Alliance for Regional Development

ARCADIS



Regional Master Plan

Greater Tri-State Chicagoland Area

Second Convening Summary, November 13, 2024




Mobility & Logistics



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Mary Kathryn Kennard

Acknowledgments

The Alliance for Regional Development acknowledges the time and continued dedication of the attendees for spending their time and providing input on the future economic plan for the tri-state region.

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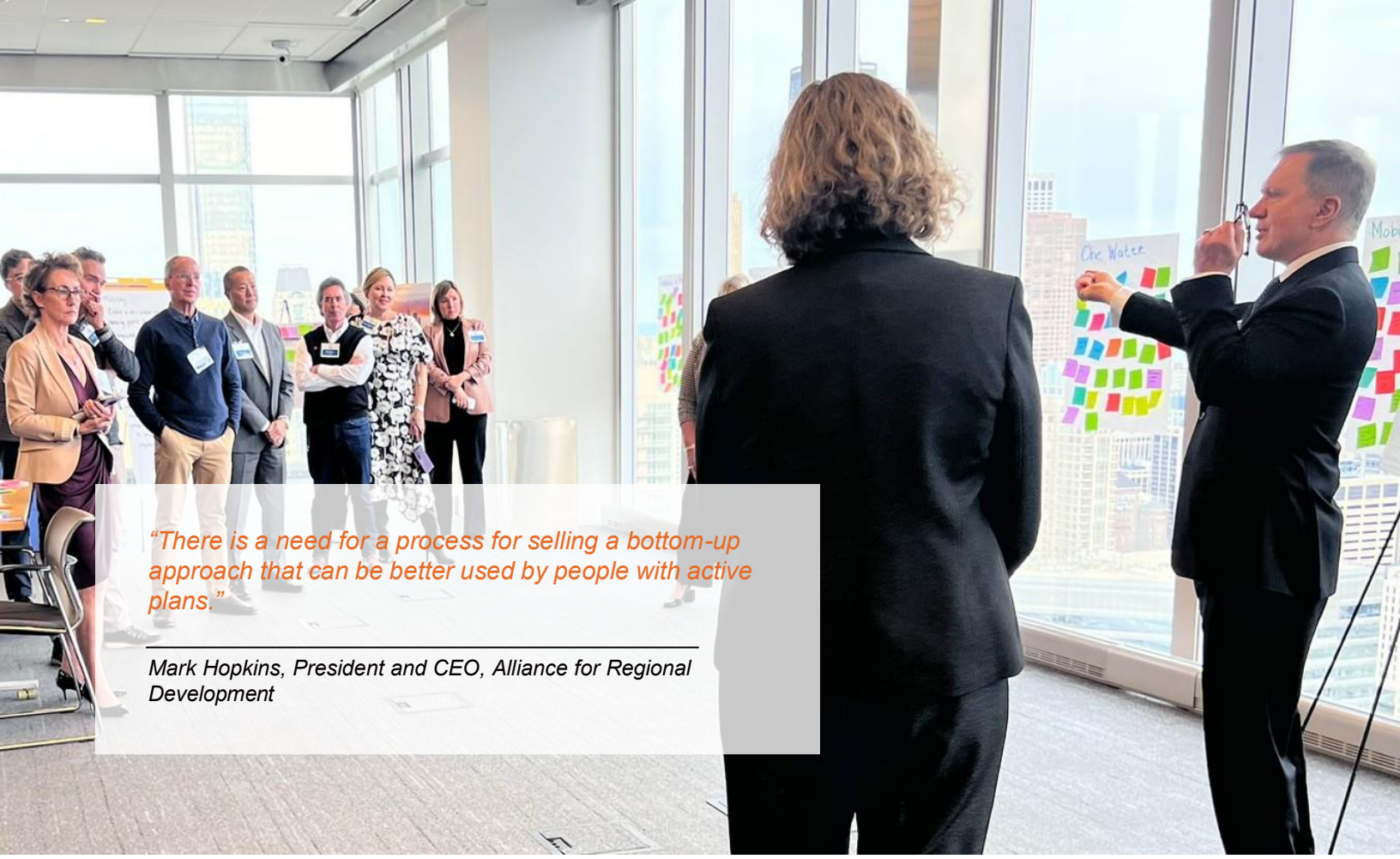

"There is a need for a process for selling a bottom-up approach that can be better used by people with active plans."

