



REGIONAL FORUM SERIES 1

Loudon County

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.

Loudon County

Regional Strengths

Commuting within the region is easy, un-congested

Entertainment and recreational, amount and variety of events

Access to the water throughout the community, lakes, rivers, etc.

Climate - severe weather is rare, the valley protects the region

Diverse higher education opportunities (vocational, community colleges, universities)

- Higher education, UT, Technology Corridor, "Brain Power"
- higher education - lots of choices close to home
- network of higher education
- Affordable higher education opportunities including vocational, community colleges, colleges and universities

ORNL, UT, TVA, airport and hospitals as economic development drivers

- economic strengths; University of TN, Oak Ridge National Lab, airport
- DOE facilities being in region is a large asset for bringing in employment. Other employment assets are the Hospitals, U.T., TVA - 5
- Oak Ridge National Lab and UT as economic development drivers

People attracted to the region by the weather, economy and low cost of living

- Economy and weather attracts people to the region from all over. Also low cost of living here such as low housing cost. - 4

Beautiful area that supports recreation and tourism

- Tourism, beauty, natural recreation spot.
- Attractive area - we need to make sure we keep it that way
- Natural Beauty. Mountains, Lakes and rivers, Season.
- natural beauty (e.g. mountains, lakes)

Transportation accessibility via road, air, water and rail, coupled with central location provides easy access to multiple markets

- Transportation capabilities; air, interstates, railways, rivers
- Within a days drive to over half the country.
- Strong highway system, access to the highway system
- Transportation accessibility via road, air, water and rail, coupled with central location provides easy access to multiple markets

Flexibility to use the land how we want

- Flexibility to use the land how we want

Low taxes

- Low taxes

Friendly, engaged citizens (lots of volunteerism)

- Friendly people throughout region.
- lots of citizens who volunteer

Diversity of employment opportunities from government to private, warehouse to professional services

- Diversity of employment opportunities from government to private, warehouse to professional services

Rural nature of the area (farmland, mountains, remote areas)

- Overall rural nature of the area; within 30 minutes to an hour you can be within the most rugged mountains, remote areas
- Rural flavor - the presence of farmland (2)

Regional Challenges

Lack of viable local economic opportunities for local people

Transportation system; improvements are 10 years outdated when completed

Jet aircraft chemical trails causing impacts to the soil quality for farming

Protecting the recreational opportunities

Lack of awareness of what is going on in the community

Region is attracting illegal aliens - needs to be more enforcement of laws on the books

Maintenance and construction of infrastructure. Focus on new pedestrian facilities.

Regional air and water quality

Expensive and extensive duplication in government because of multiple jurisdictions

Reliance on public sector jobs

Lack of respect for historic places and loss of historic properties

Encouraging businesses to locate in the area by beautification and being more business friendly

- Small towns in region need some improvements (beautification efforts) and incentives to attract and support more small businesses to downtown. - 3
- Encouraging businesses to locate in the area, be more business friendly

Educational attainment and funding are big issues (K-12 and higher ed)

- Education; TN is 48th in our level of support of our educational system, detriment to attraction of industry
- Educational attainment is a big issue (K thru 12 and higher education) - 4
- Need for recognition of importance of k-12 education - funding as measured by per pupil expenditure.

Poverty, drug use and abuse

- Drug use and abuse.
- pockets of poverty, drugs, and dependency

Too much government interference/regulations

- need to be left alone by government regulations, not to add more regulations
- Too much government interference

Transportation challenges resulting from reliance on automobiles and lack of proximity to jobs

- Interconnectivity of transportation especially railways (rail public transit) and greenways

- Transportation challenges resulting from reliance on automobiles and proximity to jobs (housing plus transportation costs are high)

Lack of opportunity for everyone - jobs, education; leading to economic disparities

- Provide "good" job opportunities for everybody
- An extreme economy - economic disparities
- lack of opportunity for everyone - jobs, education, keeping out of trouble - these opportunities are available for fewer people