

## Region 8 Prosperity Committee

Infrastructure Subcommittee – January 18, 2017

Attendees: Michael Evans, Ken Jones, Rachel Wade, Richard Remus, Vince Carahaly, John Egelhaaf, Lee Adams

The community development subcommittee was convened to discuss the 2017 RPI priority goal for community development. After some discussion the group found that goal #1 regarding diversified transportation was widely supported.

### **1. Create a more diversified transportation system**

- Create walkable neighborhoods
- Encourage new transportation patterns that support efficient multi-model transportation options
- Support community development that is transit-oriented

The group discussed issues that included brownfields and water trail development throughout region 8. Ultimately they arrived at the topic of a diversified transportation system as a goal that was shared as the highest priority. Members asked; how can we connect our transportation efforts throughout the region?

A recognition was given to the reality of gaps existing in the delivery of public transportation. Those gaps impact individuals and we don't know enough about the characteristics of those individuals. What can we learn about them? Do they share common characteristics?

Could a plan be developed to fill the gaps in the public transportation system? What do we need?

R.Wade commented that she sees transportation as the greatest barrier for the access to human services. The various United Way organizations acknowledge this fact. The lack of reliable transportation is impeding the progress of people and likely produces more economic friction than any other topic we could address.

There is a logical transition from our 2015 RPI projects into our Talent Match project. We should continue to reinforce the progression we are making into our 2017 project.

Low to middle income people would be helped by a better transportation network throughout the region. Business owners would also be helped with a more reliable flow of labor. There would be better access to recreational opportunities.

**The big idea? – Generally:** pursue goal #1 but more from the standpoint of improving economic and human resource opportunity.

**The big idea? – Specifically:** Vince, Lee, and Ken will collaborate to create the specific statement of the big idea. The draft will be shared with the rest of the subcommittee. A second subcommittee meeting (in February) is likely.