Mark Hopkins, President and CEO, Alliance for Regional Development

Foreword

First Convening

September 19, 2024
8:30-11:30am
Jenner & Block
Chicago, IL
Click here for the summary.

Second Convening

November 13, 2024
8:30-11:30am
Jenner & Block
Chicago, IL

The Greater Tri-State Chicagoland Region is at a crossroads. Multiple inflection points have recently occurred virtually simultaneously and have greatly affected the economic market in the region.

The excellent regional study conducted in 2012 by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) was the foundation on which these convenings were held. The goal of the current process was to determine if there is a need to update the previous study, and, if so, what the focus areas of the new work should be.

The conclusion was unanimous that the region is in need of a current study with the goal of identifying concrete measures that can be implemented now and in the near future to address some the most prominent shortcomings and challenges in the regional economic system.

Additionally, a revised focus on a new set of priority "pillars" was developed by the group. This document describes the process to identify and develop the new pillars and a possible path forward.

Mark Hopkins, President & CEO, Alliance for Regional Development

Executive Summary

The leaders of the Alliance of Regional Development (ARD) and the Chicago Central Area Committee (CCAC) led a second convening to discuss the next 12 to 25 years of economic development in the tri-state metropolitan economic region consisting of 21 counties in northwest Indiana, northeast Illinois and southern Wisconsin. The meeting focused on defining the framework for the new plan based on the 2012 Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) report, which identified five pillars for economic development: transportation and logistics; job skills and employment; innovation and entrepreneurship; increasing competitiveness through green growth; and effective institutional arrangements.

The participants explored new planning themes and enablers that emerged from the first convening and analyzed by Arcadis:

Draft Planning Themes

- Mobility and Logistics
- Water, Wastewater, Stormwater, and Solid Waste
- Energy
- Higher Education and Health Care
- Housing / Mixed-use / Other Development

Draft Enablers

- Resilience and Sustainability
- Governance and Policy initiatives
- investment Opportunities
- Jobs / Workforce Development
- innovation

The participants were asked to review the themes that emerged from the first convening and engaged in a constructive dialogue that highlighted both the challenges and opportunities unique to the region and future drivers of economic development. The participants discussed the importance of workforce development and quality of life in a regional strategy, suggesting that they could be super themes. Discussions also highlighted the need for political stability and the importance of leveraging natural resources and public space. The topic of agriculture and farmland preservation, the role of new technologies in indoor farming, and the importance of housing and mobility in the region, as well as the importance of infrastructure, mobility, and land use were also discussed as planning themes. The participants also touched on the need for environmental planning, particularly in relation to contaminated land, and the concept of “one water” and the need for a broader conversation about water, wastewater, salt, storm water, and solid waste management.

Based on the discussions, the group elected the following themes as framework for the regional master plan:

New Planning themes

- Mobility and Logistics
- Energy
- One Water
- Education and Workforce Development
- Land use and placemaking

New Enablers

- Quality of Life
- Natural Resources
- Governance and Policy initiatives
- Resilience and Sustainability
- investment Opportunities

Working in small groups, the participants were tasked to define each theme and its relevance in the tri-state regional area. Through the dialogues, other potential important themes emerged, including “logistics” being added to the Mobility theme. They also discussed adding particular themes around placemaking, the roles of natural resources and resilience, and the need for inclusion of sustainability into all future decision making. The participants discussed the concept of adaptive reuse and the potential for land use to be used for population benefit of future growth and enjoyment. They also touched on the topic of water, its usage, conservation, and the economic opportunities it presents. Participants highlighted the need for a regional energy grid, less wasteful energy practices, and the importance of resilience and sustainability. in this document are definitions and key points discussed for each planning theme and enabler.

The next steps for the development of the regional master plan will be conducted in smaller working groups with representation from various stakeholders. The stakeholders for each planning theme were identified by the participants as the last activity of

the convening.

Planning Themes

The following planning themes have been thoughtfully chosen during the second convening to serve as the comprehensive framework for the Regional Master Plan for the Greater Tri-State Chicagoland Area. These themes outline the major areas of interest and priority that the participants have identified as a need to foster a harmonious, vibrant, resilient, and economically dynamic region.

