

Appendix 11: Community Choices

VISION 2030: SHAPING OUR REGION'S FUTURE TOGETHER
FINAL REPORT

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Results of Community Choices

On September 18, 2002, Community Choices was conducted as a forum for collecting comments on the core values, vision statements and strategies developed for Vision 2030. Residents from throughout the region attended. The forum was divided into two sections: assembly and small group workshop.

The opening 45-minute assembly provided an overview of Vision 2030. Next, the participants worked in small groups for one hour to discuss in detail the core values, vision statements, and strategies and share their comments. All comments were documented by the group's facilitator on flipchart paper as well as on a tape recorder.

The participants selected which of the four small groups in which they would work. The four groups and the associated visions discussed during the workshop are listed below.

- Economic Development and Education (Economic Development, Redevelopment, Farmland and Agriculture, and Education)
- Environment (Environment, Land Use, Parks and Open Space, and Neighborhood and Community Character)
- Livable Communities (Housing, Social Issues, Public Safety and Crime Reduction, and Health)
- Transportation and Government and Public Policy (Transportation and Government and Public Policy)

The small group workshops resulted in valuable discussions of the core values, vision statements, and strategies. The vast majority of participants supported the core values, vision statements, and strategies that were developed for Vision 2030 and made suggestions for refining them further. The following section includes the detailed output from each of the small groups.

Many of the comments refer to a specific core values, vision statements, or strategies. The code numbers cited in the comments refer to specific core values, vision statements, and strategies in the Community Choices handout, which was distributed to all participants. Please use the handout for reference.

Participants were also given comment cards to submit additional comments or reactions. These comments are included below.

Group 1: Economic Development and Education

Economic Development

1. A2 – No conflict between business-friendly & environmentally-friendly (A5)
2. Replace “well-paying with “fair living wage”
3. Skills training & education is vital to economic development

4. Work ethic needs to be taught by families & other venues not just formal education
5. A7 supports A5
6. Even successful students w/ good educations can't find jobs in the region – moving out
7. Nothing in strategies talks about creating: living wage jobs” vs. “dead-end jobs”

Redevelopment

1. Can't control movement of people in the region, must plan now for transportation
2. Transit \$ should go to areas that want it
3. B3 – What are the priorities – need clarity do all counties have to agree
4. Need to plan transit because work and residents are separate
5. Harford and Carroll are going to get ripped if they don't start to plan and get alternatives to autos

Farmland and Agriculture

1. Support for B1 and B2 for farm and Ag

Education

1. Must also teach values in school
2. EDU A1 – critical to interactive w/ students for value education
3. Education = get jobs and crime
4. Seems to be a gap between K-12 and E.D. A1
5. No strategy seems to try and leverage existing educational institutions – local people can/should take advantage
6. Parent participation in educations is key to success of student – how to do it? How do they become part? Parents need to participate and be accountable
7. Need sense of shared value in education between teachers and parents
8. No focus on corporate and educational sabbatical
9. Need to incorporate multicultural/language education
10. A2 & A5 (education) get institutions of higher learning from region involved as well as companies
11. Need incentives to working in urban schools (higher pay, mentors etc.)
12. A2 (educate) community needs to reach out to school rather than waiting for school to take first step.
13. County Gov't is huge and local Gov't is small, so education is highly centralized – maybe not the best system – bureaucratic
14. Vision has to get to state level to overcome parochialism at local level

General Comments

1. Need to examine relationship between economic development and education w/ crime and drugs
2. Drugs are currency
3. Issues are complicated and its nice to see people talking about it now
4. We need to really identify and address the obstacles and problems that prevent us from moving forward need to make and implement a game plan to attack problems
5. Need regional solutions among regional partners not the state
6. Need stronger legislation to solve social problems/crime
7. Takes state dollars to fund regional incentives

Group 2: Environment

Environment

1. Relationship between neighborhoods and Chesapeake Bay help restore, protect, etc. A1 is unclear, should the statement include site and building efficiency, Gov't and communities all-inclusive should address it. Include fuel, heating, renewable energy which is in addition to energy efficiency for example solar energy.
2. Educational and incentive programs that support energy conservation
3. Encourage builders to leave trees – do not allow builders to clear cut lots and building sites
4. Include drinking water ensure covered in blanket statement of water
5. Create a program which rewards companies for responsible environmental stewardship
6. The bay is important and should be a strategy of its own
7. Restore levels established by Chesapeake Bay Agreement and extent up to 2030 and continue to improve upon its condition

Land Use

1. Require developers to develop habitat plans for all sites
2. C1 defining of Baltimore regional rail system plan

Parks and Open Space

1. Bikeways to connect communities workplaces and recreation sites

Neighborhood and Community Character

1. Verbs and language used in E1 change examine to adopt, should read, adopt zoning for. . .
2. Include walkable and bikable transportation routes
3. E3 promote bikeways passageways over main trans. arteries

