



2022 BOARD RETREAT REGIONAL VISIONING



SUMMARY

JANUARY 2023

Association of Central Oklahoma Governments
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2022 BOARD RETREAT-REGIONAL VISIONING EVENT INFORMATION

NATIONAL COWBOY & WESTERN HERITAGE MUSEIUM

1700 NE 63rd St.
Oklahoma City, OK 73111

DATE/TIME

Wednesday, October 12, 2022
9:30AM – 3PM

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The day-long working Retreat for the ACOG Board of Directors last October 12, 2022, gave our board members for the first time in ACOG history, the opportunity to actively participate in brainstorming exercises that established vision statements and goals for our region.

The Retreat Program entailed a Regional Visioning Session whereby Board members actively participated in a brainstorming exercise to establish vision statements/goals for the region. The primary premise that set the theme for this initiative was *"Business as Usual Is Not the Preferred Future for Central Oklahoma."*

The brainstorming session addressed the following relevant discussion categories:

- Environmental and Resource Stewardship
- Sustainable Growth, Quality Places, and Efficient Services
- Efficient Mobility Options
- ACOG – Servant Leadership Model

A total of 23 Board members, 4 guests, and 12 staff members attended the event. The day-long Retreat also enhanced communications between member governments while creating a team building spirit among Board Directors.

As a follow-up to the event, ACOG staff presented a draft summary of the results of the Regional Visioning Session to the Board at their regular scheduled meeting on December 15, 2022. This allowed those Board members who were unable to attend the Retreat the opportunity to contribute their ideas to the Regional Visioning dialogue before completion of the final summary report.

What follows is an in-depth summarization of key issues and challenges facing the ACOG region and Central Oklahoma. This regional visioning report is vital to the success of our region because it captures the comments and concerns of our member governments and establishes vision statements and goals that will direct future policy decisions and initiatives for the ACOG organization for the next three to four years.

To meet the visions and goals set before us, a variety of potential action steps might entail strategic long-term planning, legislative interim studies that lead to appropriations for new programs, creation of self-funded regional initiatives that provide enhanced services to local governments and expanded public education and outreach programs.

The successful implementation of the identified recommended actions will require comprehensive teamwork and collaboration among the ACOG organization, its member governments, legislators and other regional stakeholders and organizations.

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Executive Director

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2022 BOARD RETREAT REGIONAL VISIONING EVENT ATTENDEES

Glenn Berglan	Mayor, Goldsby
Carrie Blumert	Commissioner, Oklahoma County
Frank Calvin	Mayor, Spencer
Rod Cleveland	Commissioner, Cleveland County
Mark Cochell	Mayor, Nicoma Park
Matt Dukes	Mayor, Midwest City
Steven J. Gentling	Mayor, Guthrie
Brian Grider	Mayor, Mustang
Marc Hader	Commissioner, Canadian County
Mark Hamm	Councilmember, Moore
Shane Hampton	Director, University of Oklahoma Institute for Quality Communities
Peter Hoffman	Mayor, Nichols Hills
Stephen Holman	Councilmember, Norman
John Kenney	Mayor, Lake Aluma
John Koehler	Trustee, Slaughterville
Nikki Lloyd	Mayor, Bethany
Jim Neal	Councilmember, Crescent
Tim Rudek	Councilmember, Harrah
Magnus Scott	Trustee, Langston
Shelli Selby	Mayor, Yukon
Mary Smith	Vice-Mayor, Tuttle
Todd Stone	Councilmember, Oklahoma City
Pete White	ACOG Legal Counsel
Sonny Wilkinson	Mayor, The Village
Chad Williams	Councilmember, Choctaw