Mobility and Logistics: focuses on optimizing transportation systems for people and goods to promote connectivity and efficiency

Energy: aims for strategic, sustainable growth in energy sources and uses

One Water: addresses holistic water management and sustainability

Education and Workforce Development targets: lifelong learning and skills alignment with growing sectors

Land Use and Placemaking: emphasizes the strategic, sustainable, and community-driven development of physical spaces

Mobility and Logistics

The Mobility and Logistics discussion included creating a tri-state regional planning process to enhance integrated regional transit for efficient movement and connection of people and goods. Discussion highlighted the importance of promoting integrated regional transit and energy efficiency in the region. it also suggests the need for a long-term regional planning process to ensure the future of the plan is not hindered by politics. This involves long-term regional planning and the goal of improving the movement of people and goods within the region through integrated transit systems.

Key points discussed:

- Distinguishing between mobility for people and logistics for goods
- Emphasizing connectivity for quality of life
- Recognizing logistics as an industry interconnected with the energy sector
- Considering energy use by the logistics sector
- Promoting the efficient use of transportation assets
- Advocating for better regional coordination in transit
- Prioritizing the fastest and most efficient ways to move people and products while considering quality of life and other essential community factors rather than prioritizing the movement of cars

Energy

The Energy discussion focused on strategically and sustainably increasing system capacities, diversifying energy sources, and promoting more efficient and less wasteful energy use, production, transmission, and storage. The goal is to ensure continuous growth across regional priorities by optimizing energy systems and resources.

Key points discussed:

- Regional energy planning
- Reducing energy waste
- Leveraging regional assets
- Developing community-scale energy solutions
- Planning for traditional and emerging energy resources
- Emphasizing efficient energy use and preservation
- Fueling workforce and sustainability efforts
- Addressing energy storage
- Recognizing energy as both a theme and an enabler for broader regional growth priorities

One Water

Discussions around defining the theme of One Water involved various aspects related to water management, availability, affordability and sustainability in the tri-state region. it highlighted the multidimensional nature of water resources management and the importance of a comprehensive and sustainable approach towards managing water resources.

Key points discussed:

- Lessons from industry for economic development
- Watershed planning and boundaries
- The density of commercial businesses
- Fishing industries
- Ensuring clean water
- Underground water rights
- Defense and protection of water bodies like Lake Michigan
- Exploring business opportunities in water related sectors
- Addressing conflicts and political tensions related to water resources
- Utilizing water bodies as public amenities
- Promoting strategic and unified water use approaches
- identifying revenue opportunities
- Tackling water loss issues
- Managing lead contamination concerns
- Focusing on education and conservation efforts
- Addressing flooding and rain events
- Ensuring water affordability
- Considering the water cycle and quality
- Exploring resource recovery options
- implementing green infrastructure
- Promoting recreation and tourism around water bodies,
- Ensuring workforce development
- Maintaining water control and protection
- Building resilience in water management
- Establishing water usage and allocation frameworks
- Complying with water laws
- investing in water reclamation both above and underground
- Maintaining a balance in water availability
- Recognizing water as a fundamental right for all



Education and Workforce Development

The discussions surrounding the theme of Education and Workforce Development focused on various aspects related to training and equipping individuals for success in the workforce in the tri-state region. it reflect a comprehensive approach to enhancing education and workforce skills to meet the demands of a dynamic and evolving economy.

Key points discussed:

- Connecting education to growth sectors through partnerships
- Emphasizing early education including K-12 and vocational training
- Recognizing and elevating the importance of childcare and early childhood education
- Defining higher education pathways
- Highlighting the role of community colleges in training programs
- Engaging youth through organizations like the YMCA
- Promoting continuing education for all
- Advocating for proactive education initiatives
- Addressing language needs in education
- Comparing vocational and traditional education paths
- Reimagining vocational training
- Targeting immigration for human resources to attract and utilize skilled individuals from different countries to fill voids in the local workforce
- Considering workforce readiness through factors like involving parents in education initiatives
- involving parents in education initiatives
- Focusing on holistic development of individuals for lifelong success
- Emphasizing soft skills in education and the workforce
- Exploring new ways to address drug-related issues through education
- Engaging the community in youth development and philanthropic efforts
- Promoting collaboration among various stakeholders in education and workforce development initiatives

Land use and Placemaking

Discussions around defining the theme of Land Use and Placemaking needs in the tri-state area focused on public spaces that contribute to health, happiness, and well-being. These discussions revolved around optimizing physical spaces for sustainable growth and enjoyment.

