

APPENDIX

Focus Group Summaries

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Our Vision.
Our Goals.



FOCUS GROUP SUMMARIES

The documents in this section are summaries of the focus groups, which concluded their work in September 2007. All information included in the summaries represents the thoughts of only the focus groups. The resulting visions and goals were preliminary and were later shaped by the CPT using input from the public. The community's final goals and visions are included in the implementation section of this document.



Our Vision.
Our Goals.



Vision Statement

Platte County will provide a well-coordinated health and human services system that meets the needs of all community residents.

*****Note** (The group came to consensus about amending the Platte Profile 2020 Human Services vision statement and did not go through the visioning activity. Instead, the group discussed the old vision statement and agreed with the amended version contained in the notes.)

Established Goals The following goals are the consensus of the focus group. Priority was determined through a preference indicator exercise.

| | | |
|---|------------------------|---------------------|
| Increase and improve primary health care facilities for the uninsured/underinsured members of the population. | | |
| Provide inexpensive transportation that is available for people who need access to county services. | | |
| Encourage and promote collaboration between government, health care, and other regional entities in the accomplishment of other listed goals. | | |
| Strengthen neighborhoods and improve access to quality and affordable housing. | | |
| Decentralize services and resources and make them accessible to the people. | | |
| Develop a strategic action plan and public progress plan and advertise the plan to the public. | | |
| Encourage viable growth, living, and retirement for individuals and communities in the county to maintain an everlasting quality of life. | | |
| Use the 2-1-1 phone number to help provide basic living needs and services. | | |
| High Priority | Medium Priority | Low Priority |

Suggested Goals The following list of goals were those identified by individual focus group members at the conclusion of the first meeting. They were used as the basis of discussion in the subsequent meeting. They *do not* represent a consensus of the group.

- Decentralization of services—taking services to the people instead of making people come to one location. (i.e. transportation)
- Increase primary health care facilities for the uninsured/underinsured population.
- Provide effective means of delivering community services to those in need.
- Improve access to community resources—not just transportation but knowledge, as well.
- Improve access to resources by improving transportation.
- Provide rational equalitarianism in a sustaining community.
- Have basic living needs and services available for access from 2-1-1 phone number to transportation needs to physically be able to acquire services.
- Encourage viable growth, living, and retirement for individuals and communities in the county to maintain an everlasting quality of life.

Vision Statement

Platte County will focus on sustainability while it strategically expands commercial, industrial, and residential development; encourages tourism; enhances the quality of life of our community; protects our natural resources; and embraces our historical identity.

Established Goals The following goals are the consensus of the focus group. Priority was determined through a preference indicator exercise.

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| Nurture relationships with the City of Kansas City Missouri, Platte County communities, and other stakeholders to develop common economic development goals. | | |
| Attract facilities necessary to promote tourism and quality of life. | | |
| Support resources for workforce development that create and retain quality jobs. | | |
| Support and facilitate development of the arts in Platte County. | | |
| Protect quality of life for our existing residents and neighborhoods. | | |
| Become the premiere tourist destination in the region. | | |
| Develop a formal economic development policy. | | |
| Ensure adequate infrastructure to support economic development and tourism. | | |
| Promote awareness of economic development and tourism goals. | | |
| Celebrate and encourage the county's diverse historical identities. | | |
| High Priority Medium Priority Low Priority | | |

Suggested Goals The following list of goals were those identified by individual focus group members at the conclusion of the first meeting. They were used as the basis of discussion in the subsequent meeting. They *do not* represent a consensus of the group.

- Become the premiere destination in the metro area for planned economic/business/tourism growth.
- Stop developing in “pockets” within the county that aren’t supported by infrastructure.
- County should fund tourism. Consider a tourism tax.
- Promote awareness and communication of economic development goals.
- Build/attract a facility to accommodate large groups.
- Expand Missouri’s economic development “tool box” of incentives.
- Become a quality place to live and work.
- Create quality jobs.
- Develop the arts to improve the quality of life in Platte County.
- Attract businesses to Platte County while preserving the historical and rural “feel” of the county.

- Develop a recognizable identity as a community with a sense of historic time and place.
- Develop a balanced, high-quality of life to support visitors and residents.

Primary Vision Elements The following were identified by the focus group as the most important elements to consider in developing a vision statement for this issue.

- Continue to develop quality of life.
- Encourage business growth.
- Develop a regional historical identity (i.e. Lewis and Clark or Civil War).
- Promote the historical aspects of the county by using available open spaces.
- Look for new ideas to promote quality growth like working with other communities and reviewing their needs so that we can satisfy them.
- Build more tourist attractions that attract out-of-town visitors.

Secondary Vision Elements The following were identified by the focus group as the secondary elements to be considered as part of vision statement for the focus area.

- Controlled, quality airport development driven by goals of the county leaders—not by Trammel Crow.
- County policy regarding public funding and objectives
- Develop educational programs for developers and builders
- Increase public awareness of master plan

Discussion Summary—Meeting #1

1. How can the county capitalize on KCI, Tiffany Hills, and existing agricultural areas to promote tourism and economic development?

