ENVISION 2020
2014 PROGRESS REPORT
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*Please note, goals may be applicable to more than one key performance area but have only been listed once within the progress update.
Seven years ago over 400 citizens took the time to engage in the important work of envisioning a desired future for Greater Mankato. Together, we organized a visionary plan into six key performance areas (KPAs) and identified a total of 34 goals. This plan was titled Envision 2020 (E2020).

In 2007 the implementation stage of E2020 began. This phase requires ongoing collaboration, strategic and futuristic thinking, as well as creative problem solving. The vast majority of goals set in place for the implementation phase have seen significant progress or have been accomplished outright. Now, at the halfway point of this community-wide initiative, we believe the next step to take is to assess and evaluate the priorities of the community to ensure Envision 2020’s goals are aligned with them.

This Phase 2 process is multi-faceted, guiding E2020 down the progressive path to our envisioned future, it is also a celebration of our past and present. Celebrating is exactly what each and every person here should be doing. Without the help of hundreds of volunteers many of the accomplishments that have been made so far would not have occurred.

From this progress update meeting and the survey that is associated with it we will be able to identify which strategic goals the community considers to be the most important to complete within the next five years. Once the data is compiled and analyzed the KPA implementation teams will meet under their own direction to review the results and determine their key areas of focus to achieve the desired future state. Focus groups will be held at the beginning of 2015 to affirm the mini-visions, edit the long-range goals and confirm the strategies for action steps.

This is an important time for E2020. A time, we hope, when you will be renewed by the passion of the vision and inspired to make a difference. A time to invest your talent to nurture, shape and prepare for the growth of our community.

Sincerely,

John Kind
Implementation Co-Chair

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Implementation Co-Chair
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Planning Team

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# Envision 2020

## Key Performance Areas & Goals

### Community Planning and Regional Governance
1. To protect, preserve and revitalize green spaces, and recreational and community uses of land and water.
2. To redefine and revitalize the city center.
3. To develop effective strategies for regional governance for emergency planning, energy needs, resource sharing and displaying a regional identity.
4. To encourage the development or redevelopment of urban villages.

### Economic Development
1. **Energy Diversification**: To increase our region’s energy self-sufficiency.
2. **Business Retention and Growth**: To optimize our existing resources and businesses to support a livable, sustainable and regional economy that supports strategic growth.
3. **Business Development**: Enhance the ease of doing business in the region.

### Education
1. To promote a lifelong learning community.
2. To build global awareness into education and promote diversity acceptance in our community.
3. Retain and attract an educated workforce.
4. Make learning more accessible to all residents.

### Health and Human Services
1. To prepare for an aging population.
2. To enhance and promote healthy lifestyles for all.
3. To ensure that all our citizens have accessible health care.

### Livability
1. To advocate for creative options to supply affordable housing to young professionals, elderly citizens, new United States citizens and all those with limited incomes.
2. To keep and enhance our community’s beauty. Encouraging neighborhoods to help by going green and engage in environmentally friendly strategies to keep our residents and community healthy.
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.
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.
5. Increase and raise awareness of diversity in the community.

### Transportation
1. Develop an accessible mass transit system.
2. Promote and develop non-motorized transportation systems.
3. Maintain, improve and coordinate efficient and safe streets, roads and trails.
4. Enhance and develop a regional and inter-regional multi-modal transportation system including pedestrians, bicycles, motor vehicles, transit rail and air.
Community Planning & Regional Governance

VISION The Greater Mankato and North Mankato region should continue to develop naturally vegetated corridors connecting to a network of green space, havens, creeks and rivers. Woven within this network of green spaces would be the development of walkable urban villages and the revitalization and redefinitions of our historic downtowns, thus creating a cultural, civic, governmental, residential and entertainment heartbeat for these communities. We should embrace the knowledge of our citizens for their understanding of the many relationships between our natural resources, social needs and economic growth. It is vitally important to plan for and manage green infrastructure in our built environments. This can be accomplished through intergovernmental cooperation and sharing of our collective resources.