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Environmental & Resource Stewardship	2
Topic: Water Resources.....	3
Issue Statement	3
Strategic Question.....	3
Board Comments	3
Proposed Vision/Goal Statement	3
Recommended Actions	4
Topic: Air Quality	4
Issue Statement	4
Strategic Question.....	4
Board Comments	4
Proposed Vision/Goal Statement	4
Recommended Actions	4
Topic: Solid Waste	5
Issue Statement	5
Strategic Question.....	5
Board Comments	5
Proposed Vision/Goal Statement	5
Recommended Actions	5
Sustainable Growth, Quality Places & Efficient Services.....	6
Topic: Community Infrastructure & Services Investment.....	7
Issue Statement	7
Strategic Question.....	7
Board Comments	7
Proposed Vision/Goal Statement	7
Recommended Actions	7
Topic: Safe & Healthy Communities.....	8
Issue Statement	8
Strategic Question.....	8
Board Comments	8
Proposed Vision/Goal Statement	8
Recommended Actions	8
Topic: Community & Economic Development Diversity	9
Issue Statement	9
Strategic Question.....	9
Board Comments	9
Proposed Vision/Goal Statement	9
Recommended Actions	9
Efficient Mobility Options.....	10
Topic: Current & Future Roadway Improvements.....	11

Issue Statement	11
Strategic Question.....	11
Board Comments	11
Proposed Vision/Goal Statement	11
Recommended Actions	12
Topic: Pedestrian & Bicycle-Oriented Communities.....	12
Issue Statement	12
Strategic Question.....	12
Board Comments	12
Proposed Vision/Goal Statement	12
Recommended Actions	12
Topic: Multimodal Transportation.....	13
Issue Statement	13
Strategic Question.....	13
Board Comments	13
Proposed Vision/Goal Statement	13
Recommended Actions	13
ACOG - Service Leadership Model.....	14
Topic: Communication, Commitment & Board Membership - How We Inform, Educate & Share	15
Issue Statement	15
Strategic Question.....	15
Board Comments	15
Proposed Vision/Goal Statement	15
Recommended Actions	15
Topic: Providing Sustainable Funding to Meet Service Expectations - Helping the Underserved!	16
Issue Statement	16
Strategic Question.....	16
Board Comments	16
Proposed Vision/Goal Statement	16
Recommended Actions	16
Topic: Innovation & Collaboration Opportunities - Thinking Outside the Box!.....	17
Issue Statement	17
Strategic Question.....	17
Board Comments	17
Proposed Vision/Goal Statement	17
Recommended Actions	17

PREMISE

“Business as usual is not the preferred future for
Central Oklahoma.”

ENVIRONMENTAL & RESOURCE STEWARDSHIP

CHALLENGE

A continuation of the current development patterns and local land use policies in Central Oklahoma will lead to ongoing negative impacts on the region's air, water, land, and natural resources.

TOPIC: WATER RESOURCES

ISSUE STATEMENT

Oklahoma is just beginning to feel the impact of the current drought and once again the state legislature is slow to effectively respond to the worsening situation. Many parts of the region that have experienced rapid growth and development activity, or that are likely areas of future expansion, do not have reliable long-term water resources to sustain projected growth.

ISSUE STATEMENT

Oklahoma is just beginning to feel the impact of the current drought and once again the state legislature is slow to effectively respond to the worsening situation. Many parts of the region that have experienced rapid growth and development activity, or that are likely areas of future expansion, do not have reliable long-term water resources to sustain projected growth.

STRATEGIC QUESTION

How can ACOG proactively plan and prepare our member governments to take a more comprehensive and long-term approach toward the increasing reality of limited water availability?

BOARD COMMENTS

- Water conservation efforts must be a priority for all communities – Pursue active and passive conservation efforts. Example: landscape regulations to limit water usage and replanting to mitigate erosion
- Look to Western States (Arizona) for water conservation models to implement
- Change the culture of water conservation by incorporating public education and input. Conduct community landscape forums. Promote Low-Impact Development (LID) regulations to municipalities
- Encourage public and private partnerships that work with local initiatives and grant funding opportunities
- Advocate shared water treatment resources between cities
- Pursue federal grants to address prominent water issues across the region – pinpointing smaller communities with critical water needs
- Realistically address climate change issue and its challenges to local communities
- Relate the problem on a personal level about the water crisis. Incentives vs punishment approach needed
- Need more effective state-wide regulation – marijuana agricultural production stressing water supply
- Need to initiate a regional approach to water systems
- Prepare for strategic increases in local utility billing fees – water is going to be more expensive in the future
- Pursue federal funding – allocating portions and matching grants to improve water systems (American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), etc.)

