

4

Transportation

VISION

Our transportation system provides alternative, affordable, and efficient modes of transportation that are congestion free, safe, environmentally friendly, and promote economic development.

SUMMARY

St. Charles County is located in the central part of the United States at the confluence of two major rivers and has available the major forms of transportation such as rail, air, water, and roadway. During the initial development of St. Charles the primary mode of travel was by trails and boats just as Lewis and Clark used. However the predominant form of transportation over the last 50 years has been and continues to be the single occupant automobile.

Growth within the county has been in typical suburban patterns with automobile dependent development. The 2005 American Community Survey of the U.S. Census Bureau indicates that 94.6 percent of the workers in the county 16 years or older utilized the automobile, truck or van as their means of transportation to work. With this high percentage of workers driving to work, transportation is a key concern of both residents and employers in St. Charles County.

As the automobile is the only transportation option in many parts of the county, land use and transportation planning have not always been very coordinated. In addition, improving the transportation system always proves to be very expensive.

As of April 2007 there were 1,995 miles of roadway within the county. Although there are areas where capacity has been reduced, overall we enjoy excellent accessibility. This accessibility is a result of St. Charles County's commitment to improving the transportation system on a continuous basis. One method that has been used for improvement is the County Road Board, whose ½ cent transportation sales tax since 1985 has provided 105 miles of roadway improvements. In addition since 1985 federal and state funds have been used to construct three additional bridges across the Missouri River. A portion of MO. Route 364 and all of MO. Route 370 have been completed. In addition, these funds have been utilized to provide additional lanes to Interstate 70 and U.S. Route 40/61 is currently being converted to interstate standards and is known as I-64.

However with the growth rate projected at 2.6 percent, there will be 127,840 additional people that will call St. Charles County home by the year 2020. With this increase additional transportation improvements will be necessary. By the year 2030 the following priorities which are unfunded need to be addressed: Additional lanes on I-70; new interchanges at Highway K,



SUMMARY

Zumbehl Road, and Mid Rivers Mall Drive, congestion on Highway 94 between I-70 and Mo. Route 364 and between Highway N and I-64, on Highway K between I-70 and Highway N and on Highway Z between I-70 and Highway N. Currently there is neither a funding source nor a completion date for the portion of Missouri Route 364 from Highway N to I-64. The completion of Missouri Route 364 is of critical importance so as to not overload the other arterials in the county. To ensure that these improvements are made and the existing roadway system is maintained additional funding sources will be needed.

As the Land Use Plan is updated as part of Envision 2020, the Thoroughfare Plan also needs to be reviewed to ensure it will meet the needs of the traveling public. The Thoroughfare Plan is used to identify strategic road corridors vital for efficient traffic flow and orderly development in the county.

To improve the efficiency of the county's transportation system, issues such as the high use of single occupancy vehicles and the lack of a viable public transit system (bus and/or rail) should be addressed. In addition, other forms of transportation (e.g., rail, aircraft, water) should also be included as part of the overall transportation system, which needs to support existing businesses and encourage continued economic growth throughout the county.

St. Charles County must collaborate with its neighboring counties to determine the need, requirements, and potential locations for a new airport to serve the growing needs of St. Charles County and its neighboring counties. In addition, the county's rail facilities need to be studied to determine if additional sidings are needed to support the expansion of industrial development in the county.

As transportation helped to place St. Charles at the forefront for adventure when Lewis and Clark first left to explore the western frontier, it is our complete transportation network, including all of its varied forms that will keep St. Charles County strong and viable for the future. However it is important to not rest on past laurels but to keep searching for alternatives and innovative concepts to improve the backbone of the county, our transportation network.



ISSUES

- State and federal funding is limited for future road improvements.
- Continuation of county road tax.
- Public transit (bus and rail) is non-existent or very limited in many parts of the county.
- The need, requirements, and potential locations for a new area airport.
- Congestion is a growing problem on current and future road systems.
- Existing road systems need to be maintained.
- Transportation system impacts on economic development.

GOALS & STRATEGIES

GOAL Provide an efficient, congestion-free, and well managed road system.

STRATEGIES

- Provide good access management on major arterials.
- Implement a traffic mitigation program.
- Promote the use of alternative modes of transportation including public transit, bicycle routes, on-street bike lanes, and HOV lanes on both the on-ramps and major highways, and metered on-ramps to major highways.
- Support mixed-use developments where living, shopping, working, and recreational activities are in close proximity.
- Continue to fund the maintenance and upgrading of existing roads and facilities.

GOAL Provide alternative and affordable modes of transportation.

STRATEGIES

- Encourage use of public transit and provide other modes including bikeways, sidewalks, and trails.
- Analyze the feasibility of creating and funding a county-wide mass transit system, including bus and rail service that serves both the unincorporated and incorporated areas.
- Support land use patterns that will utilize public transit.
- Study and discern mobility needs of the county's population not having automobiles (elderly, low-income, disabled, etc.).



4

Transportation

GOALS & STRATEGIES

GOAL Provide an airport that serves the needs and economic growth of the area.

STRATEGIES

- Initiate a collaborative analysis between St. Charles County and its neighboring counties to determine the need, requirements, characteristics, and possible locations for a new airport that will serve the needs of all parties.

GOAL Provide an environmentally friendly and safe transportation system.

STRATEGIES

- Promote the expansion of passenger rail to serve the population centers of St. Charles County.
- Decrease congestion by providing alternative modes of mass transportation.
- Use cost efficient yet environmentally safe de-icing chemicals.
- Inform public about transportation system conditions via Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS).

GOAL Continue the expansion of the roadway system in a way to accommodate the population growth and economic development.

STRATEGIES

- Ensure connectivity between older and newer transportation networks.
- Ensure the system is being developed to accommodate the needs of a growing economy and population.
- Develop new funding sources and other strategies to address congestion issues on the major arterials.
- Promote the expansion/improvement of roads within the county to serve growth areas prior to or in conjunction with the growth occurring.

