WORKING GROUP AGENDA

- Welcome and Introductions
- Introductory Presentation
  - Project Presentation
  - Working Group Ground Rules
  - Who Is Not Represented?
- Review of Existing Conditions Memo
- Group Discussion
- Prioritization of Group Materials
- Next Steps
WHAT IS PlanET?

- A **COMMUNITY CONVERSATION** about the future

- A **PARTNERSHIP** focused on improving the prosperity and livability of the region
  - Local governments
  - Local businesses
  - Non-profits
  - Institutions
  - Citizens/Civic Organizations

- A **PLAN FOR ACTION** that lays out strategies and prioritizes investments to reach the region’s goals

- Tools for **IMPLEMENTATION**, including leadership engagement and capacity-building programs

- 5 COUNTIES
- 16 CITIES
- 4 TOWNS
- And a diverse **COMMUNITY** of partners
PlanET

FOCUS AREAS

- PlanET will focus on **FIVE MAJOR FOCUS AREAS** to improve the livability and prosperity of the region.

- Policies and strategies will be created to **IMPLEMENT** identified actions.
THE PLANNING PROCESS

PHASE ONE
Establishing a Shared Identity & Vision
- Project Start-Up
  - Kickoff Celebration
- Data Collection & Regional Assessment
  - Regional Forum Series 1
- Regional Future Vision
  - Regional Forum Series 2

PHASE TWO
Engage, Educate, & Develop a Shared Direction
- Understanding Future Trends
- Considering Alternative Futures: Scenario Development
  - Regional Forum Series 3
  - Regional Forum Series 4
- Regional Growth Framework

PHASE THREE
PlanET Report & Implementation Activities
- Draft Plan
  - Regional Forum Series 5
- Plan Endorsement
  - Public Review /Comment
- Progress Yardstick & Demonstration Projects
- Capacity-Building Training

CAPACITY BUILDING

PUBLIC OUTREACH
ROLE OF WORKING GROUPS

- Purpose:
  - An opportunity for people with specialized knowledge/interest in PlanET focus areas to help inform each phase of PlanET decision making.
  - Complement, not duplicate, public forums and leadership dialogues.
  - Contribute to implementation of PlanET priorities beyond the plan’s endorsement by decision makers.
  - Integrate equity and land use planning considerations across the five focus areas of PlanET.
WORKING GROUPS SCHEDULE

- Five rounds of meetings planned
- Progression of PlanET meetings:
  
  - Regional Forums
  - Working Groups
  - Leadership Dialogues
  - PlanET Action Plan
Regional Forum 1 Themes

HOUSING

Distance between jobs and housing is a problem (lengthy commutes)

• Decent jobs are far away and it requires long travel times [to get to them]

• Transportation challenges resulting from reliance on automobiles and proximity to jobs

• Not enough housing close to jobs

• Combined housing and transportation costs in relation to work locations

Regional Forum Series 1
November 14 – 17, 2011
Working Groups

GROUND RULES

- Working groups will operate on the basis of consensus decision making.
- Agenda and notes from previous meetings will be available on the PlanET website.
- Meetings will be open to the public.
- Notes, flip chart sheets, sign in sheets, etc. will be preserved throughout the planning process.
- Additional information requested will be forwarded to the MPC/TPO for further consideration. Staff will not be given ad hoc assignments.
Working Groups Membership

- PlanET is a **PARTNERSHIP** focused on improving the prosperity and livability of the region
  - Local governments
  - Local businesses
  - Non-profits
  - Institutions
  - Citizens/Civic Organizations

- Are there **KEY VOICES MISSING** from the current group?
The region’s population is projected to grow by 27 percent over the next two decades.

The population is growing older and more diverse.

The region has seen a decline in median household income and an increase in poverty rates.

Increasing transportation costs have made many areas of the region unaffordable to middle- and lower-income households.
HIGHLIGHTS OF REGIONAL TRENDS

- The region’s physical environment is contributing to growing rates of physical inactivity, **obesity, asthma, diabetes, & other chronic illnesses**.

- The region experienced economic losses during the recent recession, but the impact was **not as severe** as that in many other regions.

- **Science and math training and technical skills** are becoming increasingly important in the region’s job market.
Low density development characterizes the region and detached single family homes and mobile homes comprise the bulk of the housing stock.

Owner occupancy is high, the regional rental market is strong and regional housing demand is projected to increase, even though residential construction and sales declined sharply during the recession.
The region’s median home values are higher than TN but lower than the U.S. and vary widely within Anderson, Blount, Knox and Loudon Counties.

Housing costs are generally affordable but combined housing & transportation costs are unaffordable for most families in the region.
QUESTIONS FOR GROUP DISCUSSION

- Are there any group focus area-related issues, challenges, or opportunities not adequately presented in the Existing Conditions Memo?
- Are issues related to the topic adequately addressed for the entire region?
- Is there any particular urgency or time sensitivity to issues, challenges, or opportunities discussed?
PRIORITIZATION OF GROUP MATERIALS

- List the most important trends for the working group’s PlanET focus area.
- List the priority issues to be addressed.
NEXT STEPS FOR PlanET WORKING GROUPS

- Meeting Summary
- On-line Information & Discussion
- Regional Leadership Dialogue
- Next Working Group Meeting