



We are proud to present these 2012

# Outstanding Local Government Achievement Awards

## The OLGAs:

Each year, East-West Gateway  
Council of Governments presents its  
Outstanding Local Government  
Achievement Awards  
recognizing the extraordinary work of  
municipal, county, special purpose and  
school district officials in the St. Louis region.

It does not matter whether a jurisdiction,  
department or district is large or small,  
volunteer or professional, part-time or full-time.

We look for individuals who provide the  
highest level of leadership;  
for projects and partnerships that raise the bar;  
and for jurisdictions that provide a level  
of excellence, expertise and service in local  
government for all to emulate.

We challenged you to bring those who  
embody these qualities forward for consideration  
and we honor them today.

### **Exemplary Accomplishment by a Local Government Jurisdiction, Agency or Individual**

Honors local government jurisdictions, special purpose and school districts, public agencies and individuals for unique achievements in the creation and implementation of exemplary government programs or projects and exceptional public sector contributions.

### **Successful Intergovernmental Collaboration**

Honors cooperative efforts between local government jurisdictions or agencies resulting in positive changes in the community.

### **Successful Public/Private or Public/Non-Profit Collaboration**

Honors successful joint ventures between local government jurisdictions or agencies and private or non-profit organizations.

### **Leadership in Planning and Design**

**Innovation** Honors forward-thinking planning and design for public spaces or community development that challenges the way people think about their surroundings.

### **Gateway Lifetime Public Service Award**

Honors exemplary individuals who have given a lifetime of service to the public sector.

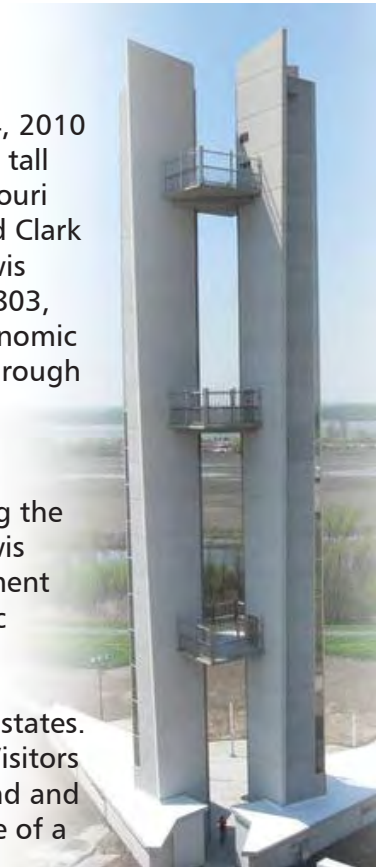
# Exemplary Accomplishment by a Local Government Jurisdiction, Agency or Individual

## Village of Hartford, Confluence Tower

The Village of Hartford opened the Lewis and Clark Confluence Tower on May 14, 2010 as a new tourist destination. The Lewis and Clark Confluence Tower is a 180-foot tall tower of modern design built to view the confluence of the Mississippi and Missouri rivers. The community came together in 2000 to create a vision for the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial for the village of Hartford. The village wanted to commemorate Lewis and Clark's exploration of the American West, that began at the confluence in 1803, and create a first-rate tourist attraction that would serve as a driver for local economic development. The village acquired 4.5 acres along Illinois Route 3 and worked through state and federal grants and private partnerships to acquire funding.

Visitors can now view the third largest confluence in the world from open-air platforms at 50, 100, and 150 feet that connect two concrete shafts representing the strength of the two explorers. The village of Hartford has just completed the Lewis and Clark Confluence Tower Landscape Plan, focused on enhancing the environment around the site through landscape design and plant choices representing historic aspects of the Lewis and Clark story.

The tower has already received 60,000 visitors from over 60 countries and all 50 states. The Lewis and Clark Confluence Tower partners with the Alton Convention and Visitors Bureau to bring fun and events to the tower every season allowing visitors to read and hear stories about local culture, history, nature and recreation. This is an example of a small village that has created a big asset for their community and the region.



