



Inter-Region Visit 2017

Ames, Iowa & Omaha, Neb



Why do we do these trips?

- To learn from others
- To build solid relationships in our region

Why are these trips important?

- To see what communities are doing right (and wrong)
- What can we mimic? What should we avoid?
- What is working & what isn't?
- What can we bring home & do in OUR COMMUNITY?
- To foster trust between area entities & companies



How do we choose where we go?

- ▶ We look for similar demographics to us
 - ▶ Size
 - ▶ University
 - ▶ Growing, growing, growing
 - ▶ Economic engines
 - ▶ Animal Science Lab
 - ▶ Public transportation & art
 - ▶ Quality of Place
- ▶ Is it a day(ish) drive?
- ▶ Where have we been?
 - ▶ Columbia, Missouri (2015)
 - ▶ NW Arkansas (2016)
 - ▶ Ames, Iowa & Omaha, Neb (2017)



What do we do with the info we learn?

Grassroots Efforts

▶ Manhattan

- ▶ Classroom to Career Partnership - a business and classroom effort to reach youth.



Businesses “adopt” a class and interact with students thru the year

4 day event with Teacher Connections to MAC, Career Fair & field trips to area businesses

(Arkansas & Columbia Trips)

What do we do with the info we learn?

Grassroots Efforts

▶ Wamego

- ▶ Wam-Sag-Man Trail - renewed interest in this trail connecting Wamego, St. George and Manhattan

(Arkansas Trip)

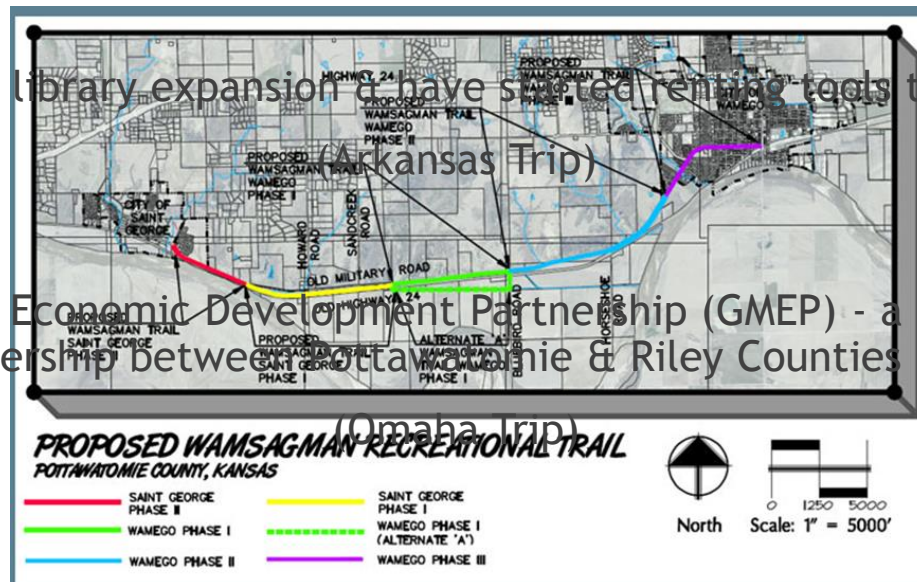
▶ Junction City

- ▶ Exploring potential library expansion & have started renting tools to patrons

(Arkansas Trip)

▶ Region

- ▶ Greater Manhattan Economic Development Partnership (GMEP) - a regional economic development partnership between Pottawatomie & Riley Counties





Inter-Region Visit 2016 Highlights

NW Arkansas Trip

- ▶ Helped maintain & boost enthusiasm for the need for improved rec facilities in the region
 - ▶ (Quality of Place)
- ▶ Renewal of existing sales tax initiatives gained support
 - ▶ Manhattan (.25% sales tax renewal for Trails & Parks)
 - ▶ Pottawatomie County (one-cent sales tax renewal for county & city projects)



Inter-Region Visit 2017 Highlights

Ames, Iowa & Omaha, Nebraska

- ▶ 1 Bus, 55 Flint Hills IRV members & lots & lots of networking
 - ▶ Representatives from Junction City, Manhattan & Pottawatomie County
- ▶ Community College
 - ▶ Des Moines Area Community College
- ▶ Public Transit
 - ▶ CyRide Transit System
- ▶ USDA Lab
 - ▶ Learning about NBAF
- ▶ Regional Eco Devo Partnerships
 - ▶ Omaha, Nebraska

Of Note

- ▶ Awesome Parks
- ▶ Downtown Enhancement Opportunities
- ▶ Public community art
- ▶ Wet/dry labs

Des Moines Area Community College



6 campus & 4 career academy/centers serve
9 Central Iowa counties and approx. 36,000 students

Why was it important to visit DMAACC?

- ▶ We have a workforce challenge/opportunity
- ▶ Lowest unemployment in the state
- ▶ We are growing quickly
- ▶ Unique opportunities for future employment (NBAF among others)
- ▶ Visiting DMAACC gave everyone a chance to understand the level of support the college gives the region & vice versa

CyRide Transit System

94% of system's riders
are Iowa State
Students

2/3 of student body
live off campus



“Students could not function without the
system we have today.”

Sheri Kyras, Ames Transit Director

Why is CyRide Transit important to us?

- ▶ We are a growing community
- ▶ Loaded main arterial traffic system
- ▶ Growing number of commuters
- ▶ 23,000 students who need to get places
- ▶ Younger population driving later in life

Dr. Kehrli, USDA Lab

How to leverage NBAF relationships



“You need to take pride in the fact that what is being built in Manhattan is one of the most unique facilities in the world.”

Why was it important to visit the USDA lab?

- ▶ It has been around a long time
- ▶ It is the closest mature model we have to learn from
- ▶ They can help us learn how to interact with a Federal lab
- ▶ They can help us learn how to create workforce
- ▶ They can help us utilize NBAF as an economic engine for our region



Benefits of 6-county economic development partnership

- ▶ Access to commercial real estate listings w/ variety of specifications & locations
- ▶ Lower business costs & increased efficiencies in staff
- ▶ Shared resources to help smaller agencies
- ▶ A win for the region is a win for everyone
- ▶ “We’re trying to grow the pie, not shrink the pie.”

- Randy Thelen

Recap:

Why was it important to visit Omaha?

- ▶ Growing region
- ▶ Example of a partnership that is working well and has for 20+ years
- ▶ Close in proximity and we compete for similar eco devo opportunities
- ▶ They have figured out the kinks and have worked through them
- ▶ Regional powerhouse with regional marketing
- ▶ Our region is located on the Animal Health corridor
- ▶ We need to embrace & attract businesses together (as a region), we can learn from them

What is next for the trip?

- ▶ We are taking 2018 off to focus on the Greater Manhattan Project; trip will return in 2019
- ▶ Challenges
 - ▶ Finding cities with similar demographics
 - ▶ Having those cities be within a 6 hour drive
 - ▶ This may add cost & time to the trip (air travel may be required)
- ▶ Where to next?
 - ▶ Possibly, Ft. Collins, CO

Committee:

Interested in more? Why wouldn't you be?

A full report will be available on the Chamber website next week.

Thank you for your time & interest.

Brad Johnson

Stan Hambright

Gail Urban, Co-Chair

Cherlyn White-Conklyn, Co-Chair

Chamber of Commerce

Kansas



Manhattan