Successes

- Addition of new student housing and rebuilding projects of Sears Hall and Preska Hall on the Minnesota State University, Mankato campus.
- Established Green Print
- City Center Renaissance and redevelopment funding mechanisms for the downtown in both City of North Mankato and City of Mankato.
- Community oriented governance districts – Public Safety
- 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 multiple city center traffic pattern conversions including Broad Street and 4th Street to two way traffic, addition of Madison Avenue signal and median changes and the opening of the Mulberry Street intersection.
- Received grant funding for erosion mitigation in Le Sueur River Watershed.
- A continued focus on building up and not out with the reuse of the bus barn, redevelopment of former city public works site, Kearny property development, Fire Station #2, Tailwind developments and Bridge Plaza.

City of Mankato:
- Updated the Alternative Urban Areawide Review in 2013 to include development on the east side of the city.
- Planned update of environmentally sensitive areas throughout the city.
- Participated in a greenhouse gas inventory conducted by the Renewable Energy Task Force.
- Received the Silver Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design status for the Orness Plaza remodel.
- Developed Neighborhood Associations Program in an effort to enhance livability and quality of life within Mankato neighborhoods.
- Continued development of public parks in a manner that aligns with sustainable growth of the community.
- Completion of Riverfront Park.
- Creation of Tourtelotte Park and
Trail Creek Park Neighborhood Associations.
- Completion of phase one infrastructure improvements of Sibley Parkway and continued progress on phase two infrastructure improvements.
- Parks and Open Space Plan update.
- Designated as a Bicycle Friendly Community by the League of American Bicyclists.
- Changed landscaping requirements for new developments in order to double the size of tree plantings. In addition boulevard tree plantings and replacement were increased by a 2:1 ratio.
- Building completion of Vetter Stone Amphitheatre in Riverfront Park.
- Adoption of an environmentally conscious Woodland Ordinance.
- Native landscaping plans and grants for Troost Pond and Sibley Meadow Area.
- Formed the Historic Preservation Commission to help promote and preserve Mankato’s historic neighborhoods.
- Completion of various building beautification and restoration projects.

City of North Mankato:
- The comprehensive plan update in 2014 addressed green infrastructure and sustainability.
- Participated in a greenhouse gas inventory conducted by the Renewable Energy Task Force.
- Development of Benson Park into a nature park with education opportunities and programming capacity.
- Continued development of public parks in a manner that aligns with sustainable growth of the community.
- Designated as a Bicycle Friendly Community by the League of American Bicyclists.
- Amended downtown zoning regulations to accommodate mixed use and increase densities.
- Completion of various building beautification & restoration projects.
- Established The Miracle League of North Mankato in order to provide a baseball league for individuals with disabilities.

City Center Partnership
- Creation of a mission, vision and guiding principles for the organization. In addition a City Center Economic Profile, advocacy policies and guidelines, an online newsletter and a strategic plan with long term objectives and goals were created.
- A City Center brand was created and launched to provide a regional identity for the downtown area.
- Formally became a limited liability company.
- Implemented a partner investment program.
- Created a multi-modal focused connectivity plan for the Front Street renovation.
- City Art Walking Sculpture Tour expanded from 25 art pieces to 34. Five sculptures from this initiative were sold and will remain in the community on display.
- Business focus groups were held to engage businesses and assess priorities. It resulted in an initiative to improve parking, way-finding-signage along Riverfront Drive, and created momentum to improve the pedestrian environment.
- Connected neighborhood associations, including Lincoln Park, Washington Park, Highland Park, with the City Center Aesthetics & Livability Committee.

Housing opportunities
- A new housing task force was formed to assess current housing situation of the Greater Mankato area.
- Habitat for Humanity is adding four to six houses a year within the community at $125,000 a piece.
- Addition of 18 affordable housing units in Eagle Lake, Minnesota.
- Southern Minnesota Housing Partnership is adding 60 affordable housing units in Sibley Parkway.
- The Mankato Housing Authority added eight shelter and care vouchers for the chronically homeless.
- Rehabilitation of 101 units at Orness Plaza.
- Housing opportunities above the Marigold and former Jack and Jill building in North Mankato.

