

# PlanET Transportation and Infrastructure Working Group Meeting #2

Tuesday, June 12, 2012

Cansler YMCA, Community Room, 11 am-1 pm

## KEY FINDINGS

The meeting of 20 participants (plus seven staff/facilitators) was called to order by Chairperson Cindy Pionke, Knox County Engineering, followed by self-introductions. The group was briefed by facilitator Kevin Tilbury on PlanET progress to date, including public and stakeholder input, the Livability Report Card, and leadership dialogue priorities.

### Regional Drivers

Kevin presented a summary of the eight broad drivers of regional trends and change as described in the Livability Report Card. Working group attendees discussed how various drivers impact transportation and infrastructure across the region. There was broad agreement and related discussion that virtually all of the drivers bore some relationship to transportation and infrastructure, although at varying degrees. The group identified two additional drivers for consideration: Lack of a wastewater policy and Zoning (as an offshoot of the Dispersed development patterns driver).

Attendees then rated each driver based on its level of impact on transportation and infrastructure around the region, ranging from high (three points) to none (zero points). Cumulative scores for each driver were tabulated. Drivers as are listed below from most to least important:

1. Dispersed Development Pattern & Separation of Land Use Types (74)
2. Few Transportation Options (67)
3. Location Decisions (50)
4. Rising Energy Costs (48)
5. Food, Activity & Lifestyle (44)
6. Demographic Shift (35)
7. Low Educational Attainment, Low Wages & Limited Job Advancement Opp. (35)
8. Loss of Agricultural Land (34)
9. Wastewater Policy (24)
10. Zoning and Development Regulations (21)

### Vision Themes Summary

Kevin gave a brief overview of the vision themes collected from the Round Two Public Forums in April with particular emphasis on themes focused on transportation and infrastructure. Participants were then engaged to identify any additional vision theme ideas for consideration. A number of ideas were identified:

- Quality infrastructure must include water, wastewater and electric.
- Linking infrastructure and economic development.
- Finding for infrastructure improvements.
- Specifically linking transportation and development patterns.
- Redevelopment of old shopping centers to take advantage of existing infrastructure.
- Financial impact of redevelopment: Cost analysis of greenfield development vs. brownfield development and greyfield development. (Needed to help inform decision and policy makers)
- Identification of nodes and corridors for more intensive development.
- Competitive advantage for regional centers: Centers are the draw for economic development.

### Outreach Methods and Next Steps

Chairperson Cindy Pionke closed the meeting by providing an overview of outreach activities to be conducted during the summer. She then challenged participants with a set of specific questions and requests for them to consider:

- Can you host a Meeting-In-A-Box session among your peers this summer?
- Can you identify a current, successful local or regional project that could be a positive example for PlanET?
- Who are potential PlanET champions for transportation and infrastructure?

Cindy thanked all the participants for their attendance and encouraged them to continue their participation. The next meeting will be scheduled around the August 20th time frame.