## James Briggs, City Administrator, City of Washington

The city of Washington has enjoyed the services of Jim Briggs for the past 36 years. When he was hired in 1976, as assistant city engineer and later promoted to city engineer and then city administrator, he had no idea how much impact he would have on the city in which he was born and raised. He has been a guidepost by which Washington has set its course over the past decades.

Throughout the 1980s and 1990s, Washington enjoyed steady growth with the purchase of additional park property and expansion of riverfront park facilities. Jim personally oversaw the improvements to the riverfront, making Washington one of the busiest boat access points along the Missouri River. He also oversaw the construction of a 3.5 mile riverfront trail that today is one of the busiest trails in the area.

Jim has always excelled in the municipal engineering environment, applying his economical and efficient solutions to public infrastructure improvements. Jim supervised a complete renovation to City Hall, that was originally constructed in 1923. Since then, he has added a new public safety building to his portfolio, along with construction of a new 5,000-foot airport runway and parallel taxiway, and a \$20 million vertical loop reactor sewage treatment facility; the first such sewage treatment system of its kind in the state of Missouri. (...continued next page)



In 2012, Washington completed work on its new 20,000 square foot municipal library. This facility is the largest of its type for a community the size of Washington. One of the largest road improvement projects for Washington was working with MoDOT to create 10 miles of eastbound and westbound two-lane corridors finally providing safe access to I-44. During Jim's tenure as city administrator, the city of Washington has grown into a well-respected community, both financially and culturally.

Mayor Lucy wrote in her nomination, "Jim is always the last person to take credit for any accomplishment, but I know, without a doubt, that a significant factor in the success of Washington is one key element. And that element is Jim Briggs."



## Successful Intergovernmental Collaboration

### West Central Dispatch Center

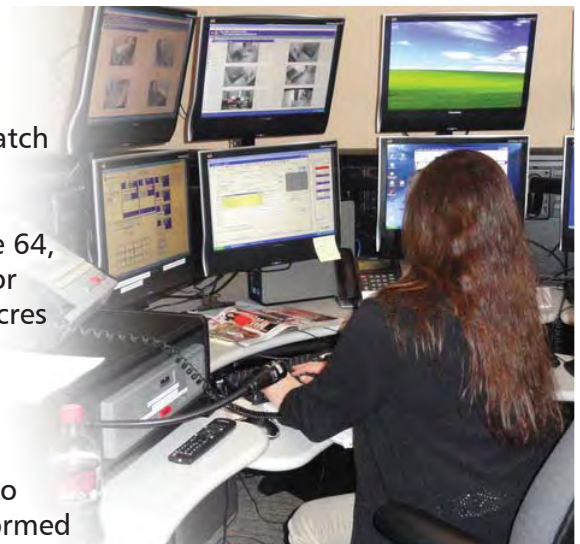
Cities of Creve Coeur, Frontenac, Town & Country

The West Central Dispatch Center, (WCDC), consolidated the dispatch agencies of Creve Coeur, Frontenac, and Town & Country in 2010. The WCDC now serves more than 30,000 residents, thousands of businesses, and hundreds of thousands of drivers in the Interstate 64, Interstate 270 and Route 141 corridors. In addition to the sponsor cities, Crystal Lake Park, Huntleigh, Westwood and Country Life Acres are also served.

The WCDC is unique, as it operates police-specific dispatch. This allows the WCDC dispatchers to be highly effective with dispatch and monitoring duties targeted to police requirements. WCDC also created a template for consolidation to be used by the recently formed St. Louis County Emergency Communications Commission, which is developing county and regional E-911 integration. The estimated savings to the County E-911 was \$420,000. By creating efficiencies, the cities are collectively saving \$250,000 annually.

The WCDC has created a first of its kind model for remote prisoner monitoring that has drawn interest from other agencies. An interactive camera system allows dispatchers to have two-way communication with prisoners and officers while processing them during booking. The result is officers do not leave their patrol area for pick-up and delivery of prisoners and the cities do not incur the cost for transport equipment, fuel, maintenance, and operation. Interactive camera monitoring has expanded to council chambers and other public spaces with video and audio live feed to be immediately available to dispatch.