Greater Mankato community
- The maintenance of existing facilities and fiscal responsibility is considered when a new park is proposed.
- 1 Million Tree Initiative
  - Planted additional trees to the pilot sites and developed an adopt a site program for businesses to purchase and plant an area.
  - Over 15,000 trees were purchased and planted
  - Increased Boulevard Tree planting.
- Existing sign ordinances strictly limits off site signage such as billboards.
- Implementation of non-native invasive species removal program from Rasmussen Woods and Indian Creek Slough.
- Cooperative trail planning between Mankato and North Mankato in the Lookout Drive and Hiniker Pond Trail areas.
- Coordinated Bicycle Map – Visit Mankato, North Mankato, Mankato and Blue Earth County.
- Mankato and North Mankato created a draft of consolidated plans for housing and economic development initiatives.
- A collaborative Emergency Management planning initiative was formed.
- Community parks were enhanced including Spring Lake and the zoo, gazebo and trail at Sibley Park.
- The City Center Renaissance Taskforce created a plan for city center revitalization.
- The City Center Business Association was formed.

Educational opportunities and information
- Sustainability Expo hosted by Minnesota State University, Mankato
- Public open houses for the Parks and Open Space Plan update convened the public for educational opportunities related to community pride.

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Economic Development

Regional Economic Development Alliance (REDA)
- The partnership continues to evolve and add value to the Greater Mankato region.
- Coordinated site selector visits to the south central region of Minnesota.
- Working to address interest on the part of joining the REDA Group.

Promote the Minnesota State University, Mankato Small Business Development Center as the primary local service provider for start-up businesses.

Greater Mankato Growth, Inc. was established to provide comprehensive business development, retention services and community development.

The Greater Mankato area received designation by the Federal Government as a Metropolitan Statistical Area.

Mining operations have expanded over the last three years due to the private sector identification of large deposits of silica sand in our region.

Brought local and regional equity capital to the marketplace to minimize the sale of local companies to the highest out of state bidders.
- Launched the Wellspring Investor Alliance, which combined six new investors with 18 existing ones.

Agriculture
- Advancement of Project Ag Business Epicenter
- Agriculture sector data was gathered and first published in the Ag Snapshot in January, 2014.

Available through or by Greater Mankato Growth
- Completed the first Talent Supply and Demand Report on supply excesses and shortages within the Greater Mankato region in 2012. This document

VISION In 2020 we will have a growing, vibrant, diverse regional economy that responsibly leverages the resources specific to South Central Minnesota while promoting business development and a high quality of life.

Successes
- Regional Economic Development Alliance (REDA)
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  - Coordinated site selector visits to the south central region of Minnesota.
  - Working to address interest on the part of joining the REDA Group.
- Promote the Minnesota State University, Mankato Small Business Development Center as the primary local service provider for start-up businesses.
- Greater Mankato Growth, Inc. was established to provide comprehensive business development, retention services and community development.
- The Greater Mankato area received designation by the Federal Government as a Metropolitan Statistical Area.
- Mining operations have expanded over the last three years due to the private sector identification of large deposits of silica sand in our region.
- Brought local and regional equity capital to the marketplace to minimize the sale of local companies to the highest out of state bidders.
- Launched the Wellspring Investor Alliance, which combined six new investors with 18 existing ones.
was then updated in 2014. A Talent Symposium was held to bring the private and public sectors together in order to discuss the finding and opportunities.

- Endorsed and advocated for the passage of ISD 77’s referendum (2007) to construct Rosa Parks Elementary School, an addition to Eagle Lake Elementary School, and improvements at East and West High Schools; and endorsed and advocated the passage of ISD 77’s referendum (2013) to construct a new East Side Middle School, an addition to Dakota Meadows Middle School, and improvements to East and West High Schools.
- Purchased Regional Input-Output Modeling System II multipliers from the Bureau of Economic Analysis for the Mankato-North Mankato Metropolitan Statistical Area.
- Launched the Greater Mankato Young Professionals program and grew the membership to over 170 individuals.
- Continued connection of renewable energy and materials companies to resources available at Minnesota State University, Mankato’s Renewable Energy Center.
- Published a web resource guide on the Greater Mankato Growth website for Renewable Energy and Green Companies.
- Greater Mankato Growth invested in a public affairs methodology targeted at raising the region’s visibility and engaging with public policy decision makers.

