

City of Galesburg

Galesburg Advantage - Community Visioning Assembly

Session 2: BUILDING on our Core Competencies: Transportation and Infrastructure

Group 1 - Facilitator - Steve Gugliotta

Brick streets in appropriate locations should be preserved and their existence goes toward the community's character

Overall, our street system provides good access and connectivity

The East Main/ I-74 entrance corridor needs improvement. Efforts to coordinate a project with IDOT need to be explored

The Airport should be expanded to increase services and use

Business retention is important

Focus on local entrepreneurs

Encourage increased use of incubator for small start-ups

Increase job diversity by being open to a wide range of services or industry possibilities

Industries well-suited to the City's location, infrastructure and transportation position include: a container repair yard, trucking distribution and packaging facilities

Green industries: look into wind energy possibilities

The marketing and ultimate use of Logistics Park should not be limited to specific uses. Industrial, commercial or even residential uses should all be considered.

A recent article mentioned someone was starting a movement to locate Obama's Presidential Library at Knox College. This may be an idea to explore.

Positive Comments from Panel Discussion

Great, hard working workforce available

Railway

Trucking

High visibility on I-74

Good transportation

Work force

Parks

5 - 10 year bench marks

Some type of small manufacturing facility development

Some development in Logistics Park, BNSF Intermodal Facility

Enforce exterior maintenance code

Specific Marketing plan to promote city, have measurable terms

Golden Brick Streets

Railroad overpass

Improve the Sessions?

Just execute ideas that the sessions bring to light

facilitator needs to keep group focused on topic

Group 2 - Facilitator - Wayne Carl

Industrial Development

Where do you see our Industrial Base in 10 yrs.?

It will increase over time

It is not just manufacturing that makes up our industrial base

City of Galesburg

Galesburg Advantage - Community Visioning Assembly

Session 2: BUILDING on our Core Competencies: Transportation and Infrastructure

An adequate and safe water supply is key to our Industrial base
More specialty industries (smaller scale than a Maytag)
Logistics and Transportation will increase

Obstacles to our Industrial Growth

Workers Comp. Laws in Illinois (Not as good as other states, discourages employers to set up business in Illinois)
Not enough high skilled workers. Still have manufacturing skill set, need to upgrade skill set for hi-tech jobs

What Industries are well suited for Galesburg?

Transportation/ Logistics
Agricultural
Food Manufacturing
Soy oil production
Ethanol production
Senior services type industry (Services for retirees, restaurants, shopping, community events, arts, medical, etc.)
Green products (Manufacture of wind turbines, solar panels, LED lighting, etc..)
Hi-Tech Jobs - Requires training by local colleges for existing workforce.

Infrastructure

Where do you see our Infrastructure and Transportation in 10 yrs.?

Improved Water Supply
Improved Sanitary Sewer treatment capacity
Development and implementation of "Green" technology for Sanitary sewer treatment
Use of Green Vehicles - Will need to adapt our Transportation to accommodate green vehicles
Improved Rail System - Handle high-speed trains, greater passenger service
Improved Amtrak Depot and Surrounding Area - Develop a larger Depot and other support businesses to make Galesburg a notable stop for shopping and tourism. Provide support businesses such as hotel, shopping, and restaurants within walking distance.

What Key Improvements could be made to give Galesburg a competitive advantage?

I-74 corridor Redevelopment - Develop businesses along the corridor, Improve appearance at Exit Ramps (beautify), Develop very strong advertising presence along the interstate utilizing billboards and other signage.
Improve our Airport to handle commercial passenger flights. (Perception from outsiders that Galesburg is hard to get to since you cannot fly into town. i.e. - middle of nowhere mentality.)
Make Galesburg more commercial developer friendly. (Develop task force to streamline development process - make developers want to come to here to do business. Work with businesses (permitting etc.))
Improve attractiveness of Community (Improve all major gateways and corridors into the City, clean streets, attractive buildings full of thriving business)
Once commercial airline service established, develop Galesburg into convention center.

INDUSTRY

What industries could be pursued that we haven't already?