PROPOSED VISION/GOAL STATEMENT

Promote the design of infrastructure, communities, and regional systems to use water resources responsibly, effectively, and efficiently, and to proactively conserve limited water resources for the use of future generations in the ACOG region.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

- Strategic update of State Comprehensive Water Plan in coordination with the Legislature and the Oklahoma Water Resources Board
- Seek federal and state funding for the development of a Regional Water Plan for the ACOG region, along with a comprehensive public education outreach campaign
- Promote the development of Low-Impact Development (LID) regulations and targeted conservation and landscaping measures for ACOG member governments
- Continue proactive regional water quality assessments and studies

TOPIC: AIR QUALITY

ISSUE STATEMENT

Our region has been in attainment of the EPA Ozone Standard for decades, however in the last few years, the number of violations has increased significantly and poses the harsh reality that the OKC Metropolitan area will likely be designated as nonattainment soon. The recently completed ACOG Cost of Nonattainment Study highlights the extensive economic and transportation costs to the region, if designated by the EPA.

STRATEGIC QUESTION

How can ACOG convince and educate the business community, local government officials, and residents to take practical measures to avoid this costly and unhealthy scenario?

BOARD COMMENTS

- Continued partnership with Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ) on regional monitoring network locations
- Clearly explain technical air quality standards to local governments and their citizens
- Enforcement of air quality measures
- Wildfire mitigation
- Control burns - Rural Fire Coordinators
- Advise local communities on how to effectively address the increasingly important particulate matter (PM) issue for our region

PROPOSED VISION/GOAL STATEMENT

Continue to lead the effort to maintain the OKC Metropolitan area in attainment of the EPA's National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS), which includes ozone, particulate matter (PM) standards, and support regional approaches to greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) reduction strategies.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

- Supplement the recently completed ACOG Cost of Nonattainment Study by developing a Regional Air Quality Plan for the OKC Metropolitan area
- Explore emissions reductions strategies and connect ACOG member governments and partners with resources and funding opportunities from state and federal grants
- Assess regional air quality monitoring strategies
- Provide enhanced air quality education and outreach campaigns to better inform local governments, business stakeholders, and the public

TOPIC: SOLID WASTE

ISSUE STATEMENT

Throughout the ACOG region there is a patchwork of varying levels of solid waste services and inconsistent or no recycling programs. The inadequacies are especially apparent during the aftermath of a weather-related disaster, like the October 2020 Ice Storm.

STRATEGIC QUESTION

What regional role could ACOG play to address these mounting solid waste problems and promote recycling and other measures to divert the flow of waste into our landfills?

BOARD COMMENTS

- Build public confidence that recyclable items are not going to the landfills
- Pursue public/private partnerships to address issue (outsource to private companies to handle municipal recycling) – especially for rural areas
- Landfill capacity is maxing out. There are no optimal sites for future landfills. Rising cost of solid waste services results in increasing local fees to expand services. Take a more regional approach by consolidating contract service areas or increase OKC's coverage area

PROPOSED VISION/GOAL STATEMENT

Initiate a regional approach to address the importance of landfill diversion through improved solid waste management focused on waste reduction, reuse, recycling, and composting.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

- Seek out grant funding and additional legislative funding opportunities for the development of a Regional Solid Waste Plan for the four-county area
- Educate businesses, industries, government entities, public and private organizations, schools, and citizens on solid waste management best practices
- Connect ACOG member governments to current federal and state solid waste funding opportunities

SUSTAINABLE GROWTH, QUALITY PLACES & EFFICIENT SERVICES

CHALLENGE

Central Oklahoma will face a significant amount of growth in the next several decades. The current infrastructure and services are not adequate to meet the needs of this growth. The market of the future is more likely to want a different type of community – one that is more diversified, compact, walkable, and with natural assets and accessible urban amenities.

TOPIC: COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE & SERVICES INVESTMENT

ISSUE STATEMENT

The infrastructure and service needs of our local governments continue to grow at an accelerating pace, along with the costs. ACOG over the past years has addressed the issue with REAP, CDBG, EDA, and CIP grant funding to varying degrees of success. The restrictions of these state and federal funded programs often limit what a community can access and apply for under each grant.

STRATEGIC QUESTION

Is there a different approach or new opportunities that ACOG could pursue that would maximize funding for both infrastructure and service demands impacting our member governments?