General Comments

1. Keep vision statement B in the environmental section
2. Insert public officials before individuals

Group 3: Livable Communities

Housing

1. A3 Disturbed in telephone survey, many people didn't want to see changes in rural and economic diversity of neighborhoods
2. A6 – aid to fixed income people who want to remain in their homes
3. People oppose development of low income affordable housing
4. A1 Monetary price more affordable housing. Required lower income/same quality of housing
5. Old people are left behind/poor people spruce up their home. No equity.
6. Old heating/plumbing systems
7. Housing strategies are based on market realities
8. Home owners with aging houses
9. Absented landlords must take care of their property. Don't want to destroy cities and communities because of absent minded landlords

Social Issues

1. Racially and economically diverse neighborhoods – B3
2. Aging fixed population – helping people
3. B3 We are becoming more racially diverse. People are afraid of dugs due to public transportation
4. “Not in my backyard”. People should earn their way. Baltimore sued by ACEU. Worst cities in terms of diversity cities are very economically and racially segregated
5. B2 Not an exciting place to spend money, underground, won't win votes
6. B2 Drought awful on facilities
7. B2 Howard County – New water main infrastructure. They will pay. Have notes on lower end of scale. Catonsville is paying for Howard County water mains. Catonsville is not getting new water, haves vs. have nots
8. Pilot programs. Juveniles work w/ people their victimizing. Not system wide. Harder to maintain
9. Drug dealers' are talking to people in neighborhoods. Dialogue. They each explain their situation. Communities and drug dealers.
10. Drug dealers. Are kids being listened to, how do they get to the crime
11. A lot of communication between person and the “corner” and the neighborhood. No police presence. Police can't make things happen. Conversations w/ drug dealers have been tried.

12. Kids need an alternative to jail time, jail time does not work for rehabilitation
13. B3 Mass exodus of black middle class in the 70's into Baltimore County. Need to have opportunity to move out. Must see a way out.
14. B3 Recreation can be an excellent tool. We need it. When recreation closed down there was no place for kids to go, Baltimore City and County affect one another
15. Better public transportation
16. Vested interest in community = sense of self worth

Public Safety and Crime Reduction

1. Public safety
2. Reducing fear (C) of crime and drugs
3. Crime reduction – mediation – neighbor to neighbor or victim to offender reconciliation programs
4. Adequate public facilities (schools, parks, playgrounds etc. . .)
5. A lot of people want to be in a safe neighborhood
6. Baltimore county constituents scream about public facilities. Playgrounds . . . aging sewer. Are they adequate enough? Can't stay economically viable if you don't have adequate facilities
7. C4 Public safety law problem, time for strategy changes
8. There are not adequate public facilities, if we make recreational opportunities and alternatives to drugs the kids of Baltimore should not get in trouble.
9. No support for these extracurricular neighborhoods. Communities need another presence other than police, maybe block watch or community associations

Health

1. Health strategies (D) drug treatment
2. Undesirables fall in same category, facilities in a mixed use environment will increase
3. Universal healthcare – money for drug treatment. Organizational healthcare for all.
4. Drug treatment – people need to be willing to go
5. Treatment slots – not enough, too expensive. Do they cost money?
6. More slots, affordable – don't have money
7. High % of people supported drug treatment, do people support treatment facilities in their communities
8. Not in my backyard people don't want to live next to a Meth clinic
9. We really believe in it. Need policies. Don't congregate. How Meth clinics operate? Safety.
10. Residential areas may not be the best place for drug facilities

Group 4: Transportation and Government and Public Policy**Transportation**

1. T1 Funding is not adequate, there is a proposal for dedicated sources, instead take out dedicated source
2. Need to think about transporting goals and hazardous materials in a different way, this is missing from strategies
3. There is an archaic tax on rails now – need to look at this – impending ability to have more rail miles – unnecessary taxes on rails
4. Need a legal structure for rail companies to acquire right of ways
5. Need coordinated approach to all transportation planning to create synergies coordinating modes and jurisdictions. Rail system plans do not address goods and transportation, could save money
6. All of this impact public health
7. Public transit needs to be time compatible with the automobile, this is part of Baltimore’s regional rail plan, although it first implies keeping all modes of trans. Fast
8. T7 Leaves out the eastern side of region – they are in the rail plan, not here, needs to be more connected
9. No more at grad rail systems
10. Baltimore regional rail plan is based on outdated travel patterns
11. T8 Does not address this, and needs to emphasize the importance of time compatibility, some say rail plan is the way to go, jobs are still in the city
12. T5 What are “new projects” needs to be specific
13. T6 What are alternative modes – what is important is moving volumes of people more efficiently
14. We can afford to set aside land to go beyond the rail plan – need to be prepared to go beyond the rail plan
15. Need to expand the rail system plan and only implement part of it in next thirty years
16. Too different to buy transit cards
17. Need better connections between systems and jurisdictions
18. Van services that exist are too expensive, no accessibility to certain people because of cost
19. Need to encourage more entrepreneurs in transit
20. Make a transit card currency for the region
21. T8 needs to say more about connecting systems and jurisdictions
22. More communication between jurisdictional bodies that control transportation
23. Need more information for public on options, perhaps a state atlas that shows all of the state transportation options
24. Need to add strategy about the need for more public information, maps on each bus showing the whole trans. route etc. . .
25. Need to invite people into the process of transportation funding

