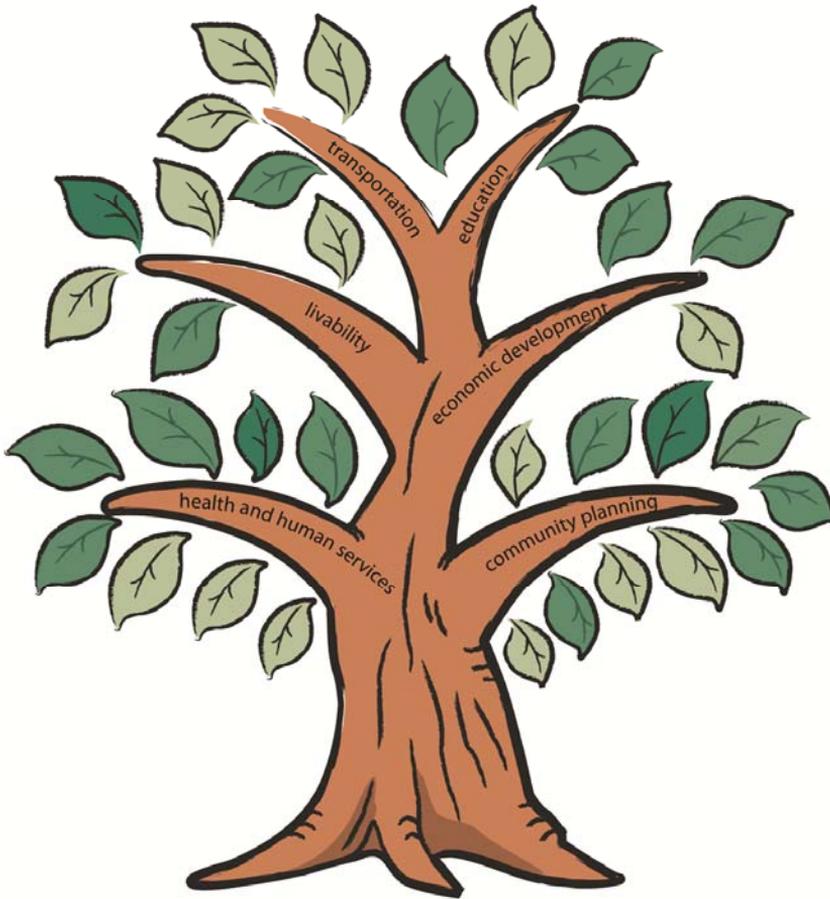


The Growth of the Vision



2010-11 Envision 2020 Progress Report

October, 2011

envision|2020

October 1, 2011

Dear community members,

Five years ago, over 400 citizens took the time to engage in the important work of envisioning a desired future for the Greater Mankato region. Together, we organized a visionary plan into six Key Performance Areas (KPA's).

This is an important year for Envision 2020 (E2020) as we look back on 5 years of work and look forward to learning from another community where a leadership delegation can bring back ideas from Charlottesville, Virginia in November as they travel on a Inter-City Leadership Visit. This journey will reinforce our commitment and passion of the vision and inspire our citizens and leaders to shape the future of Greater Mankato.

Today, we'd like you to look to the E2020 tree, which is used to report the growth of the vision. Some of the goals will take a short amount of time to accomplish, while others may take many years to complete. With diligence, patience and partnership, we are certain we can grow our tree (our vision) into a beautiful, strong and vital reality. On the following pages, we've highlighted some of the major successes that have been accomplished during the past year. This success is due to the many individuals and organizations that work hard to make great things happen. This annual report also lists the next steps that lie ahead.

Tony Filipovitch
2010-11 Chair
Envision 2020

Judy Arzdorf
2011-2012 Chair
Envision 2020

Barb Embacher
Vice President
Greater Mankato Growth



Community Planning

John Considine, 2011-13 Chair

Mike Fischer, KPA Co-Chair

Paul Vogel, KPA Co-Chair

Goal #1:

To protect, preserve and revitalize green spaces, and recreational and community uses of land and water.

