



2013 THRIVE PHASE II ROUNDTABLES

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS ON REGIONALLY SIGNIFICANT ECONOMIC PLACES

KEY MESSAGES

- ❖ *Global competitiveness will require an active strategy by the region that builds on our strengths and coordinates action between cities, businesses, regional and state partners.*
- ❖ *Maintaining both hard and soft infrastructure is key to supporting and attracting industry and residents.*
- ❖ *Coordination is a great role for the council to play. Someone has to hold the whole vision together.*

Ideas & Themes

- *Make industry visible, tell its story. Need to make industry more transparent; educate people on how important it is!*
- *Need to link transportation investment strategies with significant economic place strategies.*
- *Need to link education strategies with significant economic place strategies.*
- *Business voices should be heard more in the decision making - both large and small business.*

Quotes & Observations

- *"Housing may take care of itself if you get the jobs right."*
- *"The river should be put to greater use economically, utilized to fullest potention."*
- *"The Met Council could practice economic gardening" to cultivate conditions to help businesses survive."*
- *"Make decisions on what is best for the whole community - it's a balance."*
- *"Treat the "cool" places well; they are enzymes that catalyze economic growth."*

Unique /Innovative Approaches Suggested

- *The Council should build on its data resource capabilities to plug into economic development.*
- *Develop a map of key sites in the region that are prepared for development/redevelopment. Show who is ready to support an industry and where.*
- *Establish business commissions in cities, to get business voices in the policy process.*
- *What if development was 'horizontally coordinated' by cities, DOT, DNR, PCA and the Met Council?*