

OurGrowthPlan.com launched to provide information on Regional Growth Planning Process

- **Public Meeting will be streamed live at www.OurGrowthPlan.com**

Chattanooga, Tennessee (November 16, 2011). People interested in learning more about the Regional Growth Planning process are invited to visit www.OurGrowthPlan.com, a new web site that provides information about the initiative. The web site will also feature a live web cast of the public meeting about the Regional Growth Planning Process, which will be held on Nov. 17, 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the Chattanooga Hotel.

People, who cannot attend the public meeting are invited to view the live web cast. Those who would like to attend in person are asked to RSVP to events@chattanoogachamber.com and include your name, company/organizational affiliation, phone number, and email address with your message.

In addition to learning more about the effort to engage people across the region in charting a course for the future, attendees will have a front row seat as three expert teams present their qualifications for facilitating the Regional Growth Planning Process. Public feedback on the expert teams will help determine which of them will coordinate the initiative.

The three finalist teams are:

- Wallace Roberts & Todd; Gresham Smith & Partners; PlaceMatters; Ann Coulter; Neathawk Dubuque & Packett; Center for Regional Economic Competitiveness; Center for Neighborhood Technology; Leslee T. Alexander Consulting; Constructive Technologies Group; and RERC Strategic Advisors.
- McBride Dale Clarion; Clarion Associates; Fregonese Associates; Kimley-Horn and Associates; Brown Pearman Russell; BAE Urban Economics; Opticos Design, Inc; Ann Coulter; PlaceMatters; The Ochs Center for Metropolitan Studies; and Neathawk Dubuque & Packett.
- Renaissance Planning Group; Cambridge Systematics; ICF International; Barge, Waggoner, Sumner & Cannon; Ann Coulter; Neathawk Dubuque & Packett; Robert Grow Consulting; and The Ochs Center for Metropolitan Studies.

All of the finalist teams include local firms, and the companies that comprise the teams reflect the depth and breadth of experience necessary to complete a truly comprehensive regional planning process, including expertise in community engagement, many different types of planning, financial analysis, data collection, and the establishment of community metrics.

Following the public meeting on Nov. 17, the stakeholder group which has been working to launch the regional growth planning process will weigh public feedback and other requirements set forth in the selection process to determine which of the finalist teams will coordinate the effort with the aim of starting the process during the first part of 2012.

Regional Growth Planning Process Q&A

- 1) Which counties are included in the footprint for the planning process?
 - *Alabama Counties:* DeKalb and Jackson
 - *Georgia Counties:* Catoosa, Dade, Murray, Walker, Whitfield (anchored by City of Dalton)
 - *Tennessee Counties:* Bledsoe, Bradley (anchored by City of Cleveland), Hamilton (anchored by City of Chattanooga), Marion, McMinn, Meigs, Polk, Rhea and Sequatchie

- 2) What organizations and companies have participated in the stakeholder group to launch the process?

The stakeholder group that has come together to fund and launch the regional growth planning process consists of strong representation from local government, business, and philanthropy including:

City of Chattanooga, Hamilton County, City of Cleveland, Bradley County, Whitfield County, Top of Alabama Regional Council of Governments, Chattanooga-Hamilton County Regional Planning Agency, EPB, Northwest Georgia Regional Commission, Southeast Tennessee Development District, Urban League of Greater Chattanooga, Benwood Foundation, Community Foundation of Greater Chattanooga, Lyndhurst Foundation, Maclellan Foundation, CBL and Associates, Chattanooga Area Chamber of Commerce, BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee, McKee Foods, Greater Dalton Chamber of Commerce, Shaw Industries, Cleveland-Bradley Chamber of Commerce, Unum, and CreateHere.

- 3) What's the value to citizens?

- A process for effectively managing the accelerated growth the region is already experiencing through unprecedented investments by a number of industries.
- A voice in planning how the region can be more prosperous and generate added economic opportunities for ourselves and our children.
- A forum for better understanding the region's "big picture" and expressing our ideas, values and priorities.
- The opportunity to join with others in maintaining and enhancing what makes our communities special.

- 4) What's the value for business?

- Increased community awareness about public investment decisions that support business growth.
- Greater predictability in future public investments that affect business planning.
- Improved local government collaboration across jurisdictional lines that increases efficiency and minimizes public service costs.

- 5) What's the value for local governments?

- Playing a lead role in creating an economic legacy of job creation rooted in regional cooperation that ensures continuing prosperity for generations.
- Improving financial stewardship by aligning public spending with constituent priorities, values and ideas as expressed during the planning process.
- Communicating with residents about the challenges they share with people across the region and engaging them in developing broadly supported solutions.
- Coordinating with neighboring jurisdictions in order to focus on the most impactful efforts that benefit the most citizens for the least cost.