Green Infrastructure Taskforce

Bend of the River Million Tree Project

Contact: John Considine, Tom Hagen, Mike Fischer or Paul Vogel

Successes in 2010-11:

- Interconnection of the City of Madison Lake into the regional waste water treatment system. Other partners include Eagle Lake, North Mankato, Lake Washington and South Bend Township.
- Implementation of non native invasive species removal program from Rasmussen Woods/Indian Creek Slough.
- Native landscaping plans and grants for Troost Pond and Sibley Meadow Area.
- Benson Park planning and grant submittal for improvements.
- Cooperative trail planning between Mankato/North Mankato – Lookout Drive/Hiniker Pond Trail.
- Coordinated Bicycle Map – CVB, North Mankato, Mankato and Blue Earth County.
- Monitoring of urban forest for ash borer.

Next Steps:

- Acquire sponsorship for 2011 tree planting.
- Sustainability task orce review of KPA goals and objectives and refine action steps.
- Finalization of Lakes Area Sanitary Sewer District for servicing Madison Lake, Ballantyne and Duck Lake.
- Water quality improvements.

Goal #2:

To redefine and revitalize the city center.

City Center Partnership

Contact: Andy Willaert, City Center Partnership Council Chair

Successes:

- CityArt Walking Sculpture Tour is in place and attracting visitors.
- Planning for Warren Street and Cherry Street conversion from one-way to two-way.
- Local designation of First Presbyterian Church by Heritage Preservation Commission.
- Historic inventory of 12 properties for local designation.
- Completion of median treatments and improvements with sustainable plantings.
- New 2nd Street ramp construction.
- Riverfront Park - first season of event programming and construction of the amphitheater.
- Adopt A Planter program with businesses is working well.
- Acquisition of U.S. Bank site for future civic center expansion options.

Next Steps:

- Increase critical mass and business vitality in the City Center.
- Advance infrastructure development and aesthetic improvements to increase business activity and livability.
- Secure sufficient resources for the City Center Partnership to accomplish its goals.

Goal #3:

To develop effective strategies for regional governance for: emergency planning, energy needs, resource sharing and displaying a regional identity.

Contacts: Regional city and county elected and appointed officials.

Successes:

- Coordination of Complete Count committees for successful Census 2010.
- Flood preparedness coordination between local jurisdictions.
- July 4th Firework coordination between Mankato and North Mankato.
- Mankato and North Mankato were recognized at HUD Entitlement Communities.
- Completion of Regional Transportation Plan (MATAPS) that includes multi-modal and non-motorized component.
- Application for Bicycle Friendly Community Designation jointly submitted by Mankato and North Mankato. Honorable Mention status achieved.
- Local counties have updated the Blue Earth County Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Next Steps:

- Explore options for resource sharing and cooperation between all local units of government.
- Implement consolidated plans for funding mechanisms for community development block grants.

Goal #4:

To encourage the development or redevelopment of urban villages.

Contact: City and county planners and engineers and planning commissions

Successes:

- Successful phase 2 of the Marigold site project.
- Infill project on 200 Block of Belgrade underway.
- Approved development for Sibley Parkway Phase I.
- Completion of infrastructure improvements for Sibley Parkway Phase II.
- HECO building redevelopment with upper floor condos.
- Storefront and building rehabilitation on South Riverfront – Park Lane area.
- Storefront and building rehabilitation programs available in Mankato and North Mankato’s central business district.
- North Mankato commissioned a comprehensive downtown study for the Belgrade Avenue central business district.

Next Steps:

- Explore urban village and strategies for redevelopment in Charlottesville, VA.



Economic Development

Pam Jagdfeld, KPA Co-Chair
Jonathan Zierdt, KPA Co-Chair

Goal # 1: Energy Diversification: To increase our region’s energy self-sufficiency.

