

BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION ON THE ST. LOUIS COUNTY'S  
CAPITAL INVESTMENT INITIATIVE

July 31, 2008

Honorable St. Louis County Executive Charlie A. Dooley  
Honorable St. Louis County Council Members  
Lawrence K. Roos Administration Center  
41 S. Central  
Clayton, Missouri 63105

Re: Blue Ribbon Commission's Final Report on the St. Louis County Capital Investment Initiative

Dear Honorable Executive Dooley & County Council Members:

Attached is the Blue Ribbon Commission's Final Report on St. Louis County's Capital Investment Initiative.

The Report details the information provided to the Commission by County staff, the Commission's discussions, and the Commission's recommendations. The Commission took two tours of various critical County facilities and held two public comment sessions.

The Commission was asked to address the following two specific questions:

1. Have we identified the critical needs of St. Louis County?
2. What funding mechanism should be used to meet the expenditure requirements of these needs?

The answer to the first question is that the staff has identified the critical infrastructure needs of St. Louis County. These top priority needs must be addressed in the near term (2009 – 2015). As to the second question, the Commission recommends that the St. Louis County Council place a:


1. General Obligation Bond Issue in an amount that results in no change (no tax increase) to the current St. Louis County bond retirement fund rate on the November 2008 General Election ballot.
2. ½ ¢ sales tax for Metro (Proposition M) on the November 2008 General Election ballot.
3. Countywide "Sales and Use Tax" on the April 2009 ballot.
4. Parks Sales Tax on the April 2009 ballot.

The Commission also makes the following recommendations regarding the infrastructure construction activity that will result from the funding.

1. All new buildings should be designed to be "green" and sustainable. LEED standards should be followed to the highest level economically feasible.
2. Highway improvement and reconstruction projects should be planned to accommodate bicycle and pedestrian traffic. The County Highway Department should commit to working in cooperation with other transportation organizations to look at the full range of modes of transportation to make our communities more pedestrian friendly, livable and usable.
3. All projects must include appropriate goals for minority participation.
4. Before any development occurs on the parking lot on Central Avenue between the Administration Building and the Correctional Facility, the County should be assured that there is sufficient public parking to replace the lost parking.
5. It is important that the County continue to have a strong presence in Clayton. However, consideration should be given to expanding the current satellite offices, and possibly relocating other appropriate services outside of Clayton to less expensive real estate and closer to the public. The use of the Internet for the public to access County services should continue to be expanded.
6. The County should take advantage of public/private partnerships as much as possible in order to leverage the public dollars.

The members of the Commission thank you for the opportunity to serve the community in this effort. The BRC will continue to meet in order to be available to inform the public of the infrastructure needs of the County and to support the passage of the various funding mechanisms.

Sincerely,



Richard "Skip" Mange  
Chairman