

## STAFF REPORT

**DATE:** April 9, 2013

**TO:** City Council

**FROM:** Rob White, Chief Innovation Officer  
Sarah Worley, Economic Development Coordinator

**SUBJECT:** Resolution Adopting Guiding Principles for April 2013 Sacramento Metro Chamber Capitol-to-Capitol Trip

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### **Recommendation**

Review and adopt the attached Resolution affirming the City of Davis Guiding Principles for the April 2013 Sacramento Metro Chamber Capitol-to-Capitol Trip.

### **Fiscal Impact**

There is no direct fiscal impact of adopting the Guiding Principles listed herein. The desired outcome from adopting the Guiding Principles and using them as talking points while meeting with federal agencies and elected officials in Washington, D.C. is to highlight programmatic needs in the City of Davis and to identify potential grant and funding opportunities and sources.

### **Council Goal(s)**

- Fiscal Stability
- Economic Development
- Sustainability
- Community Strength and Effectiveness
- Infrastructure

### **Background and Analysis**

The City of Davis has strongly engaged with the Sacramento Region on the Next Economy Plan and is beginning development of a work program that will emphasize Davis' economic vitality and development of opportunities in a technology-based economy, while continuing to support the context of sustainability.

As part of the City's efforts to create comprehensive relationships with Davis' research and business community, specific Guiding Principles for the April 2013 Capitol-to-Capitol trip were developed by the City in partnership with the Davis Chamber of Commerce, University of California (UC), Davis, techDAVIS, Davis community members and Yolo County staff and representatives. Some of this work was accomplished through the Designing a Sustainable and Innovative Davis Economy (DSIDE) working group. DSIDE is a public-private partnership that includes representation from the Davis Chamber of Commerce, the City of Davis, and University of California (UC), Davis and is focused on sustainable economic development and innovation.

The Guiding Principles discussed by the partnership and proposed for adoption include:

### **The Theme of "Research to Jobs"**

The Davis innovation ecosystem is exemplified by its close proximity to the world's leading entrepreneurial culture and a strong dynamic with agriculture and medical technology.

As host to one of the world's leading research universities in food, textiles, biomedicine, medical devices, transportation and clean energy, Davis continues to claim the future by challenging existing paradigms and demonstrating cross-sectorial collaboration. With the recent award of the i6 Challenge Grant to UC Davis and SARTA for creation of an Ag Innovation Hub and the regional investment into the Next Economy (a plan for robust economic development across Sacramento), Davis continues to demonstrate its leadership in identifying unique opportunities for ground-breaking research, technology implementation and knowledge-based job creation while being a national leader in support of sustainability, agriculture open space and net-zero environmental impacts.

As Davis creates broad-reaching collaborations with national and global industries and research institutions, innovation has become the City's hallmark with demonstrated leadership in innovation and "Research to Jobs."

The combined mission of DSIDE is to develop relationships at the regional, state and federal level that will be mutually beneficial and raise awareness of Davis' unique attributes:

- Home of UC Davis;
- Growing private sector of technology (especially ag-, bio-, clean energy and robotics) innovators;
- Existing conservation policies and local funding programs to protect thousands of acres of world class soils around our community for research and production;
- Well-planned and vibrant urban community;
- Strategic location at the nexus of major transportation infrastructure (Interstate 80, Interstate 5, Amtrak Capitol Corridor, and the Port of West Sacramento); and
- Easy access and close proximity to Sacramento, Silicon Valley, Napa/Sonoma and San Francisco.

### **Priorities:**

- a. **Developing the innovation ecosystem and technology-based economy** – Davis has many efforts that have been focused on development of the innovation and technology that is closely associated with UC Davis. These include Davis Roots, DSIDE, significant studies focused on innovation parks and technology business attraction, and hiring of a City of Davis Chief Innovation Officer in partnership with a local entrepreneurs' leadership group known as techDAVIS. As such, the Davis City Council and staff, Davis Chamber of Commerce, and community groups continue to work energetically with UC Davis, Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz), USDA, federal labs, and other regional, state and national agencies and elected officials to support and develop the innovation ecosystem that will lead to a robust technology-based economic development program.
- b. **Facilitate increased partnership and interaction between UC Davis and the national labs (specifically Lawrence Livermore, Lawrence Berkeley and Sandia National Labs, USDA Agricultural Research Station, and NASA Ames)** – there is on-going

research collaboration between the federal labs and UC Davis in progress in the areas of cybersecurity, advanced manufacturing, transportation, energy, food and agriculture. By working to support and increase these links, the City, the Davis Chamber of Commerce, and the community can assist in creating increased research opportunities and the potential for entrepreneurial activity leading to new business starts from local interactions.