The development being generated by Trammel Crow around the airport will bring customers to existing businesses in this area and has the potential to support “second tier” businesses to serve the new development. However, the County needs to ensure it has a voice at the table in both the type of development that will happen around KCI and its affect on our natural resources.

Participants also believe that the County should capitalize on its natural resources and agricultural heritage to draw tourists to the area. It should also develop amenities that will cater to youth, as does Tiffany Hills, and identify trends and prospective new markets.

2. Should the county use public financing to support economic development and tourism?

In general terms, the participants agreed that economic development incentives should be considered to be competitive, but should not be automatically provided. While tax increment financing is one tool, others are available and should be considered. However, the County must also balance the tax burden placed not just on property owners but visitors as it competes in the regional marketplace.

3. What are the top three things devoted to economic development and tourism that you would like to see?

Participants focused their comments primarily on Platte County's history and natural resources. They suggested that the Lewis and Clark Trail, sunken river boats, and historic preservation are important for economic development and tourism. They want to capitalize on "Old West" history and natural resources. Other ideas generated included a performing arts center as well as the need to continue expanding youth sports.

4. How can we better target our efforts for businesses, residents and visitors without damaging the tax base?

There was general agreement that the county should adopted public policy related to economic development incentives. As well, it was suggested that the County should look to partner with other public entities and private entities, including hotels, restaurants, other communities, and the university extension services.

5. How do we maximize the economic/tourism factors of KCI? How can the Missouri River become a tourist destination?

Numerous ideas were generated although consensus was not reached regarding this issue. Some participants endorsed park and recreation amenities such as a river trail or a large public park. Others wanted a way to celebrate and preserve the agricultural heritage of the county.

Attendance

| First Name | Last Name | Meeting 1 | Meeting 2 |
|-------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Bonnie | Brown | X | X |
| Don | Browning | X | X |
| Carolyn | McClure | X | X |
| William | Quitmeier | X | X |
| Mark | Raab | X | |
| Karen | Wagoner | X | |
| Jenni | Browning | | X |
| Deborah | Butcher | | X |
| Brent | Miles | | X |
| Totals | | 6 | 7 |

Vision Statement

Platte County will be a healthy, sustainable community that values and protects its natural resources and will provide a proactive process for increasing public awareness and understanding of environmental issues and impacts.

Established Goals The following goals are the consensus of the focus group. Priority was determined through a preference indicator exercise.

| | | |
|---|------------------------|---------------------|
| Create a climate protection plan, a green master plan, and a county sustainability plan. | | |
| Establish a model for codes, land planning, zoning, and ordinances. | | |
| Develop a funding mechanism to allow the county to accomplish environmental goals. | | |
| Improve connectivity and promote public transportation and transit-oriented development. | | |
| Develop an incentive program in partnership with the county EDC for environmentally friendly businesses and developments. | | |
| Take a proactive approach to coordinating with municipalities and political subdivisions within the county. | | |
| Develop a public education program for to raise awareness and understanding of environmental impacts. | | |
| Promote environmentally friendly industries, including tourism, agriculture, and eco-tourism. | | |
| High Priority | Medium Priority | Low Priority |

Suggested Goals The following list of goals was those identified by individual focus group members at the conclusion of the first meeting. They were used as the basis of discussion in the subsequent meeting. They *do not* represent a consensus of the group

- Create a climate protection plan.
- Take a leadership role on codes, land planning, zoning, and ordinances and have models for the entire county to follow.
- Conduct workshops to educate citizens on environmental awareness.
- Create a green master plan.
- Create a county sustainability plan.
- Build codes addressing environmental practices.
- Encourage organic farming.

Primary Vision Elements The following were identified by the focus group as the most important elements to consider in developing a vision statement for this issue.

- Ensure county-wide availability of information.
- Provide a systematic process for educating and making citizens aware of environmental issues that the county faces.
- Increase awareness of environmental importance at the grass-roots level.

- The county needs to lead and take local initiatives for ultimate “sustainability” into all venues. The county must be a leader and educate the citizens.
- Provide sustainability planning.
- Platte County is a healthy, sustainable community that values and protects its natural resources. The county values its rural and agricultural heritage while promoting green and sustainable development that is in harmony with those natural resources, to promote places where people want to live and work.
- Sustainable prosperity.
- Platte County shall be a model county in terms of quality of life.

Secondary Vision Elements The following were identified by the focus group as the secondary elements to be considered as part of vision statement for the focus area.

- Provide education.
- Coordinate among political entities within Platte County.
- Strong education programs.
- Protection and promotion of green space and natural resources (i.e. river, trails, etc.).
- Coordinate between county and municipalities in the county.

Discussion Summary—Meeting #1

1. How can Platte County create a balance between development and long-term effects on the county’s natural resources, and how can public awareness about those resources be increased?

