Welcome and Introductions

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What we will cover in this training?

✓ What is a Reality Check?
✓ What is Connect Our Future?
✓ What is RealityCheck2050
✓ Why RealityCheck2050 is important?
✓ How do you play the game?
✓ Your volunteer role and what to expect.
✓ The details of the day.
What is a Reality Check?

✓ Reality Check is a program started by ULI, Urban Land Institute in 2005 to provide a visioning exercise that allows participants to envision their areas' expected growth using LEGO bricks and large scale regional maps.

✓ The Reality Check “Gameday” has been played in 15 other cities across the United States in cities such as Los Angeles, CA, (2005), Charleston, SC (2007), Phoenix, AZ (2008)

✓ Participants can ask the questions:

   How should we grow?
   Where should we grow?
   What are the possibilities of a concrete list of next steps to assure quality growth to meet the region’s needs in the future.
What is **Connect Our Future**?

- **CONNECT Our Future** is a three year, three phase program that brings our 14-county region together to build jobs and the economy, improve quality of life and control the cost of government.

- Reality Check participants hail from 14 counties: Anson, Cabarrus, Cleveland, Gaston, Iredell, Lincoln, Mecklenburg, Rowan, Stanly and Union Counties in North Carolina, and Chester, Lancaster, Union and York Counties in South Carolina.

- It is supported by a $4.9 million HUD Sustainable Communities Grant and $3 million in local in-kind public and private matching resources.
Phase One started in the Fall of 2012 by engaging the community about their personal needs and values.

Phase Two starts with RealityCheck2050 then moves to 16 workshops to be held in each of the 14 counties.

Phase Three - Includes Phase One information, “themes” from RealityCheck2050, and the results of the community workshops will be used to build 4-5 models of the region’s future.
14 counties - 400 participants
What is RealityCheck2050?

- RealityCheck2050 will be hosted by ULI Charlotte Chapter, and will be held on June 4th at the Charlotte Convention Center.

- The event is being sponsored by the Centralina Council of Governments and the Catawba Council of Governments.

- Participants recruited equally from the Public, Private and Nonprofit sectors.
Why is RealityCheck2050 important?
Why is RealityCheck2050 important?

To help address critical questions that face our 14 county region:

1. Where will these new residents live, work and play?
2. How do we best accommodate this increase?
3. What will be the effect on our transportation network, housing costs, taxes, air quality, and watersheds?
4. What will be the effect on the quality of life in the region?
Detailed Agenda for the day

7:00 Volunteers Arrive and Have Meeting
7:30 – 8:00 Registration for Participants / Continental Breakfast
8:00 Welcome and Opening Remarks *(We Will Start on Time)*
8:10 Morning Keynote Speaker
8:45 Break
9:00 Postcard from the Future
9:20 Rules of the Reality Check Exercise
9:30 Introduction of Table Participants
9:45 Develop Guiding Principles
10:15 Gameplay
11:45 Review. Adjust. Summarize Gameplay
12:00 Participants Leave the Room.
Detailed Agenda for the day

12:00 Break – move to lunch area of the convention center
12:15 Lunch begins – reminder to sit with your table from the morning
12:45 Instructions and Introductions
1:00 Keynote Speaker – Robert Grow Envision Utah
1:45 Lunch ends/ break
2:00 Afternoon session begins - Presentation from morning game day activities
2:20 Audience Polling on table outcomes and preferences
2:45 Closing Comments
3:00 Adjourn
Who Are the Volunteers?

Super Facilitators

- One for every 5 tables
- General resource to answer questions
- Consolidate and organize guiding principles
- Coordinate with other Super Facilitators to identify the best examples of representative growth patterns
- Consolidate table outcomes into 4-5 overall representative growth patterns
Who Are the Volunteers?

Facilitators

✓ They are the guides of their table. They will give instructions, guide the discussion, help the participants reach consensus, keep the exercise moving, work with the Scribe, and assist in the counting of blocks after the game is concluded.

Scribes

✓ They will act as a recorder for what is discussed at their table as well as document the LEGO® blocks on the map after the gaming period is over by recording the quantities of each red and yellow LEGO by grid cell.

✓ **Key Reminder:** Volunteers are to facilitate discussion **NOT** lead, direct and influence participant actions other than as described above.
What are your responsibilities?

**Introductions and Team Chemistry (15 Minutes)**

- Each table will be together during gameplay and at lunch. It is important to build camaraderie and a sense of team at each table.
- Go around the table and let each participant introduce themselves with: name, where they work and why they felt it was important to be there today.
What are your responsibilities?

Develop Guiding Principles (30 minutes)

✓ Select the top 4-6 Guiding Principles (use the ones in the guidebook and/or create your own). Samples include:
  - Preserve more natural areas and open space and provide connections between them.
  - Promote mixed-use centers of various scales to serve as centers of civic, cultural and economic life, and as transportation hubs.
  - Clearly define areas appropriate for development, as well as environmentally sensitive, historic, natural or recreational areas that need protection.
  - Create a seamless, regional, multimodal transportation system linking new and existing residential, employment and recreational areas.
  - Reinvest in existing urban centers and infrastructure.
What are your responsibilities?

