

V. INFRASTRUCTURE FOUNDATION

VISION:

Before 2024 the Wichita MSA will:

Have adequate infrastructure to support downtown, urban and suburban neighborhoods that will enhance quality of life and promote economic development.

STRATEGIES:

A. Urban and Regional Development

1. **Provide infrastructure required for downtown, central city neighborhoods and suburban growth that supports and allows our Key Benchmarks to become a reality.**

Wichita Area Association of Realtors, Inc.; Wichita Downtown Development Corporation; Sedgwick County; City of Wichita;

2. **Maintain greater alignment between cities and counties on infrastructure issues.**

Sedgwick County; Kansas Department of Transportation, Wichita Metro Office; REAP Economic Development Committee; City of Wichita;

3. Diversify planning commission to better represent the community.

B. Downtown Development

1. **Make downtown a vibrant community and a destination point for our residents, visitors and businesses. Develop downtown to attract and retain singles and young educated people, giving them the desire to reside in the Wichita MSA. Provide more restaurants, attractions and other people amenities (housing, grocery stores, drugstores, medical, etc).**

Sedgwick County; Wichita Area Association of Realtors, Inc.; Wichita Downtown Development Corporation; Wichita Public Library; Friends of the Wichita Public Library; City of Wichita; Kansas Health Foundation;

2. **Build a downtown arena.**

Wichita Downtown Development Corporation; Wichita Area Association of Realtors, Inc.; Sedgwick County; City of Wichita;

3. Offer incentives for inner city residential and business development.

City of Wichita; Peerless Tower, Inc.;

4. Create a downtown business park with a focus on bio-medical and technology.

5. Eliminate problems caused by multiple ownerships of downtown land and land-leases. This ownership pattern discourages renovation and redevelopment and makes land acquisition difficult. The city needs to make land available and eliminate barriers.

Wichita Downtown Development Corporation; City of Wichita;

6. Provide convenient on and off-street parking.

C. Transportation

1. **Develop and implement a long range plan for highways that connect the Wichita MSA internally and externally to the rest of the United States.**

Kansas Department of Transportation, Wichita Metro Office; REAP Economic Development Committee; Sedgwick County;

2. Build a new airport terminal and increase the competitiveness of the Wichita Airport in ticket cost and number of flights.

REAP Economic Development Committee; Foley Equipment Company/Foley Supply, LLC; City of Wichita;

3. Develop a viable public transportation system.

REAP Economic Development Committee; City of Wichita;

4. Optimize air, rail, water and highway passenger and freight capacities to create a multi-modal logistics hub.

REAP Economic Development Committee; City of Wichita; Sedgwick County;

5. Enhance transportation opportunities for the poor and disabled.

City of Wichita;

6. Develop and implement a road and rail transportation conflict resolution plan.

7. Encourage large signs with street names and street addresses on buildings so they are legible from the street.

D. Neighborhoods

1. Revitalize city neighborhoods and communities to reverse the population decline and take advantage of existing infrastructure.

21st Century Coalition for Neighborhood Revitalization, Inc.; City of Wichita; Michael Alldaffer;

2. Identify neighborhoods and establish neighborhood centers for individual or groups of neighborhoods. These centers will have meeting places proportional to the size of the neighborhood or community. A center could be a part of or adjacent to a school, recreational facility, EMS or public safety station or church. The center could include retail and commercial offices. Connect the centers with trails, bikeways and sidewalks. Retrofit over time for existing development and encourage for new development.

City of Wichita; Wichita Public Library; Michael Alldaffer;

3. Redevelop the 21st Street Corridor including the old refinery and stockyards.

City of Wichita;

E. Water, Sewer and Other Utilities

1. Ensure both quantity and quality of water resources required to meet Key Benchmarks.

Sedgwick County; City of Wichita;

2. Ensure that drainage system eliminates flooding for all neighborhoods.

Sedgwick County; City of Wichita;

3. Develop and implement a comprehensive solid waste-plan, including a recycling plan for all reusable resources.

Sedgwick County;

4. Seriously look at building wind generator plants to provide local electricity for residences and businesses. Utilize grain for renewable energy.
5. Maintain globally competitive communication access.

F. Housing

1. **Have housing and home ownership opportunities available for all income segments and special need groups.**

Wichita Area Association of Realtors, Inc.; Sedgwick County; City of Wichita;

2. Encourage building new houses in existing neighborhoods on vacant lots or by demolishing sub-standard structures.

City of Wichita;

3. Enforce housing occupancy and condition standards.

City of Wichita;

4. Create more mixed income neighborhoods.

City of Wichita;

G. Environment and Natural Resources

1. Clean up the Arkansas River.

Sedgwick County; City of Wichita; Hite, Fanning & Honeyman, LLP;

2. Save the land around waterways for conservation and greenways. Connect these greenways all over the region. Restrict development in flood areas so they could be used for recreation and green space. Add land to existing parks and land for linear parks.

Sedgwick County; GreenWay Alliance; South Central Progressive Neighborhood Association;

3. Resolve environmental issues that are barriers to development in downtown and inner city neighborhoods.

Sedgwick County; City of Wichita;

4. Have policies sensitive to the environment that result in positive cost benefits.

Sedgwick County; City of Wichita;

5. Promote acquisition, protection and stewardship for all parkland.

Sedgwick County; GreenWay Alliance; City of Wichita;

H. Beautification and Attractiveness

Continue and support beautification efforts.

Kansas Department of Transportation, Wichita Metro Office;

I. Historic Preservation

Provide grants and other incentives for preservation of historical neighborhoods. Work towards adaptive reuse of historic buildings within the community using private investments and federal and state tax credits. Continue developing historic tourism as an economic force for the region.

J. Facilities

1. Implement the River Corridor Improvement plan.

Peerless Tower, Inc.

2. Enhance and support accessibility to public and private infrastructure improvements for the disabled.

City of Wichita; Sedgwick County;