

**St. Charles County  
Workforce Development Board**

**Manufacturing Task Force**

**Mission Statement:**

**The St. Charles County Workforce Development System is an alliance of public and private leaders dedicated to moving careers, companies and communities forward through workforce development that impacts local wages, economic development that impacts local business investment and community development that impacts the local tax base.**

**Committee:** Manufacturing Task Force (March 18, 2020)

**Attending Manufacturing Taskforce**

**WDB Members:** Ben Abbott, Mike Hurlbert, Chris Seyer and Scott Tate

**Attending**

**Manufacturing Task Force Members:**

Patty Brown – City of O’Fallon  
Scott Kearns – St. Charles Community College  
Darrel Keesling, Component Bar Products  
Chris Lagemann – State Tech  
Theresa Matlock - Newco  
Stephanie Morris – AFL-CIO  
Debbie Muraski - National Cart  
Dan Sutton – SAK Construction  
Jeremy Sutton – BCI Skills Center

**Staff:** Lori Myers

1. Welcome/Comments  
Mike thanked everyone for their attendance.
2. Minutes from the last meeting: The minutes from the November 26, 2019 meeting were reviewed. Ben Abbott made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Chris Seyer seconded the motion, and all were in favor.
3. Local Economic Trends Report  
Lori reviewed current unemployment data.  
  
Mike reviewed current housing permit data.
4. Review of Employer Survey from 2016  
Mike reviewed the previous survey. He asked the group if another survey should be sent out and if so, as is or with different questions. Darrel indicated that he believed a survey should be sent out again. Debbie believed 13 questions was enough and did not believe it should be any longer. Mike said the survey will be repackaged and sent out in the next month unless the group believes we should delay sending the survey out due to the ongoing concerns with the coronavirus. Mike asked the group to review the questions and send any suggested changes to himself or Lori.

**5. Update – Proposed St. Charles County Port Authority and AIM Zones**

Mike provided an update on St. Charles County's recent application for a port authority.

- The County's request for a Port Authority was approved by the State Highway Commission.
- The County is in the process of posting an RFP which will help with determining a strategic plan for the Port Authority Board of Directors.
- The Districts include the County boundaries.
- The County Executive is in the process of interviewing for the Board of Directors which will consist of 7 members. The goal was to have the board in place in March or April. This may be delayed due to the coronavirus. Once the board is approved, the board will be in place to determine goals and strategies.
- The first goal is to create AIM zones. Mike reviewed 4 potential AIM zones in the County.

**6. Update: Missouri HyperLoop**

Mike indicated that there is an RFP out for a test track in a metro area. Kansas City and St. Louis responded. St. Charles County was included because it is part of the St. Louis Metro area. Mike submitted 4 possible test track sites in St. Charles County. Test tracks need to be 6 miles long and located along a corridor. It will include construction of a manufacturing facility and welcome center.

**7. Review Manufacturing Day 2020**

Lori indicated that the Manufacturing Day Planning Committee is considering alternative venues for the event. Possible venues include the Family Arena and the St. Charles Convention Center. This would allow for more students to participate.

**8. Updates from Task Force Attendees**

Mike asked the group to reach out to himself or Lori if they are having any issues or needs during this time of crisis. He indicated that he has been designated as the lead person for the County's Emergency Support Function for Long-Term Community Recovery (business assistance).

There were no updates from attending members.

**9. Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for May 27, 2020 at 8:00 a.m.

**10. Adjournment**