



TASK FORCES

Steering Committee

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AGRICULTURE

The Agriculture Task Force was formed in 2000 to represent the diverse nature of today's agricultural community.

Agriculture is vital to our tri-state economy. Approximately 52 percent of the nation's corn and 41 percent of the nation's soybean exports are carried on the Upper Mississippi River System according to Upper Mississippi River Basin Association 2000 figures. Agriculture exports are a primary factor in the nation's and region's international competitiveness and a driver of a robust transportation network.

CONNECTIVITY

The Connectivity Task Force was formed in 2007 to represent the constantly changing needs of the 21st century tri-states. The quality and condition of being connected via broadband is vital to our economic well-being. Broadband creates jobs. It enhances quality of life, lowers energy costs, enhances educational programs and saves lives through telemedicine.

The goal of the Connectivity Task Force is to make broadband accessible and affordable throughout the tri-state region so that everyone may reap its benefits.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

The Emergency Response Task Force was formed after the 2007 Summit to develop relationships and procedures across county and state lines to ensure the tri-state region is prepared in case of catastrophe.

The goal of the Emergency Response Task Force is to develop preparedness plans, professional and technical committees and emergency communication strategies on a regional level.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

In 2007 an Entrepreneurship Task Force was established under the Tri-State Summit. The group's mission is to encourage and assist entrepreneurs in the development of new businesses and the expansion of existing businesses throughout the tri-state region.

The Entrepreneurship Task Force hosts quarterly events to provide entrepreneurs and small business owners with local economic information, business-related tips & advice and networking opportunities with other business owners.

HOUSING

Adequate housing – like highways, healthcare and retail establishments – is necessary to achieve desired growth and quality of life in a region. For that reason, the Tri-State Development Summit established the Housing Task Force in 2005.

The Housing Task Force's mission is to provide affordable workforce housing in the tri-state area. This includes:

1. Increasing affordable housing options for the region's workforce
2. Providing counseling to first-time homebuyers
3. Identifying funding sources for housing development throughout the region

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TASK FORCES

35 Counties

Illinois

Adams	McDonough
Brown	Mercer
Cass	Morgan
Fulton	Pike
Hancock	Scott
Henderson	Schuyler
Knox	Warren

Iowa

Davis	Lee
Des Moines	Louisa
Henry	Van Buren
Jefferson	Wapello

Missouri

Adair	Pike
Clark	Ralls
Knox	Randolph
Lewis	Schuyler
Macon	Scotland
Marion	Shelby
Monroe	

MEDIA

The Media Task Force was created in 2001. The Tri-State Development Summit Media Task Force’s purpose is to unite in an effort to inform tri-state citizens about issues affecting the region as a whole including highway funding, modernization of our rivers systems, workforce development and more.

The 35-county Tri-State Summit region is covered by more than 70 media outlets, including several TV stations that broadcast live daily.

RIVERS ISSUES

Rivers issues remain a top priority for the Tri-State Summit. That’s why the Rivers Issues Task Force was formed in 1997 to speak with one voice for the tri-state area.

The task force works with other river-related organizations to impact the improvement of navigation on the upper Mississippi, Illinois and Missouri Rivers. With our allies at the Upper Mississippi, Illinois and Missouri Rivers Association, the Waterways Council and levee districts, we have garnered much support. Political leaders are now considering our needs as well as the importance of these rivers to the economy.

The Rivers Issues Task Force also continues to play a critical role in bringing attention to funding the Water Resources Development Act and the lock upgrades that are the lifeline to a vital economy.

TOURISM

The tri-state area is rich in tourism opportunities. In 1997 a task force was created to identify those opportunities and work together to promote the Tri-State region. A cooperative tourism brochure was first produced in 1999 and was expanded and updated in 2001 and 2008.

The goals of the Tourism Task Force are to: 1)Combine efforts and resources to market as a region and 2)Cross-promote tri-state events and attractions to encourage visitors to extend their stays and bring additional dollars into our tri-state economy.

TRANSPORTATION

The Transportation Task Force was created in 1997 to evaluate all transportation issues within the tri-state region. The group decided to focus on identifying highway priorities that would best serve the region and provide strategic economic advantages.

In 1998, the task force unanimously agreed on 1,519 miles of four-lane regional highway priorities. Priority maps were created and a delegation of six, two from each state, made presentations to elected officials and departments of transportation.

The regional task force has impacted decisions in all three states and made the “tri-state of mind” the center of four-lane highways in all directions. Over the years, the transportation task force has facilitated the completion of over 1,500 miles of four-lane highways in the tri-state region, including three major corridors.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

In 1997, the Workforce Development Task Force was established to work with the private sector throughout the tri-states to offer the training needed to maintain a high quality workforce which meets current and future employment demands.

The task force has sponsored several tri-state job fairs, and a successful on-line degree program has also resulted from the effort. Portions of the Summit region are planning to conduct a labor market study to evaluate the needs of employers and identify new ways to work together and with economic development to respond to those needs.

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