

Minutes of the 15th Meeting of the Envision Jefferson 2020 Steering Committee
October 7, 2002 - 3:30 P.M.
Select Properties Building
2121 Airline Drive, Suite 600

Attendees:

Steering Committee Members

Lee Giorgio, Co-Chair	Connie Casey	Lynn Parker
Buck Barkley	Erie Hebert	Lucien Gunter
Norbert White	Donnie Wolfe	

Jefferson Parish Officials

Ed Durabb, Planning Director
Louis Savoye, Deputy Chief Admin. Assistant

Burk-Kleinpeter, Inc.

Ed Elam, Senior Planner

University of New Orleans

Wendel P. Dufour, Jr., Principal Planner
Roxanne Brock, Research Associate

Urban Planning and Innovations

Monica Kelley

GCR & Associates, Inc.

Larry Ringel, Project Manager
Chris Emmer, Land Use Planner
Roy Smith, Land Use Planner

Mr. Ringel began the meeting at 3:35 p.m. The minutes of the September 5, 2002 Steering Committee meeting were moved, seconded and approved with no exceptions.

Mr. Ringel advised the Steering Committee that the Goals and Objectives were discussed in detail at the September 14, 2002 Element Committee meeting. Element Committee members filled out a ballot ranking each Goal and Objective on a sliding scale to show their level of support. Ballots were mailed to Element Committee members unable to attend the meeting. Ballots were also sent to Jefferson Parish Department Heads. Mr. Ringel mentioned that the ballots show favorable support. Once all of the ballots are received, they will be compiled and presented to the Steering and Element Committees.

Mr. Ringel then led a discussion of the sketch planning effort to evaluate and compare three alternative development patterns for the Parish. The primary focus of the October 19, 2002 Element Committee meeting will be to examine the repercussions of different development schemes and recommend a single development direction upon which to base the proposed plan. To accomplish this, details of each of the three sketch plans will be presented in a visual format with emphasis on the nature of transit and neighborhood “nodes” or “cores”. Evaluation matrices will be prepared to assess the relative impacts of each development scheme.

Following a general discussion, the Element Committee will have the opportunity to examine the alternatives in greater detail by visiting five stations, each depicting a section of the Parish in a scale suitable for discussion. Following the detailed review and question period, the Committee will reconvene to discuss the alternatives and establish direction for developing the

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proposed plan. Mr. Ringel mentioned that the Element Committee will not be asked to select a single alternative from the three offered, but rather to select features from amongst the three that would be appropriate for particular portions of the Parish.

Mr. Wolfe asked if recent problems experienced in other cities with light rail systems would affect light rail planning in Jefferson. Ms. Kelly and Mr. Elam explained that a single rail line along the Airline Drive corridor, properly designed to alleviate crossing problems at major streets and supported with north-south bus routes might work. Detailed operational and fiscal studies of this concept will be conducted outside of the long range plan initiative.

Mr. Elam then made a presentation on the land use and transportation relationships existing under each of the three scenarios. His analysis centered on the major transportation issues of sufficient roadway capacity, availability of transit, park-and-ride options, bike routing systems, and light rail support. Each scenario was rated against these transit considerations.

A brief discussion followed concerning population projections. Mr. Dufour explained the origin of Mr. Smolkin's projections and pointed out that the Parish has many opportunities for new development, and could plan for more growth than that contained in the Market Study. Mr. Ringel observed that there have been several population projections made in the past few years, but none anticipate explosive growth in the Parish.

Mr. Barkley asked if the principles of "Smart Growth" would be followed in developing the Plan. Mr. Emmer and Mr. Elam answered that "Smart Growth" would be part of the Plan. It would be manifested in the use of mixed use nodes and core neighborhood developments. Mr. Elam pointed out that many of the smart growth features are already found in the identified neighborhood activity centers where commercial, residential and office spaces exist within a small radius.

Mr. Durabb encouraged Steering Committee members to take an active part in the Element Committee meetings. He explained that their viewpoint was needed and welcomed.

The Steering Committee then conducted a general discussion around the ability of the Long Range Plan to slow population out-migration and the ability of mixed-use neighborhood and transit nodes and cores to retain or attract people to the Parish. Mr. Wolfe asked the Planning Team to consider development of a Lakefront beach area.

The Committee universally expressed a need to coordinate the Long Range Plan with the JEDCO Edge document and suggested the possibility of having a JEDCO representative attend a future Steering Committee meeting.

Mr. Giorgio encouraged fellow Steering Committee members to attend the Element Committee meetings as well as future Steering Committee meetings. The next meeting of the Steering Committee was set for Thursday, November 7, 2002 at the Select Properties Building. The meeting was then adjourned.