Key points discussed:

- Strategically utilizing physical spaces for growth, engagement, and agriculture
- Emphasizing efficient land use, and preserving, protecting, promoting, and providing for communities, including food sources
- Fostering adaptability in land use practices
- Promoting land reuse
- Prioritizing community-driven development plans over developer-driven ones
- Establishing community centers as focal points
- Advocating for increased urban density
- Supporting access to essential services like grocery stores to avoid food deserts
- Fostering partnerships between communities and developers to enhance placemaking initiatives
- Creating vibrant and cohesive communities through thoughtful land use strategies that benefit both residents and the environment
- Connecting land uses to promote economic and health outcomes for the region



Enablers

The following themes emerged as enablers during the second convening. They are deemed as critical components that will facilitate the achievement and implementation of the regional master plan for the Greater Tri-State Chicagoland Area. Together, these enablers ensure that the essential conditions are in place to create a conducive environment for sustainable development, innovation, and overall improvement of quality of life across the tri-state region.

Quality of Life: focuses on creating safe, enjoyable, and accessible communities

Natural Resources: emphasizes the sustainable use and protection of water, land, and air

Governance and Policy Initiatives: aims for effective coordination and long-term planning

Resilience and Sustainability: addresses the capacity to withstand and adapt to shocks over the long term

Investment Opportunities: highlights strategies for attracting and maximizing returns on economic investments

Natural Resources

Discussions around defining the enabler Natural Resources focused on the sustainable utilization of water, land, and air resources in the region. These discussions underscore the significance of sustainable practices and preservation efforts to maintain the ecological balance and enhance the quality of natural resources within the region.

Key points discussed:

- Preserving water sources such as rivers and lakes
- Refocusing on the region's Great Lakes for redefined use
- Emphasizing protection efforts to safeguard natural resources
- Promoting preservation of areas for recreational activities and fostering a sense of exploration
- Preventing ecological disasters through regional awareness and accessibility
- Reclaiming natural spaces for the benefit of the environment
- Creating awareness to change behaviors related to issues like food deserts
- Recognizing the pivotal role of natural resources in shaping the region and the need to manage them responsibly for present and future generations

Quality of Life

Discussions around defining the enabler “Quality of Life” within the tri-state region encompassed various aspects that contributed to creating a thriving and livable community. These discussions reflect a comprehensive approach to improving overall well-being and creating an environment where individuals can thrive and enjoy a high quality of life.

Key points discussed:

- Addressing affordability, particularly in housing, to enhance the overall quality of life for residents
- Place-making efforts to foster safe, affordable, attractive, and enjoyable environments that ease the daily lives of residents
- Embracing a welcoming and pleasant atmosphere often described as “Midwest nice”
- Striving for a safer, cleaner, and kinder environment compared to bigger cities like New York
- Creating and promoting beautiful and accessible public spaces with park-like traits for recreation and connectivity for people of all ages
- Leveraging the flat terrain for activities like hiking
- Emphasizing the quality of place through cultural and artistic experiences
- Recognizing water as a climate change refuge
- Providing a range of desired activities and holistic approaches to community well-being
- initiatives to decrease taxes and gun violence
- Considerations for weather
- importance of leadership
- Ensuring economic opportunities
- Providing quality education
- Promoting freedom and civility
- Prioritizing sustainability
- Ensuring food access
- Celebrating uniqueness

Governance and Policy Initiatives

The Governance and Policy initiatives enabler discussion for the tri-state region emphasized the importance of robust governance and policy frameworks to enable effective decision-making, funding allocation, and strategic initiatives that drive regional development and growth.