BOARD COMMENTS

- Strengthening local communities:
 - Addressing gaps in resources for smaller communities
 - > Creating a system to allocate resources and information to smaller/rural communities, especially grant opportunities and economic development
 - Interlocal cost sharing agreements
 - > Central purchasing authority, sharing bids, equipment, rotating services, etc., across the region (regional sharing and targeting)
 - > Population criteria often limit communities from applying for certain resources and grants. Reassess and update population on a frequent basis after decennial census
- Encourage communication between communities with equipment share information about lower cost options. Organizing information and making it accessible. ACOG can be the central information point
- Lower the 50/50 match requirement for EDA Planning Grant to 80/20 - Reauthorization of EDA needed
- ACOG to be advocate for changing state and federal rules that inhibit equitable services and funding for all communities

PROPOSED VISION/GOAL STATEMENT

Enhance regional efforts to advocate directly with state legislators and federal congressional delegates for additional infrastructure and economic development funding of Central Oklahoma communities.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

- Provide regional, municipal, and county data reports to State Legislators to prove return on investment benefits from ACOG requested appropriations
- Strategically expand ACOG legislative lobbying efforts at the Capitol
- Begin proactively introducing and writing legislation in coordination with selected state representatives and senators
- Continue ACOG Federal Priorities Initiative with Central Oklahoma congressional delegation during the Annual National Association of Development Organization (NADO) Washington Conference in March of every year

TOPIC: SAFE & HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

ISSUE STATEMENT

911 ACOG is in the process of implementing Next Generation 911 (NG911) for most of our region. We are the first in Oklahoma to venture into this more advanced level of service for our residents and businesses. Once successfully done, the demand for this enhanced lifesaving service will grow and 911 ACOG will be given the opportunity to expand our service area, which could include Oklahoma City and other adjacent cities and counties. This would also result in an expansion in the number of Emergency Communication Centers or ECCs (formerly PSAPs). Currently 911 ACOG has 22 ECCs.

STRATEGIC QUESTION

Should 911 ACOG take a more aggressive posture on expanding its service area from the perspective of eliminating duplication of services within our region, while providing superior services to more people within the OKC Metro area? And does a limited number of strategically located ECCs need to be a part of this assessment?

BOARD COMMENTS

- 911 ACOG needs to be more far reaching and uniform as it grows its service area
- Emphasis on universal safety along with a strategic and targeted growth plan
- More consistent communication and connectivity is needed to be a sustainable and efficient system

PROPOSED VISION/GOAL STATEMENT

Strategically expand the 911 ACOG service area while implementing affordable NG911 call handling services, and at the same time improving the internal operations and efficiency of the ECCs.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

- Complete the successful implementation of NG911 for the 911 ACOG service area
- Formulate a 911 ACOG Organizational Strategy Plan to improve internal operations
- Develop a 911 ACOG Regionalization Strategy to enhance the efficiency of the ECCs
- Create a 911 ACOG Service Area Expansion Plan

TOPIC: COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIVERSITY

ISSUE STATEMENT

Quality of life has become the central focus for regional competition in attracting skilled talent, new businesses, and private investment. Over the past several decades the OKC Metro area has experienced significant urban sprawl of cookie cutter development with few amenities, and often no planning or coordination between neighboring communities.

STRATEGIC QUESTION

How can ACOG actively encourage a comprehensive planning approach for community & economic development, while emphasizing the importance of placemaking, infill development, and quality of life amenities to keep our region competitive?

BOARD COMMENTS

- Enhance placemaking and planning for future endeavors
 - Identify and address the specific needs of small, medium, and large cities
 - Emphasis on smaller municipalities - limited staffing, planning, and engineering capacity
 - ACOG provide more grant writing and management services to implement strategic projects
 - Focus on small economic objectives that coincide with larger economic development goals
 - Recognize uniqueness and historical attributes of local communities - create specialized initiatives for unique communities to promote their distinctiveness as part of their economic district planning

PROPOSED VISION/GOAL STATEMENT

Strengthen the identities and economic viability of the region's diverse communities through promotion of significant landmark sites and natural assets, cultural heritage tourism, and local amenities, use of modern placemaking tools and compatible architecture and design, and support for planning and investment initiatives that make each community unique.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

