



Charlotte Assembly 2013

Board of County Commissioners

Workshop

November 19, 2013



Introduction

- Earlier Assemblies – 1996, 1998, 2001, 2007
- Virtually all of the recommendations from these previous assemblies have been addressed
- Assembly 2013 – 25 steering committee members plus 85 citizens



Topics Discussed

- Vision for the County's future
- Economic Development
- Public Safety
- Growth Management
- Quality of Life
- Water Quantity & Quality
- Sales Tax 2014



Vision

- a retirement community where people can come to live, work and play
- diversify economic base beyond being just a retirement community
- County needs to be friendly toward businesses—to keep the businesses that are already here and attract new ones



Economic Development

- Community brand
 - Great place to live, work and play
 - Nature lovers' paradise
 - Affordable place to live
 - Low crime, safe environment
 - Harbor and beaches, what's not to like?
 - Active arts community



Economic Development

- How could the County improve on its goal of being “Open for Business.”
 - show it by doing it
 - start with yes and then work towards a no
 - create customer service standards for every employee
 - Government offices should be open through lunch
 - discussion about the slogan



Public Safety

- In general, Assembly participants were satisfied with the current level of public services they were receiving
 - seek Federal monies for Firewise program
 - recommended an evaluation of current evacuation routes throughout the County



Growth Management

- The Assembly encouraged growth including the re-building and re-development of older areas of County
- Identify the areas for Gateway corridors within the county and add the necessary infrastructure needed



Quality of Life

- The County should continue to develop and pursue County wide cultural initiatives
- More bike path development
- Establish an enterprise zone for recreational activities to include mixed use areas to encourage walkable communities
- Maintain landscaping in road way medians



Water Quality and Quantity

- The County should prioritize the geographic areas in which the sewer system will be expanded.
- The sewer system should be paid for using a combination of MSBU, bonding, and funding from the 1% local option sales tax extension.



Water Quality and Quantity

- It was suggested the County look at the feasibility of using of reused water in high density areas
- Develop a marketing program for re-use water where it could be sold for commercial purposes



Local Option Sales Tax Extension

- A high number of participants expressed they were satisfied with the usages of the sales tax revenues
 - many of the projects were well selected and people could see there were a number of tangible projects which had been completed
 - provides the broadest tax base and contributes to infrastructure projects that most likely would not have been built—e.g. fire station



Local Option Sales Tax Extension

- Information on the status of projects covered by the sales tax needs to be communicated much better by the Commissioners and County staff
- Need to do a more thorough job of educating the public about how the county has received a great return from the 1% sales tax from the previous years



Local Option Sales Tax Extension

- It was suggested the County put signs up during the actual construction of the various projects
- Participants listed both pros and cons of an extension
- Participants listed project ideas