Projects and programs
- Several taskforces were formed to plan for the needs of the aging population through VINE to design a community center for seniors.
- A Supply Chain Management group was formed to promote local supply chain relationships and sharing of best practices in supply chain management functions.
- City of Mankato was first in Minnesota and 28th in the nation to receive a national biosolids partnership certificate from the National Biosolids Partnership.
- A local chapter of the U.S. Green Building Council was formed in Mankato with I&S Group leading the effort.
- Completed a greenhouse gas inventory to establish greenhouse gas baselines for the residential, commercial and industrial sectors of Mankato and North Mankato.
- Held Greater Mankato Leadership Delegation Retreats with the most current being to Charlottesville, Virginia in 2011.
- Formed a Renewable Energy Supply Chain Development group of 21 Private sector companies and support organizations to discover company capabilities and interests in the renewable energy, materials business and encourage collaboration.

  - Energy conservation group merged with Region Nine Renewable initiatives for findings, and continues to meet on a regular basis.

  - The Energy Conservation Taskforce invited energy utility companies to assist with data collection and energy sustainability solutions.

  - An electronic meter lending program was developed. Through this program residents were able to rent meters from local libraries to measure the wattage of home appliances.

Education and information
- Minnesota State University, Mankato continues to show support of alternative fuel and solar vehicle competitions to foster innovation in these sectors.
- Minnesota State University, Mankato and United Prairie Bank created an Integrated Business Experience for students to start and run a new business with funding and mentoring provided by United Prairie Bank employees.
- Minnesota State University, Mankato was selected to conduct energy research by the International Renewable Energy Technology Institute.
- South Central College introduced GreenPOWER training to promote sustainable practices in business.
- South Central College is one of two programs nationally piloting a training program titled Right Skills Now with area manufacturing companies.
- South Central College President Parker appointed to President Obama’s National Advanced Manufacturing Partnership Steering Committee.
- Creation of the Taylor Innovation Center which utilizes high potential students from regional educational institutions to service Taylor Companies worldwide in a unique hands on, two way learning environment.
- Initiation of the Youth Employment Acceleration Program manufacturing apprenticeships pilot between Mankato Area Public Schools, South Central College, MTU on Site Energy, El Microcircuits and Kato Cable.
- Advanced training to regional leaders provided through the Greater Mankato Leadership Institute, the Sakah Institute, the Elizabeth Kearney Women’s Leadership Program and the Blandin Community Leadership Program.
- Hosted a variety of listening sessions involving MNSCU, Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development and the Minnesota Chamber with local business sectors to discuss status, needs and concerns.
- The Way to Grow publication and video were produced to provide information to outsiders looking to invest in the region and to educate our politicians on the diversity and significance of our region to the State of Minnesota.
- The Economic Growth Collaborative of South Central Minnesota organized the Tour of Manufacturing, an open house for the public to tour area manufacturing companies during MN Manufacturing Week.
- Presence at the Home and Builder’s Show to educate the public about home energy efficiency.
VISION  Within our life-long learning community, all people are provided the opportunities to possess the skills, knowledge and ability to achieve their potential in an ever-changing world.
Successes

- Increased career pathways developed between K-12, two-year and four-year colleges.
- Increased global awareness and educational access for diverse populations with the implementation of a competency-based adult high school diploma offered through Adult Basic Education (Community Education), Greater Mankato Diversity Council curriculum for area youth and businesses and media focus on diversity.
- South Central College received a $15 million grant by the Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training grant to be used for advanced manufacturing education.

K-12

- Mankato Area Public Schools implemented Naviance, a high school career planning tool used in grades 7-12.
- The South Central Service Cooperative, Greater Mankato Diversity Council and local colleges developed, tested and implemented a curriculum that explores non-traditional career choices for future workers. This curriculum is targeted at students in grades 7-12 in Southern Minnesota.
- Mankato Area Public Schools aligned their secondary science curriculum to better build skills needed for college.
- Mankato Area Public Schools implemented a new Advancement Via Individual Determination program to motivate talented at-risk students in 8th grade to take advanced placement courses in high school.
- Piloted science, technology, engineering and mathematics equity training for students in grades 7-12 in collaboration with Greater Mankato Diversity Council.
- The Mankato Area Public Schools Bond Referendum passed to fund a new elementary school and facility enhancements.

