

# **PlanET Environment Working Group Meeting #2**

**Wednesday, June 13, 2012**

**Cansler YMCA, Community Room, 1pm - 3 pm**

## **KEY FINDINGS**

The meeting of 25 participants was called to order by Chairperson Bernie Ilgner, ARCADIS, followed by self-introductions. The group was briefed by Mark Donaldson, Metropolitan Planning Commission, on PlanET progress to date, including public and stakeholder input, the Livability Report Card, and leadership dialogue priorities.

### **Regional Drivers**

Facilitator Ann Coulter presented a summary of the eight broad drivers of regional trends and change as described in the Livability Report Card. The drivers affect all types of regional dynamics but depending on the topic area of each working group, some drivers have more impact than others. Working group attendees discussed how various drivers impact the environment across the region. They indicated that two additional factors, regulation and activism, and political leadership/will, are important environmental drivers in the region. Attendees then rated each driver based on its level of impact on the environment. The higher the point value, the more important the driver is to conditions in the environment and environmental trends. Drivers as rated are listed below from most to least important.

- Dispersed development patterns (50)
- Regulation/activism (48)
- Political leadership/will (48)
- Few transportation options (39)
- Loss of agricultural land (33)
- Low educational attainment, low wages, and limited job advancement opportunities (33)
- Food, activity, and lifestyle (33)
- Rising energy costs (32)
- Location decisions (27)
- Demographic shifts (22)

### **Vision Themes Summary**

Attendees considered comments collected at recent Forum 2 public meetings about a regional vision for the future. For the environment, these vision themes are categorized as:

- Improved air and water quality as a result of public and private efforts
- Productive farmland
- Resource protection that provides economic, health and recreational benefits

Attendee input included the following points:

- The vision should include the realization that to clean up waterways, many things have to change – more green infrastructure, open space, wildlife corridors, etc.
- Productive farmland is not enough – the vision should be for a whole healthy food system that includes such things as local farmers markets and more local farmers.

- Local government will have to be a change leader
- There needs to be an equity component to the environmental vision
- There will have to be commitment to environmental stewardship at all levels

Attendees were encouraged to continue to seek public input over the summer about the long range vision for the region.