Energy Supply Chain Committee and Energy Conservation Taskforce

Contact: Tom Riley and Lou Schwartzkopf

Successes:

- Organized a “Tour of Manufacturing” - an open house for the public to tour area manufacturing companies during MN Manufacturing Week.
- Presence at the Home & Builder’s Show to educate the public about home energy efficiency.
- Completed a greenhouse gas inventory to establish a greenhouse gas baselines for the residential, commercial and industrial sectors of the two cities.
- Manufacturer’s Energy Efficiency workshop.
- Surveyed manufactures about renewable energy status.

- Renewable Energy Supply Chain Development Group had six manufacturing visits and tours in 2010. Expanded from 23 to 31 companies.
- City of Mankato has begun steps to become a Green Step City.
- GMG website enhanced with tools for green entrepreneurs and energy efficiency resources for all businesses.
- Electric meter lending program at local libraries. Established a program for businesses to purchase meters to loan out to their employees, Xcel Energy donated meters. MSU, M library added some for check-out.

Next Steps:

- Educate the community about energy alternatives and conservation strategies.
- Compile and communicate data on best practice strategies and area energy usage.

Goal #2: Business Retention and Growth: to optimize our existing resources/businesses to support a livable, sustainable and regional economy that supports strategic growth.

Contact: Tom Riley and Jill Klinger

Successes:

- Regional Economic Development Alliance continues to evolve and add value.
- The first “Lemonade Day” was hosted in June 2011 in Mankato and several Greater Mankato communities to promote entrepreneurship in our youth.
- Continued to expand the Greater Mankato Young Professionals and leadership programs.
- GMG continues to connect renewable energy and materials companies to resources available at MSU, M’s Renewable Energy Center.
- Supply chain and industry “cluster” information added to GMG website.
- GMG and MSU, M provided access to the Clean Tech Open, with 3 local semi-finalists.

Next Steps:

- Gather the Greater Mankato Leadership Delegation to strengthen our community’s vision and development, while strengthening collaborative relationships.
- Enhance talent development and retention strategies. (See education KPA, goal #3)
- Furthering the development and needs to be referenced here as well as the tools of the REDAlliance to position greater Mankato for business investment and re-investment.

Goal #3: Business Development: Enhance the ease of doing business in the region.

Contacts: Jill Klinger and Tom Riley

Successes:

- Expanded coordinated regional economic development services with area cities and counties.
- Brought local and regional equity capital to the marketplace to minimize the sale of local companies to the highest out of state bidders. Granite Equity Partners out of St. Cloud, MN and other local interested parties are evaluating options to expand their holdings in our region.
- Served 60 new and emerging businesses through the Greater Mankato Business Accelerator (GMBA).

Next Steps:

- Connect local investors with start-up enterprises.
- Increase the number of entrepreneurs served by the GMBA.
- Develop specialized support services to entrepreneurs from diverse cultures.

Education

Glenn Morris, KPA Chair



Katie Boone and Donna Wenkel 2011-13 Co-Chairs

Goal #1: To promote a lifelong learning community Greater Mankato Education Council

Successes:

- Greater Mankato Early Learning Initiative (GMELI) expanded parent classes to several corporate sites for “lunch n learns.”
- First Steps Collaborative received a planning grant to integrate home visits with healthcare visits to catch early development delays right away. (Greater Mankato Area United Way)

Next Steps:

- Expand early learning support in the community by adding a one-stop service center right in the OB department for prenatal - 3 yr old services.
- Develop a new way to record pre-school screening data.
- Complete and distribute a lifelong learning matrix.

Goal #2: To build global awareness into education and promote diversity acceptance in our community (A joint effort between Education & Livability)

Contacts: Kuma Takamara and Anne Ganey

Successes:

- YWCA hosted “Colorful Dialogues” to foster deeper awareness and conversation among diverse citizens.
- Greater Mankato Diversity Council held Prejudice Reduction Workshops reaching over 12,000 students in area schools.
- Mankato Area Fair Trade Town Initiative (MAFTTI) explored the criteria and laid the groundwork for Mankato and North Mankato to become Fair Trade Towns.
- MAFTI developed contacts within the K-12 schools to introduce global awareness education to school age children.

