Themes for Vision Development DRAFT - EXPANDED Economic and Community Development Committee Themes - August 31, 2007

Theme name	Initial theme name develope by committee	d Initial goals and key points from past discussions
Coordinated planning and government	← Balanced economy and land	Balanced Economy and Environment: Public policy and civic action will recognize that economic development and environmental stewardship are mutually attainable and beneficial to all and that the region's high-quality environment has economic value and is a competitive advantage. Balanced Growth: The benefits of economic growth in the region will be balanced between mature and developing communities. This will be achieved using strategies that are permissive and encouraging. Coordinating land use and transportation planning: Land-use and transportation for both transit and freight will be planned in a way that promotes balanced use while fostering economic growth in local communities as well as efficient flow of goods in and our of the region. Infrastructure: Ongoing and ample investment in the region's built infrastructure will support economic development and community vitality and protect the region's natural resources. Redevelopment: Public and private investment in homes, retail and other businesses, infrastructure, and people will lead to sustainable prosperity in previously disinvested communities. This will be accomplished with minimal displacement of community residents. Support for Agriculture: Productive farmland will remain in the regional landscape, with support from commercial and governmental activities, providing opportunity for farmers and farm products to be accessible and contribute value to the region's residents and economy.

Accessibility of Arts and Culture: Opportunities to engage the arts, culture, and science in a variety of forms and institutional venues will be supported, accessible, and affordable throughout the region.

Business Attraction and Retention: The region's economic base will be continually strengthened and diversified through the attraction and creation of new businesses and the retention and expansion of existing businesses.

Economic competitiveness	Economic development	Community Economic Development: The growing number and wide variety of businesses in the region will include many that are community-based, locally-owned, or actively engaged with the communities in which they operate. The region's financial institutions, economic development organizations, and governments will encourage entrepreneurship and support locally-owned businesses and franchises committed to the communities they serve. Economic Development: The region, with businesses in many economic sectors and strong clusters in strategic industries, will maintain its dominant position in the Midwestern and national economies. Government services, taxation and regulation: The region will be supported by government services that support education and workforce development, equitable taxation and regulation that promotes a level playing field for economic growth and prosperity. Quality of Life: The region will have an overall quality of life which will distinguish it as
		one of the premier regions in the world in which to live, work or visit.
	and	
		Finance: The region will have a financial structure that is equitable yet competitive and will foster investment and growth in and for the region. Global Competitiveness: Business, labor, and government will work through
		partnerships and strategic alliances to position northeastern Illinois as one of the world's top ten exporting regions.
	Capacity building	Research and development: The region will support institutions and universities that conduct research and development that leads to cutting edge technology and discoveries that benefit not only the region but the advancement of knowledge and the improvement of the quality of life.
	Capacity building	Technology and Telecommunications: The region will be a leader in providing an advanced and diverse technology and telecommunications infrastructure that is effective, efficient, and accessible to all residents for region-wide equitable economic development. Technological innovation will support the region's leading positions in manufacturing, agriculture, biotechnology, and workforce education.
		Utilities and energy: The region will offer state of the art utilities and energy serves that are accessible to all residents and provide the resources business and industry need to compete in a global economy.

Jobs: The region will retain and create jobs in sufficient numbers and at a variety of levels through which individuals can achieve financial independence.

Education and workforce development	← Education, workforce development and job training	K-12 and higher education: The regions educational system will prepare young adults with life skills necessary to enhance their knowledge of the world as well as earn quality jobs that promote financial independence. Workforce Education: Opportunities and resources for basic and advanced education, skills development, and life-long learning will be available to expand and diversify the region's labor populations through a variety of institutions and learning technologies.
Quality of life	← Economic development	Accessibility of Arts and Culture: Opportunities to engage the arts, culture, and science in a variety of forms and institutional venues will be supported, accessible, and affordable throughout the region. Business Attraction and Retention: The region's economic base will be continually strengthened and diversified through the attraction and creation of new businesses and the retention and expansion of existing businesses. Community Economic Development: The growing number and wide variety of businesses in the region will include many that are community-based, locally-owned, or actively engaged with the communities in which they operate. The region's financial institutions, economic development organizations, and governments will encourage entrepreneurship and support locally-owned businesses and franchises committed to the communities they serve. Economic Development: The region, with businesses in many economic sectors and strong clusters in strategic industries, will maintain its dominant position in the Midwestern and national economies. Quality of Life: The region will have an overall quality of life which will distinguish it as one of the premier regions in the world in which to live, work or visit.

Reinvestment and infill	← Balanced economy and land	Balanced Economy and Environment: Public policy and civic action will recognize that economic development and environmental stewardship are mutually attainable and beneficial to all and that the region's high-quality environment has economic value and is a competitive advantage. Balanced Growth: The benefits of economic growth in the region will be balanced between mature and developing communities. This will be achieved using strategies that are permissive and encouraging. Infrastructure: Ongoing and ample investment in the region's built infrastructure will support economic development and community vitality and protect the region's natural resources. Redevelopment: Public and private investment in homes, retail and other businesses, infrastructure, and people will lead to sustainable prosperity in previously disinvested communities. This will be accomplished with minimal displacement of community residents. Support for Agriculture: Productive farmland will remain in the regional landscape, with support from commercial and governmental activities, providing opportunity for farmers and farm products to be accessible and contribute value to the region's residents and economy.
Transportation accessibility and efficiency	← Transportation	Freight Transportation: The regional transportation system will provide for the efficient movement of freight by all modes. Infrastructure: Ongoing and ample investment in the region's built infrastructure will support economic development and community vitality and protect the region's natural resources. Interregional Transportation: The region will be known for its accessibility to national and international markets through the commercial aviation, interstate highway, freight rail, and high-speed passenger rail systems. The local transportation network will support and link these national systems. Transportation and Development: Planning for transportation and for economic and community development will be fully integrated so that people will have choices among various modes of transportation and among various community types including public transit-linked and pedestrian-centered communities as well as highway-oriented development.