26. Need to provide transit access that is not intrusive
27. Need more information about transit, transit does not cause crime

Government and Public Policy

1. Address private and public connections, don't drive private curators out of business
2. Not enough emphasis in vision statement about selling programs and getting citizens to buy-in
3. Necessary to have a private advocacy group to go ahead with planning – add advocacy groups to the strategies
4. Should and existing group take this on – why start a new organization
5. Core value participation – not everyone want this need to establish the vision, and communicate it to the public officials. So people don't have to do this
6. Should expect public officials to listen
7. Core value should be that people are involved actively in civic life
8. Need something that involves citizens and politicians in issues other than transportation
9. Need specific goals and show how to get there. Also need a pitch to the public, show the public the benefits of implementation
10. Should campaign finance reform be addressed here?
11. Need to look at unintended consequences of plans
12. Need to propose initiatives addressing the issues in the vision
13. Rather than a new entity – consolidate entities – more coherent approach
14. Need to say something about outreach to involve more people
15. If it is more political, more people would be involved
16. Educate people in the region about what a region is, transportation too

Vision 2030 Community Choices Comment Cards

The following were transcribed from Community Choices comment cards.

- Economic Development – 1) Emphasis on partnerships between industry and education to identify needed skills. 2) Provide training for these skills in schools and as continuing education. 3) Provide Co-op work programs related to education A4.
- Partnering Skills – Teach parents and require parent participation in education. This is great, but how can you do this? Provide evening programs to train parents in how to help their children. Developing plans for redevelopment is critical.
- A very good discussion, very enjoyable, but plowing fields already planted. Need to give people a perspective and an outcome to

follow. Does the vision for development and education address the concerns and needs of the region?

- The strategies listed under education are key to school reform. Integration of school, parent community and local economic community.
- Page 8. Is K-16 intended to be K-12? Or are we saying that we have raised our expectation to include a college degree? If so is that practical to expect all children to obtain a college degree? Or are we precluding the need for qualified tradesmen/women in fields of endeavor, which pay good wages?
- Page 7. A2 + Page 9 A5. Can we achieve one without it being at the expense of the other? Perhaps a business friendly climate needs some minor definition.
- A7 Economic Development – This recommends something that already exists. There is the state workforce development board (GWIB) and local boards (BWIB)
- Education – While the vision mentions pre K-16, but the strategies focus on K-12. What about early childhood education and development and higher education? Shouldn't higher education be expected to offer programs consistently with the economic development directions of the region?
- We need to recognize that the job opportunities of 30 yrs. do not exist. We need to find ways to allow people to make the same kind of living that existed for people in those areas 30 yrs. ago, but based on today's job opportunities.
- Under transportation, I think a major strategy needs to be a comprehensive restructuring of existing bus routes to make them more comprehensible and efficient. Under Gov't and Public Policy, I think a strategy needs to include regionally based funding strategies (such as arts, culture, etc. . .). Farmland and Agriculture should be included under the environment thematic area. Beware the wordsmith taking place at the 9/18 meeting adds specifics that narrow the scope of the plan. While large portions of the public weren't in support of expanded transit, they want others to use transit so we need to expand transit.
- A3 Educational information for the public and elected officials
- B Farmlands and Agriculture move to economic development. I can see the economic connection, however, "Chesapeake Bay Watershed protection goals and policies" belong to the environment section. Also the word watershed should include the term drinking water if we specifically mention the Chesapeake Bay. I agree with the group made and didn't make.
- An exceptional vision and process. Bravo to ACP and all those involved. Thank you for the opportunity to participate.
- Retain vision statement B and strengthen language-supporting stewardship of Bay. Environmental issues should not be seen as impediments to regional growth, but viewed as integral to

economic growth and sustainability within the region. As an example, the growth of farmers markets in the state can make farming a sustainable business. As a sustainable business the land would not need to be sold to likely developers. Adding comments supporting Bay stewardship will help ensure that a healthy farm economy is not injurious to the Bay.

- I would hate to see farmland viewed as only an economic issue!! Its impact on the environment is worth noting.
- This is a wonderful vision I surely hope we can obtain.
- Farmland and Agriculture seem to involve more environmental issues than economic development. I would suggest it be moved back to environmental. Also I would suggest habitat conservation as an environmental principle included in the A vision statement.
- It was interesting to hear about the telephone survey results in detail. It is exciting that this is happening. Why haven't I heard about it sooner? Why aren't their hundreds of people here? The facilitator was not comfortable and read the script the whole time; this was not comfortable as a participant.