The focus group discussed environmentally friendly architectural standards as well as the importance of public awareness and education. Group participants brought up the county’s master plan and its effect on the environment. Enhanced transportation options and increased connectivity were also issues that generated significant discussion. Finally, the focus group emphasized the importance of being willing to fund the environmental initiatives and thought that volunteers may also be a resource during implementation.

2. What areas of environmental protection cannot be accomplished by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources or the Environmental Protection Agency?

Discussion on this question focused on the Missouri River, which many participants identified as a tremendous resource for the county. The group brought up a newly created coalition of communities along the river that has begun meeting to protect the river. The possibility of the county developing building/zoning codes, a floodplain ordinance, and subdivision regulation was also raised. Some members thought that the EPA and MDNR have very little effect on the county and that the county can take the initiative to protect the environment. Expanded recycling programs were also identified as an option for the county.

3. What is the greatest environmental concern for future generations?

Group members several issues, including water, air quality, climate change, and sprawl. Sustainability was a goal raised by the group to address these issues, while they also discussed the county working with regional partners in implementing high quality standards.

4. How can the environment and the impact of the health of our citizens be a factor in all goal areas?

Connectivity between different land uses was discussed, as was the need for mixed-use development. The preservation of greenspace corridors was identified by some as an important goal. The group focused on the region-wide cause and effect of environmental issues and discussed the role of the county and the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) in alleviating environmental impacts.

5. How do we address future waste management needs and develop a county beautification plan?

The group talked about the county’s efforts in jumpstarting the discussion on this issue, especially as there may be only a limited time period in which to act. In addition, the group discussed the current limits and options on waste management in the Kansas City area today.

Attendance

| First Name | Last Name | Meeting 1 | Meeting 2 |
|-------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Antonio | Cutolo-Ring | X | |
| Neil | Davidson | X | X |
| David | Dodds | X | X |
| Kathy | Dusenbery | X | X |
| Paul | Hilpman | X | X |
| Greg | Hoffman | X | |
| Pauli | Kendrick | X | X |
| Ann | Dwyer Sanders | X | X |
| Bernadette | Youngblood | X | X |
| Shauna | Zahner | X | |
| Audrey | Krohne | X | |
| Zelda | Reeber | | X |
| Totals | | 11 | 8 |

Vision Statement

Platte County will foster logical, outward growth from existing infrastructure and development supported by adequate infrastructure to create a community with a high quality of life that preserves the characteristics that make Platte County unique.

Established Goals The following goals are the consensus of the focus group. Given the relatively few number of goals, a priority setting exercise was not completed.

| |
|---|
| Update land use plan and land use map. |
| Create coordinated planning efforts between cities and the county. |
| Encourage growth patterns, infrastructure, physical, and geographical considerations. |
| Encourage community involvement and participation from urban, suburban, and agricultural areas. |
| Encourage development that will foster logical, outward growth by using a wider and more flexible range of tools and standards. |
| Review zoning and subdivision regulations for possible revisions. |

Suggested Goals The following list of goals were those identified by individual focus group members at the conclusion of the first meeting. They were used as the basis of discussion in the subsequent meeting. They *do not* represent a consensus of the group.

- Create a priority list of items/criteria to which community growth should be tied.
- Identify areas/locations in which growth should be encouraged and discouraged.
- Cast a broader net for community involvement and participation.
- Focus growth and planning based ability of infrastructure to support it.
- Update land use plan and map.
- Base land use on available available/existing transportation infrastructure.
- Develop a robust, meaningful vision to facilitate realistic plans.
- Provide a task list of areas that we think should be addressed in the new plans— i.e. what needs to be updated or addressed in the current plans.
- Create coordinated planning efforts between cities and the county.
- Encourage a logical radiation of growth related to ability to provide needed services in a cost effective manner.
- Growth patterns should be based on physical and geographical considerations.

Primary Vision Elements The following were identified by the focus group as the most important elements to consider in developing a vision statement for this issue.

- Platte County includes quality of living opportunities for a diverse population
- Creation of a plan that understands varying community interests and, therefore, applies different rules within proximity of those communities.

- Plan growth around reasonable expectations for the infrastructure. If we can't afford it, why build it?
- Growth tied to infrastructure
- Infrastructure is base line to growth and planning

Secondary Vision Elements The following were identified by the focus group as the secondary elements to be considered as part of vision statement for the focus area.

- Platte County develops in a way that retains and creates new special places.
- Re-assess areas within our county in order to recreate our approach to future growth and planning
- Foster different growth in other parts of the county
- Build maintainable amenities...why allow development that will be an eye-sore later?
- Long-term view
- Involvement of residents at-large (homeowners associations, PTA, faith-based, broad-based)

Discussion Summary—Meeting #1

1. As growth continues, how can Platte County maintain a balanced land use plan and provide affordable housing?

The focus group primarily discussed two issues surrounding this question: density and affordable housing.

It as acknowledged that density more times than not has a negative connotation. However, there are ways to develop dense housing that provide a variety of alternatives and also preserve natural resources. These include using conservation areas; developing town homes and condos or traditional village concepts. The master plan does and should continue to support these types of developments.

