

ENCOMPASS 2035 PUBLIC KICK-OFF
CITIZEN COMMENTS
October 6, 2009

COMMUNITY

- Your finding will come from the communities you serve. You must get them involved/educated!
- A focus on neighborhoods and their associations which will get stronger with improvements to livability.
- Don't use "simplify" as an excuse not to talk about specifics.
- Hold public meetings often in accessible places and times.
- News media will help spread information.
- Provide multiple sources of information about such things as surveys, meetings, etc. Be certain to include neighborhood associations in the mix. Get "regular" people involved on such things as committees.
- Encourage town hall meetings in all the cities in ACOG to discuss community goals and strategies.
- Ask to be on the agendas of organized community organizations. Use what time you can to educate and request initial feedback through written form and thereafter via email follow-up.
- Make more information available on website.
- Websites are all well and good, but there are a lot of Oklahomans without reliable in-home access; don't forget F2F outreach!

CONNECTIVITY

- Challenge #3 – reward so it doesn't imply that the ordinances are passed and enforced against bicyclists
- Build hubs of transit like Ft. Worth, Texas has.
- Much of land use has been pre-set years ago; we need a way to rezone away from all commercial properties on every corner. What we are in desperate need of is getting rid of blighted, empty, derelict areas.
- Discourage sprawl by not providing transportation services that encourages and make it more convenient to live way out in the suburbs.
- Think specifically about airport connection – e.g., rail between airport and downtown.
- Free light rail service for every citizen of Oklahoma City and suburbs for one year from the fuel savings of the United States, Department of Defense (U.S.A.F., USMC etc.) by executive order. This will increase ridership and community while educating the public of the "real" users of our resources (e.g. Military Industrial Complex). Use the City's "right of way" from the Interurban (et. al.) and fund by Devon, Sandridge and Chesapeake.

CONNECTIVITY (Cont.)

- Intermodal Hub proposed in MAPS3 should be modeled on the best in the nation – think Ft. Worth, Albuquerque, St. Louis. Design for commuter rail, commuter, bus, streetcar, local bus, Amtrak, Greyhound, High Speed Rail. It should be OKC's Grand Entrance and Front Door.

ECONOMIC STRENGTH

- Transportation planners need to think in the present and future tenses, not the past!
- Accessible transportation for people with disabilities!
- Rail Freight will only grow with rising fuel prices. OK has the potential to capture this growth.
- Mixed development yes!!
- Towns and cities must be restructured on the HUMAN SCALE!
- That is why rail and other public transportation, sidewalks, bicycles are IMPERATIVE!
{Suggested reading: Read the works of James Howard Kunstler}

ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

- OKC's automobile dependence is not sustainable.
- Multiple modes of transportation and access is essential to move OKC forward.
- Automobiles are not sustainable.
- City buses should be reduced to smaller buses, but run more often. OKC is too spread out to eliminate cars. Need more "timing" to keep flow going.
- While appreciating the goals, I would echo the concern about this city's auto addiction.
- Use of LEED {Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design?} standards.
- Make sure to consider environmental responsibility in terms of health effects in addition to economy, etc.; i.e., clean air = healthy air
- Invite representatives from different organizations {public/private} to assist with the design/develop/implementation of projects and vision planning. Request that you/your organization be invited to their meetings as well.
- Can't emphasize this one enough! Has all kinds of beneficial ramifications for some of the other points displayed here.
- Reducing and dependence is "Job #1"

EQUITY

- Need sidewalks for public transportation to be equitable/accessibile.
- Grid Systems – Limited connections from neighborhoods, regardless of SEC.
- Sidewalks! Needed especially in outlying areas. – Yes!!
- Better bus system, transit hub in OKC and Norman.
- Expanded paratransit routes are needed!
- Covered bus stops out of grass and mud.

EQUITY (Cont.)

- Better communication about availability of routes – better marked bus stops.
- Consider the diverse population.
- Make sure all people feel safe using public transit – young, old, male, female (inclusive of transit stops – lighting, security access)
- The public has great ideas about funding – tap into their creative consciousness.
- Access survey feedback from Coalition; i.e., APT.
- Let's start with bus stops that lack benches and curb cuts...
- Strategy: Budget local funds adequate to expand, operate and maintain a much larger transit system for various transit modes (bus, E&H, rail, senior vans, and so forth)
- Rail transit will enable more citizens to participate in the work force.
- Eliminate transit red-lining!
- Expanded transit needs to have equitable expansion and access for the lower income HH and those with a disability.
- Test an odometer (less invasive) or Pikepass (already in place) based Vehicle Mileage Tax ☺ fee based funding system.