Green Energy manufacturing (Wind turbines, solar panels, eco-friendly products)
Expanded Agricultural and Food Processing/Manufacturing
Energy
Tourism Industry (NRRHOF) and many others
Rail car repair and container repair industry

City of Galesburg

Galesburg Advantage - Community Visioning Assembly

Session 2: BUILDING on our Core Competencies: Transportation and Infrastructure

What existing industries could be expanded?

- Steel manufacturing shops such as Mid-State United Facilities - Distribution Warehouse
- BNSF - Intermodal Facility as well as just increased capacity for more work in Galesburg

What is the role of the Logistics Park in economic development?

- Could provide an "Inland Port"
- Develop as "Boutique Inter-modal facility" - Specialty container loading/unloading for Regional businesses (John Deere, Cat, ADM, and others)
- Develop as trucking distribution hub

Positive Comments from Panel Discussion

- Promoting Galesburg's location: I-74 - RR services. Proximity to medical centers
- Dispel misperceptions
- Seek advice from other success stories
- Innovate antiquated properties
- Workforce is best

Improve the Sessions?

- Woman on the panel

Group 3 - Facilitator - Julie Main

Industrial Development

- CSC and CME can train current and future employers
- Bring down rail storage from Chicago to Galesburg because it can go 7 different directions.
- Rail traffic congestion from Chicago intermodal facilities is not an issue in Galesburg. Great benefit in time savings.
- Galesburg could be a great intermodal hub.
- Re-institute Teacher Track program which educates teachers about area industry.
- Galesburg is in middle of ethanol industry - great benefits

Transportation

- 5 -10 years like to see three overpasses completed.
- 5 - 10 years - light rail to Peoria / QC or at least more carpool/vanpools
- Last 22 mile section of US 34 completed
- Need to rehab and maintain existing infrastructure. Especially storm/sanitary sewers.
- Like more investigation of other ways to implement quiet zones.
- Would like more rural public transportation
- Green energy to power utilities and public buildings
- We have underutilized airport
- Help commuters so people stay in Galesburg

Infrastructure

- Fiber optic ring around Galesburg
- Solar, Wind building on this there will be grants and other opportunities
- Student housing for CSC and expansion of student housing for Knox (future expansion)
- Like to see County Highway 10 to connect to US 34
- What can we do to get all overhead utilities underground

City of Galesburg

Galesburg Advantage - Community Visioning Assembly

Session 2: BUILDING on our Core Competencies: Transportation and Infrastructure

Enforce sidewalk construction with all new developments
Like to see curbing and streets maintained better

Positive Comments from Panel Discussion

Railroad opportunities
Work force quality
Trucking
Population Increase
Increase businesses established
Low traffic congestion
Educational facilities
Recognized our unique attributes

5 - 10 year bench marks

Upgrade community storm and sanitary sewers
Consider second sanitary plant location to handle additional discharge capacity
Avoid discharge of more pollutants! Any improvements must be green - both because its right and because it will be cost effective as increasing green awareness will be required both by law and to attract educated and productive young people to Galesburg.
Wind, solar energy and biodiesel plant.
Sell more water in addition to bulk water.
Education of technicians. Service people for all businesses
Use our existing buildings that are rail ready for our go green goals.
More small businesses, service, sales, technology
Ethanol Industry

Improve the Sessions?

Keep same
Good job
Better hearing
Arrangement still hard for conversation. Otherwise very good.
After panel presentation, pull tables into a smaller angle. So people are closer and can hear better. Otherwise good.
Like the current format

Group 4 - Facilitator - Captain Lindsey May

Industrial Development

Recruit flexible companies - for economic times. More diverse, broader base. (Like Derby Industries)
Sponsor additional Economic Development web-links (Ameren, CSC, Knox, etc)
Provide lists of available property/buildings on websites.
Enhance response to website hits.
Green energy needs to be pursued further. Will provide higher paying jobs, recession resistant
AGRI Product - pursuit of domestic/local products. Limit overseas sales
Develop local businesses (not many to bring from outside). Ex - Agriculture, high tech
Enhance Business mentoring. Draw from current resources. Ex - Derby, Peoria, Quad Cities.
Publish Economic Development efforts to promote current local assets. Entrepreneurship efforts.

City of Galesburg

Galesburg Advantage - Community Visioning Assembly

Session 2: BUILDING on our Core Competencies: Transportation and Infrastructure

Transportation

Enhance transportation to Peoria and Quad Cities. Work with Peoria and Q.C. to Develop bus or commuters, etc. For work and residential purposes. Enhance regional work force.

