



Memorandum

To: Lee's Summit 360° Stakeholders
From: Derek Okubo, National Civic League
Date: February 24, 2009
Re: This Past Meeting, Next Meeting

Great work in continuing to move this project ahead! I truly appreciated and admired people bringing up tough points, sharing their thoughts and providing suggestions to help strengthen the plans that are emerging. This process is about working together to try to create win-win situations wherever possible. Doing so is challenging – that is the value in the effort we put forth in building consensus. You are becoming the proof that communities that can deal with difference in a constructive way are those communities that will blaze the trail for others in the future.

I especially appreciated the challenging discussion regarding the airport. To have so many vocal opinions on the topic revealed that the transportation KPA did an excellent job in bringing the issue forward. Stakeholders did a fine job in remaining civil and sharing their points of view. Following the meeting, stakeholders holding different perspectives sat down with KPA co-chair James Freeman and came to agreement on how to move forward with the issue in the plan. This display again validated my feelings about the individuals in this community and demonstrated why this process has been so successful in the past.

At our last meeting, you provided the six KPAs with the support and input on their goals and strategies. Some KPAs were further along than others – which is entirely normal at this stage. The next stage will focus on the implementation details – the suggested “big” action steps, implementers, time ranges, and resource options.

You will recall the City and County of Broomfield example that I provided at the kick-off meeting. I am again attaching their actual plan as an example of what the implementation details looks like:

KPA: Sense of Community

Priority Issue: Create the City and County of Broomfield.

Rationale: The city is currently split among 4 counties complicating service delivery and dividing the community. Channels for participation at the county level are fragmented and effectiveness is diluted. Creating a city and county of Broomfield will provide more efficient services and eliminate duplication and overlap. Becoming a city

and county will provide Broomfield with one constituency, fiscal parity, unified priorities, and common values.

Strategy: Initiate the process to form the City and County of Broomfield

Action Step #1: Determine required steps under Colorado law to establish a city/county.

Implementer: City Attorney

Resources: No additional resource required

Timeline: July 1, 1996

Action Step #2: Assess financial feasibility of providing county services

Implementer: City Manager, staff

Resources: Maximum cost of \$48,770 authorized by Council

Timeline: July 1, 1996

Action Step #3: Gauge citizen desire to establish Broomfield as a City/County by placing an advisory question on the 11/96 ballot

Implementer: City Council, citizens

Resources: None required

Timeline: November 5, 1996

Action Step #4: Pursue initiation of a statewide ballot issue through the petition process leading to a statewide vote in 11/98

Implementers: City Council, Citizens

Resources: None yet identified

Timeline: 11/96 to 11/98

From this example, you see that even with a strategy as complex as becoming a City and County, the stakeholders from this process focused on the BIG action steps – steps that had to be taken regardless of the changing times. During implementation, there were additional steps taken, but the action steps provided the implementers with a road map in how to move this strategy ahead.

Special Note: You will notice that the timeline in this example provides dates. For your action plans, I strongly suggest providing *time ranges* (e.g., 10 months, 1 year, ongoing) instead. Also in the resources, specific amounts were identified. I suggest listing *resource options* (e.g., state funding, grants, in-kind, ballot initiatives, etc.) instead of specific amounts.

At the March 10 meeting, we will hold our last work session to focus on these implementation steps. A lot needs to be covered in these last six weeks so expect to meet in between meetings to finish up these last steps. I encourage you to be especially helpful with your KPA chairs in staying focused and in problem-solving mode – moving beyond identifying the problems and providing potential solutions.

You are all doing a fantastic job in formulating this plan. We are in the home stretch! See you all on March 10.