Programs, initiatives and opportunities

- Campus and Community Fair involves more than 2,000 students and over 200 business and organizations.
- YWCA Ready to Learn provides 150 immigrant and refugee children preparation for kindergarten.
- South Central College, Adult Basic Education and Mankato Workforce Center piloted a “fast-track” program in health careers and welding for at-risk adult learners.
- Five higher education institutions and Greater Mankato Growth partnered to create a Collegiate Leadership Academy.

- Expansion of early childhood programs such as Ready for Kindergarten, Success by 6, First Steps and Mankato Clinic’s Early Referral have drastically improved the readiness for kindergarten in the Mankato school district from 46% readiness in 2006 to 74% readiness currently.
- Greater Mankato Early Learning Initiative expanded parent classes to several corporate sites for Lunch ’n Learns.
- The First Steps Collaborative received a planning grant to integrate home visits with healthcare visits to catch early development delays right away.
- The Greater Mankato Diversity Council implemented Prejudice Reduction Workshops to 11,000 students in Greater Mankato.

- Greater Mankato Growth and colleges created The Internship Experience to connect individuals, businesses and college internship coordinators.
- Launched the Ready for Kindergarten parent education program and hired a director for the Greater Mankato Early Learning Initiative.
- South Central Service Cooperative, SOCRATES Online and area schools developed a regional shared-services e-education and supplemental online learning program.
- Increased online course offerings for high school and adult learners.
- The Greater Mankato Early Learning Initiative launched a Kitchen Table Initiative that brought awareness to more than 100 community leaders on the importance of investing in early childhood efforts.
- Greater Mankato Area United Way expanded the First Steps Initiative in an effort to reach more at-risk, pregnant mothers through mentoring and support so their children are born healthy and develop on track.
- South Central Service Cooperative, schools and colleges developed a regional health careers academy program of study for area students.
- Developed a lifelong learning matrix which maps out the education services in our community for young to mature learners.
- The YWCA created Colorful Dialogue, a cross-cultural conversational exchange.
- Formed The Greater Mankato Education Council and Global Awareness and Diversity Taskforce.
Health & Human Services

VISION This is a community that is dedicated to prevention and as a result, wellness exists and changes outcomes and provides for a higher level of well-being for its citizens.

Successes

- YMCA Certified Emergency Responder programming
- Emerging Team-based care models
- Emergency Department care model
- COMPASS care model
- VINE conducted a feasibility study to renovate the Nichols Building into a multi-use center for seniors. The Nichols Building was purchased by VINE from Blue Earth County for $1.

Educational opportunities and information

- Senior Expo, Men’s Health Forum, Women’s Show, Baby and Kids Expo, Oh Baby event and Mankato Marathon Expo all provide various health and human services information to the citizens and visitors of Greater Mankato.
- Working with Mankato area public schools and the Mankato Clinic Foundation a dietician worked in the K-12 schools to promote and education students on healthy dietary
The Open Door Health Clinic received federal designation as a Federally Qualified Health Center. In addition they expanded their dental and physical health services. Their oral health program provides education and fluoride treatments to school-age children in one Mankato elementary school.

The Health Improvement Partnership launched an Exercise is Medicine awareness campaign. In addition a web based strength training program was purchased that was made available to residents and Be Active Your Way brochures were distributed to all community health care facilities.

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.

Activities
- The first annual River Ramble Bike Ride was held in Oct. 2011 with over 1,000 riders. The event continues to be held annually.
- The first annual Mankato Marathon was held in Oct. 2010, with over a thousand of participants in the kids run, 5K, half and full marathon. The 2011 event had 3,800 participants and grew to 4,100 participants in 2012, 4,700 participants in 2013 and an estimated 5,000 participants for 2014.
- An advocacy group focused on biking and walking options within the community was formed to help move Greater Mankato toward becoming a designated Bicycle Friendly Community. In addition there was continued development of the bike and walking trails throughout the community.