Key points discussed:

- Establishing sustainable funding sources
- Ensuring clarity and consistency in planning processes
- Creating a bureaucracy committed beyond political cycles
- Enhancing internal coordination between different agencies
- Communicating a clear vision with public and private sector buy-in
- Setting up mechanisms for coordinating funding efforts and aligning economic incentives
- Sharing best practices
- Coordinating infrastructure projects effectively
- identifying key areas for regional coordination and collaboration
- implementing pilot projects to showcase success and build trust through demonstration of business benefits
- Considering innovative pilots like quantum projects to test new approaches and technologies.

Resilience and Sustainability

The Resilience and Sustainability enabler discussion for the tri-state region encompassed consideration of the integration of these principles into every decision-making process. By prioritizing resilience and sustainability in decision-making and planning processes, communities and organizations can better prepare for and adapt to challenges while maintaining long-term stability and durability.

Key points discussed:

- importance of having a comprehensive, accurate, and timely understanding of data-driven insights to inform resilient and sustainable strategies
- Building systems and structures that can withstand and recover from shocks and stresses
- Ensuring long-term resilience and sustainability across various time horizons of interest

Investment Opportunities

Discussions around defining the enabler investment Opportunities within the tri-state region highlighted various factors that contribute to the attractiveness of investment in a region for businesses, individuals and institutions. These discussions underscore the potential for strategic investments to drive economic development and innovation within a region.

Key points discussed:

- Acting as a connector to unite entities with shared objectives
- Presence of a diverse culture, abundant natural resources and energy
- High concentration of educational institutions, tech and innovation, finance and business, transportation hubs and the utilization of public-private partnerships (P3s)
- Long-term value capture at a regional level, leveraging momentum in emerging industries like quantum technology
- Exploring opportunities for adaptive reuse
- Targeting high-value investments with potential for significant returns on investment
- Fostering unique industry ecosystems tied to education
- Promoting collaborative investments for higher returns
- Enhancing communication strategies around potential investments
- Exploring ways to monetize water resources
- investing in energy innovation
- Considering regionalization of water utilities
- Establishing government structures to facilitate investments, ensuring coordination among government entities
- Leveraging initiatives like the Giving Pledge to attract investments from top philanthropists and foster economic growth in designated corridors.


Jeannie Krueger
Greg Hummel
ARCADIS

Stakeholders

in the development of the tri-state regional master plan, engagement of a diverse array of stakeholders will allow for all relevant perspectives and interests to be considered and foster a sense of ownership and inclusivity, reducing potential opposition to the plan and increasing the likelihood of its successful implementation. The participants of the second convening identified the majority of stakeholders identified herein and additional stakeholders were identified by Arcadis SMEs to ensure diverse representation. The stakeholders engagement means gaining valuable insights into potential challenges and opportunities that might otherwise be overlooked and having expertise to inform decisions regarding environmental, economic, and social factors. Ultimately, effective engagement of these stakeholders will lead to more balanced and well-rounded outcomes and will lay the groundwork for long-term success.

Mobility and Logistics

State/Local

- Illinois Department of Transportation - 3
- Indiana Department of Transportation
- Wisconsin Department of Transportation
- County Departments of Transportation
- Metra - Northern Indiana Commuter Transportation District
- Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) - 8
- Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP)
- Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC)
- All Transportation Planning Agencies
- Regional Economic Development Agencies
- Land Use Planning Agencies
- CREATE Representatives
- City of Madison, Kenosha and Milwaukee
- City of Gary, Hammond and East Chicago
- City of Chicago
- Kenosha Area Transit (KAT) in Kenosha
- Milwaukee County Transit System (MCTS) in Milwaukee
- Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC) for regional transportation planning
- Regional Mayors -2
- Public Universities
- University of Wisconsin
- Wisconsin Dept of Natural Resources

Federal

- DOT - 3
- Emergency Mgmt.
- Federal Highway Administration
- Federal Railroad Administration
- Federal Transit Administration
- USPS

Individuals

- Jonathan Pelfrey McArthur
- Rod Craig
- Paul Jones
- State Representative Christina Romelus
- Dorval Carter, CTA
- Jaime Rhee, Chicago Dept of Aviation
- Jason Osborn, IDOT

Private

- Agriculture workers orgs
- Griffith-Merrillville Airport Bestwright
- BNSF
- Canadian National
- CSX Corporation
- DHL
- Rural Utility Services
- Yellow Cab of Newport News
- Union Pacific
- ETC
- Private investor Groups
- UPS

