

# Optimizing Our Systems

## An EQC Sustainability Principles + Performance Metrics Dialogue

This is a living document aimed at outlining a collaboration of the Environmental Quality Commission, city staff and management to identify or define sustainability principles and performance metrics that expedite the attainment of our environmental quality and sustainability goals. It is intended to accommodate the addition of questions and topics to build consensus on a path to sustainable resiliency and optimal environmental quality. Your constructive and considerate guidance will optimize the return on our volunteer efforts to fulfill our charter. **Thank you.**

- Jeremy Stapleton | Chair, Phoenix Environmental Quality Commission

1. **Water** (Kathryn Sorensen?, Brandy Kelso?)
  - a. How are we aligning/integrating Water, Transportation and Land Use Planning?
  - b. How can we restore flows in rivers and dedicate water to nature for ecosystem services and economic development opportunities?
  - c. How are we fostering Green Infrastructure to achieve goals?
  - d. What is the state of funding for capital, operations and maintenance expenses?
2. **Land Use** (Alan Stephenson?, Josh Bednarek?)
  - a. How and to what degree are we integrating land use, transportation and water planning?
  - b. How and where are we fostering mixed-income communities?
  - c. How and where are we fostering Green Infrastructure to achieve goals?
  - d. What is the state of funding for capital, operations and maintenance expenses?
3. **Transportation** (Maria Hyatt? Albert Santana? Mark Melnychenko? Ray Dovalina?)
  - a. How can we expedite the delivery of Complete Streets to more neighborhoods to foster active living and reduce VMT?
  - b. How are the principles of green infrastructure/low impact development implemented through transportation projects?
  - c. What is the state of funding for capital, operations and maintenance expenses?
4. **Public Health** (Reps. TBD, likely Planning and OEP...NSD?)
  - a. **Air Quality** - Reduce VMT & Emissions
  - b. **Active Living** - Design, Shade, Comfort, Desirable Places/Experiences
  - c. **Access to Healthy Food** – proximity, price, other?
  - d. **Other**

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**5. Economic Development + Role of Economic Development in Optimizing Environmental Quality** (Christine Mackay)

- a. **SWOT analysis** (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats)
  - a. Who are our competitor/peer cities?
  - b. What is our Brand? Who is Phoenix attracting?
  - c. Brownfields Program
  - d. Clean Power Program/Promotion?
  
- b. **Circular Economics** + Collaboration w/ Other Departments
  - 1. To what degree is the Economic Development Department fostering a polycentric city and aiding the reduction of Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT)?
  - 2. What is the scope of synergy/collaboration between Economic Development + Public Works? What is happening to develop a Circular Economy?
  - 3. What are the opportunities to turn waste into resources/assets? What waste resources need a market?
  - 4. What else can Economic Development do to help us achieve Resiliency + Sustainability Goals? How can we create new infrastructure revenue streams and foster Value Capture initiatives?

**6. Infrastructure Finance** | Do we need a State Infrastructure Bank or a similar financing mechanism to create the places and neighborhoods that optimize environmental quality?

- 1. Systems in Place
  - a. HURF (Highway User Revenue Funds)
  - b. RARF (Regional Area Road Fund)
  - c. Capital Improvement Program (CIP)
- 2. Other Options/Opportunities
  - a. Public Private Partnerships
  - b. Excise Taxes
  - c. Revenue Bonds
  - d. TIF (Tax Increment Financing)
  - e. TRZs (Transportation Reinvestment Zones)
  - f. Other?
- 3. Who within and how is the city advocating for the creation of new financing tools?

**7. Interdepartmental and Commission Collaboration**

- 1. What is needed to build the capacity and expedite the progress of the staff/management **Sustainability Task Force**? What are the gaps in Interdepartmental collaboration and how can they be filled?
- 2. What are other boards/commissions goals and strategies? Redundancies? Opportunities for collaboration?
- 3. Who can facilitate an on-going exchange of information and catalyze collaboration? What does that system look like?
- 4. How can boards/commissions better participate the definition of goals and

Commented [JS1]: Is this the right name?

strategies? What and how frequent are the touch points?