and to define the next chapter in the region's rich history, leaving a legacy of optimism and opportunity for future generations.

PlanET is overseen by the Knoxville-Knox County Metropolitan Planning Commission (MPC) and managed by the Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO), through a grant awarded from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Program to the City of Knoxville.

For more information about PlanET and how to participate in the community forums, please visit www.planeasttn.org.

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