

PlanET Environment Working Group Meeting #3

Tuesday August 21, 2012

Cansler YMCA, Community Room, 10:00AM-12:00 PM

KEY FINDINGS

The meeting of 26 participants was called to order by Chairperson Berny Ilgner, ARCADIS. The purposes of the meeting were to review and react to the draft vision statement, review and comment on the region's 30 year trend scenario, and provide feedback on indicators for the environment area.

Scenario Development and Trend Scenario

MPC Executive Director Mark Donaldson provided an introduction to the scenario planning process and how alternative scenarios will be developed in the next phase of PlanET. Kevin Tilbury of the PlanET Consultant Team presented the recently developed trend scenario that takes the region's current population, jobs and physical development trends and projects them forward 30 years assuming these current patterns are not altered significantly. The trend indicates an additional 298,163 people, 240,274 new jobs and approximately 115,000 new acres of greenfield development by 2040.

Vision Statement

Rob Kerns of the PlanET Consultant Team presented the overall draft vision statement for the region drawn from months of community input in public and small group meetings, online input, individual interviews, focus groups and a telephone survey. The vision statement section relative to the environment focuses on protecting parks, greenways and natural areas, protection of air and water quality including reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, retained farmland, and environmentally sustainable agriculture.

Summary of Participant Input

Participants divided into smaller groups to give feedback on the vision statement, its fit with the 30 year trend scenario, and on indicators that should be tracked in the future to determine success in reaching the vision. Their summarized input follows.

Vision Statement for the Environment

- Should mention cleaning up existing industries, not just attracting new clean industries
- Forested lands preservation should be mentioned
- Improve, not just continue protecting clean air and water
- Should mention a culture of preservation, protection and regulation is in place
- Should mention striking a balance between unlimited choice and a clean environment
- Inhabitants have developed a shared sense of identity and destiny
- Conserving habitat for ecosystem/biological preservation
- Over-emphasis on voluntary collaboration
- Equitable access for everyone

Trend Scenario Compared to Vision Statement

- Trend will inhibit public transportation and increase loss of agricultural land
- Urban sprawl is inconsistent with vision
- Greenspace will be fragmented, compromising natural processes
- Trend will work against clean air and water

Additional Indicators

- Impervious surfaces
- Quality of runoff
- Reduction of solid waste
- Include air emissions not just from autos
- Reduced rate of sprawl from the trend
- Protected viewsheds and ridgetops
- Tree canopy density