- c. **Focus on Manufacturing Innovation** – Davis is a national leader in research in the areas of AgTech, energy and transportation and is central to the California-wide advanced manufacturing initiative. These sectors are broadly regarded as the focus for future technological advancements in manufacturing and are primary research lines that will support Davis in becoming a national leader for advanced manufacturing.
- d. **Ag/Conservation Innovation designation** – building on the City of Davis' unique and very successful Open Space program (a voter-approved 30-year program that generates approximately \$700,000 in special property tax assessments every year) used to purchase development rights around the Davis community and focused on supporting small/community farms, defining an urban limit line, protect world class soils for agricultural production and research conducted in partnership with UC Davis (a Tier 1 global leader AgTech and Ag research). In support of the regional planning effort by the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) and the widely adopted Blueprint Plan for land use planning, air quality improvement and transportation investment, Davis continues to work with its community and agency partners to explore areas of specific interest that forward the community values of sustainability and agriculture/conservation/open space. These include:
  - Support for the proposed Rural-Urban Connections Strategy (RUCS) for Public Health – Working with SACOG and USDA to create a pro forma analysis and feasibility plan for regional food hubs, including an assessment of food banks as food hubs to serve their clients and the broader community. This would include a diet survey scope of work, which will be used to seek funding to implement a detailed data collection of diets for various socio-demographic groups in order to understand needs and market opportunities. An enhanced USDA methodology on food desert research could create a regional food desert map and assessment of conditions and possible solutions to poor food access.
  - Support for the proposed RUCS Open Space Strategy - SACOG and its partners recognize that the rural landscape not only produces food and fiber, but also provides a range of environmental services including: carbon sequestration, energy production, flood protection, groundwater recharge, habitat, and a wide range recreational uses. SACOG intends to work with stakeholders to develop a richer understanding of these services and build data and modeling tools that help the region use better information for better decision-making. With funding from the California Strategic Growth Council, SACOG is beginning work with stakeholders to develop a scope of work for a regional open space plan that will compliment strategies to enhance economic viability included in the region's Next Economy initiative.
  - Support for updates to the USDA's Rural Definition - would create a common population threshold of 50,000 for eligibility in federal programs for business, community development, housing and cooperatives, as described in the Senate

version of the 2012 Farm Bill, but without the clause for exclusion of towns/cities adjacent or contiguous to urbanized areas.

- e. **Exploration of Transportation Infrastructure** – As a community focused on sustainability and walkability, Davis is exploring several transportation infrastructure opportunities that may positively impact transportation choices and efficient freight delivery options. These include:
- Proposed Yolo Freight Rail Realignment Project – this proposal would potentially remove 20 at-grade crossing in Davis, Woodland and West Sacramento and improve freight-to-market opportunities throughout the Sacramento Region. By utilizing the Port of West Sacramento goods delivery option more effectively, the rail realignment proposal appears to have the additional positive benefit of the removal of a freight rail bridge over the Yolo Bypass which is key barrier to flood protection for Woodland, Natomas and Sacramento County.
  - Assessment of Alternative Rail Transit Technologies – with the need to accomplish inner-Davis transportation between the many community and civic assets, the neighborhoods and UC Davis, the City is exploring ways to identify and deploy alternative modes of transportation, including new rail technologies like personal rapid transit. Building on a successful ultra-light rail transit technology symposium held in Davis in August 2012, the City (in partnership with UC Davis, the national labs, and the community) will begin exploration of these technology options that may provide for improved transit options spanning the City and creating robust connections with UC Davis. Additionally, the City (in partnership with research institutions) will continue previously held discussions that explore the potential for high-speed ultra-light rail transit test facilities to be located in proximity to Davis and Yolo County.

These Guiding Principles will be used by Davis and Yolo County representatives for advance meetings with federal agencies and officials prior to the Capitol-to-Capitol trip and during the main body of the trip. The advance meetings will be attended by representatives of the City of Davis, Yolo County, Davis Chamber of Commerce, UC Davis, techDAVIS and the several Davis businesses. The planned meetings include the White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs and Office of Science and Technology Policy, US Economic Development Administration, USDA Agricultural Research Station, Congressional representatives from surrounding districts (including Rep. Eric Swalwell, the congressional district that includes Lawrence Livermore and Sandia National Labs), and the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA).

As the City and its research and community partners continue to explore ways to foster the existing innovation and technology culture in Davis, adoption of these Guiding Principles allow for the City, the Davis Chamber of Commerce and the other DSIDE partners to effectively communicate our intentions and desires while addressing the federal agencies and elected officials.

### **Attachments**

1. Resolution Adopting Guiding Principles for the April 2013 Capitol-to-Capitol Trip

**RESOLUTION NO. 13-XXX, SERIES 2013**

**RESOLUTION ADOPTING GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR THE APRIL 2013  
SACRAMENTO METRO CHAMBER CAPITOL-TO-CAPITOL TRIP**

WHEREAS, the City of Davis has strongly engaged with the Sacramento Region on the Next Economy Plan and is beginning development of a work program that will emphasize Davis' economic vitality and development of opportunities in a technology-based economy while supporting community values like sustainability and open space; and

WHEREAS, Guiding Principles for the April 2013 Sacramento Metro Chamber Capitol-to-Capitol trip were developed by the City in partnership with the Davis Chamber of Commerce, University of California (UC), Davis, techDAVIS, Davis community members, DSIDE, and Yolo County staff and representatives as part of the City's efforts to create comprehensive relationships with Davis' research and business community; and

WHEREAS, the Davis innovation ecosystem is exemplified by its close proximity to the world's leading entrepreneurial culture and a strong dynamic with agriculture and medical technology; and

WHEREAS, Davis is host to one of the world's leading research universities in food, textiles, biomedicine, medical devices, transportation and clean energy, and Davis continues to claim the future by challenging existing paradigms and demonstrating cross-sectorial collaboration; and

WHEREAS, as Guiding Principles to support "Research to Jobs" and knowledge based job creation, the City must continue to develop partnerships with the community and regional organizations to develop an innovation ecosystem that supports a technology-based economy; facilitate increased partnership and interaction within the research and entrepreneurial community; focus on manufacturing innovation; work for agricultural/conservation innovation designation; and explore solutions to transportation infrastructure needs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Davis that they are adopting the Guiding Principles for the 2013 Capitol-to-Capitol trip.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Davis on this 9th day of April, 2013 by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

Joseph F. Krovoza  
Mayor

ATTEST:

Zoe S. Mirabile, CMC  
City Clerk