Enhance Rail service (ex - Peoria & Quad Cities)

Transportation enhancements/housing residents/ Work commutes

Route 34 corridor completed - Burlington to Monmouth

Capitalize on air service

Network - air, bus and Amtrak, taxi and car rental services - one central depot/networked connections.

Increase air service marketing - small air service and commercial

Market nearby airport property. Relate business (overnight delivery, parts, medical) (UPS, Fed Ex and Speedee)

Air service related to rail and truck - BNSF, highways, regional medical facilities, business

Related museums (Stearman, NRRHOF, Discovery Depot, Sandburg birth place, Lincoln-Douglas debate)

Stearman related service/parts businesses- museum (one takes one Stearman).

Infrastructure Needs

Proactive about Infrastructure maintenance. Prioritize, fund strategic plan - water, sewer, roads.

Henderson Street power lines. Move underground

Good railroad by-passes - overpasses/underpasses

Work with BNSF. Build positive relationship. Improve resident perceptions of railroad.

Fiber Optic - private owners/build completely. To City and within City.

Water line - replacement/improvements.

Market Galesburg water - other communities businesses

Market own water (Galesburg)

Improve sewer capacity

Positive Comments from Panel Discussion

Quality workforce

Can accommodate five industries, 10,000 more people

Great home town community

Galesburg is centrally located and hubs to the nation

Number of rail lines (7 rail lines in and out of Galesburg), can ship in many directions.

Community is basically prepared for growth

Promote Derby's story of being able to survive a difficult time

5 - 10 year bench marks

Improved infrastructure (ex - water and sewage)

Rail and transportation hub for Midwest

Utilized I-74 - use to Galesburg's advantage

Rail road by passes for traffic flow (underpasses and overpasses).

Inter city commuting between Galesburg, Peoria and Quad Cities (in concert with those communities).

City Bus Service expanded

Green energy industries

Trained workforce

Constant hiring and expanding railroad

Need youth to return to our City

Route 34 corridor

City of Galesburg

Galesburg Advantage - Community Visioning Assembly

Session 2: BUILDING on our Core Competencies: Transportation and Infrastructure

Improve the Sessions?

Hard to hear others speak (no hearing impairment)

Maybe groups could be smaller

Group 5 - Facilitator - Kelli Bennewitz

Industrial Development

Workforce

10,000 people ext for sanitary

Work on plan to expand

Pursue new manufacturing (green cos) - wind farms

Market our assets! Ex - Logistic Park is ready to go, location

GREDA is asset

Low cost overhead

Faster shipping/transportation method

Broadband capacity - asset

CEOs arrive by air - Gateway for Decision makers in our community. (Hangars are old)

Transportation

Need off-loading facility

Lack of signage on I-74 (legislation makes difficult)

Amtrak

Quiet zones more friendly area?

Comp on the closings

Need overpasses - safety issues, more convenient.

Infrastructure Needs

Water is largest asset. No rationing

Should be marketing our water to companies.

Excellent quality of water

Barrier - getting rid of water. No more lift station. Too much money

Sanitary district can be difficult to work with.

Positive Comments from Panel Discussion

Water System

Transportation capability through interstate and railroad

Logistic Park is developed as much as it is

BNSF is expanding or will when the economy improves

Logistics Park good for new trucking development. Good location to bypass larger cities like Chicago, St Louis.

Less traffic congestion = saved revenue and faster shipping times.

Airport needs to be tapped to improve and expand. To bring in commuter/commercial traffic. Large air shows

Modern city sign welcoming people from all inlets to the city.

Market rail road. Instead of "All roads come to Galesburg". Need "The U.S. connects to Galesburg" basically a national marketing theme

City website contest with students at Knox and CSC to design a website the city needs to market itself properly

Beautify the airport with as much care as the entrances to the City. This could be the first impression of Galesburg for anyone flying in.

City of Galesburg

Galesburg Advantage - Community Visioning Assembly

Session 2: BUILDING on our Core Competencies: Transportation and Infrastructure

Improve the Sessions?

- Larger area to spread out groups.
- Not so much extraneous noise during discussion.