The consolidation of three police dispatch agencies into one, builds on the success of the joint dispatch model already used in other parts of the region. The West Central Dispatch Center collaboration has raised the bar a notch, creating several unique outcomes that make this a successful model for regional intergovernmental collaboration.



# Funding Partnership Route 364 Phase III Extension

PROPOSED CORRIDOR  
ROUTE 364 PHASE 3

St. Charles County  
City of Lake St. Louis  
City of O'Fallon  
City of St. Charles  
City of St. Peters  
City of Weldon  
City of Wentzville  
City of Cottleville  
City of Dardenne Prairie  
MoDOT



Working together, St. Charles County and its municipal partners, the cities of Cottleville, Dardenne Prairie, Lake St. Louis, O'Fallon, St. Charles, St. Peters, Weldon Spring, and Wentzville determined that the completion of Route 364 from Mid Rivers Mall Drive to I-64 was the most important transportation project in St. Charles County. They agreed to work together with MoDOT to prioritize this project and secure the funding required to get the project done.

This meant looking at other county and municipal priorities through a regional lens and placing this regional highway project ahead of individual, local transportation projects that might have been more important at the municipal level. The Funding Partnership was a county-wide effort and even enjoyed support from municipalities not directly served by Phase III of the Route 364 Extension. For example, the municipalities of St. Charles, St. Peters, Weldon Spring and Wentzville do not have frontage on the new roadway but participated in the funding partnership for the common good of the residents of St. Charles County.

This funding partnership resulted in \$25 million in federal surface transportation program funds, \$20 million in state funds from MoDOT's Innovative Finance Program, \$30 million in state funds for major projects and \$25 million in local transportation sales tax funds that have been allocated to complete this important piece of our regional infrastructure that is forecasted to better distribute traffic and reduce travel challenges on other critical routes throughout St. Charles County and the region.

The broad support and collective effort of the elected officials in St. Charles County make this project unique and serves as a great example of a successful intergovernmental collaboration to realize a goal that will serve St. Louis metropolitan residents far into the future.

# Successful Public/Non-Profit Collaboration

## Gateway to Better Health

St. Louis Regional Health Commission, St. Louis County and City of St. Louis

In 1997, the last remaining public hospital in the St. Louis region closed. In response, government representatives, health care providers, business and nonprofit leaders in the community came together to develop a long-term plan.

Since its creation in 2001, the St. Louis Regional Health Commission (RHC) has obtained more than \$325 million to support safety-net health services that would not otherwise be available in the region. Through close collaboration with the city of St. Louis and St. Louis County, supported by state and federal leaders, Civic Progress and the region's hospitals, RHC's strategy of investing funds in the region's community health centers has transformed the region's health care delivery system.

The "Gateway to Better Health" program is a hallmark initiative of RHC's ongoing efforts to ensure access to health care for the uninsured and under-insured in the St. Louis region. The "Gateway to Better Health" pilot, launched in July 2012, is designed to enroll 30,000 low-income, uninsured residents of the city of St. Louis and St. Louis County who are not currently eligible for Medicaid, into a health care coverage model. The "Gateway to Better Health" program has provided over 14,000 individuals with access to primary care services and provided over 2,000 referrals to specialty care per month since July 2012. This includes critical services otherwise unavailable such as radiology services, specialty care consultations and outpatient surgeries.

A recent study from George Washington University, "Coordinating and Integrating Care for Safety Net Patients: Lessons from Six Communities," stated that "the closure of Regional Medical Center appears to have served as the catalyst for a spirit of collaboration and coordination in the St. Louis health care market. From a community in crisis to a national model, the RHC in partnership with the city of St. Louis and St. Louis County along with many regional partners has transformed the region's health safety net system.



