Accomplishment Highlights

July 25, 2019
**How is the Plan Getting Implemented?**

**Plan Overview**

By coordinating and leveraging existing and creating new efforts to achieve **common regional goals**

**Total**
- 16 Total Strategies
- 68 Total Tactics
- 369 Total Action Items

### Core Elements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Economic Diversification</th>
<th>Talent Sustainability</th>
<th>Entrepreneurial Dynamism</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3 Total Strategies</td>
<td>7 Total Strategies</td>
<td>6 Total Strategies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 Total Tactics</td>
<td>27 Total Tactics</td>
<td>17 Total Tactics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>57 Total Action Items</td>
<td>193 Total Action Items</td>
<td>69 Total Action Items</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Cross-Cutting

- **Growth Management**
  - 3 Total Tactics
  - 21 Total Action Items

- **Advocacy**
  - 4 Total Tactics
  - 13 Total Action Items

- **Collaborative Governance**
  - 3 Total Tactics
  - 8 Total Action Items

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*Based on updates and input collected from throughout the region since the plan was adopted in January 2018, Work Groups have been and will continue recommending additional items for incorporation.*
Targeted Economic Diversification: Accomplishment Highlights

Strategy 1.1. – Build external awareness of the region’s assets among prospect employers, investors, and corporate relocation professionals.

Tactic 1.1.1. – Develop a competitive marketing & communications program

Lead – Greater Manhattan Economic Partnership

Targeted Economic Diversification: Accomplishment Top Highlights

Strategy 1.1. – Build external awareness of the region’s assets among prospect employers, investors, and corporate relocation professionals.

Tactic 1.1.3. – Leverage regional meetings and conferences as marketing opportunities

Lead – Convention & Visitors Bureaus & Economic Development Organizations

Progress / Activities –
Attends Meeting Professionals International, Kansas City Chapter & Professional Convention Management Association, Heartland Chapter (each 3-6 times per year) + in St. Louis
Targeted Economic Diversification: Accomplishment Highlights

Strategy 1.2. – Support and facilitate the retention and expansion of existing regional businesses.

Tactic 1.2.1. – Formalize an expanded business retention and expansion program.

Lead – Each Economic Development Organization

Progress -

• Restructuring in order to formalize an expanded business retention and expansion program. – More to come soon!

• Conducting a survey of businesses in partnership with several Tech-Ed Work Group entities to identify training needs to ensure the technical training matches Junction City business needs for retention purposes.

• Hosting a Workforce Retention Plan, ACT Boot Camp and Employer Panel – August 6th & 7th to support local businesses as a retention strategy.
Talent Sustainability: Accomplishment Highlights

Strategy 2.1. – Continue to enhance the capacity & productivity of the region’s pre-K to 20 educational institutions.

Tactic 2.1.6. – Work to enhance existing programs and facilities and develop critical new capacity.

Lead – USDs, Higher Education Institutions, RR Talent Attraction & Retention, Economic Development & Workforce Organizations, Heartland Works.

Progress - Participating in Fort Riley hosted IGSA Education Work Group:

a) Discussing ways to partner with local higher educational institutions to provide training to reduce travel cost to other states.

b) Exploring ways to partner with higher educational institutions throughout the region to provide additional soft skills and life skills training.
Talent Sustainability: Accomplishment Highlights

**Strategy 2.1.** – Continue to enhance the capacity & productivity of the region’s pre-K to 20 educational institutions.

**Tactic 2.1.3** - Create a regional **STEM Academy** open to high school students from multiple local districts.

**Lead** – K-12 and Other Higher Educational Institutions

**Progress** - Manhattan Area Technical College is exploring and having preliminary discussions with USD 383 to determine if a MHK Career Academy could be possible, and if this could be possible in other districts within the region.
**Talent Sustainability: Accomplishment Highlights**

**Strategy 2.1.** – Continue to enhance the capacity & productivity of the region’s **pre-K to 20** educational institutions.

**Tactic 2.1.6.** – Work to enhance existing programs and facilities and develop critical new capacity.

**Lead –** USDs, Higher Education Institutions, RR Talent Attraction & Retention, Economic Development & Workforce Organizations, Heartland Works.

**Progress -**

- Manhattan Area Technical College is in the process of updating its 2020-2025 Strategic Plan as outlined in the RR Plan, and exploring ways to partner with other regional community colleges and businesses to build programs based on local workforce training needs.

- Cloud County CC is designing a customer service / hospitality training program in response to discussions at the RR Geary County Quality of Place meetings. Munson’s Steakhouse has agreed to serve as a pilot for the program. The discussions from inception has been to start small and expand regionally. Theresa Bramlage, Chair of Quality of Place is the champion of this effort.

- Highland Community College was recently invited as a member of the RR Talent Attraction & Retention Work Group, and are now engaged and participating in Talent discussions. They are also exploring ways to meet local training needs.
Talent Sustainability: Accomplishment Highlights

Strategy 2.2. – Increase the number of recent graduates choosing to remain in the region to live and work.

Tactic 2.2.1. – Better embed college students in the community.

Lead – RR Talent Attraction & Retention, Chambers, including Young Professionals, CVBs, Service Organizations, Higher Educational Institutions, HRMN, etc.

Progress -

• Meeting with a variety of representatives from Kansas State University and other technical/community colleges within the region to explore ways that the community can better connect with students. Proposed a few ideas that were well received, discussed and voted on at the work group level, and laying the groundwork for the next step.