The group also grappled with the definition of affordable housing. For example, some said that it was “work force housing;” in other words, housing that teachers, police officers and firemen can afford to buy.

2. How might Platte County balance the desire to maintain rural lands/open space with expanded demand for development?

In general terms, the focus group wants the County to embrace its natural amenities that include flood plains, woodlands, and steep slopes will at the same time allowing for quality development.

Some participants advocated considering incentives for open space preservation and encouraged keeping in mind that both developers and land owners around them have property rights. Others advocated accepting only quality green spaces and changing the regulations related to size of tracts that can be designated agricultural.

3. How are the goals of the current plan being followed and what new measurement techniques need to be implemented?

Participants believe the current land use plan is being adhered to the majority of the time. One member did suggest that an adequate infrastructure ordinance should be considered and another questioned whether there were too many zoning categories.

4. How will we create a county that we want, through planning, and avoid urban sprawl?

Attendees did not reach consensus on this issue but did provide several suggestions.

- Educate the public, property owners and developers about urban sprawl and its affects
- Encourage redevelopment of older areas in addition to Greenfield development
- Develop a more mature road network that does not rely only on Hwy 45 and Hwy 152; protect Highway 45 is a primary.

5. How can the current planning and zoning plan be revised to balance residential and commercial growth?

Because the land use map was adopted following the rezoning of numerous parcels in the County, there are conflicting areas. This should be revisited to determine whether changes can and should be made.

Attendance*

| First Name | Last Name | Meeting 1 | Meeting 2 |
|---------------|------------|-----------|-----------|
| Sean | Ackerson | X | |
| Dee | Moore | X | |
| Quint | Shafer | X | X |
| Dean | Katerndahl | | X |
| John | Barth | | X |
| Tony | Borchers | | X |
| Martha | Everett | | X |
| Rob | Gardner | | X |
| Mike | Shockey | | X |
| Sandy | | | X |
| Dennis | Stanton | | X |
| David | Picco | X | X |
| Sue | Lange | X | X |
| Totals | | 5 | 11 |

*Given the low attendance at the first meeting, CPT members David Picco and Sue Lange did participate.

Vision Statement

Platte County provides recreational opportunities for all citizens by maintaining an interconnected system of passive and active amenities for people of all ages in parks, community centers, green spaces, indoor and outdoor recreational facilities, trails, and conserved open space.

Established Goals The following goals are the consensus of the focus group. Priority was determined through a preference indicator exercise.

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|--|
| Expand existing facilities and create a more diverse park system reflecting citizen desires. |
| Continue making high priority land and water-based trail and greenway connections. |
| Renew the parks and recreation sales tax. |
| Continue ensuring that the Platte County Parks System is well maintained and safe. |
| Continue collaboration and partnerships for funding and facility use. |

Suggested Goals The following list of goals were those identified by individual focus group members at the conclusion of the first meeting. They were used as the basis of discussion in the subsequent meeting. They *do not* represent a consensus of the group

- Maintain strategy for Platte Ridge Park.
- Continue and improve the relationship between PCHS and the parks department.
- Expand existing facilities.
- Continued outreach funding.
- Expand the county’s indoor aquatic centers.
- Continue the sales tax funding of the county’s parks system.
- Continue collaborations and partnerships.
- Enhance long-term funding for planning—fixed tax rather than temporary tax.
- Provide an off-road mountain biking facility.
- Connect existing parks and trails with trails/human powered transportation.
- Build mountain bike trails.
- Build dog parks.
- Continue funding programs.
- Finish Missouri River trail.
- Maximize the water resources in Platte County for recreational purposes. Specifically, “paddling trails” or “water trails” to be tied into the system of land based trails. Capitalize on the State of Missouri’s designation of the Missouri River as a Lewis and Clark water trail.

Primary Vision Elements The following were identified by the focus group as the most important elements to consider in developing a vision statement for this issue.

- Our Parks and Recreation will be interconnected with tax contributions.
- Increase number of fields for youth activities such as soccer, football, baseball, and offer organized sports.
- Provide more community centers that fit the needs of the community by their square foot designs.
- Acquire additional land
- Non-programmed green space for all citizens that is accessible without motorized transportation
- More soccer/football fields
- Continued trail expansion

Secondary Vision Elements The following were identified by the focus group as the secondary elements to be considered as part of vision statement for the focus area.

- We will conserve new and existing open space.
- Improve indoor facilities such as basketball courts, racquetball courts, and tennis courts.
- Provide multi-activity parks
- Mountain bike trail
- Complete Missouri River Trails
- “Natural areas,” land banks, or preserves
- Indoor Olympic swimming facilities
- Additional indoor facilities
- Maintenance of existing parks

Discussion Summary—Meeting #1

1. How can Platte County maintain and develop new and future parks while increasing public awareness of those resources, especially with the parks sales tax expiration in 2010?

