

Aspire Johnson County  
Infrastructure Team  
September 10, 2015

Mike Crumbo, Eric Vermilion, Teresa Harwood, Kevin McGinnis, Cheryl Morphew, Julie Ashmore, Jody Veldkamp, Lisa Fears, Dana Monson

Jody reported that David has had good response for the steering committee for the Center Grove planning committee. David sent a letter to the negative letter writer in the Daily Journal inviting him to participate but has not heard anything yet.

Lisa began discussion about the goals and plans for the team. She gave a brief overview of the information learned from the infrastructure panel from the August large group meeting. The theme was consistently that resources are in short supply and funding is extremely difficult. This leads to the question of whether the team should focus on the hard assets or consider changing the focus to become a thought leader in the community and a collaborator for the various municipalities. Mike commented that we can be confrontational in our voice or we can be influencers for the issues. One option for work would be writing articles to the paper with the information and facts without conflicts or be the voice of information for the county.

With the thought of becoming an influencer or an advocate of excellence, how can we best change the focus for the team? How do we do that? How do we prepare ourselves to be the influencer? How do we get there?

Eric asked if this is the path we take, would that be beneficial for JCDC and go the route that best works for economic development? Cheryl agrees this conversation is very timely and working through the process is valuable. Becoming an influencer, researcher of best practices or funding issues for example, and helping in the visionary process is needed.

What do we do?

Educate

Advocate for excellence

Connect and convene

Influencer

Provide cover for officials

Research

Our work is now to advocate for excellence by educating ourselves, researching, influencing and flying cover for decision makers, connecting and convening the necessary resources and developing relationships with decision makers to assist with communication and support of the issues they face.

How do we prepare ourselves to do this? How do we do this?

**1st goal-** Educate ourselves about the infrastructure barriers in the county and develop relationships with the elected officials and decision makers.

Note: It is important to spend time going to the meetings and develop relationships with the officials to learn more about the municipality and to learn the issues. This allows us to be a partner with the municipality.

**Strategy-**

1-Team members choose which municipality to “adopt” and make a commitment to attend the public meetings of those bodies to educate themselves and the entire team on that particular municipality and their issues.

2- Cheryl and Dana can make introductions beforehand to introduce the various decision makers and team members to one another.

**2nd goal-** Look for commonalities between the various municipalities and assess what you have heard and learned at the meetings and as you develop the relationships, then look for common themes that affect the county.

**Strategy-**

1-Each month report to the full team the synopsis of the meetings attended and what information has been learned.

2-Create a running list of commonalities among the municipalities as well as the issues unique to that municipality only.

3-Determine from these lists any research items that are needed for the team and assign this research to a team member.

4-Establish the projects for the team.

**Potential List of meetings:**

County Council-Meets second Monday each month at 6:00 pm

County Commissioners-Meets second Monday of each month at 3:00 pm & fourth Monday at 10:00 am

Franklin City Council-Meets first and third Monday of each month at 6:00 pm

Greenwood City Council-Meets first and third Monday of each month at 7:00 pm

Bargersville Town Council-Meets 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday at 1:00, second Tuesday at 7:00pm

Edinburgh Town Council-Meets second and fourth Monday at 6:00 pm

Trafalgar Town Council-TBD

Whiteland Town Council-Meets second Tuesday at 7:00 pm

Franklin Redevelopment Commission-Meets third Tuesday at 8:00 am

Greenwood Redevelopment Commission-Meets second Tuesday at 4:30 pm

Plan Commissions-monitor and attend as needed

**Action Items for next meeting:**

1. Assess the potential list of meetings to validate their importance in the overall goal of establishing relationships with decision makers and educating the team on the individual municipality.

2. Each team member needs to review the potential list of meetings and determine which are most feasible for them to commit to attending and the municipality they will adopt. Send that information to Eric and Jody to compile.

3. The list and team member’s connections will be finalized at the next team meeting.

Next meeting Thursday October 8, 3:30 to 5:00 pm

Aspire Infrastructure Team  
October 8, 2015

Attendance: Eric Vermilion, David Hittle, Desiree Calderella, Kevin McGinnis, Teresa Harwood, Lance Fischer, Dana Monson, Jody Veldkamp, Peggy Thompson-Rutledge, Lisa Fears

Oct 20 will be the first meeting of the steering committee for the Center Grove plan. Good representation with the exception of home owners associations. Team gave some recommendations. The interest is positive and the goal is to have the committee completed at the meeting.

**Goal 1-** Educate ourselves about the infrastructure barriers in the county and develop relationships with the elected officials and decision maker. Learn about the process, people, problems and opportunities each entity faces.

**Strategy:**

1. Team members choose which municipality to adopt and make a commitment to attend the public meetings. Due by 10/8. Eric Vermilion is the Strategy sponsor.

Jody- County Council

Kevin- Bargersville Town Council

Lance- Trafalgar Town Council

Teresa- Greenwood RDC

Kevin-Plan commission

Peggy-County Commissioners

Eric-Bargersville Town Council

Forrest- Plan Commission

Julie-Edinburgh Town Council

Steve Powell- Whiteland Town Council

Mike Crumbo- Franklin City Council

Pat Sherman- Greenwood City Council

Team members who were not present were placed with a council or commission but this can be revised.