**Gameplay (90 minutes)**
You will place your LEGO bricks and string

**Visioning Process Rules**
- **Everyone Has An Equal Voice.** This is an exercise in collective decision making. Every participant has a valid perspective from which you can learn. No one should dominate the discussion. Everyone should respect each other’s opinion/perspective and engage in discussion to reach a consensus on where to allocate the LEGO bricks.
- **Think Big.** Remember - this is a regional exercise with a tight timeline. Visioning is to be broad. Avoid getting bogged down in too much specificity at a local level.
- **Keep an Open Mind.** Don’t discount any ideas without discussing and evaluating them. Build upon each other’s ideas in a positive way.
- **Be Bold and Creative.** Work together to find solutions.
- **Respect** other participants at the table.
- **Remember the People.** Think about what matters to people about where and how they live—this is about more than houses, offices and factories.
How do you play the game?

Example of time-lapse gameplay, Raleigh, NC 2009
How to Play the Game?

✓ Your job is to help the participants decide where future growth through 2050 should go.

✓ The only rule is that you must place all 1,023 LEGO bricks.

✓ Your table has a map. It shows: Major roads and rail lines, protected land, waterways, government property, activity centers (university land, airports, etc), existing cities and towns.

✓ What it doesn’t show: County lines, unfunded infrastructure

✓ Grid size 1” = 4 square miles or 2,560 acres.
Remember the scale:
4 square mile grid cell
Remember the scale
4 square mile grid cell
Placing Legos

**Red LEGOs** = Households
1 Red Lego = approximately 1,700 Households.
You will place 447 red LEGO bricks.
One Red Lego on the map = approximately 1 household per 2 acres.
To increase density, stack the LEGO bricks.

**Yellow LEGOs** = Jobs
1 Yellow Lego = 1,500 Jobs. You will place 576 Yellow LEGO bricks.
One Yellow LEGO on the map = <1 job per acre.
To increase density, stack the LEGO bricks.
Mixed Use Areas

✓ Create mixed use areas by combining red & yellow LEGO bricks

✓ Development is not usually uniform within 4 square miles, the size of a single grid cell: you’re placing averages

Rule of Thumb:
✓ Need a minimum of 12 LEGO bricks in a cell to support Bus Rapid Transit or Light Rail.
✓ The LEGO bricks may be all yellow, all red or a combination.
✓ Place Red LEGO bricks on the bottom and Yellow on top for ease of counting.
Yarn Colors

Regional Roadways = $18 - $25 million per mile
New Transit = $15 - $120 million per mile
New Green Space = varies
Yarn Colors

= Regional Roadways

= New Transit

= New Green Space
After Participants Leave?

Each table needs to:

- Prepare for Table Photograph
  - Be sure Table # is on map
  - Remove miscellaneous items (pens, water bottles, scissors, etc) from map for photograph
  - NO COUNTING LEGO BRICKS OR MEASURING YARN UNTIL YOUR MAP IS PHOTOGRAPHED

- Facilitator and Scribe work together to record LEGO placement

- Facilitator calls out each grid square # and how many LEGO bricks of each color are in the square; the Scribe records the Count

- Measure Yarn

- When recording is complete, the Scribe saves the spread sheet on the flash drive. Don’t remove flash drive - put flag up and wait...

- Separate LEGOs by Colors and rebag
Grids are each numbered. This will allow you to count the number of LEGOS and put into your Excel document.
For ease of recording, we suggest starting with the TOP LEFT grid (Z1) and entering data by row, left to right, as you would read:

The cells in excel spreadsheet are ordered to correspond to the map, enter the number of LEGO's in the respective column, yellow or red:

For yarn used to indicate open space or transit service areas (green and orange arranged in a polygon), put a “1” in any cell that is covered by the polygon; you should do this as you enter LEGO's
✓ For regional roadways (purple yarn), greenways (green yarn) and transit corridors (orange yarn) arranged in a linear fashion, measure the number of inches of yarn on the map and enter into the “yarn” tab in the excel workbook.

✓ Please indicate two cells that represent each end point of the yarn.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yarn Color</th>
<th>Length</th>
<th>Cell Endpoint</th>
<th>Cell Endpoint</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Purple</td>
<td></td>
<td>AB6</td>
<td>AD11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orange</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
During Participant’s Lunch Break

**SUPER Facilitators**
- Summarize Guiding Principles
- Select Example Development Table Outcomes
- Group all Table Outcomes
- Prepare for Afternoon Polling
- Guiding Principles, Barriers, and Solutions

**Facilitators & Scribes**
- Picture is taken of each table
- Record Road, Rail, Transit and Green Space
- Record LEGO brick placement
- Rebag LEGO and prepare table

**Tech Team**
- Complete Initial analysis of Table Scenarios
- Prepare afternoon presentations
Examples of Different Table Outcomes
NE FL Examples - Corridor Pattern
NE FL - Dispersed Pattern
NE FL Urban Compact Pattern

Tables 2, 6, 18, 21, 30  Example: Table 18
Indicators from Table Outcomes

- Percent of development inside/outside city or town boundaries
- Percent of development inside water/sewer service areas
- Miles of new regional roadway
- Expanded transit service areas
- Acres of new regional parks, open space and preservation
- Jobs/housing by county
- Percent of development occurring in agricultural areas
Potential “Landmines”

✓ Using planning jargon or terminology not related to this exercise such as:
  ▪ Smarth Growth
  ▪ Sustainability
  ▪ Climate Change

✓ Cost of improvements
✓ Other

Questions/Comments?
Nuts & Bolts

✓ Be at the Charlotte Convention Center at 7:00am
✓ Continental breakfast and lunch provided
✓ Dress code business casual but please no ties, swinging necklaces, scarves etc. that could knock over the LEGO bricks
✓ If your plans change, let us know ASAP
A World of Thanks for All Your Help!