Participants generally agreed that the public is not aware of which entity has jurisdiction over various parks and facilities, ie the county, KCMO, another community. As well, the County needs to continue efforts to build awareness of the benefits of the dedicated parks sales tax, which most in the group think should be renewed. Comments also focused on ensuring development contributions can actually be used to enhance the parks system and that partnerships should be pursued regardless of whether the sales tax is renewed.

2. How best should the county proceed with parks and use existing facilities, and should land banks be added for the future, along with any future ballparks?

The attendees were glad to learn that the County already has substantial land holdings, including 100 acres near Weston and 115 acres at Platte Meadows Park, but encouraged continued consideration of land acquisition given the increasing population within the

Support was voiced for a number of facilities, including indoor facilities, tennis courts and outdoor sports fields. No consensus was reached on which such amenities was the most important.

3. How are the parks being used?

Participants noted that the parks are being used for both passive and active recreation, including school district usage, walking trails, and community center membership. It was noted that motorized vehicles, pedestrians and mountain biking amenities are needed as are swimming facilities for high school teams.

4. How important is it to continue with the current master plan and how should improvements be funded?

The group felt that this is extremely important, and that the county should continue both with the plan and with the sales tax. Grants have helped the smaller communities.

5. How can we expand/enhance wellness, recreational, and competitive activities and facilities/amenities?

The county needs to balance what the citizenry wants with what might be needed. Trends have changed in the last 10 years, and while someone might just want access to amenities others might want full participation in the system. Further, other resources such as 4H, Eagles Scouts and other volunteers should be pursued.

Attendance

| First Name | Last Name | Meeting 1 | Meeting 2 |
|---------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Janet | Archer | X | X |
| Gloria | Boyer | X | X |
| Gene | Dooley | X | |
| Phil | Dorman | X | |
| Chris | Hershey | X | X |
| John | Pasley | X | |
| Andy | Smith | X | X |
| Chris | Stubbs | X | X |
| Dennis | Nease | | X |
| Totals | | 8 | 6 |

Vision Statement

Platte County governmental entities and constituencies will continue to promote opportunities to share resources and accomplish mutual goals through collaborations among local governments, education, health care, businesses, social service agencies, and faith communities.

Established Goals The following goals are the consensus of the focus group. Priority was determined through a preference indicator exercise.

| | | |
|--|------------------------|---------------------|
| Enhance partnerships to create broad access to health and wellness services. | | |
| Identify examples of existing partnerships/collaborations that are successful and use them as models for future efforts. | | |
| Create a county-wide talent bank and associated database for leadership and volunteers of all ages that can be used to develop partnerships and enhance volunteer efforts. | | |
| Better collaboration among all Parks and Recreation Departments, school districts, and sports entities to optimize resources. | | |
| Encourage collaboration among entities involved in promoting the arts. | | |
| Expedite the permitting process faced by developers working in/with multiple jurisdictions. | | |
| Better collaboration between utilities and planning and zoning. | | |
| | | |
| High Priority | Medium Priority | Low Priority |

Suggested Goals The following list of goals were those identified by individual focus group members at the conclusion of the first meeting. They were used as the basis of discussion in the subsequent meeting. They *do not* represent a consensus of the group

- Enhance partnership of education, health care, and social service agencies to create a broad access to health and wellness services.
- Strengthen commitment to a more disciplined approach to economic development to preserve a strong socioeconomic base.
- Encourage county-wide cooperation and coordination for developing vast void areas (i.e. sewer, HBA, taxing, outside entities, etc.).
- Provide equity of resources coordinated in terms of access.
- Identify examples of existing partnerships/collaborations that are successful and use them as models for future efforts.
- Pursue the idea of a “talent bank” that can be used to develop partnerships and tap into available volunteers.
- Coordinate Parks and Recreation and schools to get a maximum utilization of resources.
- Provide regional sewer and planning and zoning to help fund sewers where growth is desired.

- YMCA is creating a challenge base ball field for special needs kids. They received donated land next to a Platte R-3 school. The cost is \$3 million. Who can they partner with in the county so that this is not so costly and isolated?
- Implement a talent bank with a coordinator for all ages.
- Include an arts aspect in the mission statement.

Primary Vision Elements The following were identified by the focus group as the most important elements to consider in developing a vision statement for this issue.

- Provide coordination through staff positions.
- Communicate the need for resources.
- Improve the socioeconomic status.
- Improve coordination.
- Gain political support to think and act creatively and take calculated risks.

Secondary Vision Elements The following were identified by the focus group as the secondary elements to be considered as part of vision statement for the focus area.

- Facilitate and mediate groups.
- Share resources.
- Encourage communication by the use of blogs or list serves and find ways to connect so that resources can be utilized.
- Platte County encourages its citizens to act as one on behalf of the entire county by encouraging coordination of services, facilitating informal collaboration/mediation, supporting communication through written blogs and partner groups.
- Create and foster open communication networks.
- Provide efficient health and human services.
- Encourage citizens to be involved on existing boards so that the county can benefit from new ideas.

