

# Agenda Item Number 11.

## Board Planning Session

**Presenter:** George Kloeppel

**Action Recommended:** Identify Possible LCOG Initiatives

**Background:**

Approximately two and a half hours of the Board's September 24 meeting will be dedicated to a Planning Session. In some respects, it is intended that this Session will be a follow-up to the Board's work last February, which asked the question, "*What can the LCOG Board of Directors do to enhance the quality of life in the region?*" But this month's Session also represents a fresh approach. The product of the Board's work on the 24<sup>th</sup> will provide guidance and direction to the Executive Committee and staff on one, two or three areas of new or increased emphasis—initiatives.

To inform and jump-start this month's Planning Session, Ann Mortenson poled all members of the Board, asking about the most important issues in their local environments. The results of that survey are attached. We have taken the liberty of grouping the issues-statements into five broad categories. But of course, they "spill over" and mix with other issues.

After a light supper that begins at 5:30 and the Board's short business meeting, beginning at 6:00, the Planning Session will begin. That should be about 6:30. As planned, the Session will have three basic components:

A. Review the Data

We would begin with an overview and discussion around the issues that were identified by Board members. I could lead that discussion and the object would be to clarify the issues and to refine the groupings. Certainly, additional points could be raised, but fundamentally this step would be to set the stage the small group discussion of what can be done. This first step would probably take 35-45 minutes.

## B. Small Groups—Identify the Desirable Outcomes

The Board members present will have been pre-assigned to participate in one of four groups—probably four or five persons per group—whose task it will be to focus on desired outcomes. The rubrics for the small group discussion will not constrain the discussion to what LCOG can do, but rather encourage the identification of where we want to be in each of the five broad categories of issues. Each category can only get 10 to 15 minutes of discussion, so the groups’ activity will have to “move right along.” This middle section of the Session is critical. A skilled staff member will be facilitating each of the groups. As the Executive Committee has observed, it will be important to have the four groups move past complaining about what is wrong (the issues) and get to a collective sense of what is desired (an outcome). Think about this as time to share your King- or Queen-for-a-Day statements.... *If I was king, here is how it would be...* The groups would be asked to identify, and later report to the full Board, five visions for a better community—their visions might represent one aspect from each category of issues, or five visions from a single category. But the group members need to agree. The small group discussions will probably take an hour.

## C. Refine, Prioritize, Actualize

Reassembled as the full Board, a representative of each of the four groups would report out their four visions—no debate, just a report. These will be captured on white board or chart pack and, taken together, would represent the twenty possible initiatives toward substantive community betterment that the decision makers of the region envision for the future. While there might be some duplication that would reduce the number, the captured visions will be powerful. They say: *This is where we want to be*. It is expected that the reporting will consume no more than 20 minutes.

Then, the two questions for the full Board’s consideration would be: (1) Which of the 20 visions are suited for regional (multi-jurisdictional, perhaps multi-sector) attention? And (2) Which, if any, of those are suited for LCOG to play a role moving toward the desired outcomes? While important and valuable, some of the twenty will probably not meet both of these criteria. But the Board as a whole is asked to process the visions, and identify two or three of those as pertinent for LCOG’s consideration. These should be those key initiatives that are appropriate for a genuine commitment of time, energy and money. That will give the Executive Committee something manageable to work with and to report back to the full

Board at the December meeting. We have promised to end the meeting by 9:00, so there will be only about 30 to 45 minutes to work with.

Even with two and a half hours, this Planning Session design is asking a lot of participating Board members. The Executive Committee was clear in stating that it is better to carry the planning process over and do it right than it is to rush a conclusion because of the press of time. After all, planning is an ongoing adventure, and there will be plenty of time to identify the most constructive results.