



St. Louis Regional Sustainable Communities

A regular publication of the St. Louis Regional Plan for Sustainable Development

Newsletter Issue 8:
January 13, 2012

Sign up to receive the newsletter, join a committee, submit your suggestions and get more information at www.ewgateway.org/rpsd

Committees

Public Engagement:

Jan 19th, 7:45am

Steering:

Jan 25th, 2pm

Outcome

Management:

March 8th, 9am

Technical Planning:

March 27th, 9am

Sub-Committees

Transit Oriented

Development (TOD):

Jan 19th, 9am

Housing:

Jan 26th, 9:30am

Scenario Planning:

Feb 10th, 1:30pm

Environmental Best Practices:

Feb 22nd, 9am

Data Portal:

TBD

For more information about the RPSD project, contact Jennifer Howland at:

314-421-4220 (MO)

618-274-2750 (IL)

rpsd@ewgateway.org

Facilitator Training Opportunity – Seats Still Available!

We still have seats available in our meeting facilitator training session on January 24th and 25th. If you're interested in participating in this FREE training opportunity and serving as a facilitator at 3 to 5 public meetings in 2012, please contact Mark Fogal at FOCUS St. Louis at (314) 622-1250 x102 or markf@focus-stl.org.

Committee Updates: Outcome Management Committee

One of the tasks of the Outcome Management Committee is to identify a limited number of metrics that can help communities gauge their progress toward becoming more sustainable. Such measurements ideally will be available for both the region as a whole and for individual municipalities. The draft list of metrics includes items related to transportation, energy consumption, economic development and net job creation, housing, health, and environmental factors. For example, transportation factors such as the percent of commuter trips by bicycle, walking, transit and automobile provide a picture of how much choice residents may have among transportation alternatives. Other metrics might measure fiscal health of local governments, or regional and local mortgage rates (or foreclosure rates). Tracking miles of bike paths, number of urban gardens and/or percent tree canopy can provide a snapshot of factors supporting healthy lifestyles.

The metrics will be refined over the next two years as we hear from the public throughout the region about interests, values and vision for their communities. In the meantime, our technical team and the OM Committee will be evaluating what can be measured effectively and what items are most helpful to educate and inform local officials and citizens. *Submitted by David Wilson*

Consortium Partner Spotlight: Trailnet

"Build it, and they will come." This may hold true for a field of dreams, but for active transportation like walking and bicycling, it takes a comprehensive approach to achieve success. Planning, community outreach and public engagement, as well as supporting education, encouragement and enforcement programs all play important roles in advancing walking and bicycling as safe, enjoyable modes of transportation.

Bicycling, walking and public transit are key elements of a sustainable transportation network, both locally and regionally, but a lack of interconnected and accessible bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, coupled with more than a half a century of auto-centric land use and transportation, bicycling and walking have been severely marginalized. To catalyze a reversal of this trend, Trailnet, through its Bikeable & Walkable Communities Program, partners with municipalities throughout the St. Louis Metropolitan Area to develop long-range plans. Over 25 communities now have bicycle and pedestrian plans in place to guide local investment in sidewalks, on-street bike facilities, off-street trails, and programs that support efficient forms of transportation and foster healthy and active communities.

These local plans stand as building blocks for a more sustainable, equitable, and accessible transportation network and will play a vital role in transforming the St. Louis Metropolitan Area into a truly walkable and bikeable community. *Submitted by Kevin Neill*