Projects and partnerships
- Feeding Our Community partnership
- Formed Health Improvement Partnership to promote exercise, wellness and healthy lifestyles
- Sibley Park HealthBeats project provides an outdoor fitness system to promote health and wellness in a city park.
- Received a Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation grant to use a town meeting process to develop and implement projects to “Engage Elders in Meaningful Work” in 2009.
- Passed a smoking ban in November of 2006 with a 70% to 30% vote.
- The Feeding Our Community Partnership was formed to end hunger within Blue Earth County. In addition they implemented the Backpacks in Schools Program.
- A high risk drinking coalition was formed.
- A community wide High-Risk Drinking Summit was held and solution strategies were generated.

Services
- Expanded medical facilities and services
- Electronic medical record patient portals
- Established nurse call lines
- Additional local providers
- Expanded inpatient capacity
- Pediatric mental health services
- Robust payment assistance programs
- Enhanced urgent and express care options
- Added pre and post operatives heart treatment facilities to foster treatment in Mankato.
- Expanded emergency helicopter ambulance services by adding a hanger, helicopter and staff to our regional airport.
- Completion of a new emergency room at Mayo Clinic Health System.
- 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 online.
- An increase of on-site behavioral health team staff at Open Door has been filling the gap for mental health services.
- A new heart center was opened at Immanuel St. Joseph’s Regional Medical Center in February of 2008.
- The Mankato Clinic expanded oncology and nuclear medicine services.
- Additional long-term care, assisted living housing and mental health services were added to the community.
- VINE opened a recycled furniture store to support its programs for seniors.
- Opened a new regional cancer center at Immanuel St. Joseph’s.
- Implemented new electronic medical records systems at Mankato Clinic and Immanuel St. Joseph’s.
VISION Being a vibrant regional center, Greater Mankato is an attractive and livable community, incorporating facilities and programs that provide opportunities for residents of all ages, economic levels and cultural backgrounds to enjoy affordable, accessible and high-quality arts & culture, recreation, sports and entertainment.

Many of these opportunities are found in community centers that attract visitors, spur economic growth, and encourage cross-generational experiences while enriching the lives of all residents. The community of Greater Mankato also honors and celebrates its changing multicultural make-up, while nurturing and advancing diverse thinking and artistic expression. In addition, the Greater Mankato community supports and nurtures its spiritual and non-profit organizations.

Greater Mankato emphasizes the importance of natural environments, historic preservation, communication networks and affordable housing; and dedicates resources to develop and maintain green ways, parks, ravines, aesthetically beautiful buildings and opportunities for home ownership.
**Successes**

**Events**
- Fourth annual Arts by the River Festival
- Rasmussen woods park plan to keep it a nature area was presented and approved.
- South Central College Global Conference continues to be held every two years.
- Establishment and continuation of Diversity Dinner events
- Martin Luther King, Jr. event and Pathfinder Awards
- International Festival hosted by Minnesota State University, Mankato.

**Projects and programs**
- Traffic Box Mural Project in 2013 put on by the City Center Partnership, Twin Rivers Council for the Arts and CityArt
- The city of Mankato established a tree inventory program in order to collect data that will be utilized to inventory trees within the city.
- Working with the Twin Rivers Council for the Arts and the Southern Chapter of the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits to leverage new partnerships and funding sources to help to build the capacity of local nonprofits, so that they are able to succeed in managing or renting a facility. Work with local, state and national resources to provide awareness and affordable options for business, leadership and management classes and workshops.
- Continued success of Colorful Dialogue program, Tapestry Project, Girls on the Run program and Prejudice Reduction Workshop
- Establishment of the Entrepreneur Doorway Project through a grant received by Region Nine.
- The Twin Rivers Center for the Arts-TRCA and the City Center Partnership’s Aesthetics & Livability Committee provided poetry stamping on City Center Sidewalks along with continued plans for expanded public art.
- The City Center Aesthetics & Livability Committee created an awards program for property owners who make significant improvements to buildings in the City Center.
- An arts and culture plan was developed as part of the City Center Renaissance.

