



# REGIONAL FORUM SERIES 1

## *Knox County Meeting 1*

### *Idea Consolidation Record*

This document shows how similar ideas created at each table were combined for keypad polling. These ideas were quickly combined during the meeting to allow for shorter lists to poll upon, so they were a best effort to get the intention of the ideas provided. In some cases, the exact wording of one idea was used because it best captured the intention of all similar ideas.

For some meetings, the ideas were too different to combine enough to fit on one slide, and there is a longer list, split between two slides. Remember, the polling prioritization provides only a snapshot of priorities of those in the room, not a conclusive vote on any ideas.

In the lists below, the summary idea is in bold, with the similar ideas that were combined into the summary idea below. The summary ideas are the ones that were used for keypad polling.

## **Knox County (Monday)**

### **Regional Strengths**

#### **Affordable cost of living**

- Cost of living (housing is a factor)

#### **Strategic geographic location, proximity to other cities**

- strategic geographic location: proximity to other cities, regions, 4

#### **Distinct music, food and historical culture**

- Distinct culture and desire to celebrate it (history, music, food) (2)
- culture and music, 4
- Cultural. Music Scene: WDVX, Bluegrass. Access to multiple genres. Venues: Ritz, Clayton Center, Bijou, Tennessee.

#### **Natural assets like the Smokey Mountains and access to recreation and outdoor an opportunities**

- Location within the larger region and good access to Regional and National parks. Geographic setting is close to other large metropolitan areas.
- Forested ridges, mountains and communities.
- Feel at home in the mountains! Beautiful, access to outdoor activities
- Scenic views or vistas.
- Natural resources (Smokies, lakes, mineral, recreation)
- Natural resources: mountains, lakes and natural attractions within close proximity attractive us and people outside the region
- Urban to rural to agricultural to wilderness; diverse landscapes and places.
- natural beauty and opportunities for outdoor recreation, 4
- Natural Assets such as Smoky Mountains and waterways.
- outdoor recreation. public lands: smokies, national parks and forests. availability of almost any outdoor activity.
- Smokey Mountains! And the Cherokee National Forest, the Big South Fork, and other state parks. TVA lakes, etc. etc.

**Friendliness of people**

- mid-size city, lot to offer ++, with friendly people
- Friendliness of people.

**Educational institutions throughout the region**

- Educational institutions throughout region.

**Widespread community involvement including outreach to marginalized groups**

- Widespread community involvement, such as the faith community, and the outreach it provides to the entire community particularly marginalized and at risk people.

**Diverse economic, infrastructure and institutional assets including ORNL, TVA, and UT**

- Oak Ridge National Lab and Department of Energy has a large economic, cultural and educational impact for the area.
- regional employment is relatively diversified - not as hard hit by recession; UT, ORNL, Innovation Valley, healthcare
- Involvement in innovation and technology, especially ORNL/DOE (2)
- Economy based on technology driven by ORNL, TVA and UT enhanced by central access to multiple eastern markets (interstates)
- infrastructure. Power, TVA and DOE. Economic Asset to region. Transportation. Communication: TVA data center. Digital Crossing. Corporate Data centers. HGTV WDVX Rivr media..
- there are a lot of intellectual (UT, Oak Ridge) and physical resources for business opportunities (water, land, energy)

**Diversity of job opportunities and strong economic development efforts**

- Economic development effort (2)
- There is a diversity of job opportunities with infrastructural accessibility (transportation hub) without being dependent on a single industry.

## Regional Challenges

**We don't want to grow so fast that we lose the inexpensive cost of living and the friendliness****Poor air quality and lack of respect for environmental resources and concern for land planning**

- Air pollution (most of the PlanET area has been and will be in non-attainment).
- Poor regional air quality
- limited transportation options within the region & beyond: rail, air, bus, 5
- Bad air quality due to natural terrain and lack of public transportation which may lead to various health issues (asthma,etc).
- lack of respect for natural resources. development patterns. litter. mining.
- Maintaining a viable agrarian economy with thoughtful development. Lack of concern for land planning.

**Lack of regional coordination and poor resource allocation and funding prioritization**

- Lack regional coordination among governments and other entities. Separate city and county gov is not cost effective.
- Resource allocation and funding prioritization.

**School planning done separately from county planning; hard to retain kids in school**

- Retaining kids in school and job opportunities young adults.
- School planning is done separately from overall county planning process. Zoning and landuse planning are not valued.

**Decrease in manufacturing creating related poverty and drug abuse problems**

- Drug abuse and manufacturing
- Poverty

**Poor health of the population**

- Health (diabetes, heart disease, obesity)
- poor health of the population, 4

**Lack of transportation options; development patterns not conducive to options**

- Development patterns are not conducive to transportation other than car.++

- Lack of transportation options - rail, air, cycle, public.

**Stereotype of the region**

- Stereotype of the region (country bumpkins, hillbilly, negative view of appalachia). Ignorance and backwards.

**Resistance to change and maintaining the status quo**

- Resistance to change and maintaining the status quo
- Resistance to change/Involving more people in community issues including economic development, planning, preservation and community policy issues (more champions, fewer nay sayers).
- Inadequate distribution of quality education in poor and rural communities
- Educational attainment (@ high school level) and workforce development (new and future jobs).
- Inadequate distribution of quality education, inadequate adult education
- Lack of education in rural areas and lack of quality of education
- lack of valuing education; low high school graduation rate, 4
- Inequity in the quality of education in poor communities.
- primary education.
- Poor educational standards, achievement and performance. Fear of change. Appalachian mindset.
  - r fewer people