

PlanET Transportation and Infrastructure

Working Group Meeting #3

Tuesday, August, 2012

Cansler YMCA, Community Room, 1:30 pm-3:30 pm

KEY FINDINGS

The meeting of 21 participants (plus eight staff/facilitators) was called to order by Chairperson Cindy Pionke, Knox County Engineering, followed by self-introductions.

Scenario Planning and the Trend Scenario

Kevin Tilbury with the PlanET Consulting Team began the agenda with an introductory presentation on scenario planning. Using a recent scenario planning effort from Austin, TX as an example, Kevin described how scenario planning begins with a trend, or status quo, forecast of future growth and development and then uses alternative scenarios to show the impacts of changes in policies, infrastructure investments and/or development practices. The presentation demonstrated how indicators are used to describe the differences between scenarios.

Kevin Tilbury then presented the trend scenario recently developed for the PlanET scenario. This scenario represents an extrapolation of current policies and development practices to the year 2040, and assumes the region will add approximately 300,000 persons and 240,000 jobs during that period. Key findings included the absorption of over 155,000 acres of new greenfield development and 112,000 new homes consuming over 98,000 acres (1.1 dwelling units per acre).

A brief question and answer period followed the presentation. Comments included concern over the impacts of sprawling development patterns on transportation and infrastructure costs and that for transit to be viable, the entire region does not need to meet density thresholds, but rather specific corridors.

Presentation of Draft Regional Vision Statement

Rob Kerns with the PlanET Consulting Team presented the Draft Regional Vision Statement, noting that this draft is a result of the public input since the project's kickoff in October 2011. These themes were collected through the large community forums, meetings in a box, leadership dialogue, stakeholder interviews, Mindmixer, and the community survey. The regional vision statement is written in the language of someone speaking in 2040. The small groups at this meeting were asked to focus particularly on the connected section of the draft vision statement as it is most closely aligned with the Transportation and Infrastructure focus area.

Small Group Discussion

Cindy Pionke initiated breakout small group discussions by directing members to critically analyze the Draft Vision Statement, compare it to the trend scenario and to identify potential scenario indicators that are meaningful to transportation and infrastructure. Each group, through a designated spokesperson, reported their results.

Generally speaking, each group liked the Draft Vision Statement overall, but presented several ideas on how to clarify it and improve upon it. There was a unanimous sentiment among the group that a stark

contrast exists between the trend scenario and the ideas espoused in the Vision. Finally, the groups identified several (approximately ten) potential indicators.

Next Steps and Closing

Kevin Tilbury provided an overview of the next steps, which include the development and evaluation of alternative scenarios and the ultimate selection of a preferred scenario. Chairperson Cindy Pionke closed the meeting by informing the group of the next meeting, which is tentatively planned for October 5th and will include a joint meeting of all PlanET Working Groups who will work collaboratively on a scenario development exercise. Cindy gave members an assignment of returning any additional comments on the Draft Vision Statement by September 7th.