Discussion Summary—Meeting #1

1. How can the county facilitate the sharing of resources and what incentives/obstacles are available?

Incentives: Participants said that collaboration occurs when “decision makers” are at the table together and when all parties are open to new ideas. Further, a political will must be present to facilitate that collaboration.

Obstacles: Attendees discussed the multitudes of political jurisdictions providing everything from water and sewer service to schools to recreational opportunities. The sheer number of such entities is an obstacle to effective communication. However, the group said this should not limit or hinder the effort to open lines of communication and determine areas in which collaboration can occur.

2. How can we best utilize all of our resources, share information, and avoid duplicating cost?

Participants discussed areas in which various entities had collaborated for the good of the citizenry, such as the recently opened aquatic park. They pointed to this as a

good example of not only working together, but avoiding duplication of services. Efforts should be made to develop young leaders with new ideas and a focus on communication.

3. Do we work well with other entities? Examples? What should we do to expand these relationships?

Participants felt that in general terms the County does cooperate well with other entities, particularly for parks and recreation opportunities. In addition, the school districts work in collaboration with the County and other cities.

4. Which partnerships are strong? Which partnerships need to be improved? Which partnerships should be developed?

The participants cited the partnership among Clay/Platte/Ray counties for mental health care; the Plate County Parks Partnership; the school district/county partnerships; school district/St. Luke’s partnership; and school district to school district relationships as good ones. There was some support voiced for greater partnership among school districts and health care providers to assist a growing indigent population.

5. What areas do you see as a good opportunity for potential partnerships and collaboration with schools, cities and other taxing entities?

- Identify organizations with like concerns.
- Parks departments with health and wellness programs.
- Arts: parks, trails, public spaces, i.e. KC cows
- Across county departments: parks and law enforcement: security in parks and open spaces
- Use volunteers whenever possible, including corporate volunteers, senior citizens and youth
- Provide trained mediators to assist entities which have a mutual desire to collaborate but are at an impasse or are finding it difficult to reach agreement.

Attendance

| First Name | Last Name | Meeting 1 | Meeting 2 |
|---------------|------------|-----------|-----------|
| Mark | Harpst | X | |
| Mike | Herron | X | |
| Jan | Kauk | X | |
| Lee | Pedego | X | X |
| Don | Sipes | X | X |
| Rosemary | van Haaren | X | X |
| Dennis | Fisher | | X |
| Tina | Zubeck | | X |
| Kathy | Rose | | X |
| Totals | | 6 | 6 |

Vision Statement

Platte County will provide and staff first-class fire, law enforcement, criminal prosecution, public health, emergency management, and emergency medical services.

Established Goals The following goals are the consensus of the focus group. Priority was determined through a preference indicator exercise.

| | |
|---|------------------------|
| Assure adequate funding and staffing to meet the requirements of first-class public safety, fire, law enforcement, criminal prosecution, public health, emergency management, and emergency medical services. | |
| Educate the public about emergency preparedness for all disasters and reasonable expectations for routine fire, police, ambulance, and public health services. | |
| Develop and fund a P25 interoperable communications system that is capable of meeting regional needs. | |
| Facilitate the creation of a county-wide fire and EMS system. | |
| Provide and fund citizen training programs so that a significant percentage of the population is educated in CPR, AED, and CERT training. | |
| High Priority | Medium Priority |

Suggested Goals The following list of goals were those identified by individual focus group members at the conclusion of the first meeting. They were used as the basis of discussion in the subsequent meeting. They *do not* represent a consensus of the group

- Educate the public regarding not only emergency preparedness, but also on reasonable expectations for routine fire, police, and ambulance services.
- Build facilities and properly staff prosecutor and sheriffs' departments.
- Create a County-wide fire and EMS system in the next 5-10 years.
- Resource and fund facilities, equipment, and personnel to provide first class emergency preparedness.
- Establish a county-wide emergency medical response system for all of Platte County.
- Create Unified Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Plans, Communications, and efforts.
- Educate the public on current issues and how to prepare for yourself.
- Provide education to the public concerning emergency preparedness on a neighborhood level for all types of disasters.
- Provide adequate staffing and facilities for county law enforcement (Sheriff's Department and Prosecutor's office)
- Provide County training for emergency response.
- Provide County-wide emergency services for all areas of county to include fire, medical services, and police training to coordinate in the right direction for areas of Platte County.
- Provide adequate funding and facilities for public safety in Platte County.

- Develop a county-wide communication plan that can be used and viewed by all county law enforcement, fire, and emergency response.
- Ensure outstanding funding for law enforcement, EMS, fire, and related services to include all support resources.
- Provide an effective, efficient, knowledgeable emergency response system.

Primary Vision Elements The following were identified by the focus group as the most important elements to consider in developing a vision statement for this issue.

