

Nebraska Innovation Zone Commission
Visioning Session
9:00am, November 9, 2006
National Guard Camp Ashland – Ashland, NE.

Commissioner Attending: David Potter, Marsha Babcock, Inez Boyd, Ron Melbye, John Plucknett, Jim Grotrian, Phil Mullin, Dean Bussing, Ken Svoboda, Marlin Petermann, Brenda Gunn, Tim Gilligan, Lisa Johns for Senator-Elect Tim Gay, Kathy McKillip – NIZC Executive Director, Richard Baier – NEDED, Christian Hornbaker - NEDED

Members Excused: Mary Ann Borgeson, Kyle Hutchings, Jeff Quist, Jeff Weak, Dave Nielsen, Phil Mullin, Bob Workman

Visitors: Whitney Bumgarner, Sue Brauckmuller, Glenn Johnson, Shirley Niemeyer, Joe Duggan, Scott Voichoskie, Jack Stannard, Rodney Verhoeff, Roberta Pinkerton,

Chairman Ken Svoboda welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 9:05AM.

Kathy McKillip, NIZC Executive Director, then took the Commission roll call at 9:05AM.

Approval of the Agenda

Chairman Svoboda asked for approval of the agenda as distributed. *Motion made by Commissioner Melbye and 2nd by Commissioner Grotrian to approve the agenda as distributed. Motion approved by consent.*

To Date: The NIZC Committee structure with community member input has been strong.

Four Key Committee's: Infrastructure & Planning, Transportation & Logistics, Economic Development & Marketing, Tourism, Environmental & Recreation.

Issues of Interest:

1. Tax Increment Financing for Counties in collaboration and support from cities.
2. Conservation Overlay District & protection for Exit 426.
3. Economic Development Tax Incentive package for development for key interchanges; Ashland-Greenwood, and Gretna
4. Funding for an initial regional comprehensive plan for the I-80 corridor.
5. Funding request for a two-year continuation of the Nebraska Innovation Zone Commission
6. Funding request for support towards the Environmental Carrying Capacity Study – Phase II
7. Regional partnerships for an Infrastructure Development incentive package.
8. Transferable State Sales Tax Credit for donated Conservation Easements.

The Commission continues to develop a Community Guidebook for Planning, to have available to communities within the Corridor, to better assist with planning for regional growth and development.

Key Issues from Visioning Session:

1. Economic Development Financing tools (Combine #'s 1, 3 & 8 from above into one piece).
2. Conservation Overlay District
3. Funding for an initial comprehensive plan for the I-80 Corridor, including an environmental protection component
4. Funding request for a 2-year continuation of the Nebraska Innovation Zone Commission
5. Transferable State Sales Tax Credit for Donated Conservation Easements.
6. Transfer of Development Rights.

Single most important issue;

“To secure funding for the creation of a regional comprehensive plan”.

Key Areas: Future land use, Environmental protection, Infrastructure development and current inventory, demographic trends, public input/opinion/participation, and implementation and recommendations.

Concerns: Funding, plan could easily cost \$500,000, county/community buy-in with funding and social capital support, budget issues, commitment from higher education institutions and participation in process

Suggestions for 2007:

1. Maintain NIZC Committee's as needed.
2. Create an information sheet for Senator's regarding NIZC's areas of concern/interest
3. Annual Report due in February, 2007
4. Continue working with the private sector for outside resources, in-kind donations and funding opportunities

Current collective list from NIZC I-80 Ideas.com

Joint Utility District
Water Museum – Planet Water
Conservation Overlay District – with Design Standards
Centrally located – GIS System

Wind Tower section along Corridor
Architectural Wonder – like Space Needle
Hwy 6 – Scenic Hwy designation – parkway
Preserving and promoting Natural Beauty
Small private or regional airport
Safe Traffic Flow
Transportation safety within the Corridor
Improved Transportation Options
Public Transportation System
Coordinated and well-planned Utility district/Infrastructures
Water services and resources readily available
Efficient Growth near existing communities
Funding? What can we do to have better funding for Growth?
Limit Urban Sprawl, acreages and prepare for planned Growth
Maintain Town/Community Identities
Present a “Front Door” for Nebraska
Corridor should be a State Asset
Design standards and uniformed Development regarding, Architecture, land use and regulations
Protect the Platte
Renewable Energy – Research Center one-of-a-kind in the Nation
Regional Comprehensive Plan
Technology Components – High Tech Center
Create an entity that can assist with the Development at Key Intersections
Tourism Opportunities build and expand and tie into Local Communities
Pro Rail – Rail Commuter Service
Place a Commuter Train lane in Center of I-80
Protect and create projects that Enhance the Scenic Beauty
NASCAR Track, Drag racing, ATV Trails
Expand and Protect Schramm State Park
Increase and Develop specific Camps; Technology, Politics, Science, Arts for middle-school through college
Theme Park or Amusement Park - A place for families
Creative a Progressive Image for the Region and the State
Water Park
Bio Fuels and Water Independent Energies
Incentive Package for Retiree’s to Stay in the Nebraska
Outdoor Amphitheater
Music Corridor
Weather Museum – because we get it all but Hurricanes
Change the Name of the 2 Cities to Lomaha
BIG Recreational Lake
Boating Opportunities
Trails: Bike, Pedestrian, Horse, ATV
X-Games Facility
NFL Franchise

National Network – BBN, Berkshire Buffet Network (on economics) for young adults,
Race Track
TIF Incentive packages for Counties/Cities
Regional Infrastructure Plan
Incentive Packages for development that is for Best Land Use

The Session ended at 11:55AM.