# Successful Public/Private Collaboration

## Peabody Opera House Redevelopment

City of St. Louis, and Opera House Redevelopment Company LLC

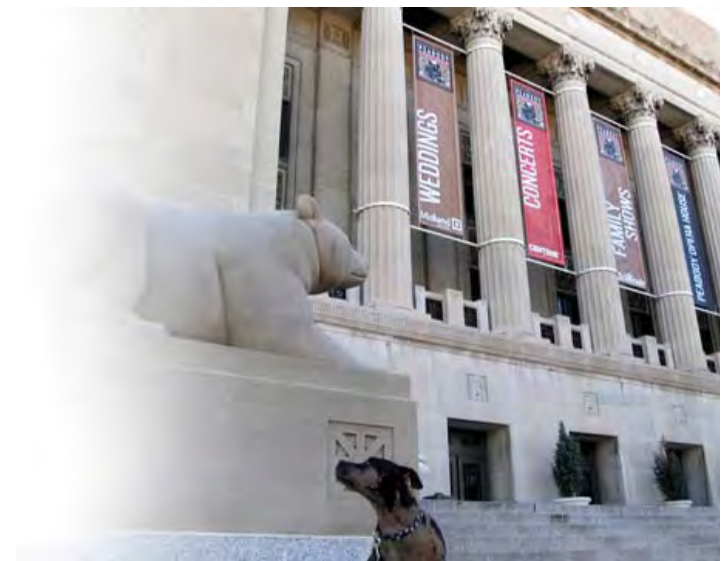
Downtown St. Louis stands at the center of the bi-state region and its continued vitality and growth benefits all who live in the metropolitan area. The Peabody Opera House is a landmark building that exemplifies the success of the continuing downtown revitalization effort. Generations of St. Louisans share incredible memories that include the Kiel Auditorium, operated from 1934-1991. Today a new generation will experience the splendor of the Peabody Opera House, that embraces our history and provides an incredible asset for our future.



The Peabody Opera House has been reborn due to a successful public/private collaboration between the city of St. Louis and the Opera House Redevelopment Company (St. Louis Blues/Scottrade, Optimus and Paric). This challenging rehabilitation project, that many thought impossible, resulted from the city's Land Clearance for Redevelopment Authority issuing \$32.6 million in bonds and the Opera House Redevelopment Company investing \$78.7 million to restore the historic Kiel to its original grandeur. More than \$46 million in state and federal historic tax credits, federal new market tax credits, brownfield tax credits and first mortgage debt completed the financing.

Today a formerly vacant, historically significant structure now hosts live concerts and comedy performances, Broadway shows, family events, weddings, corporate meetings and special community events. The project created 400-500 construction jobs and 80 full time jobs. It has brought new energy and investment to 14th and Market and creates a catalyst for redevelopment in the western area of downtown.

The Peabody Opera House and this public/private partnership that made the dream a reality, contribute to the ongoing revitalization of downtown St. Louis and the region it serves.



# Leadership in Planning and Design Innovation

## Joint Land Use Study–Scott Air Force Base/MidAmerica Airport

St. Clair County, City of O’Fallon, Village of Shiloh, City of Mascoutah, City of Lebanon and Scott Air Force Base

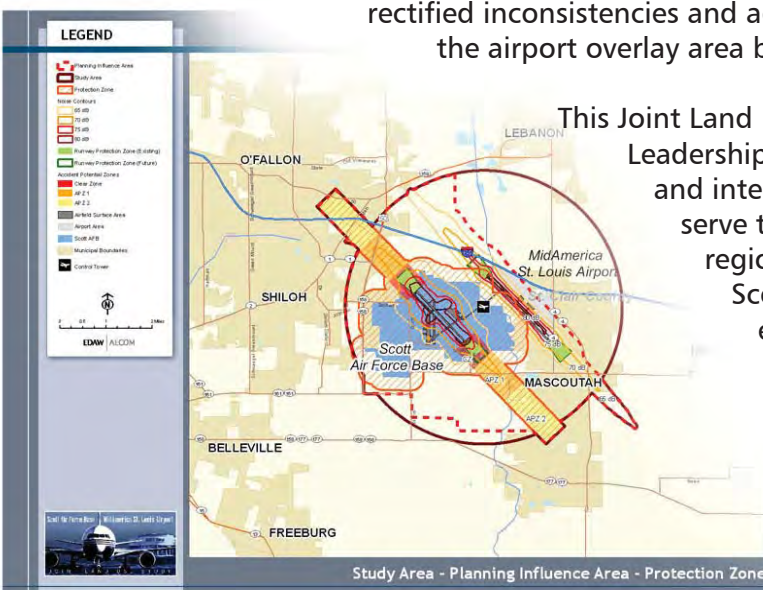
The Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) around Scott Air Force Base/MidAmerica St. Louis Airport develops a consistent set of guidelines, shared by five local governments and the U.S. Air Force, that determine appropriate land uses in and around Scott AFB. The establishment of a shared and consistent Airport Overlay District is a unique outcome of JLUS. The Airport Overlay District ensures that: land use development remains compatible; development proposals can be evaluated using the same criteria; and land use decision-making continues to mitigate encroachment and provide for optimal levels of public safety at Scott AFB.