Next Steps:

- Create board training for diverse inclusion on decision making entities. (Blandin Community Leadership Diversity Group)
- Continue to run Prejudice Reduction Workshops. (GMDC)
- Educate the business community about Fair Trade through a community forum. (MAFTTI)

Goal #3: Retain and attract an educated workforce.

(A joint effort of Economic Development and Education)

Successes:

- Mankato Area Public Schools implemented Naviance, a high school career planning tool used in 7-12 grades.
- Expanded the Greater Mankato Young Professionals program to more than 100 active emerging leaders ages 21 - 39. (GMG)
- Developed, tested and implemented a curriculum that explores non-traditional career choices for future workers, targeted at students in grades 7-12 in Southern Minnesota. (SCSC, local colleges, GMDC)
- Hosted the Campus & Community Fair with more than 2,000 students and over 200 businesses and organizations participating.
- Expanded regional high school career academy programs of study to include health and agri-science.
- Mankato Area Public Schools aligned their secondary science curriculum to better build skills needed for college.

Next Steps:

- Engage the Greater Mankato Young Professionals group in community service, leadership development and E2020, increasing the group to 110 members.
- Design new strategies to ensure college and career readiness for secondary students; forming partnerships between education and business.

- Develop and implement strategies for connecting talented individuals with employers and workforce development programs and services.
- Continue the Campus & Community Fair and Leaders of Tomorrow program to connect new college students to employers and community organizations. (GMG, MSU, Mankato)
- Develop connections with high school, college and community alumni groups to reacquaint them with Greater Mankato.
- Develop a high school manufacturing and engineering academy for 2012.
- Build up the south central iSeek website to better connect businesses and students to work-based learning opportunities. (Economic Growth Collaborative of South Central, MN)

Goal #4: Make learning more accessible to all residents.

Successes:

- Increased career pathways developed between K-12, two year and four year colleges.
- Increased online course offerings for high school and adult learners.
- Mankato Area Public Schools implemented a new AVID program to motivate talented at-risk students in 8th grade to take advanced placement courses in high school.
- Girls self esteem pilot. (GMDC)
- Piloted STEM Equity training for 7-12 students in collaboration with Greater Mankato Diversity Council.
- South Central College/Adult Basic Ed/Mankato Workforce Center piloted a “fast-track” program in health careers and welding for at-risk adult learners.

Next Steps:

- Provide referrals to programs, schools and services across the region based on individual needs.
- Continue to advocate for expanded early learning programs.



Health & Human Services

Kevin Burns, 2011-13 Chair

Victoria Hanson and Laurie Dahl, KPA Co-Chairs

Goal #1: To prepare for an aging population.

Successes:

- VINE conducted a feasibility study to renovate the Nichols Building into a multi-use center for seniors.
- VINE purchased the Nichols Building from Blue Earth County for \$1.

Next Steps:

- VINE is conducting a capitol campaign to fund the renovations to the Nichols Building.
- Mayo Clinic Health System development of its Palliative Care Program.

Goal #2: To enhance and promote healthy lifestyles for all.

Health Improvement Partnership, Mankato Family YMCA, YWCA, Greater Mankato Bike/Walk Advocates, Blue Earth and Nicolet County State Health Improvement Partnership committees and more.

Contact: Rodney(Chip) Gay, John Kind, Anne Ganey, Tom Engstrom, Bonnie Frisk, and Becky Weber.

Successes:

- The “Exercise is Medicine” presentation has been delivered to over 1,300 people and is aired on CCTV.
- Received a UCare grant to produce public service announcements about the benefits of active lifestyles.
- Promoted Strength Training to over 150 people.
- The Mankato Clinic physicians from the Pediatrics, Family Practice and Neurology departments worked closely with the school district to implement the new legislation regarding student-athlete concussions. A baseline assessment is required and following a concussion, students must be evaluated and cleared by an independent provider prior to returning to play.
- 86 families participated in the Mankato Family YMCA Healthy Kid’s Day.
- The YWCA held multiple sessions of the Girl’s On the Run program.
- Completed a physician survey about talking to patients about regular exercise and medical check-ups.
- The first annual Mankato Marathon was held in October 2010, with over two thousand participants in the kids run, 5K, half and full marathon. The

2011 event will more than double the participation from 2010.

