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***FOUR CORNERS COUNCIL***

***FOUR CORNERS ONE VISION***

***COUNTY MANAGERS AD-HOC MEETING***

***SEPTEMBER 30, 2019***

***MEETING SUMMARY***

Meeting facilitated and report prepared by

GIA Community Group and

The Florida Institute of Government at UCF

**Background**

On September 30, 2019 the County Administrators of Lake, Orange, Osceola and Polk Counties met to review and discuss an update on the Four Corners, One Vision process. The specific objectives of the meeting were to:

* Review progress in the Vision process to-date
* Review and discuss emerging Steering Committee recommendations regarding a “continuing entity”
* Discuss possible County interactions with the process going forward.

In addition to the managers, attendees included members of the Four Corners support team, Lake and Orange County staff participating on the Steering Committee or supporting the process, and the chair and staff of the Four Corners Vision Council, and a representative of Congressman Spano’s office. The agenda for the meeting was informal, and tracked the objectives listed above.

**Overview of Vision Process Activities To-Date**

Tom Kohler with GAI consultants and the support team presented information reviewing the vision process activities to-date. He began by reviewing the outcome of the October 2018 Four Corners Summit, the establishment of the Steering and Technical Committees for the process, and the participation and support received from all four Four Corners counties. The then reviewed the work of the Committees, and the emerging recommendations in the areas of design/land use harmonization, and transportation and transit, and the work to-date on the subject of affordable and workforce housing.

Tom Kohler and Rafael Montalvo then reviewed the outcome of Steering Committee discussions regarding a “continuing entity” to coordinate and promote implementation of the recommendations. They noted that the Steering Committee had outlined the following.

* A governing board composed of pubic and private sector representatives from each county
* Dedicated staff responsible to the board, to ensure coordination and follow-through (not necessarily full-time)
* County staff designated by each of the Four Corners counties to serve as liaisons to the Four Corners entity and resource and effort coordinators and point persons for their counties.
* A source of dedicated funding. The Steering Committee thought that an MSBU or MSTU would be the most feasible source in the short term.

Tom Kohler then asked the administrators for their initial reactions and suggestions.

**Administrator Discussion**

The administrators agreed that the Four Corners effort had been very effective at identifying needed coordination and developing initial responses. They agreed, however, that it would be premature to approach their boards to request support for a continuing entity at this time. The key points leading them to this conclusion were:

* The boards would be more receptive to requests for support after the effort could clearly demonstrate early successes.
* The current structure seems to be working, and should be able to deliver those successes.
* It would actually be easier for the administrators to continue funding at current or even slightly increased levels under the current structure that to seek to establish a permanent structure at this time.
* The “Four Corners” as a single place was not a frequent topic of discussion for their boards, and board members (other than those representing Four Corners districts) therefore might not have a sufficient understanding of the needs of the area and how to address them.
* Additional time and periodic updates to the boards would allow the administrators more time to develop awareness of the Four Corners and the One Vision effort among their board members.

The administrators therefore suggested the following:

* Continue the Four Corners One Vision effort for a second year under the current structure.
* Seek to demonstrate clear successes during the second year, at a minimum with the design and land use harmonization measures, and ideally with the transportation measures as well.
* Provide periodic updates to the boards, to begin once initial successes are ready.
* Stay in communication with the administrators regarding the progress of the initiative and the scheduling of updates to the boards.
* Request second year funding from the Four Counties at a level that would allow the above activities.
* Reconsider the possibility of establishing the continuing entity at the end of the second year.