

Regional Planning Advisory Council & Imagine Central Arkansas Partners

Tuesday, June 19, 2014

Minutes

RPAC & ICAP Members Attending:

Name	Representing	RPAC/ICAP
Becky Adams	Arkansas Department of Health	Both
Marcia Cook	City of Sherwood	RPAC
Ron Copeland	UALR	ICAP
Charles Cummings	Freight & Trucking	RPAC
Gary DalPorto	Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)	RPAC
Steve Eichhorn	Benton PHA	ICAP
Mason Ellis	BACA	RPAC
Frederick Gentry	City of Little Rock	ICAP
Melinda Glasgow	City of Little Rock	ICAP
Dave Green	City of Bryant	RPAC
Paul Hastings	City of Little Rock	RPAC
Todd Larson	City of North Little Rock	RPAC
Eddie Long	City of Cabot	RPAC
Matthew Long	Central Arkansas Transit Authority (CATA)	Both
Robert Markman	Sierra Club	RPAC
Van McClendon	Pulaski County	ICAP
Jim McKenzie	Metroplan	ICAP
Buckley O'Mell	Little Rock Regional Chamber of Commerce	RPAC
Tim Ragsdale	Disabilities Community	RPAC
Lynn Rockenbach	AARP	ICAP
Carolyn Shearman	Sierra Club	RPAC
Paul Simms	AHTD	RPAC
Mitchell Simpson	Arkansas Energy Office	ICAP
Vanessa Smith	Partners for Livable Communities	ICAP
Patrick Stair	Sierra Club	RPAC
Jack Stowe	City of Maumelle	Both
Tom Sutton	Clinton National Airport	RPAC
Amy Whitehead	University of Central Arkansas (UCA)	ICAP
Mechelle Winslow	ArCOP	ICAP

Metroplan Staff and Guests:

Casey Covington	CARTS Planning Director
Susan Dollar	Transportation Planner
Nelson Galeano	Transportation Engineer
Daniel Holland	Planner
Jonathan Lupton	Research Planner
Richard Magee	Deputy Director
Brian Mitchell	Research Planner

1. Call to Order and Announcements

RPAC-Partnership Chairman Charles Cummings called the meeting to order at 12:00 noon.

Bici Fiesta! Mr. Nelson Galeano reported on a successful outreach event to the Latino community in Levy. "Bici Fiesta" means "Bike Party" and that was the theme of the June 14 event organized by Metroplan. Free tee-shirts were provided by Domingues Insurance, and other freebies were distributed by volunteers with BACA, Recycle Bikes for Kids and La Opinion, a Spanish-language magazine. Children received free bike helmets, along with instruction on safety and rules of the road. Since Latino children are usually the English-speaking voice of the family and the bridge between parents and society, the events was a good way to bring everyone together and introduce the parents to planning participation. Additionally - everyone had a great time!

2. Minutes of Previous Meetings

The Council and Partners considered the Minutes of May 20.

MOTION by Mr. Frederick Gentry, second by Mr. Tom Sutton
"To accept the Minutes of May 20, 2014, as prepared. "

PASSED

3. Fair Housing Equity Assessment (FHEA)

Ms. Susan Dollar explained that preparation of an FHEA is required of all HUD grant recipients, which is why the Partners have the lead responsibility in its development. The report is stand-alone document that informs the plan; however, because it is also part of the package of *Imagine Central Arkansas* deliverables, the Goals and Objectives, and Livability Index metrics must be congruent with, and supportive of, the findings and recommendations of the FHEA.

Dr. Brian Mitchell, who led the research effort, presented a brief overview of the report and its findings/recommendations.

The FHEA examines poverty and opportunity in central Arkansas. Poverty in our region is categorized into five broad groups: (1) homeless people; (2) many people with disabilities; (3) many elderly men and women; (4) those in racially concentrated areas of poverty/urban poor; and (5) suburban and rural poor people.

The report also identifies areas with high concentrations of resources and amenities.. The report identifies six impediments that restrict such access: (1) wide variety of price points in housing throughout the metropolitan area; (2) lack of availability of transportation; (3) housing discrimination; (4) zoning regulations that limit the availability of less expensive housing; (5) Arkansas' landlord-tenant laws; and (6) lack of job opportunities.

Recommendations for regional leadership to focus its efforts include:

- Job access
- Educational attainment
- Housing diversity
- Safety and health
- Regional collaboration

Dr. Mitchell briefly commented on each of the impediments and recommendations, and how they tie into the overall *Imagine Central Arkansas* plan.