2. Team members begin attending meetings and introduce themselves to some of the members of the entity they are visiting. Cheryl and Dana will assist with the introductions. Meetings will begin to be attended by January. Cheryl is the strategy sponsor. This is due by 1/1/16

3. Create a fact finding tool to use for topics and reports for the members that will lead to a better understanding of the commission members and the process they must follow, leading to an understanding of the issues they face. Jody is the strategy sponsor. This is due by 11/9

4. Attend these meetings for a year then present the potential possibilities that have been learned. Compile a list of intersecting issues/opportunities that impact economic development in the county . Kevin is the strategy sponsor. This is due by 11/2016

Outcome: To become better educated ourselves and enable ourselves to be better educators to the community. To be able to convene the needed parties when issues arise.

**Goal 2-** Look for commonalities between the various municipalities and assess what you have heard and learned at the meetings and as you develop the relationships, then look for common themes that affect the county.

The second goal will be fleshed out at the next meeting. In addition, discussion needs to be held on the name of this team.

Next meeting is November 12, 3:30 to 5:00 at the JCPLIN Services Center.

Aspire Johnson County  
Infrastructure Team  
November 12, 2015

Attendance: Peggy Rutledge, Steve Powell, Lance Fischer, Cheryl Morphew, Eric Vermilion, Dana Monson, Lisa Fears

Eric Vermilion gave an update on the Center Grove Area Planning meeting. David Hittle gave a 101 on planning at this initial meeting so all the members are starting at the same level. Positive comments were made about the meeting. State road 37, Whiteland Road and Morgantown Road intersection, and seven other intersections were listed as important connections for the area. These meetings will continue later this month. There may be more for the Aspire team to be involved in later in the process.

Meeting reports:

Lance Fischer: Trafalgar Town Council. Most of the discussion was on the drainage and contaminated soil in the downtown area. There was no discussion of brownfield remediation which could be a potential way our team can help. This could be an area we could provide information on for the town.

Steve Powell: Town of Whiteland. Could not make the meeting but will go next month.

Peggy Rutledge: will attend the next Commissioners meeting.

Teresa Harwood: Greenwood Redevelopment Commission. Cheryl reported that Teresa has attended the last two redevelopment commission meeting.

We need to send out the current list of towns and those assigned to attend and make sure they are going to attend these meetings.

Steve Powell presented information on the telecom providers who are in Johnson County. There is now a certified designation called "Broadband ready" that our local communities may want to consider applying for. This increases their marketability for economic development.

There are several members of the team missing for this meeting so it is not appropriate to work on the goals and strategies for today.

The team needs to reach out to former members and let them know the new direction the team is going. Possibly have a membership drive over the next few months. Jody has a list of current and past members. We need to consider creating an outlook meeting for this team and send out each month. Eric will create this and send out. December 10 will be our next meeting time. Suggestion was made to alternate the meetings between Greenwood and Franklin. December we will meet in Greenwood at the Financial Center Credit Union community room. The agenda for that meeting needs to include completion of part two of the goals and strategies. Part one is creating the adoption of communities list and having commitments to attend these meetings. Part two is determining how to capture the important points from these meetings and glean the important parts that we can impact and determine how we can best report this to the Infrastructure team. What is the template we use and what questions do we ask for these meetings? What are we asking, what do we want to know and what will we do with this information? We also need to make a decision on the name of this team.

Aspire Infrastructure Team  
December 10, 2015

Attendance: Teresa Harwood, Jody Veldkamp, Lance Fischer, Eric Vermilion, Cheryl Morphew, Kevin McGinnis, Dana Monson, Desiree Calderella, Forrest Mellot, David Hittle, Julie Ashmore, Tom Weartz, Steve Powell, Peggy Rutledge

White River Township Planning meeting update: Eric reported the meetings are going well and at a good pace. He appreciates the education that is going on with this on the zoning and the purpose of the planning. Cheryl noted it is a great opportunity and the participants appreciate having a voice and input. David has added a few new members. There are three critical areas, SR 37, commercial nodes on Morgantown, and areas of Smith Valley. There are considerations to split up the zoning designations to be more specific. Next steps are to convene the two I-69 groups. For some of the smaller issues, the discussion will develop the language which David would like to bring to this team for analysis as well. The smaller ones will be completed first, with the I-69 being larger and more involved.

I-69 update: Jody gave an update on the INDOT meeting held last month. SR 37 seems to be the logical choice with the least impact. This is still not the final decision. There are still some who feel this is not going to take into consideration the communities desires and others who are fine with the decision and process. This will be narrowed down to three in January. No other public meetings have been announced yet. Section 4 has now been opened. This will increase traffic now on 37 and when section 5 opens, even more traffic will come up.

Meeting Reports: Jody went to County Council which has a schedule with many small issues that are mentioned. Steve went to Whiteland Town Hall and met the town manager and the new planning director. The old Mr. D building has been sold and new updates will be made to the building. Peggy went to county commissioners meeting. They are working on a federal grant for Fairview and Peterman. This will be a roundabout. Lance went to Trafalgar, there was a water rate analysis and now they must determine what type of rate they can handle and how they can pay off the debt service for water and sewer. There is going to be a new gas station in the town as well. They have also added Camp Allendale on their water service. Teresa went to the Greenwood Redevelopment Commission. No major activities to report. Worthsville Road completion was a topic.

Taking Action: Eric noted that there has been quite a bit of research completed and now there are opportunities for action. There are some initiatives that can be considered, such as rural broadband initiative, lemonade day entrepreneur program, educating on issues from the other two teams as well. The team is on board with creating the focus of the team as a special projects team.