- Focus on marketing and implementing the Updated Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) and encourage greater regional cooperation
- Continue the Community Economic Resiliency Initiative (CERI) Program to provide placemaking and long-term economic development strategies for smaller communities
- Promotion of ACOG cost effective research and grant writing services to assist local governments in funding strategic economic development projects

EFFICIENT MOBILITY OPTIONS

CHALLENGE

The region is suffering from traffic congestion in the urban and suburban areas that threatens the region's growth and future economic competitiveness, but there is not enough funding to expand road capacity. Continued growth patterns, coupled with a primary focus on passenger vehicles to move people to home and work, will only exacerbate the problem.

TOPIC: CURRENT & FUTURE ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS

ISSUE STATEMENT

The Oklahoma Turnpike Authority (OTA) recently released an extensive turnpike construction plan for the OKC Metro area. A few months prior, ACOG, which is the organization responsible for the region's long-term transportation planning, presented the Encompass 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan to the Board for their approval. As the official federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for Central Oklahoma, no information was provided to ACOG about these projects to incorporate them into the Plan even though staff had made several inquiries to the OTA.

STRATEGIC QUESTION

How can the ACOG MPO, OTA, and Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT) be more effective transportation planning partners? How can we constructively change this current paradigm?

BOARD COMMENTS

- Pursue greater public accountability and involvement
 - Conversations with ODOT and OTA are important, so that the public is aware of proposed projects. It will lessen ODOT and OTA oversight
 - Customize transportation needs for local governments
 - Ensure federal funding opportunities are available to small communities and those with critical needs
 - Communicate and share with other MPOs on best practices
 - Enhance public involvement in project planning - ACOG can be advocate for the planning process with ODOT and OTA. Local communities should have more of a say on what is approved for construction that may impact them
 - ODOT and OTA accountability- enhance public oversight of both agencies
- ODOT/OTA should publicly address on an annual basis the projects they are planning
- Coordinate with other MPOs, like INCOG, to ensure local priorities are being addressed in state transportation projects
- Lower the maximum amount of funding a community can receive through the transportation grant programs to guarantee a more equitable distribution of federal funding
- Pursue the construction of more round-a-bouts and other traffic calming techniques throughout the region
- Maintain and invest in the existing transportation infrastructure to reduce long-term costs

PROPOSED VISION/GOAL STATEMENT

Enhance coordination among local, regional, and state transportation agencies, and provide additional public involvement to ensure a safe, equitable, and efficient transportation system within the ACOG MPO Region.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

- Elicit proactive involvement of ODOT/OTA with the ACOG MPO transportation planning process
- Explore additional public involvement activities related to short-range and long-range transportation planning efforts
- Continue to review federal transportation grant policies and procedures for greater flexibility while meeting regional priorities
- Address lack of local government representation and involvement on ACOG MPO committees
- Maintain the existing transportation system and invest in improvements that enhance safety and efficiency

TOPIC: PEDESTRIAN & BICYCLE-ORIENTED COMMUNITIES

ISSUE STATEMENT

Two years ago, with the support of the MPO Technical Committee, ACOG changed the funding cap for Bike-Ped STBG-UZA projects to encourage greater investment by our cities into non-roadway transportation solutions. When the actual scoring and allocation of funding occurred, several cities voiced their opposition to the outcome, which resulted in placing a 10% funding cap on all future Bike-Ped projects.

STRATEGIC QUESTION

Knowing that the public demand for pedestrian & bicycle-oriented communities is growing and is viewed as a significant quality of life factor for attracting residents and businesses, how can the ACOG MPO establish a more progressive funding formula without compromising future roadway projects?