Non-Profit/ Community Organizations

- Active Transportation Alliance - 3
- BND
- Center for Neighborhood Technology
- Convention Centers
- Coalition for a Modern Metra Electric (CMME)
- Civic Organizations
- Children, teens, young adults
- Commercial Club Chicago - Civic Committee - 2
- High Speed Rail Alliance
- Leaders
- Mobility Companies
- Policy Chicago
- Port Authorities
- Regional Transportation Authority - 8
- Rep. of people without cars
- Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Freight Corridor (SEWRFC)
- Water Private Companies
- WBC + Similar Orgs
- Current Water

Unknown

- Laws that outlive politicians
- Teza

One Water

State/Local

- IL Dept of Highways
- Illinois Department Natural Resources
- Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD) - 6
- Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD)
- Sweet Water (Southeastern Wisconsin Watersheds Trust)
- Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
- Municipal water utilities and conservation districts
- Native Tribes
- Indiana American Water
- Northwest Indiana Urban Waters Partnership
- Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs
- Reclamation Districts, Water
- Managers / Mayors of Villages on Lake Michigan
- City Water Depts
- Chief Sustainability Officer at City of Chicago

Federal

- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)
- United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA)
- U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Private

- Amazon - 2
- Data Centers
- Great Lakes Contortions, Interest Groups, non for profit, Civic organizations
- High Tech, Google
- industrial Large Water User
- Milwaukee Water Works
- Waste Mango Meat

Non-Profit

- Alliance for the Great Lakes
- Chicago Dept of Aviation
- Save the Dunes
- ENJOY IL (Recreation)
- Friends of Chicago River, Great Lakes
- Great Lakes Contortions, Interest Groups, non for profit, Civic organizations
- Large Private Water Companies
- Milwaukee Water Council
- Milwaukee University School of Freshwater Sciences
- Polluters
- SEWRPC's Water Center
- Social Service Agencies
- USCM Mayor Water Council

Energy

State/Local

- Wisconsin Public Service Commission (PSC)
- Focus on Energy
- Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (iURC)
- Indiana Office of Energy Development
- Illinois Commerce Commission (iCC)
- Illinois Power Agency (iPA)
- Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation (ILEC)
- Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago
- Transportation Agencies
- Department of Water Management

Federal

- Department of Energy (DOE) - 2
- Jennifer Granholm, U.S. Secretary of Energy
- P22, Argonne
- Fermi Labs
- City and county Sustainability and Climate Action Agents

Private

- Wisconsin Power and Light (WPL)
- WE Energies
- Alliant Energy
- NIPSCO (Northern Indiana Public Service Company)
- Kankakee Valley REMC
- NIPSCO Gas
- Indiana Michigan Power (I&M)
- ComEd (Commonwealth Edison)
- Nicor Gas
- North Shore Gas
- Peoples Gas
- Advanced Micro Devices (AMD)
- ALT ENERGY COMPANIES
- Big business + MFRs
- Chicago Department Public Health
- Commonwealth Edison Company (ComEd) – 5
- Problem-solvers @ Comed if they exist
- Data Center Developers
- innovative Waste to Energy Companies
- DSS
- Google Finlead
- HIGA Tech
- Large-scale Battery Manufacturers (Who?)
- Private Equity, AG, GRN ENG.
- RIVIAN, TESLA, Ford, etc.
- Solar installation Companies
- Solar Companies
- Wisconsin Energy Corporation (WEC)

Non-Profit/ Community Organizations

- Ag farms
- Metropolitan Planning Council (MPC)
- Chicago Farmers
- Chicago Clean Energy Community Foundation (ILEC)
- Environmental Groups

Education and Workforce Development

State/Local

- Chicago Public Schools (CPS)
- Higher Ed institutions
- PSi Quantum
- Small Business Association
- University and Community Partnerships for the Revitalization of Community Spaces (U&C PRCS)
- Universities, Colleges, Community Colleges
- Workforce Dev boards

Federal

- *No stakeholders mentioned belong to the Federal Agency sector.*

Private

- Ivy Tech
- Large Contractors
- Major Construction Co's
- Manufacturing sector partners, Childcare / Daycare Providers
- Public Safety
- Sheryl Curcio, Brightwater

