

# Regional Planning Advisory Council & Imagine Central Arkansas Partners

Thursday, May 1, 2014

## Minutes

### RPAC & ICAP Members Attending:

Name	Representing	RPAC/ICAP
Becky Adams	Arkansas Department of Health	Both
Mary Beth Bowman	City of North Little Rock	RPAC
Charles Cummings	Freight & Trucking	RPAC
Coreen Frasier	BACA	RPAC
Frederick Gentry	City of Little Rock	ICAP
Dave Green	City of Bryant	RPAC
Sybil Hampton	City of Little Rock	RPAC
Todd Larson	City of North Little Rock	RPAC
Josh Markham	University of Central Arkansas (UCA)	ICAP
Robert Markman	Sierra Club	RPAC
Buckley O'Mell	LRRCC	RPAC
Tim Ragsdale	Disabilities community	RPAC
Bernadette Rhodes	City of North Little Rock	ICAP
Dan Roda	City of Little Rock	RPAC
Kim Romano	AHTD	RPAC
Carolyn Shearman	Sierra Club	RPAC
Mitchell Simpson	Arkansas Energy Office (AEO)	ICAP
Patrick Stair	Sierra Club	RPAC
Jack Stowe	City of Maumelle	Both
Tom Sutton	Clinton National Airport	RPAC
Regina Taylor	Youth Outreach	RPAC
Mary Louise Williams	Pulaski County	RPAC

### Metroplan Staff and Guests:

Casey Covington	CARTS Planning Director
Susan Dollar	Transportation Planner
Nelson Galeano	Transportation Engineer
Daniel Holland	Planner
Kiara McCummings	AHTD
Jonathan Lupton	Research Planner
Richard Magee	Deputy Director
Brian Mitchell	Research Planner
Judy Watts	Outreach Coordinator

### 1. Call to Order and Announcements

RPAC-Partnership Chairman Charles Cummings called the meeting to order at 12:03 pm.

**Ditch the Keys Week.** Ms. Judy Watts announced that May is the start of ozone season and May 10 – 16 is the annual Ditch the Keys Week. Ozone Action Days challenges residents of central Arkansas to “ditch the car keys” and use an alternative form of transportation—biking, walking, riding a bus or carpooling, or even telecommuting—to reduce ground level ozone. A number of events are planned for the week. Ms Watts encouraged the group to visit ditchthekeys.com or go to Facebook to register and participate. Ms. Watts also asked the group to take an informational flyer with them to disseminate among people they know.

## 2. Minutes of Previous Meetings

The Council and Partners considered the minutes of April 3<sup>rd</sup> and April 17<sup>th</sup>. One correction was noted in the minutes of April 17<sup>th</sup>.

**MOTION** by Ms. Bernadette Rhodes, second by Mr. Frederick Gentry  
“To accept the minutes of April 3<sup>rd</sup> as prepared and the minutes of April 17<sup>th</sup> as corrected to include Carolyn Shearman and Robert Markman as attendees.”

**PASSED**

## 3. Central Arkansas Livability Index (CALI)

Mr. Casey Covington led the Council and Partners through the draft CALI.

The Council and Partners discussed several of the points. In summary, the Council and Partners made the following recommendations/comments:

- **Bikes and pedestrians.** The National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO) should be included as a reference tool, along with AASHTO. NACTO is considered a more nuanced design manual.
- **Airports.** The issue to be explored is direct air service from Little Rock to cities other than Atlanta and Dallas—for example, to New Orleans, Orlando, Chicago, and Kansas City. The point was made that air service is one factor prospective businesses look at when deciding on places to locate.
- **ADA.** The Americans with Disabilities Act sets forth guidelines that form the standard for building the urban environment. The ADA should be referenced as appropriate throughout, or in a preface to the VGO chapter.
- **Water.** It was pointed out that water—rivers, lakes and streams—is a significant resource for central Arkansas, both for transport and for offering recreational opportunities. Moreover, the Arkansas River is part of our regional identity. Although there may not be one really good metric of this resource, perhaps we should look to incorporate qualitative measures.
- **Access to health care.** Much discussion centered on health-related issues and metrics. Proximity to medical facilities was suggested as one measure, although it was noted that proximity to health care is not the same as access to health care. The Arkansas Department of Health

has much data that could be useful in measuring residents' health, county-by-county.

Mr. Cummings asked for a motion to approve the draft CALI, as amended to reflect the direction of the combined Council and Partners.

**MOTION** by Mr. Stair, second by Dr. Hampton

"To approve the Central Arkansas Livability Index, as amended per guidance from the Council-Partners, for presentation to the Metroplan Board of Directors."

**PASSED**

#### **4. Update on Deliverables**

Updates were given on two items.

- 1) **Vision, Goals & Objectives (VGO).** The VGO committee and several of the Council-Partners have provided staff with edits and suggestions for the G&O. Staff will make those changes, with only minimal additional changes (i.e. minor grammatical edits) and send them back out for review. We are still looking for resources to help implement the G&O, although several members have provided suggestions. When the VGO are approved, staff will also prepare a matrix of "roles and responsibilities" to implement the G&O. That matrix will be included in the chapter.
- 2) **Summary document.** Mr. Covington reported that the summary document is still in design. This summary will synthesize 200+ pages of the technical LRMTTP document into 20 or so pages that will communicate the core issues in a highly visual and cogent manner—condensing good material is tricky work and takes time!

#### **5. Other Business and Next Meetings**

The next meeting is set for Tuesday, May 20<sup>th</sup>. On the agenda: final recommendations for the Vision, Goals and Objectives and Central Arkansas Livability Index.

Another meeting is scheduled for: Thursday, June 19<sup>th</sup>. The final report will be presented at that meeting.

All meetings will be called to order at 12:00 noon, with lunch and socializing at 11:30.

#### **7. Adjourn**

With no further business brought forward, the Council and Partners adjourned at 1:25 p.m.