- Mayo Clinic Health System held the 10th annual Women's Show, the largest health and wellness event of its kind in southern Minnesota.
- Mayo Clinic Health System held six Bicycle Safety Rallies throughout the region.

Next Steps:

- Development of a new model of care, which may include physicians assessing physical activity, nutrition, and smoking at every visit.
- Continue to provide education and outreach to residents and health practitioners about the benefits of regular exercise.
- Support and coordinate community activities and events that promote wellness and physical exercise.
- Conduct more bicycle safety classes and bike/walk activities to encourage more residents to be active.
- The first annual River Ramble Bike Ride was held in October 2011 with over 1,200 riders.

Goal #3: To ensure that all our citizens have accessible healthcare.

Contact: Kevin Burns, Victoria Hanson, Laurie Dahl and Sarah Kruse

Successes:

- Open Door Health Clinic saw a 70% increase in the number of patients served.
- Increased on-site behavioral health team at Open Door has been filling the gap for mental health services.
- Open Door Health Clinic began a new oral health program that provides education and fluoride treatments to school-age children in a Mankato elementary school.
- A dietician worked in the K-12 schools to promote and education students on healthy dietary options and choices (MAPS & Mankato Clinic Foundation).
- The Mankato Clinic became certified as a Health Care Home and has implemented a new model of care in its pediatrics and primary care departments that actively engages patients in their care and provides for chronic disease management and care coordination among community, specialty and tertiary providers.
- The Mankato Clinic opened an online portal to their electronic health record that allows patients to access their health care information electronically.
- Mayo Clinic Health System partnered with elementary, secondary and post-secondary schools to promote health care as a career, thus helping ensure adequate numbers of skilled workers in the future.

- Mayo Clinic Health System has expanded its Urgent Care hours at several locations.

Next Steps:

- Work with government leaders and local providers to address healthcare accessibility and affordability.
- Open Door Health Clinic is expanding their facility for expanded dental services.
- The Mankato Clinic will be making its portal to its electronic health record available to all patients so they can access their health care information electronically.
- The Mankato Clinic is pursuing Health Care Home certification for all of its primary care sites.
- Mayo Clinic Health System is constructing a new, \$30 million Emergency Department, doubling its current capacity, to open in 2011-12.



Livability

Nancy Pehling, KPA Chair

Anne Ganey, 2011-13 KPA Co-Chair

Kuma Takamura, 2011-13 Co-Chair

Goal #1: To advocate for creative options to supply affordable housing to young professionals, elder citizens, new U.S. citizens and all those with limited incomes.

Successes:

- Habitat for Humanity build several affordable homes in Sibley Parkway.

Next Steps:

- Use the information gathered from the Affordable Housing Taskforce to plan for future needs of residents.

Goal #2: To keep and enhance our community's beauty. Encouraging neighborhoods to help "go green" and engage in environmentally friendly strategies to keep our residents and community healthy.

Successes:

- Energy Conservation Committee provided education on conservation and energy saving strategies to people at the Home & Builder's Show.
- City of Mankato and City Center Partnership organized a successful

flower planter sponsorship program to maintain seasonal plantings in the City Center.

- Acknowledged people who have made aesthetic improvements to their property in the City Center (CCP Awards program).

Next Steps:

- Continue to promote “green” construction and consumer conservation.
- Find more ways to encourage private investment in property improvements.
- Raise funding and volunteer support for a spring 2012 planting for the Bend of the River Million Tree Project.

Goal #3: To develop communication strategies to inform and engage all citizens, schools, business leaders, government leaders and non-profit organizations about the many attributes, events and volunteer opportunities in Greater Mankato.