Non-Profit

- Advocates, social workers
- Agricultural research + Dev Partners
- Archdiocese
- Big Employers
- Big Ten, Northwestern, University of Chicago University of Illinois, City Colleges
- Chicago Urban League
- Children Group Data
- City Colleges
- Community colleges
- Community centers, Rehabilitation
- Community Econ Development Teams
- Community – Based orgs with different populations
- Creating Real Economic Destiny (CRED)
- ivy Tech
- Large public-school representatives, CPS for example
- Michelle, Polaris, Navarro + other prior Golden Apple Winners
- Minority Groups
- Non-profit Providers HeadStart
- Northwestern U of Chicago (UIC)
- Other successful regions who have done this
- Regional colleges and universities
- Seniors, Moms, Differently Abled people
- Society for College and University Planning (SCUP)
- Violence Prevention groups
- Chicago Workforce Development Board
- Women's Business Center (WBC)

Land use and Placemaking

State/Local

- City Planning Agencies of larger cities in Tri-state region: City of Chicago, Milwaukee, Kenosha and Gary
- Departments of Health
- Departments of Housing & Urban Develop
- Departments of Planning and Development (DPD) - 2
- Departments of Economic Development
- Department of Agriculture
- IL Department of Highways
- Illinois Autonomous Vehicle Association
- University of Illinois at Chicago's urban planning program

Federal

- United States Department of Agriculture
- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
- U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT)
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
- U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)

Private

- Appalachian Long Distance Hikers Association (ALDA)
- American institute of Architects Chicago Chapter (AIA)
- Companies that create obstacles through utilities
- Green Developers
- Private Developers
- School groups, scouts, arts coalition
- SOM Planning
- Urban Planners private sectors

Non-Profit

- American Planning Association (APA) - 4
- Affordable Housing Developers who partner with communities
- Arts Representatives
- Civic Committee of Commercial Club
- Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning
- Congress for new urbanism Midwest section
- International Council of Shopping Centers (ICSC)
- Land Planners & Landscape Architects & Creative Developers
- National Organization of Minority Architects (NOMA)
- Planning agencies 21 Countries
- Planning Universities Students
- Political Leaders

Unknown

- Renewables non for profits or advocacy groups
- Alderman Rosana Rodriguez + team
- Civic Committee of Commercial Club
- Lambda Alpha
- Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago
- Perkins and Will
- SCB Planners
- Real Estate developers general

Appendix

Throughout the convening, participants wrote their ideas and suggestions on post-its. The succeeding pages are the transcript from all post-its collected.

Mobility and Logistics

- Mobility: Create a tri-state regional planning process to promote integrated regional transit that provides the best and fastest ways to move and connect people and goods
- Movement of people and movement of things
- Mobility = people, Logistics = things
- Connectivity to the places and things for quality of life
- Logistics as an industry connected to other industries (e.g. energy)
- Energy use by logistics industry
- Efficient use of transportation assets
- Better regional coordination for transit
- Efficient movement of people + goods
- Fastest way to move people and products (not cars)
- Promoting integrated regional transit
- Long term regional planning, Tri-state regional planning process

Energy

- Energy: Strategically and sustainably increase system capacities and varieties of energy sources toward more efficient and less wasteful use, production, transmission, and storage to ensure growth across our regional priorities
- Regional energy planning
- Reduced energy waste
- Leveraging regional assets
- Community-scale energy
- Planning, designing, investing in production, storage and transmission of traditional and emerging energy resources.
- Efficient use and preservation of energy
- Fueling workforce and sustainability and the region at large
- Storage
- Both a theme and an enabler

One Water

- Lessons from industry to help economic development.
- Watershed planning/boundaries (related to agriculture also)
- Density of commercial business
- Fishing
- Clean Water
- Underground rights
- Defense, Lake Michigan protection Business opportunities
- Conflict/political tension
- Public amenity (lakefront, riverfront)
- Strategic water use (unified approach)
- Revenue opportunity
- Water loss
- Lead issues
- Education needs
- Major flooding/rain events
- Water affordability
- Water cycle

