

Regional Planning Advisory Council & Imagine Central Arkansas Partners

Tuesday, May 20, 2014

Minutes

RPAC & ICAP Members Attending:

Name	Representing	RPAC/ICAP
Becky Adams	Arkansas Department of Health	Both
Jack Bell	City of Conway	ICAP
Mary Beth Bowman	City of North Little Rock	RPAC
Marcia Cook	City of Sherwood	RPAC
Charles Cummings	Freight & Trucking	RPAC
Gary DalPorto	Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)	Both
Steve Eichhorn	Benton PHA	ICAP
Josh Fout	Pulaski County	ICAP
Coreen Frasier	BACA	RPAC
Frederick Gentry	City of Little Rock	ICAP
Sybil Hampton	City of Little Rock	RPAC
Paul Hastings	City of Little Rock	RPAC
Ron Hughes	Pulaski Technical College (PTC)	ICAP
Todd Larson	City of North Little Rock	RPAC
Josh Markham	University of Central Arkansas (UCA)	ICAP
Robert Markman	Sierra Club	RPAC
Van McClendon	Pulaski County	ICAP
Jim McKenzie	Metroplan	ICAP
Marcus Montgomery	PTC	RPAC
Tim Ragsdale	Disabilities Community	RPAC
Lynn Rockenbach	AARP	ICAP
Carolyn Shearman	Sierra Club	RPAC
Paul Simms	AHTD	RPAC
Patti Springs	Arkansas Energy Office (AEO)	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
Mary Louise Williams	Pulaski County	RPAC
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
Alex Morgan	Private Citizen
Judy Watts	Outreach Coordinator

1. Call to Order and Announcements

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

2. Minutes of Previous Meetings

The Council and Partners considered the Minutes of May 1st.

MOTION by Mr. Frederick Gentry, second by Ms. Bernadette Rhodes
"To accept the Minutes of May 1, 2014, as prepared. "

PASSED

3. Vision Statements

The groups reviewed six Vision statements that were culled from the many pages of ideas generated over the past year and a half by Partners and Council.

Comments and guidance from the Council-Partners:

- The word "**blueprint**" although part of the formal title of the plan (Imagine Central Arkansas: Blueprint for a Sustainable Region) does not evoke the proper image for a vision statement.
- **Evocative words** from the examples include: "celebrate", "imagine" (used at the end of the statement to emphasize the continuity and dynamic nature of the vision), "diversity", and "vibrancy", especially as it relates to the regional economy.
- **Favorite statements** were selected (Numbers 1, 3 and 5 from the list) and Ms. Dollar was instructed to somehow combine the elements of those three statements, plus the comments from today's meeting, into a single statement.

4. Goals and Objectives

Following the May 1 meeting, staff revised the Goals and Objectives to incorporate all of the edits and guidance submitted by the VGO Committee, Council and Partners. Mr. Richard Magee led the group through each of the Goals/Objectives.

Comments and guidance from the Council-Partners included the following:

- The addition of explanatory **text boxes** was appreciated. One of the examples cited was the explanation of "incentivize".
- The groups also approved of the **emphasis on maintenance** of existing facilities, as opposed to new construction. Members said that emphasis reflected their guidance on the issue.
- Some of the terminology used in the G&O seems to imply "transportation" instead of overall "infrastructure". The groups

suggested that this could be corrected by inserting more **inclusive language**. A text box should be added to explain what we mean by "infrastructure" (both hard and soft).

- Goal #6, Funding Adequacy, currently refers mostly to transportation matters. The objectives under this goal should be **expanded to include all of the sustainability principles**.
- Related to the Goals and Objectives, it was remarked that a **"score card" should be included** to indicate what has been accomplished thus far, and to emphasize that the VGO are not merely a collection of wishes. Mr. Covington responded that "report card" information will be included in the summary.

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

"To approve the Goals and Objectives, numbers 1 through 5, for presenting to the Metroplan Board of Directors. Staff will edit Goal #6, Funding Adequacy, to reflect the guidance provided in this meeting.

PASSED

5. 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.

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

- Many of the Council and Partners questioned the comparisons between central Arkansas and much larger metro areas (Los Angeles, Miami, New York). Although the comparisons are interesting and may have some utility, members suggested that **comparisons to similar-sized metro areas**, from all regions of the country, would be more useful and understandable.
- The CALI is not the only livability index that is being developed in this metro area. For example, UALR is currently developing a business index. The **CALI should complement** and duplicate other indices.
- When presenting the CALI to the public, the scoring data should be **consistent**. For example, a high numerical score or low numerical score that is positive in one metric, should also be positive in other metric.
- Also regarding **presenting material to the public**, it is important to make the information easy to access and entertaining. For example, the names given to various tracking measures - "Moving on Up", "Take a Walk", "Let's Ride", etc. - are quickly understood by the public and communicate that the information contained therein will be significant and accessible.

- Regarding **waterways**, it was noted that this particularly refers to commercial interests, especially relating to the Port Authority. Water can also have recreational and environmental aspects, as well.
- **Terminology should be defined** and where possible explained with examples.
- Inclusion of **population figures for disabled people** was presents some issues regarding how to interpret data. Does a large population indicate quality medical services and a people-friendly infrastructure, or do the data point to a ghettoized population without access to goods and services? Also, the conditions that are classified as "disability" are many and varied. All felt that information on the disabilities community should be included, but perhaps much or all of the narrative would more properly belong in the plan narrative. If it remains in the CALI, perhaps the reader could be referred to further discussion within the plan narrative.

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

"To approve the Central Arkansas Livability Index for presenting to the Metroplan Board, with the understanding that the draft documents will be brought back to the Council and Partners for further consideration."

PASSED

Mr. Covington briefly walked the groups through a concept for website presentation of the CALI. With meeting time running short, the full presentation was deferred until the June meeting.

6. **Update on Deliverables**

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!

7. **Other Business and Next Meetings**

The next meeting is set for Thursday, June 19th. Much work and participation will be necessary from the Council and Partners between this meeting and the June meeting. Information and material will be forthcoming beginning this week.

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

8. **Adjourn**

With no further business brought forward, the Council and Partners adjourned at 1:34 p.m.