Successes:

- The Free Press held a community forum to hear the voices of greater Mankato citizens about why they like to call Mankato home. MPR also ran a story about it.
- Two more cohorts of Greater Mankato leaders attended the Blandin Community Leadership Program.
- Exposed the 26 individuals in the Greater Mankato Leadership Institute to community service options as part of the curriculum.
- Continued to promote the use of the popular entertainment and information portal, greatermankatoevents.com.
- Continued to promote the “Volunteer Solutions” website tool to connect community needs with volunteers. (Greater Mankato Area United Way)

Next Steps:

- Hold focus groups to learn what interest there might be in workshops to help citizens from diverse backgrounds who are not engaged on community committees, boards and advisory groups to get involved in those positions.
- Increase the use of greatermankatevents.com and the online United Way Volunteer Solutions website.
- Update the E2020 website to better connect the leaders, volunteers and community during the implementation of the goals.
- Provide support and resources for E2020 Taskforce Chairs to help with volunteer recruitment/management, meeting space options, website use, etc.

Goal # 4: To collaboratively plan and acquire funding to build or restore community facilities. This group of community leaders will consider options, develop funding strategies and plan collaboratively.

Successes:

- Several taskforces were formed to plan for the needs of the aging population through VINE to design a community center for seniors.
- The Children’s Museum of Southern Minnesota acquired some space for several months to put up a Play Lab, which serves many children in the region. They have also designed a plan for a new building.

Next Steps:

- Explore options for new community facilities and convene special interest groups when needed to give input to the taskforce.
- Continue to plan collaboratively to share resources and services when possible.

Goal # 5: Increase and raise awareness of diversity in the community.

Contact: Bukata Hayes

Successes: (see successes of global awareness in Education KPA)

Next Steps:

- Explore the possibility of Mankato becoming a Refugee Resettlement Community.
- Organize and present the REEL Culture Festival, a two-day festival celebrating diversity through film, theater, music, dance, poetry and dialogue.
- Broaden the participation of the City Circle Advisory Committee, a collaboration between the City of Mankato and the Greater Mankato Diversity Council, whose goal is to increase service delivery to all of Mankato’s community members.
- Broaden the participation of The Free Press Advisory Group, a collaboration between The Free Press and the Greater Mankato Diversity Council, whose aim is to present a more accurate and inclusive portrayal of our diverse community here in Greater Mankato.
- Present and facilitate two community dialogues on local diversity topics in conjunction with The Free Press.



Transportation

Joe Duncan, KPA Chair

Ken Saffert, 2011-13 KPA Chair

Goal #1: Develop an accessible mass transit system.

Successes:

- Adoption of an updated MATAPS Multi-Modal Transportation Plan.
- City of Mankato formed a Multi-Transit Committee for 2012 and beyond.

Next Step:

- Cities & counties will explore options and advocate for mass transit funding support for our region.

Goal #2: Promote and develop non-motorized transportation systems.

MATAPS and the Greater Mankato Bike/Walk Advocates

Successes:

- Received an Honorable Mention designation by the Bicycle Alliance as a Bicycle Friendly Community. (City of Mankato and City of North Mankato)
- Instituted walking school busses and installed pedestrian crossing signals along critical link pedestrian systems near schools. (City of Mankato)
- Developed standards for complete streets and critical linkages for non-motorized transportation.(City of Mankato)
- Ribbon cutting for the new bike trail that connects Minneopa State Park to the Red Jacket in 2010. (Blue Earth County)
- Developed a new trail along County Road 41 which links to the Minnemishinona Falls.
- Received donation of bicycles from the MN Vikings and donated them to MSU, M international students and needy youth. (Bike/Walk Advocates)
- Promoted safe biking and walking to work, school and everyday activities as a viable mode of transportation during “Bike to Work Week.” (Bike/Walk Advocates)

Next Steps:

- Encourage businesses and institutions to promote non-motorized means of travel by adding more bike racks near building entrances.
- Promote safe biking and walking to work, school and everyday activities as a viable mode of transportation.
- Increase the membership of the Greater Mankato Bike/Walk Advocates, to organize activities, events, classes and enthusiasm.

