



## Plan East Tennessee (PlanET) Keeps the Conversation Going by Launching New Online Public Input Tools

PlanET is a regional partnership of  
East Tennessee communities  
building a shared direction for  
our future.

[www.planeasttn.org](http://www.planeasttn.org)

Knoxville, Tenn. – January 17, 2012 -- East Tennesseans who were not able to attend the first round of PlanET regional forums, held in November 2011, still have the opportunity to submit ideas about the strengths and challenges in the region. Community meetings can't fit everyone's schedule, so throughout the process PlanET will provide many ways to make sure East Tennesseans' ideas are heard.

PlanET has launched a virtual town-hall allowing the discussion that occurred at the regional forums to continue online. Called MindMixer, the virtual town-hall allows citizens to respond

to the same questions discussed at the community meetings. Online participants are able to submit comments, view and comment on others' responses, and vote on ideas. Feedback via the virtual town-hall and the community forums are a critical part of the regional planning process.

Another tool designed to create a variety of opportunities to participate in PlanET is called Meeting in a Box. This portable public input tool is designed for use with small groups who could not attend the regional forum meetings and allows PlanET team members or community volunteers to work with citi-

zen groups at the group's convenience. A Meeting in a Box kit contains instruction sheets for the host/facilitator, sample meeting invitations, discussion questions, worksheets for participant responses, feedback questionnaires, and directions for recording and returning responses. Meeting in a Box content parallels the community forums, asking the same questions presented to participants at the public meetings.

For additional information about PlanET, visit us online at [www.planeasttn.org](http://www.planeasttn.org) or call (865) 215-2500.