Prior to JLUS, the five local governments (St. Clair County, the cities of O’Fallon, Mascoutah, Lebanon, and the village of Shiloh) had differing notions of how to regulate land development in their jurisdictions around Scott AFB and MidAmerica St. Louis Airport. To address this challenge, JLUS embodied the following goals:

- To encourage cooperative land use planning.
- To seek ways to reduce operational impacts on land adjacent to the military installation.
- To develop guidelines for the implementation of land development controls.
- To ensure that future public and private development would be compatible with both the military mission and the development needs of the community and the region.

The accomplishments of JLUS were realized in three phases:

- ✓ Phase one culminated with the endorsement of 10 encroachment reduction strategies and agreement among the local government partners to integrate these strategies in their land use regulations and policies.
- ✓ Phase two implemented these practices, resulting in a clearer understanding of appropriate and inappropriate land uses from the military and civilian perspectives. Local governments now had the ability to provide consistent answers and decisions to development requests and proposals.
- ✓ Phase three incorporated the JLUS guidance into five different sets of zoning laws. Each jurisdiction successfully reviewed their existing zoning codes, identified and rectified inconsistencies and adopted a uniform zoning template for the airport overlay area by county board and city council votes.



This Joint Land Use Study provides a template for Leadership and Innovation in Planning and Design and interjurisdictional cooperation. Its outcomes serve the economic interests of the entire region, protecting the mission and viability of Scott Air Force Base, one of the area’s top employment centers.

# Gateway Lifetime Public Service Award

## Vincent Schoemehl, Jr.

Vince Schoemehl's entire career has been spent in public service to the city of St. Louis and the St. Louis region and today we honor him for his years of dedication and his leadership.

Schoemehl served six years on the St. Louis Board of Aldermen from 1975-1981. He was elected mayor in 1981 and served for three terms before leaving the office in 1993. He was one of St. Louis' youngest mayors. When he left the mayor's office, at the age of 46, he had already made an indelible mark on the St. Louis region.

As mayor, Vince was committed to historic preservation and urban revitalization. He was a prime mover in the creation of MetroLink. He intervened to save the historically and architecturally significant Cupples warehouses that today serve as an anchor to the southern portions of downtown. He helped create Operation Brightside to clean up vacant lots and spearhead beautification projects which today is celebrating its 30th year of success.

But the work had just begun. Over the last 19 years, Vince Schoemehl has only deepened that legacy. As president and CEO of Grand Center, Inc. since 2001, he has helped transform Grand Center into a premier arts and entertainment district. New and renovated spaces serve as home to cultural institutions, galleries, museums, concert and theater venues, educational institutions and media outlets.

Schoemehl also served on the St. Louis School Board from 2003-2005. He joined Metro's Board of Commissioners in 2007 and later became chairman where he has helped usher in a new era of financial stability for regional public transit.

But his most enduring contribution to public service is his continuous and ongoing role as one of St. Louis' premier "go-to" guys on complicated public projects that seek to stabilize and energize the region.

For more than 35 years, Vince Schoemehl has been recognized for bringing energy, imagination and resourcefulness to the hardest problems and greatest opportunities in our region. We honor and appreciate that commitment and lifetime of public service today.