• Young Professional Programs are actively being evaluated and groups are meeting to explore ways to enhance, and in some cases, restructure the program. This will tie into the ability of each community to connect with students and young professionals throughout the region as a retention strategy.
Talent Sustainability: Accomplishment Highlights

Strategy 2.2. – Increase the number of recent graduates choosing to remain in the region to live and work.

Tactic 2.2.2. – Improve connections between college students and the regional economy

Action Item -  Formalize enhanced internship programs between students and local employers in partnership with university/college career services staff.

Progress -

- Talent Attraction & Retention Work Group conducted a zoom meeting with the Workforce Development Manager in Lincoln, Nebraska to hear creative programs being implemented that could be applicable to our region. [Watch video!]

- Talent Attraction & Retention Work Group Meeting is exploring ways to formalize internship programs, including micro-internships and job shadowing programs. K-State Career Services and Talent Chair has been instrumental in these discussions. The Work Group conducted a zoom meeting with Parker Dewey to learn more about their micro-internship services and if it could be something that would benefit this region. The Work Group voted and approved the concept to explore further. Check out Forbes article about Micro-Internships.
Talent Sustainability: Accomplishment Highlights

Strategy 2.2. – Work to ensure that Fort Riley solders and their families become permanent residents within the region upon leaving the military.

Tactic 2.3.1. – Continue enhancing efforts to involve & integrate Fort Riley / National Guard soldiers in the community.

Progress - Programs & Summits

Advise Program Launched May 1, 2019 – To connect veterans from Fort Riley with business professional ADVISORS which includes a pairing meeting, Small Business Orientation and 5 Chamber events over a six-month period.
Talent Sustainability: Accomplishment Highlights

Strategy 2.4. – Develop **medical education capacity** in the region.

**Progress** - The healthcare community has been meeting to discuss a series of potential solutions that could assist the region to assist with increasing healthcare staffing capacity. This includes discussions related to Ascension Via Christi, Kansas State University’s, College of Health and Human Sciences, Manhattan Area Technical College, and Geary Community Hospital.
**Talent Sustainability:**

**Accomplishment Highlights**

**Strategy 2.5.** – Improve the *attraction of talent* to the region.

**Tactic 2.5.1.** - Work with K-State to determine how local partners can support student-recruitment efforts.

**Progress** - Meetings are being held with a variety of Kansas State University administrators to discuss how the community can assist with recruitment and retention efforts. Ideas were generated that are being discussed further with the Talent, Quality of Place, and Built Environment Work Groups.
**Talent Sustainability:**

**Accomplishment Highlights**

**Strategy 2.6.** – Construct and rehabilitate diverse, high-quality and **suitable housing for regional labor force sustainability.**

**Tactic 2.6.1.** - Construct a regional housing study based on existing infrastructure capacity.

**Progress** – 1) Region Reimagined Built Environment Work Group in collaboration with the Center for Engagement and Community Development’s Community Solutions to Affordable Housing Network and Flint Hills Regional Council hosted **Dr. McClure**, a Professor of Urban Planning in the School of Public Affairs and Administration at the University of Kansas. Dr. McClure presented information about **housing trends in Geary County, Pottawatomie County and Riley County.** Thank you K-State College of Architecture, Planning and Design for hosting us and Tracy Anderson for the warm welcome (Region Reimagined, Built Environment Tri-Chair) **Watch video!**

2) Representatives from the City of Manhattan, Pottawatomie County, Junction City, Region Reimagined, and Flint Hills Regional Council gathered to discuss the needs of each community as it relates to a proposed study, potential funding sources and how it could potentially be structured should funding and timing align.
Talent Sustainability:
Accomplishment Highlights

**Strategy 2.6.** – Construct and rehabilitate diverse, high-quality and suitable housing for regional labor force sustainability.

**Tactic 2.6.1.** - Launch a program to **revitalize neighborhoods in targeted areas**, including the exploration of housing rehabilitation in targeted K-State adjacent neighborhoods.

**Progress** -

- The Built Environment Work Group voted to explore conducting housing condition assessments and market studies for the region as it was determined that additional data is necessary in order to guide future decisions.

- Region Reimagined participated in the Housing Forum last May and is participating in the Neighborhood Revitalization Study Circle, both hosted by the Center for Engagement and Community Development’s Community Solutions to Affordable Housing Network Housing.
**Talent Sustainability: Accomplishment Highlights**

**Strategy 2.7.** – Provide **quality of place environments and amenities** that enhance community, appeal to and attract professionals across all economic sectors, and enhance tourism.

**Tactic 2.7.2.** - Support implementation of local placemaking initiatives.

**Progress** -

- The Power of 10 - “A great place needs to have at least 10 things to do in it or 10 reasons to be there. The Quality of Place Work Groups identified ten or more amenities that make their community special.

- The Quality of Place Work Groups (all three counties) identified 10 common placemaking themes, and prioritized the themes, which have been incorporated into the Plan. These are the foundational elements of the regional placemaking plan, of which specific projects are being discussed in each County.

**Celebrate the Good!**
Check out this article.

[Konza Prairie Biological Station’s trail made Runner’s World’s Top 25 Running Trails! #NoPlaceLikeKS](K]

Entrepreneurial Dynamism: Accomplishment Highlights

Strategy 3.1. – Grow and Diversify the Innovation Ecosystem throughout the region.

Progress -

• Innovation & Entrepreneurship Work Group has researched methods of encouraging innovation and entrepreneurship and developed a draft report.

• Asset mapping of existing resources and amenities was conducted for Riley County and Pottawatomie County.

• K-State Foundation has made progress to evolve the North Campus Corridor Master Plan, including branding of the district.
Questions?

July 25, 2019