- Repairing of the Red Jacket Trail Trestle over LeSueur River.
- Development of a new trail along Hwy 14 linking the North Mankato and Mankato trail system.

Goal #3: Maintain, improve and coordinate efficient and safe streets, roads and trails.

Successes:

- Conversion of Warren and Cherry Street to two-way traffic. (City of Mankato)
- Developed additional parking resources in the City Center. e.g. construction of the 2nd Street Parking Ramp. (City of Mankato)
- CSAH 12 Extension/ TH 14 Interchange. New major roadway from the airport to CSAH 17. Stages I and II are completed. (Blue Earth County)
- Feasibility studies completed for TH 22/ Madison Avenue intersection and the Victory Boulevard/Stadium Road intersection. (Blue Earth County)

Next Steps:

- Complete the CSAH 12/Extension/ TH 14 interchange in 2012. (Blue Earth County)
- Continue pursuit of City Center street changes and improvements. (City of Mankato)
- Work with city and county planners, engineers and developers to enhance the community's transportation infrastructure.
- State Highway 14/CSAH 41 Interchange project. (Nicollet County & City of North Mankato)

Goal #4: Enhance and develop a regional and inter-regional multi-modal transportation system (including pedestrians, bicycles, motor vehicles, transit rail and air.)

Successes:

- Adoption of an updated MATAPS Multi-Modal Transportation Plan.
- City of Mankato formed a Multi-Transit Committee for 2012 and beyond.
- Mankato corridor was identified as a priority in the state rail plan.

Next Steps:

- Undertake a mass transit study to examine route redesign, bus rapid transit and a multi-county feeder system. (City of Mankato)
- Work with governmental leaders to advocate for local and regional transportation needs through the MATAPS.
- Form a Metropolitan Service Organization to prepare for regional transportation plans now that Greater Mankato is a designated Metropolitan Service Area (MSA).
- Explore railroad connections for commuters and commodities.
- Form a rail coalition to advocate for passenger rail.

Thank you to the leaders of Envision 2020

2010 - 2011 E2020 Implementation Team

2011 Implementation Team Chair:

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Critical Community Stakeholders:

Pat Hentges, City of Mankato
Paul Vogel, City of Mankato
Mike Fisher, City of North Mankato
Robert Podhradsky, Nicollet County
Robert Meyer, Blue Earth County
Jonathan Zierdt, Greater Mankato Growth

At-large Community Stakeholders:

Laura Bowman, Greater Mankato Area United Way
Leigh Pomeroy, Citizen Representative from Mankato
Tom Hagen, Citizen Representative from North Mankato

KPA Chairs: (see list on next page)

Thank you to all the wonderful taskforce chairs and volunteers who contributed to the successful implementation of the E2020 goals in 2010 - 11.

2010 - 11 Key Performance Area Chairs

Health & Human Services KPA Chairs:

Chair: **Kevin Burns**, Mayo Clinic Health System

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Past Co-Chair: Laurie Dahl, Mankato Clinic

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Livability KPA Chairs:

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Economic Development KPA Chairs:

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Co-Chair: **Jonathan Zierdt**, Greater Mankato Growth

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For more information, visit envision-2020.com

Vision Statement

The Mankato/ North Mankato region is the vital heart of the river valley and the prairies and woods that flow from it. Its main artery, the Minnesota River, nourishes and sustains natural, cultural and spiritual resources. Throughout history, rivers, people and ideas have converged here.

The enhancement of human potential, nurtured by the arts and sciences is its core principle. Multicultural, intergenerational villages and neighborhoods are woven in a rich tapestry of social vibrancy, while a collaborative spirit sparks conversation, creativity, involvement and innovation. Fulfilling work generates prosperity and global capabilities and connections, creating solutions for our region, the nation, future generations and the world.