



Date: May 19, 2004

To: Inter-Regional Partnership

From: IRP Staff

RE: IRP Work Plan, Fiscal Year 2004/2005

Background

At the October 2003 IRP meeting, the IRP adopted a work plan that outlined IRP activities for the 2004/2005 fiscal year. At the last IRP meeting, staff was asked to present ideas for “future agenda items” to the IRP members. This work plan serves as a discussion pieces for those future topics.

When established in 1998, the members of the Inter-Regional Partnership identified various growth-related issues that were impacting their counties. Those issues included jobs/housing imbalance, transportation, affordable housing, air quality, and inter-regional economic development

A number of advances have been made in the last several years, not the least of which is this IRP’s ability to promote jobs/housing relationships discussions to the forefront of inter-regional planning. Statewide funding for the IRPs has provided a rich amount of data, studies and examples to work from. However, the work of this organization is far from over. Continued work on specific areas of study, as well as continued discussion among inter-regional partners is essential. Long term commitment to these issues is the only way to define the problems and find and test solutions.

Discussion

Focus Areas from Work plan

The intent of the attached work plan (adopted by the IRP in October 2003) is to continue the IRP’s efforts to address the growth-related issues impacting the IRP region. The inter-regional relationships of these issues can be examined through the discussion of jurisdictional and regional general plans, air quality reports, habitat plans, and the capital improvement plans of the five counties that make up the IRP.

The work plan is organized chronologically in a calendar format. Each IRP meeting date is listed along w/ topics for discussion. These topics relate directly to the growth impacts that have been identified as relevant to the region. These impacts include:

- Regional Land Use Patterns
- Inter-Regional Transportation
- Affordable Housing
- Economic Development
- Air Quality

Budget/Meeting Schedule

The IRP will have exhausted its State funding at the end of this fiscal year, July 2004. Beyond this point in time, the IRP funding will be limited to support from each of the COGs and any other resources that the IRP membership, with staff support, are able to muster. Staff from each of the COGs will be available to coordinate meetings, arrange for speakers and to do limited research and reporting on topics of interest.

The IRP has agreed to meet on a quarterly basis beginning August 18, 2004. At the end of the 2004/2005 fiscal year, this schedule can be re-examined to determine whether changes are necessary.

The work program provided and budget implications noted will have a direct impact on the function of the IRP. Staff believes it is in the best interest of the IRP and related partners that the IRP continue its work. To that end, staff is interested in the members support for the work program. A sorting of the agenda items and prioritizing of issues would be of great value on several fronts.

- It would provide staff with an idea of the IRP members support for continued activities
- It would provide focus to IRP fundraising efforts in terms available funding opportunities
- It would provide guidance as to the work flow for the following fiscal year and beyond.

Requested Action

1. Discuss and make recommendations to staff on priority topics for future discussion and work.
2. Direct staff on appropriate resources to pursue and discuss commitment from the participating COGs.