Comments to the report were favorable. Council and Partners were encouraged to read the entire report, which is available on both RPAC and ICAP websites (www.metroplanrpc.org and www.imaginecentralarkansaspartners.org).

The chairman called for a Motion and vote from the ICAP.

MOTION by Mr. Frederick Gentry, second by Mr. Van McClendon
"To accept the Fair Housing Equity Assessment, its findings and recommendations, as presented."

PASSED

The Council and Partners were asked to think about those recommendations in terms of their applicability to the VGO and Livability Index.

4. Vision Statement

At the May 20 meeting, the groups reviewed six vision statements, and selected their three favorite statements. The groups directed Ms. Dollar to develop a statement using the elements from each of the three top statements, plus the tag line "*Imagine. . .*" The proposed statement was emailed to RPAC and ICAP on May 22; reaction was favorable.

As the groups reviewed the Vision, one amendment was proposed, to eliminate the word "through" in the statement. The change was approved by consensus.

This is the Vision that will encompass the entire *Imagine Central Arkansas* project. (It will not replace the Vision Statement for the Financially Constrained plan, which was previously adopted by the RPAC.)

MOTION by Mr. Jack Stowe, second by Mr. Patrick Stair
"To recommend the Vision Statement, as amended, for adoption by the Metroplan Board of Directors."

PASSED

The recommended Vision Statement is as follows:

*Imagine Central Arkansas is a community-driven guide to creating a sustainable, healthy and prosperous region that celebrates diversity, regional cooperation, educational excellence, economic vibrancy, and quality choices in housing and transportation. **Imagine...***

5. Goals and Objectives

The groups approved Goals 1 through 5 at the May 20 meeting, and asked that Goal 6 be expanded to include all hard and soft infrastructure, not just transportation infrastructure. Mr. Richard Magee presented Goal 6, as revised. Mr. Magee noted that duplicative statements remain in the G&O, as no consensus was reached by the RPAC-ICAP; however, most people felt that some duplication was necessary.

Further discussion by the RPAC-ICAP yielded additional amendments to Goal 6.

MOTION by Mr. Stair, second by Mr. Stowe

"To remove the phrase, "and personal travel" from Objective 6.4.1.

Discussion: Additional scrutiny of the Objective led to an amended Motion.

AMENDED MOTION by same

"To remove all words after, "Develop infrastructure systems that provide reliability."

Discussion: Group consensus was that the words, ". . . and a transportation system that minimizes freight delays and personal travel" are superfluous.

PASSED

MOTION by Mr. Paul Simms, second by Ms. Mechelle Winslow

"To substitute the word "crash" for "accident", wherever the word "accident" appears.

Discussion: Some members questioned whether "crash" applies only to vehicular incidents. After some discussion, it was decided that the meaning could be defined in a text box and in the glossary.

PASSED

MOTION by Mr. Stowe, second by Ms. Becky Adams

"To accept Goal 6 and recommend to the Metroplan Board, as amended."

PASSED

Relating to the FHEA, the consensus of both Council and Partners was that the VGO adequately address the recommendations of the report.

6. Central Arkansas Livability Index (CALI)

The CALI has undergone a number of changes. Mr. Covington presented the newest version, which incorporates the guidance of the groups. Changes incorporated

include: updated metric index descriptions; additional supporting text; revised ranking and scoring schemes, with #1 always the best possible; and the addition of port tonnage data.

Comments from the Council-Partners were highly positive. Staff was complimented on its work. Additional guidance included the following:

Comparisons are much improved over previous efforts, but there

Education metrics were discussed. The metric currently used looks at the number of educational facilities, which everyone agreed was of limited value. Other metrics were suggested: number of people enrolled, number of people who graduate, remediation rates, amount of public funding, per capita graduation rates. What is used will depend on what we are attempting to measure, capacity or results.

MOTION by Mr. Patrick Stair, second by Mr. Ron Copeland

"To approve the Central Arkansas Livability Index for presenting to the Metroplan Board, with the understanding that staff will continue to incorporate the changes discussed in this meeting, and that the draft documents will be brought back to the Council and Partners for further consideration."

Discussion: Members requested that edited portions be highlighted for quick reference.

PASSED

Mr. Covington briefly walked the groups through a concept for website presentation of the CALI.

6. Update on Deliverables

Mr. Covington reviewed the time frame for deliverables.

7. Other Business and Next Meetings

The next meeting is set for 12:00 noon, Tuesday, July 22, with lunch available at 11:30.

8. Adjourn

With no further business brought forward, the Council and Partners moved for adjournment.

MOTION by Mr. Stowe, second by Mr. Gentry

"To adjourn."

PASSED at 1:27 pm