What Are Your Priorities for the Future of Your Community?

PlanET Launches New Survey to Determine Most Critical Future Factors

PlanET, in partnership with the University of Tennessee, launched the survey on October 25 to gather citizen input about their priorities for the future of the communities they call home.

Respondents are asked to rate the importance of various factors that could address problems identified in the last round of public input. The survey is divided into the PlanET focus areas--economy and workforce, environment, healthy communities, housing and neighborhoods, and transportation and infrastructure--and participants have the opportunity to rate each option as well as choose the most important one in each focus area.

The factors were determined by public input last spring and summer when PlanET held a series of public forums, facilitated more than 30 small-group meetings, and hosted an online townhall. Each of those outreach efforts asked participants to brainstorm things they'd like to see in the future and then vote for the ones they thought were most important.

The deadline for responding is November 12. Take the survey >>

More than 4000 People Have Participated in PlanET

And we're hoping for even more in the future!

PlanET held its kickoff event just over a year ago and we've been busy listening to you ever since. Using a variety of input methods--from conventional public forums and telephone surveys to small-group meetings and an online town hall--we've heard from more than 4,000 of you on a variety of topics. You've identified the region’s strengths and challenges. You've envisioned what you'd like see your community look like when your children and grandchildren reach adulthood. And you've prioritized factors that can affect the region's ability to make your vision a reality.

These are a few of the themes that many participants agree on:

- High quality K-12 programs and facilities
- Diverse employment options
- Support of small businesses & entrepreneurs
- More transportation options
- Bike & pedestrian improvements
- Walkable communities: Housing, businesses, services, recreation and open space all near each other
- Access to physical & mental health services
- Availability of healthy food
- Strong support for local food and region's farmers
- Improved air & water quality
- Better storm water management
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- More recreational opportunities
- Preservation of natural areas
- Build on economic importance of the region's natural assets

As PlanET moves into our next phase, we want you to know that we still need, want, and value your input! Everyone knows East Tennessee is growing. Some projections show as many as 300,000 new residents will move to or be born into our region by 2040. Where will we all live, work, and play?

In January 2013, we’ll be holding Public Outreach Series 3 and we need everyone’s input to come up with the best alternatives for the future. Watch your inboxes! We’ll be emailing the details as they are available.

### TPO Gears Up for Mobility Plan

The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization, a PlanET consortium partner, is in the process of updating the Long Range Regional Mobility Plan which sets priorities and communicates the 30-year vision for transportation in the Knoxville region.

TPO staff is requesting your help in setting those priorities. Visit the Mobility Plan website to learn more and offer your opinions!