Group 6 - Facilitator - Marv Dahlberg

Industrial Development

- \$1 million roadway resurface - stimulus package
- Railroad grade separation. Seminary street most funding. 60% ICC fund. \$2.5 million short. BNSF to share 5% of cost
- Quiet Zone important
- We have a good bus system
- US 34 - 4 lane to Iowa. Would increase traffic opportunities for development
- Maintain/Improve airport for Stearman Museum
- Electric trolley car system
- Rail road commuter line between QC/Galesburg/Peoria/Bloomington/Champaign
- Great water supply - increase waste water capacity
- Redevelopment of O.T.. Johnson site
- Interstate signage. Local assistance to install for promoting business and community
- Property improvements along City entry ways
- Possible airport signage on I -74
- Van pooling to Peoria and Q.C.
- Creation of a No-Idle Zone. Money savings and environmental sensitive
- Stearman plane highway
- Logistics Park Galesburg
- Intermodal Feasibility of LPG. Need to await results of study
- Business park should be marketed to small business also. Not just big business.
- Better/Professional signage at LPG
- Update and implement bike path plan
- Telecom infrastructure
- Education - human infrastructure

Group 7 - Facilitator - Chief Cratty

What do you want to see done in 10 years with Infrastructure?

- Improved - make what we have appealing
- Dedicated funding for infrastructure
- Airport expansion for passenger and cargo
- Galesburg airport as a hub
- High speed rail
- Train station improvement
- Parlay rail/road/air/water (rivers)
- Street, bridge, sidewalk improvement
- Improve local use of rail.
- Technology infrastructure

City of Galesburg

Galesburg Advantage - Community Visioning Assembly

Session 2: BUILDING on our Core Competencies: Transportation and Infrastructure

What do you want to see done in 10 years with Industrial base?

- Transform our industrial base by 2019
- Technological based industrial group
- Experience base - what citizens want quality of life
- Water related industry. Bottled water plant

Infrastructure improvements giving Galesburg a competitive advantage?

- Roads
- Sidewalks
- Facades
- Parks
- Bike paths
- Wi-Fi
- Infrastructure improved
- Corridors - connect good areas
- Improve areas in between (Henderson, Main, Seminary)

Industries well suited to Galesburg. (Location, Infrastructure, transportation position)

- Bottled water plant
- Recreation parks/venues
- Railroad Hall of Fame
- Agriculture
- Retirement. Aging industries.
- Health care.

What industries could be pursued that haven't - how do they benefit from Galesburg?

- Wind energy
- Green technology.

What role could Logistics Park play in our economic development strategy?

- Change name to development site
- Don't label. Ex- Logistics, residential, commercial
- Let it sit there, farm it.

5 - 10 year bench marks

- Improve taxi and bus image. Better vehicles. Cleaner. Train employees!

Group 8 - Facilitator - Roy Parkin

Industrial Development

- Reactivate airport - air freight terminal
- Perception of out in no where
- Overpass/Underpass
- I-74 Corridor promotion (Peoria/Q.C.)
- Amtrak - don't lose routes to other expansions

City of Galesburg

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Session 2: BUILDING on our Core Competencies: Transportation and Infrastructure

- Improve existing streets, curbs, sidewalks (commercial curb appeal)
- Major plus - water supply maintain as a plus
- Educate citizens on importance of railroads
- Importance of agriculture
- More efficient public transportation
- Analysis of traffic control options. Stop signs vs. traffic lights

Importance of Route 34?

- Focus on technology
- Expansion of medical related activities
- Empty buildings - improve, reuse/demolish. Make areas more attractive
- Regional conference center
- Federal/State facilities to generate additional jobs
- Barriers of codes to redevelop sites
- Incentives for reinvestment
- Ag land evaluation
- Market Galesburg as A center -

Positive Comments from Panel Discussion

- Training of people for new job market. High Tech. Use the City's positive assets to promote business.
- Promote I-74 and US34 access
- Redevelop existing sites (need incentives or make it easier to do).
- New Development (Commercial)
- Get rid of heavy government - requirement to develop - Labor unions
- Derby industries - yeah!

5 - 10 year bench marks

- Educate citizenry and youth on rich history of Galesburg. Importance of rail road and other assets of community to improve community pride.

Improve the Sessions?

- good job!