- Best law enforcement, fire, and emergency services
- Well-trained, well-paid adequate law enforcement, fire, and EMS providers
- Standard, continual training around the county in emergency preparedness.
- Superior Law enforcement budget
- Adequate funding for public safety, including salaries, programs, and equipment
- Trained to the finest qualifications
- Provide quality training for community personnel.
- Maintain a level of experience within the county.
- Quick, effective, and efficient emergency response (police, fire, EMS)...
- Strive to meet the needs of a growing and diverse population.
- World class.
- Plan development for expansion of all county-wide emergency systems.
- Dynamic plans regularly updated and community education of all plans
- First class law enforcement, fire, and EMS
- Public health needs to be incorporated

Secondary Vision Elements The following were identified by the focus group as the secondary elements to be considered as part of vision statement for the focus area.

- Provide the best training possible for all EMS personnel
- Consolidated fire and EMS systems
- Adequate staff and space for prosecutor and law enforcement
- Resource/funding to maintain
- Effective communications
- Provide inter-operative radio communications between agencies.
- Highest quality of individuals.
- Serving with the utmost dedication to the individual citizen
- Citizen preparedness/education
- Update current plan for growth
- If we want the best we must pay for it just like everyone else
- First rate public safety system
- Strive to meet the needs of a growing and diverse population
- Well-educated staff and citizens
- One centralized fire and EMS system coordinated county-wide
- Adequate staffing and facilities for county public safety functions
- Comprehensive Planning and coordination to handle massive disasters
- Address the needs of individual residents
- Address the disparity of population (urban v. rural disadvantages)

Discussion Summary—Meeting #1

1. How can resources be organized to provide for public safety and ensure preparedness for natural and manmade disasters?

Entities need to work together for day-to-day issues as well as disaster planning. However, the County needs to assess whether it can truly address a countywide emergency, needs to continue work the school districts and MARC and consider other resources such as amateur radio services.

Participants also discussed fire service within the county. The level of service available differs in the north and the south. As well, fewer volunteer firefighters are available and some areas have funding issues.

2. Should the county lead the discussion about countywide ambulance services? Why or why not?

Participants did not reach a consensus regarding this issue. Some agreed that it would be advantageous to review this issue, while others questioned it. However, the group agreed that a meaningful follow-up discussion about the merits of countywide ambulance service was needed. The group thought that it may be advantageous to look at alternatives.

Group members emphasized the importance of public education and uniform training. Residents should know what they can expect from emergency services and what they can do to help themselves.

3. What are your expectations for law enforcement in Platte County?

The group discussed at length the expectation that the county first-class emergency services, not just law enforcement. A majority of focus group members agreed that Platte County's emergency services should be first-class and need to provide safety for future growth.

After discussing that expectation, the focus group turned to challenges/issues facing emergency services. Needs centered on strained facilities, retention of quality personnel, funding, SROs, and schools. Public health needs were also emphasized.

4. What are the important issues that should be addressed?

The focus group did not spend much time comparing the importance of each identified issue; however, they developed a list of several issues that need to be addressed. These needs include:

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| — Funding | — Space needs |
| — Training | — Communication |
| — Growth challenges | — Public education |
| — Collaboration | — Emergency plans |

5. How can we incorporate a standardized level of protection into the county's Emergency Preparedness Plan?

Focus group members noted that the county has an emergency operations plan that has already been adopted by many cities. This plan is being amended to incorporate NIMS protocol.

In addition, members discussed the need of an animal annex area as well as the need for more tornado sirens. One member brought up the idea of requiring safe rooms in new home construction.

Attendance

| First Name | Last Name | Meeting 1 | Meeting 2 |
|-------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Richard | Carrizzo | X | |
| Janette | Coward | X | |
| Bill | Fizer | X | X |
| John | Holton | X | X |
| Doug | Hooten | X | |
| Susan | Hoskins | X | X |
| Nicole | Kirby | X | |
| Mark | Owen | X | X |
| Craig | Robinson | X | |
| Tom | Rezentes | X | |
| Staley | Snook | X | |
| Walt | Stubbs | X | X |
| Pete | Sturner | X | X |
| Carleton | Voohries | X | |
| Tom | Taulbee | | X |
| Jason | White | | X |
| Eric | Zahnd | X | X |
| Mike | Shelton | | X |
| Totals | | 15 | 10 |

Vision Statement

Platte County will continue to support the maintenance and development of an integrated transportation and utility system that meets the needs of citizens through the efficient management of resources and coordination with regional governments.

