JANUARY 2010

2010 State Legislative Program

City of Lee's Summit, Missouri

Lee's Summit Legislative Program Mission Statement

The goal of the City's State Legislative Program is to protect and improve the quality of life for the citizens of our community and inform our elected officials of our positions on various legislative issues.

The City of Lee's Summit strongly supports the right of municipal self determination. While we support maintaining local decision making control, we also support efforts to promote regionalism.

50 Highway & 291 South Redevelopment Area

Legislative Priorities

50 HIGHWAY & 291 SOUTH REDEVELOPMENT AREA. Redevelopment of the area just south of the intersection of U.S. Highway 50 and M-291 South has become a strategic goal of the City Council. Three major businesses – Calmar, Pfizer, and Adesa Auto Auction - have left the area within the past several years. Their facilities remain vacant and surrounding properties have become underutilized, creating a potential for blight. In addition, the existing transportation infrastructure is inadequate for the approximately 45,000 vehicles that travel through each day. Nevertheless, this highly visible commercial area, with over 60 acres of available land, offers an excellent opportunity for future redevelopment. **The City wants to develop a working partnership with our legislators to create a plan to bring jobs and economic viability to this important area**. In particular, the City supports the efforts of the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) to include improvements to the U.S. Highway 50 and M-291 South in the next regional transportation plan—Transportation Outlook 2040—being developed by the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC). However, the City would encourage MoDOT to consider improvements that provide future capacity to this strategic interchange rather than fixing the immediate problems.

ROCK ISLAND RAILROAD CORRIDOR. The former Rock Island Railroad Corridor runs from Pleasant Hill to Kansas City. Local officials from communities along the now inactive Rock Island Railroad corridor have been working together for over a decade to develop a comprehensive plan for the future of the corridor. Communities along the corridor including Pleasant Hill, Greenwood, Lee's Summit, Raytown, Kansas City, and Jackson and Cass Counties formed a regional coalition this past year with the purpose of working with Union Pacific to ensure the protection of the corridor and re-use as a trail and possible future transit corridor. **The coalition is seeking assistance in funding for the acquisition of the corridor.**

Lee's Summit At a Glance

- Charter form of government
- 93,000 population
- 65 square miles land area
- 6th largest Missouri city in population

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Legislative Initiatives

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TOOLS. The City is concerned about the ability to provide viable incentives to promote economic development and create a level playing field to compete with communities across the state line for job creation. The Lee's Summit community has successfully utilized Tax Increment Financing (TIF) as a valuable economic development tool that has increased tax revenues to the school district and other taxing jurisdictions. Additionally, the City has used Transportation Development Districts (TDD's) to appropriately direct revenue streams to needed public improvements. The City is interested in, at a minimum, maintaining existing economic development tools, but would strongly encourage any enhancements to these tools. Furthermore, the City also encourages the legislature to **develop new economic development tools** such as STAR Bonds that will assist our efforts to compete with adjacent states and nationally for businesses and industries.

TRANSIT FUNDING. Lee's Summit supports efforts to develop a definitive and equitable plan for creating a regional light rail transit system that will provide greater accessibility to jobs, educational institutions, and retail and entertainment areas in an environmentally safe and economically efficient manner.

METROGREEN AND KATY TRAIL. The City supports proposed enabling legislation to create a regional parks and recreation district that could serve as the agency to implement the MetroGreen greenways and trails project and further extend the KATY Trail through Lee's Summit providing enhanced recreational, social and economic benefits for our area.

HISTORIC TAX CREDITS. The City has recently begun working with interested parties in the redevelopment of the Arnold Hall community building into a venue for performing arts and the future home of the Martin City Melodrama. A key component of these redevelopment plans will be the use of Historic Tax Credits. In the interest of downtown redevelopment, the City of Lee's Summit encourages its representatives to continue supporting these important incentive tools, and to possibly consider reductions in the minimum investment required for tax credits to an amount less than the basis of the subject property to encourage development and re-use of our historic structures.

INCREASE IN COURT FEES FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTERS. The City encourages an amendment to Section 488.607 RSMO that would allow municipalities to increase the surcharge that they can apply for each criminal case from $2.00 to $4.00 for funding of shelters for battered persons.

FUNDING FOR WIRELESS 9-1-1 SERVICES. Currently, over half of all 9-1-1 calls originate from wireless cellular phones. A previous ballot initiative that would have provided funding to integrate cellular phones with existing 9-1-1 systems was not successful. The City would encourage the state legislature to develop a plan to provide funding to extend reliable 9-1-1 services to wireless phones, subject to a public vote.

MAYOR
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Councilmembers

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If you have questions about the City's Legislative Program, please contact the Mayor's office at (816)969-1010.