BOARD COMMENTS

- Enhance pedestrian and bicycle trail system between neighborhoods and between cities (regional network planning)
- Target areas within communities for pedestrian/sidewalk improvements
- Focus on smaller town center areas and activity centers (4-6 blocks)
- Emphasize economic benefits (increased sales tax revenue) and enhanced well-being for citizens, thus creating community synergy and support for projects

PROPOSED VISION/GOAL STATEMENT

Improve the connection between land use and transportation to enable Central Oklahoma residents to live healthier lives and reduce the environmental impact from vehicle travel within the region.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

- Implement the Regional Active Transportation Plan and ACOG Complete Streets Policy
- Focus on transportation projects that improve, enhance, and expand the ability for residents to walk, bike, and use public transportation
- Address last mile connections, efficient land use planning, and continued connectivity between transportation modes in the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan

TOPIC: MULTIMODAL TRANSPORTATION BUSES, COMMUTER/LIGHT RAIL, STREETCARS & AUTONOMOUS VEHICLES

ISSUE STATEMENT

The Regional Transit Authority (RTA) of Central Oklahoma was officially established by ACOG and six municipalities to address the multimodal transportation needs of the OKC Metro area. Since 2019, the RTA has been under the oversight of COTPA (Embark). The RTA's primary focus has been on pursuing a commuter line on the BNSF railroad that extends from Edmond through OKC to Norman. Bus transit is part of the long-term plan but has taken a secondary role to the commuter line efforts. To become an official transit agency, the RTA must receive voter approval for a local sales tax increase to fund its capital construction plan for transit improvements. Over the last year, the RTA has sought federal funding to explore additional routes and transit options.

STRATEGIC QUESTION

Realizing that the strategic development of a multimodal transportation system is imperative to the future mobility, economic growth, and quality of life for our region, how can ACOG as the MPO of Central Oklahoma better assist the RTA in formulating a plan that will garner public support and grow the service area of the RTA?

BOARD COMMENTS

- Provide multiple transportation options tailored to the critical areas of service in the metro area
- Consider DART system in Dallas area as a model
- Shift auto driving culture to multimodal perspective
- RTA should concentrate on Airport to Downtown to Tinker AFB route for commuter/light rail service
- Expansion of service area and consolidation of bus transit agencies should be RTA's highest priority - interconnectivity with other public modes of transportation is crucial
- Explore small scale pilot transit programs for communities without transit service
- Effectively plan for autonomous vehicles, future transportation technologies, and the utilization of drones

PROPOSED VISION/GOAL STATEMENT

Advocate investment in transportation systems, facilities, and operations within the OKC Metro area that provide multimodal choices for the efficient and sustainable movement of people, goods, and services with an emphasis on new technologies and expanded transit services.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

- Support and expand an interconnected bus system and future commuter rail transportation service in the region
- Explore legislative changes to provide multiple sources of funding for regional transit
- Encourage expanded local government membership to the regional transit initiative
- Continue to monitor, support, and invest in new transportation technologies
- Integrate the proposed RTA Service Plan into the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan

ACOG – SERVICE LEADERSHIP MODEL

CHALLENGE

The past patterns cannot be changed by the actions of one or a few decision-makers. Choices made by many stakeholders committed to servant leadership will affect the result. A shared regional vision for Central Oklahoma and more complete information for these stakeholders offers the region a better chance to achieve a desirable future.

TOPIC: COMMUNICATION, COMMITMENT & BOARD MEMBERSHIP – HOW WE INFORM, EDUCATE & SHARE

ISSUE STATEMENT

The membership structure of ACOG, except for a few adjustments, has essentially stayed the same since the Amended 1983 Agreement. Likewise, the documented Bylaws that were created in the 1970s are no longer valid for ACOG. In addition to this, there are no significant guidelines on how a Board member is expected to perform his/her role while serving.

STRATEGIC QUESTION

Should ACOG reevaluate who qualifies as a Board member (elected officials vs. appointed officials) and what other types of entities could be added as voting members? Also, how can ACOG staff encourage greater Board member commitment and strengthen the lines of communication between the Board member and his/her jurisdiction's policy making body and support staff?