Established Goals The following goals are the consensus of the focus group. Priority was determined through a preference indicator exercise.

| | | |
|---|------------------------|---------------------|
| Coordinate with local governments to adopt minimum requirements for new construction. | | |
| Be part of a regional transit system that includes the seven counties in Missouri and Kansas, with light rail as a component. | | |
| Consolidate sewer, water, and road districts within the county. | | |
| Facilitate integration of transportation and infrastructure between districts. | | |
| Use an impact fee from new development to fund transportation and infrastructure. | | |
| Renew existing Transportation Sales Tax, which expires in 2013. | | |
| Bring roads and bridges up to standards for safer driving for the public. | | |
| Enact sanitary sewer requirements for the present and future trunk line corridors and treatment basins. | | |
| Review a possible increase in fees from utilities. | | |
| Establish a new transportation sales tax. | | |
| Increase transportation funding with a Motor Fuel Tax. | | |
| High Priority | Medium Priority | Low Priority |

Suggested Goals The following list of goals were those identified by individual focus group members at the conclusion of the first meeting. They were used as the basis of discussion in the subsequent meeting. They *do not* represent a consensus of the group

- Be part of a regional transit system that includes the seven counties in Missouri and Kansas, with light rail as a component.
- Consolidate sewer water and transportation in county government, drop special districts.
- Plan a light rail system; the county has access to easement that may be easily available as the area between Barry Rd. and KCI is still open.
- Update or create a Comprehensive County Master Plan that identifies land use so that transportation planning is integrated with the long range vision.
- Evaluate the economic effects of consolidating the road districts

- Increase funding for transportation - increase 3/8 sales tax to 1/2, use an impact fee for new development, and consolidate the road districts for better use of funding.
- Bring roads and bridges up to standards for safer driving to the public.
- Review and revise current management, funding, and maintenance systems.
- Consolidate road districts to two or three.
- Require fees from developers and utilities.
- Enact sanitary sewer requirements for the present and future trunk line corridors and treatment basins.
- Ensure adequate funding to maintain current roads, plan for the future, and manage traffic flow and ease congestion.
- Acquire more funding and revenue to do as many road improvements and bridge and culvert widening as possible throughout all of Platte County.
- Pave all roads in Platte County and upgrade all bridges that have low weight limits.
- Provide good infrastructure for adequate long-term service.
- Ensure the safety and awareness of vehicular and pedestrian traffic.

Primary Vision Elements The following were identified by the focus group as the most important elements to consider in developing a vision statement for this issue.

- Funding—vote to continue transportation sales tax
- Funding of systems via developers and taxes
- Spend tax dollars wisely while planning safe and easily accessible means of transportation to all ages and abilities (handicap).
- Think outside of the boundaries
- Think about your neighbor.
- Adequately funded to keep maintained
- All roads brought up to a given standard by type or amount of use.
- Provide variety—streets, sidewalks, trail systems, bike ways, choices.
- Infrastructure and Transportation should be integrated for smart solutions.
- Efficient management of resources—consolidates: road, water, sewer districts
- To plan for the future with expected changes
- Safety on roads and highways

Secondary Vision Elements The following were identified by the focus group as the secondary elements to be considered as part of vision statement for the focus area.

- Maintenance and safety
- Consolidate into 2 road districts (North and South) sharing funds collected by the county
- Public safety
- Integrated with land use planning and policy making
- Make allowances for continued growth
- Infrastructure—should develop standards to be met
- Consistency, continuity
- Transportation should be multi-modal in nature as we plan and build.
- Infrastructure should manage stormwater holistically.
- Cooperative planning for state, co., and cities

- Think big.
- East-West corridors

Discussion Summary—Meeting #1

1. How can the county ensure equitable and adequate funding to provide for future transportation and infrastructure development (i.e. roads, bridges, light rail, stormwater)?

Participants discussed a variety of funding mechanisms, including continuing the dedicated transportation sales tax; considering excise taxes or impact fees; developing a regional investment fund with other counties; consolidating road districts; and ensuring utilities restore roadways they destroy during the course of their work.

2. How would you prioritize transportation and infrastructure such as roads, utilities, and mass transit as it relates to other county functions?

Participants agreed that transportation is an important function. Some suggested that maintenance should be a higher priority than increasing capacity of the road system. Others discussed the need to link land use and the transportation infrastructure.

3. Does the current system meet the needs of citizens? Why or why not?

In general terms, the group does not think the transportation system meets the needs of citizens. They specifically cited a lack of east/west corridors; a need for public transit; and a desire for increased maintenance and improvements to existing roadways to address safety and capacity issues.

4. How important is public transportation to the future of the county?

Participants generally agreed that public transportation is important to the future of the county, both to address growth as well as to serve the existing and aging population. However, it encourages the County to consider all means of such transportation and begin planning for it now rather than waiting for it to be upon us..

5. How do we fund the sustainability of our transportation system and infrastructure?

Attendees felt they addressed this issue in answering the first question. Two suggestions were made, however, including maintaining the dedicated sales tax with the sunset provision and reorganizing the current road districts.

Attendance

| First Name | Last Name | Meeting 1 | Meeting 2 |
|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| David | Grossman | X | X |
| David | Lane | X | |
| Kristin | Matthews | X | |

| | | | |
|---------------|-------------|-----------|----------|
| John | McIntosh | X | |
| Mike | Pence | X | X |
| Tammy | Pink | X | X |
| Margie | Richcreek | X | X |
| Mark | Sherwood | X | X |
| Bob | Stinnett | X | |
| Frank | Weatherford | X | |
| Dale | Williamson | X | |
| Sabin | Yanez | X | |
| Totals | | 12 | 5 |