

Region 8 Prosperity Committee

Infrastructure Subcommittee – January 18, 2017

Attendees: Michael Evans, Ken Jones, Jon Start, Therese Cody, Pat Karr, Barbara Rose Vince Carahaly, John Egelhaaf, Lee Adams

The infrastructure subcommittee was convened to discuss the 2017 RPI Infrastructure Priority Goals. After some discussion the group found that goal #2 regarding effective and efficient transportation of people was widely supported.

2. Advance the effective and efficient transportation of people

- Promote maintenance and improvement of the existing freeway system and connecting roads
- Encourage passenger rail as a viable transportation option for inter and inner regional movement
- Encourage aviation to better support passenger transportation
- Promote coordination of regional mass transportation (e.g., use existing transportation asset inventory)
- Promote non-motorized transportation options

Subcommittee members questioned how the RPI could do something substantive regarding this very large need. J. Start pointed out that we have opportunities to move people between homes and jobs and other assets better and that we can interact with other RPI subcommittees better if we made goal #2 our mutual focus.

We become more prosperous as a region if we move people more effectively. —Coordination between public transportation service areas is regional mass transportation. Coordination may be about coordination both at the provider level and at the user level. In order to coordinate we need to better understand where the existing gaps are.

Another option is to focus on policy. The types of transportation modes are becoming more diverse. We tend to divide modes into “motorized” and “non-motorized” but what about modes that tend to bridge those definitions? Modes like electric bicycles do that.

We can focus on generating a definitive inventory of existing infrastructure on the ground. That inventory could lead to a more strategic advocacy for new infrastructure that connects. Rail infrastructure should be included in that.

Other questions were raised regarding what qualifies as infrastructure. Should bike racks, bus shelters, and other similar amenities be included?

The big idea? – Generally: pursue goal #2 Consider existing transportation infrastructure and how we might provide choice for linkages or other modes where gaps exist.

The big idea? – Specifically: Identify a specific systemic gap in our transportation infrastructure. Develop a strategy to fill that gap. Begin to implement the strategy.

Examples: Implement a region-wide system of ridesharing through Uber, Lyft or a similar business model. Identify opportunities for contiguous on-road, non-motorized infrastructure that allow for uninterrupted non-motorized travel across the entire region, north to south, east to west. Analyze existing infrastructure, identify the best opportunity, locate the existing gaps, develop a strategy of policy, public marketing, and investment to complete the network.