BOARD COMMENTS

- Establish a Mentorship Program for Board members – pairing newly appointed delegates with experienced delegates
- Expand membership (Indian tribes, educational institutions, etc.,) but still keep it restricted to elected officials only vs. allowing city managers to be voting alternate delegates for municipalities
- Expand member resources by strategically utilizing ACOG staff
- Improve staff accessibility to members – Develop a more descriptive ACOG Staff Directory
- Membership involvement – Consider a point system for active members (attendance to meetings) for scoring grant applications
- Reassess number of delegates from each local government for a more balanced-weighted vote system
- Consider using county delegate as proxy for municipalities to ensure meeting quorums
- More educational outreach to member governments about ACOG and funding opportunities – Expand Goodwill Tour (return on annual membership fee investment and update on funding resources) and conduct periodic lunch and learns throughout the year
- Encourage Board attendance to National Association of Regional Councils (NARC) and NADO conferences and training opportunities

PROPOSED VISION/GOAL STATEMENT

Foster Board involvement through greater staff engagement, enhanced knowledge of programmatic and funding opportunities, and targeted training while serving as an effective and proactive ACOG liaison to their respective communities.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

- Review and update Bylaws and ACOG Agreement for Board and membership approval
- Create a detailed ACOG Staff Directory - include in annually updated Board of Directors Orientation Handbook (on-boarding system)
- Schedule more Goodwill Tours for member governments

- Identify Lunch and Learn topics beneficial to the Board and coordinate symposium schedule on an annual basis
- Develop an ACOG Board member Mentorship Program

TOPIC: PROVIDING SUSTAINABLE FUNDING TO MEET SERVICE EXPECTATIONS – HELPING THE UNDERSERVED!

ISSUE STATEMENT

The disparity between our urban constituents and rural member governments is an ongoing challenge for ACOG. The larger communities need ACOG to address broad regional issues that require collaboration but have the internal resources and staffing to handle their day-to-day operations. The smaller, more rural communities need the assistance of the ACOG staff to fulfill fundamental administrative requirements due to the lack of staffing and resources.

STRATEGIC QUESTION

If helping the underserved and most needy members is a primary objective of ACOG, what services do we need to prioritize, how do we generate the revenue to address these growing service needs, and how do we encourage cross-sharing valuable information and advice between communities?

BOARD COMMENTS

- Community Mentorship Program – pairing larger cities with smaller municipalities to advise them on policy development and to share best practices (city manager to city manager)
- Consider Subscription services (members pay a monthly fee to access specialized services):
 - Equipment sharing inventory for region
 - Enhanced grant writing and management services
 - Administrative assistance
- Promote My Government Online (MGO) software services

PROPOSED VISION/GOAL STATEMENT

Leverage underutilized regional resources and develop innovative pay-as-you-go services that specifically address the needs of smaller communities within the region.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

- Develop a Community Mentorship Program
- Explore implementing an equipment sharing service model
- Establish subscription services for specialized areas of need for smaller communities
- Increase marketing and expansion of My Government Online (MGO) software services in the region and statewide
- Improve ACOG service capacity by relocating organizational offices to a more efficient, flexible, user-friendly facility and location

TOPIC: INNOVATION & COLLABORATION OPPORTUNITIES – THINKING OUTSIDE THE BOX!

ISSUE STATEMENT

Collaborative cost savings and elimination of duplicated services represent fundamental reasons why councils of government were originally created in the 1960s. ACOG has in recent years successfully initiated a few projects like the Regional Aerial Photography Program that has proven to be a cost savings for ACOG and several of our local governments. However, this area of service has not been fully explored by our organization.

STRATEGIC QUESTION

What new areas of service and regional collaboration could ACOG pursue that will result in greater governmental efficiency and long-term cost savings for our membership could ACOG pursue?

BOARD COMMENTS

- Regional cooperative purchasing service at ACOG. Allowing bid sharing with communities. Bulk purchase of vehicles and equipment
- Circuit (rotating) city manager service for small towns and cities
- Look to other COGs outside of Oklahoma to borrow successful program and service models for Central Oklahoma
- Consider providing professional planning & development review services for urban counties and smaller cities

PROPOSED VISION/GOAL STATEMENT

Explore and research innovative programs and services from other regions that would address issues from a non-traditional and cost-effective approach that would further implement the servant leadership model for ACOG.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

- Establish a regional cooperative purchasing service at ACOG to address purchasing of vehicles and equipment for our local governments
- Partner with Oklahoma Municipal Management Services (OMMS) and City Management Association of Oklahoma (CMAO) to explore a circuit city manager service to assist smaller communities.
- Research the creation of an ACOG Planning & Development Division to address the land use and development regulation needs of urban counties and smaller cities within our region