**Development**
- New planned developments at Kearney Pond, South Riverfront, and Old Fire Station #3.
- Continued growth and development of the Mankato Area Foundation in order to provide more partners and options to the community.
- Boy in Blue historic statue to go in Lincoln Park with funding provided through Lincoln Park Association fundraising efforts.
- The cities of Mankato and North Mankato pursued new standards for offender housing.
- Creation of a plan by Minneopa State Park that would bring a bison herd into the 350 acres of available prairie at the park.
- New Islamic worship center
- Grand opening of community athletic field at Rosa Parks Elementary School.
- Caswell soccer complex is opened as part of Caswell Park in North Mankato.
- Twin Rivers Center for the Arts established its home in the Emy Frentz Arts Guild downtown.
- The new Children’s Museum of Southern Minnesota facility will open in early 2015.

**Educational opportunities and information**
- Sowelu Institute held community conversations on affordable housing and homelessness
- YWCA’s Women’s Leadership Program, Women’s Leadership Conference and women’s networking series
- The Greater Mankato Diversity Council delivered a diversity awareness curriculum to over 11,000 students in K-12 schools
- The Greater Mankato Diversity Council offered business diversity training to many area business and leadership conferences.
- Energy Conservation Committee provided education on conservation and energy saving strategies to people at the Home & Builder’s Show.
VISION  The Mankato-North Mankato Area will cooperatively work with all citizens to advance the current transportation system. The development of this system will enhance our community and environment while transforming our region into an exemplary multimodal transportation portal. By the year 2020 we will have a system that provides accessible, efficient, cost effective and safe movement of goods and people within the community, region and beyond.
**Successes**

Approved or in progress construction, improvements and upgrades:

- Metro Trunk Highway 169 and Trunk Highway 14 improvements for regional benefit.
- Reconstruct Trunk Highway 68 bridge in South Bend Township.
- Opening of Adams Street from Hope Street to Victory Drive in Mankato.
- Make safety improvements along County Road 26.
- Complete street connections in northeast and northwest industrial sites.
- Modify traffic lanes on Trunk Highway 169 Veterans Bridge to more safely accommodate bikes, pedestrians and vehicles.
- Mankato’s northeast commercial and industrial service streets connection and capacity and safety upgrades.
- Fill in missing portions of and repair trails along Madison Avenue and Trunk Highway 22.
- Complete Nicollet County 41 (Rockford Road) interchange and Trunk Highway 14 (4 Lane) to westerly North Mankato city limits.
- Continued Hwy 14 Improvements (Hwy 14 Corridor Partnership).
- Multiuse trail along the west side of Monks Avenue from Stadium Road to Woodhaven Road South.
- New multi-use trail in Sibley Park.
- Developed a new trail along County Road 41 which links to the Minnemishinona Falls.
- Victory Drive Extension.
- County State Aid Highway 12 Extension/ Trunk Highway 14 Interchange. New major roadway from the airport to County State Aid Highway 17. Stages 1 and 2 are completed. (Blue Earth County)
- Complete Blue Earth County Road 12 from County Road 17 to County Road 26 with full interchange with Trunk Highway 14 including trail connections with Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Sakatah route.
- Conversion of Warren and Cherry Street to two-way traffic in the city of Mankato.

Completed construction, improvements and upgrades:

- County State Aid Highway 3 project.
- Victory Drive Extension.
- Construction on County Road 41 trail from Judson Bottom Road to Country Road 6 and northwest Industrial Park.
- Closed crossover at Blue Earth County Road 86.
- Airport expansion completed to extend runway to accommodate larger aircraft, as large as 737.
- Finished construction from Madison Avenue from Victory Drive to Sioux Road trail.
- Re-establishment of Second Street as main artery through the downtown by way of connection to Mulberry Street at Veteran’s Memorial Bridge.
- Removed a majority of one-way streets in downtown area to promote new traffic patterns that support the different commercial and residential areas.
- The City of Mankato developed additional parking resources in the City Center with the construction of the 2nd Street Ramp.
- Roundabouts added along Highway 22 at the Madison Avenue and Adams Street intersections.

**Education and information**

- Installed "way find" signage all over metro area.
- Implemented "share the road" corridors in both cities.
- Initiated corridor study on County Road 12 from Madison Avenue (County Road 17) to Trunk Highway 83.
- Initiated corridor study on turn back of Trunk Highway 66 to Blue Earth County—Trunk Highway 169 in Mankato to Good Thunder.
- Adoption of an updated Mankato Area Transportation and Planning Study Multi-Modal Transportation Plan.