

Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments (PPACG)
Fort Carson Regional Growth Plan
Economic Development/Sustainability Partnership Group Meeting Summary
March 11, 2010; 9:30 am – 11:00 am

Attendees:

- Jane Ard-Smith, Sierra Club
- Mary Barber, Fort Carson Sustainability
- Lisa Cochrun, City of Fountain
- Bob Cope, City of Colorado Springs
- Brian Grim, Metro Rides
- Kate Hatten, PPACG
- Casey Howard, Office of Senator Udall
- Frank Kinder, Fort Carson Sustainability
- Megan Lane, GBSM
- Dave Mahan, Stresscon Corporation
- Andy Mountain, GBSM
- Rich Muzzy, PPACG
- Tim Oliver, Sustainable Building Concepts
- John Olson, Congress of New Urbanism-Colorado
- Gary Rapp, Recycling Coalition of Colorado Springs
- Xavier Robinson, Office of Senator Bennet
- Mayor Marc Snyder, City of Manitou Springs
- Jennifer Taylor, Colorado Springs Regional Economic Development Corporation

Phase 2 Regional Growth Plan Update/Status

Discussion of Recommendations

Following introductions, Andy Mountain and Megan Lane reviewed highlights of the revised draft report and recapped the process that led to the development of the draft. This report focuses on the intersection of sustainability, economic development and Fort Carson growth. Mr. Mountain indicated that many comments have been received on the draft plan, and the majority of those comments were incorporated into the latest version. He also clarified that this report should be viewed as a beginning point for further efforts, as detailed in the opportunities section.

The key updates to the draft include adding the Venn diagram that illustrates the intersection of the three issues and adding new language that helps to clarify the scope of the report. There were also updates to the related efforts section, including updates on the Fountain Creek Watershed. It was noted that there are many more efforts than can be explained in detail in the report; therefore, web addresses and links are provided in the appendix of the report so that readers can obtain more information, as needed.

Mr. Mountain noted that the most conflicting comments received to-date related to the competitive nature of economic development. The group noted that competition in the region is improving and there is more collaboration now than there has been in the past, including collaboration between the Pueblo and Colorado Springs areas. Mr. Mountain will update the report accordingly. It was also noted that the region identified in the Fort Carson Regional Growth Plan (El Paso, Fremont, Pueblo and Teller counties) should be more clearly defined in the report.

It was also noted that many of the challenges identified in the stakeholder interviews throughout the process lead to opportunities identified in the draft report. This includes opportunities to

pursue more regional collaboration regarding sustainability. Ms. Lane noted that additional opportunities/metrics have been or will be added to the draft based on feedback from the group, such as collaborating on research on available resources for more easily accessible information; new ways to convert solid waste to energy; and recommendations to streamline the approval process for solar panels/rebates.

The group also discussed the need to include energy efficiency in the opportunities section. It was noted that energy efficiency cuts across many of the issue areas in the draft report (construction/retrofitting, renewable energy, etc.). It was noted that efforts (such as rebates, energy efficiency audits QLI indicators, etc.) are already underway and current opportunities should be expanded. It was also noted that return on investment is a key issue for businesses, and environmental and economic costs and benefits should be addressed.

Additional suggestions to revise the draft report were discussed, including adding other military installations in future efforts and adding an executive summary and/or strengthening the conclusion to better tie the components together.

Next Steps:

GBSM will revise the draft, incorporating suggestions discussed at today and comments sent via e-mail. The draft will then be distributed to the group via e-mail for review. All components of the Fort Carson Regional Growth Plan will be made available for public comment in April and highlighted at the 16 April Town Hall. PPACG staff and the consultant team will then finalize the report in June to meet the OEA deadline.

- CDMC meeting, 17 March at 3:00pm
- Fort Carson Community Partnership Town Hall, 16 April 3:00-6:00pm, DoubleTree World Arena