



REGIONAL FORUM SERIES 1

Knox County Meeting 2

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 (Wednesday)

Regional Strengths

Low cost of living

Museums (e.g. Museum of Appalachia, ET Historical Society, Beck Cultural Exchange Center, American Museum of Science and Energy)

Weather, having four seasons

Local agriculture, lots of fresh fruit and vegetables and dairy, small family farmers

Small family businesses

Higher education opportunities and access to world class research, tech/jobs (e.g. ORNL, UT, TVA)

- Oak Ridge National Lab and UT; world-class educational access, technology, and global view
- many educational opportunities especially higher education-4
- Distribution of higher education - UT and ORNL brain power and retention
- Presence of large regional institutions (Oak Ridge, TVA, UT) that spawn jobs and other benefits

Appreciation of Appalachian heritage and a sense of history and place/belonging

- Crossroads between small towns and large towns, an appreciation of the small town character. An appreciation of Appalachian Heritage. Know everybody and appreciation of family. There is a lot of history here and people appreciate it.
- Sense of place and belonging

Geographic location and connectivity within the region/rest of U.S. (e.g. to the E and SE)

- Geographic location in relation to the rest of the eastern US and the urban centers. Centrality. Transportation network.
- interstates and other highways provides quick access to region and eastern US-5
- Connectivity of the transportation system (Highway system)

- Accessible to other major cities in the Southeast and location in the country (geographic centrality to major cities). Interstates and MegaBus
- Good proximity to major cities, east coast, Midwest, a large portion of the population

Natural resources (e.g. Smokey Mountains, Big South Fork) provide scenic beauty and recreation/tourism

- natural beauty
- natural resources, such as GSMNP, state parks, lakes, Tennessee River
- Access to outdoor activities, mountains, hiking, streams, Big South Fork, Great Smoky Mountains. And an appreciation of some of these places.
- diversity of recreational opportunities lakes, mountain biking and strong competitive sports at all levels and natural areas-7
- Scenic richness and beauty of East Tennessee
- West Knoxville: Access to parks. Knoxville: Access to Smokey Mtn National Park. South Knox: Ease of access to major recreational waterways with potential for access to smaller water ways
- Natural resources / tourism - Smoky Mountains, Big South Fork, rivers and waterways, open spaces

Variety in types of communities, neighborhoods, & municipalities (country atmosphere and big city amenities)

- Variety in types of communities, neighborhoods, & municipalities
- country atmosphere, but big city availability

Regional Challenges

Drug Problem and how it relates to crime

Better connectivity between counties (Greenways, transit, etc)

Greater intergovernmental cooperation and public/private partnerships (between cities and counties, regional cooperation)

Single parenthood and lack of transmission of values to younger generations. Addictive personalities and declining cultural values

Need to continue to grow economic options for future generations

Small farmers losing their property rights- rezoning is an issue

Taxes- inheritance tax, too many restrictions and paperwork

Lack of environmental conscience, low air and water quality

- The environment. A lot of litter, Not enough ownership of the environment. Lack of environmental conscience. Air Quality-4
- Cleaner air and water

Lack of or poor land use planning

- Develop "greener," more than just the buildings, developers particularly aren't really good at looking at the land, it really comes down to the easiest and cheapest options, particularly commercial. We haven't done a good job as a region with our commercial and retail centers. Many times they become an eyesore within our region. Particularly big box and industrial.
- Lack of land use planning

Lack of access to quality jobs and education/training

- lack of jobs
- access to quality jobs and education

Health concerns (e.g. obesity, drug use, asthma) and lack of healthcare access

- public healthcare
- health concerns, such as asthma, allergies, diabetes, obesity; pollution effects on health; lack of health care access, especially in rural areas
- Drug use and abuse

Regional planning complicated by areas being too different from each other

- regional planning

- Danger of creating consensus at too general a level to be applied. Needs and current states are so different. Difficult to have actionable items to apply within each of those communities.
- areas too different from each other- e.g. Oak Ridge is federal property, whereas other areas are more rural

Poor transportation options across all modes/connectivity among five counties

- Poor transportation options across all modes/connectivity among five counties
- proximity that does not exist, challenges to connect transportation systems. We do not have complete streets, transportation oriented to automobile. We do not have enough sidewalks and mass transit could be a lot better. Buses do not run in certain parts of the region. No Park and Rides- 6

Low quality of life for marginalized populations (immigrants, homeless, aging, poor)

- quality of life for marginalized populations (e.g. immigrants, homeless, aging, minorities)
- a gap in economic diversity, people that are extremely poor and then extremely wealthy. Poorer counties, How can we increase employment?- 4

K-12 schools: better achievement and equity for schools and students

- Improving the schools (test scores, graduation rates, better teachers)
- K-12 schools: better achievement for schools and students. Inequality amongst schools
- Inferior public schools

Growing very rapidly

- We are going to grow in a big way in the next 5 to 10 years. Knoxville is at a tipping point, transportation and zoning wise, isolated neighborhoods and a shifting economy. We need to fix the problem proactively not reactively.

(This is normative, not a descriptive statement: Decisions made at the local government level are made with consideration of impact of that decision on issues of transportation, housing, health and access to opportunity.)

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