LIVABILITY

- Encourage the adoption of green building practices.
- If unable to remove a barrier, such as an interstate, create alternatives for other modes of transportation...such as pedestrian bridges.
- Transit-oriented development!
- Area long term parking + ped/bike only.
- All of the above AND public rail transit, intercity-rail and motorcoach, and transit buses!!
- Enhance safety, access and creative use of land to motivate community acceptance and change.
- Promote biking, walking by improved trails, sidewalks.
- Get all municipalities and neighborhoods on board and responsible to make this happen – multi-modal
- Consider smart car/bike rentals where rail systems end to provide transportation options.
- The size and shape of OKC metro are the problems; it is historical. Safety for such things as walking must be addressed.
- Need to promote rail, biking, and trails/sidewalks.
- Ditto!!
- Improve streetscapes and the overall urban image.
- You're asking the right questions! Make it a real city.
- Connect all malls, medical centers, major universities with Express Metro Rail Systems.

LIVABILITY (Cont.)

- Inundate the air/radio/print to educate the public – overemphasize the importance – more individuals must tell their stories.
- More community meetings – give people more chances/opportunities.

MAINTENANCE

- Actively use weigh stations! **
- Minimize new road construction. Weather breaks up concrete faster than it can be replaced. Use rail.
- For maintenance Rail > Concrete > Asphalt
- Maintain wheelchair lifts on buses in OKC.
- Charge semis proportionally to the damage they do.
- Put an additional tax on diesel fuel because it's the trucks and semis that do the most damage to roads.
- How about regional transit districts that link Chickasha (USAO), El Reno, Shawnee, Guthrie, Okarche, etc. with OKC. Emphasize rail transit and intercity rail. (bicycles, too!)

OPTIONS

- There is a walkway over I-240 S that has steps; how are p/w/d supposed to get across the bridge?
- We need crosswalks and lights on the interstates so pedestrians can cross.
- More wheelchair accessible crossings and sidewalks and bike lanes. Yes!!
- Bike sharing like UCO and European countries!
- Sidewalks in areas not having any – especially by major streets. – Yes!!
- The greater the alternatives – the greater the potential for increase industry to come to the area/state.
- Consider express bus/train service from city outskirts into downtown.
- Sidewalk Plan – Yes! Yes! Yes! – Yes!!
- Sidewalks on major streets near all shopping.
- Have each regional city submit a bike and pedestrian plan.
- More sidewalks and pedestrian infrastructure for all, including handicaps.
- More choices = better quality of life
- Rail – At a minimum, we need to improve/enhance our bus/rail system and access to/from sidewalks.
- Must have multi-modal options combined with commuter and entertainment @ a central hub; i.e. Union Station.
- Pro-set offense, not option.
- Sidewalks! Bike paths! Pedestrian-only zones!

OPTIONS [Cont.]

- Start with high employee density areas...hospitals, universities, etc.
- Help citizens and suburbs understand the great need and value of dedicated transit funding, even though it means higher local taxes.
- Public transit should be kept running until at least 1 a.m.!

PERFORMANCE

- Rail to Norman!
- Better signage for exits; metered entrance ramps (e.g. traffic light controls). Ramps need to be better designed; lanes switch from double to single-and w/o signs – many do not know in advance.
- Rail to Yukon!!
- Adding more lanes is not a solution. Ever been to Los Angeles?!
- Strategies seem vague, especially “Increase capacity” – there’s a big difference between adding lanes and encouraging/increasing transit capacity.
- Need a regional access management policy to improve/preserve arterial roadway traffic flow.
- More lanes will not solve the problem.
- HOV Lanes/
- Signage guidelines.
- Costs too much to add optimization. Also, optimized systems are alright until they fail, then they fail badly.
- Carpooling is necessary.
- Transit/Trail/Sidewalk performance?
- Stop widening roads when bottlenecks still exist...priorities!!!
- Ditto; how many car lanes are enough?
- Stop widening! It only encourages more cars!
- Need dedicated funding.
- Cooperation between municipalities – Del City, MWC, W.A., N.H., etc.

SAFETY/SECURITY

- Placing your rail systems in the middle of the highways would literally eliminate crossing medians and head-ons.
- I believe that knowledge is power, so education goes a long way in people taking responsibility.
- Public education on alternative transportation!
- Improved interstate signage on exit, entrances, yield at entrances.
- Coordinate pedestrian/transit/street/bike needs more thoughtfully.
- More competitive funding must integrate more partners to share resources to implement.

SAFETY/SECURITY (Cont.)

- Lobby for pedestrian right-of-way legislation.
- Think about safety of individuals utilizing mass transit systems...e.g. well lit bus stops, emergency call buttons, etc.
- Decrease speed limits and enforce them!