- Price competitiveness
- Water quality
- Resource recovery
- Green infrastructure
- Recreation/tourism related to water as place-maker
- Great lakes/abundance/grate lakes compact
- Workforce development
- Water control
- Water Protection
- Resilience
- Usage/Allocation
- Water Management
- Laws
- Water reclamation above and underground
- Balance between too much and too little
- Water as a right

Education and Workforce Development

- E-training and equipping students for success
- Connecting to growth sectors (partnerships)
- Early education/K-12 vocational training
- Childcare and early education
- Childcare profession
- Higher education (define)
- Community College
- Training
- YMCA
- Youth focus K-12
- Continuing Education
- Proactive education
- Consideration of language needs in growing specialized workforce
- Vocational vs traditional educational experiences
- Reimagine vocational
- Target immigration – Human resources
- Workforce – Drug awareness and testing
- Parent education
- Whole person development for life Soft skills
- Education re imagine.
- Student Teacher interaction
- Public Private Partnerships: Youth Community + Philanthropy + City
- Collaboration

Land use and Placemaking

- Physical space used well (sustain strategically) for growth and enjoyment.
- Strategic use of physical space for growth, engagement, & agriculture!
- Making sure new planned spaces are used well – and planned efficiently.
- Preserve, protect, promote, provide (food)
- How to adapt – spaces are always changing and planning for adaptability
- Re use of brownfields and vacant land
- Community developed plans not developer plans
- Desire and need for community centers
- Promote density
- Grocery store availability
- No food desserts
- Community & Developer Partnership
- Need for passive open space in communities for health and wellness
- Not every space has to be active and developed
- Safe Communities with good connectivity
- Regional connectivity thru placemaking opportunities

Governance and Policy Initiatives

- Establish longer term sources of funding
- Clarity and consistency in planning
- Committed bureaucracy before political cycles
- internal inter-agency coordination
- Communicated clarity of vision with public and private sector commitment
- Apparatus for funding coordination & pursuit align economic incentives
- Apparatus sharing proliferation of best practice
- Coordination of infrastructure
- Define key areas of regional coordination & entry points
- Pilots to demonstrate and build on success (create trust) & demonstrate business case
- Pilot: quantum

Resilience and Sustainability

- Centered in every decision
- Complete, accurate, timely, data driven understanding
- Sustain withstand against shocks & stresses
- Over a long-term time horizon of interest

Investment Opportunities

- Connector – joining various entities w/ common goals.
- Diverse cultures
- Natural resources available
- Significant concentration of educational institutions
- Public/private partnerships (P3's)
- Value capture (long term) – regional
- We have momentum in quantum world.
- Adaptive reuse opportunities
- High value investment (potential high ROi)
- Unique emerging industry ecosystems tried to education.
- Collaborative investments -higher ROi
- Communications around potential investments
- Monetize water.
- Energy innovation – investment needed.
- Water utility regionalization
- Govt creation around investment
- Govt coordination
- Giving pledge (top investments) -corridor -philanthropists

Quality of Life

- Quality of life
- Decrease Tax
- Decrease gun violence.
- Weather
- Leadership
- Cost of living
- Economic Stability
- Right to an education
- Play space.
- Holistic
- Place making – creating community where people thrive in
- Safe
- Affordable
- Attractive
- Enjoyable
- Ease of life
- Freedom
- Civility
- Midwest nice
- Cleaner kinder than NY
- Curated
- Beautiful place
- Water – climate change refuge
- Sustainability
- Flatness
- Need hiking.
- Quality of place
- Culture and arts
- Green
- Safe
- Great spaces – Park traits – recreation - connectivity
- Things you want to do.
- Good access tofood
- Walkable
- Accessibility – all ages
- Options – amenities
- Unique
- Affordable (housing)

Natural Resources

- Use: water / land / air
- Water
- River
- Lakes
- Forests and Woodlands
- Farmlands and Agricultural resources
- Wildlife Habitats
- Air Quality
- Mineral and Energy Resources
- Region Great lates (reframe to use)
- Protect
- Preservation – places to play (sense of wander)
- Prevent ecological disaster – accessible – regional awareness.
- Reclaim – back to nature.
- Recognition – change behavior – food dessert



Alliance for Regional Development

ARCADIS