



## 2009 Policy Priorities

**With more than \$4.3 billion in public and private investment in recent projects, downtown St. Louis will leverage existing developments to maintain and grow its market share in the region and the state. In order to survive and thrive during this economic downturn, downtown must be armed with adequate resources to attract business, maintain a welcoming environment and support a growing downtown. With a newly elected President and Governor, the Partnership will also focus on elevating the needs of urban areas.**

### **Foster Business Investment**

**Jobs:** The Partnership supports legislation or incentives that entice employers to stay, grow or relocate downtown.

**Business Recruitment and Retention:** Over the last few years, more than 100 new shops and restaurants have opened in downtown to serve a growing number of residents and employees. However, there is still room for growth. The Partnership encourages incentives that help recruit, retain and grow downtown businesses. Conversely, the Partnership opposes regulatory or legislative changes that impede downtown businesses' ability to operate on a level playing field with its regional competition.

### **Create Development Opportunities**

**Tax Credits and Economic Development Incentives:** The effectiveness of tax credits for the preservation of historic structures, the re-use of brownfield properties and the creation of affordable housing opportunities in enticing downtown development is indisputable. The Partnership must persevere in its defense of these tax credits by conveying their long-term benefits to the State Legislature. As such, the Partnership supports State or independent studies that quantify the benefits of tax credits. The Partnership will resist any legislation that restricts existing or future tax credits and promotes the growth of such programs where appropriate. In particular, we promote increasing the value of the Federal Historic Tax Credit from 20 to 25 percent of the costs of rehabilitating a historic building.

### **Ensure a Secure and Welcoming Atmosphere**

**Crime:** Maintaining a high level of safety is vital to our community's livelihood. Thus, we support steps toward increasing police coverage downtown. Specifically, the Partnership will strive to secure downtown's proportional share of new police officers hired as a result of Proposition S, the City's recently passed public safety initiative. Furthermore, it will pursue legislation that allows for more convenient administration of the Community Improvement District.

**Homelessness:** The Partnership wholeheartedly supports St. Louis Mayor Francis Slay's 10-year campaign to end homelessness. In order to achieve this ambitious goal, it is essential to have a strong network of support services to address the complex needs of at-risk populations. At the same time, in order to protect the interests of property owners, the Partnership will explore measures that ensure appropriate notice about facilities meant to serve the homeless and a balanced allocation of services so that no one community is burdened by a concentration of homeless services.

*Bolded policy indicates a Partnership top priority.*

## **Cultivate a Sustainable Environment**

**Green development:** With a growing national interest in “green building” the Partnership will pursue initiatives that take into consideration the environmental benefits of green renovations in urban and historic areas and incentives that make it easier to qualify for LEED credits through historic renovations.

**Education:** Because a quality education system is a key ingredient to attracting and retaining families downtown, the Partnership strongly supports the development of an education network that consists of a superior selection of both public and private schools at the elementary and secondary levels. Furthermore, it applauds investments by higher education institutions that have created downtown campuses -- a great asset to downtown employees and residents.

**Recycling:** The Partnership encourages the City to leverage existing recycling incentives and to target opportunities such as the upcoming All Star Game to promote recycling on public rights-of-way. We will explore ways to grow our existing partnership with St. Patrick’s Center and the St. Louis Cardinals to recycle beverage containers around Busch Stadium.

**Alternatives to the automobile:** Access to and through downtown by all modes is critical to its future, thus it is important that pedestrians, bicyclists and transit users find it easy to get around. Last year, the Partnership joined with others to sponsor WeCar, a car-sharing program to offer tools to those wanting to reduce their car use. It will further explore projects and programs that make downtown more welcoming for walkers and bicyclists, including the City’s streetscape program which has yet to be implemented on a full-scale basis.

**The Arch Grounds and Gateway Mall:** The Arch Grounds and Gateway Mall are underutilized assets for downtown. The Partnership strongly supports actions that elevate these resources so that they are enjoyed by more people on a more frequent basis.

## **Invest in Transportation/Infrastructure**

**Transit and Transportation Funding:** While the specific impacts of the recent failure of Proposition M, a County measure to maintain and expand Metro services, are still being determined, the Partnership anticipates drastic service cuts. Thus, it strongly supports the pursuit of supplemental funding at the state, local and federal levels. Furthermore, the Partnership supports the Transportation Alliance’s efforts to elevate the need to fund transportation infrastructure, including roads, transit and passenger rail and explore funding mechanisms to address the projected 2010 shortfall in transportation funding.

**Access and Circulation:** In order to keep downtown accessible for all modes, we support the City’s efforts to promote construction methods that mitigate full or partial closures of streets, lanes, sidewalks and public space. Additionally, the Partnership appreciates the City’s efforts to synchronize traffic signals in the CBD and encourages like investments in the surrounding areas. Furthermore, we support the implementation of a comprehensive way-finding program which can help people connect with major destinations and parking resources downtown.

**Mississippi River Bridge:** As the state proceeds with the construction of the new bridge, the Partnership wants to ensure that it has adequate funding for the completion of the bridge. Additionally, we encourage leveraging the significant transportation resources to create strong surrounding communities, including the exploration of Federal enhancement funds to improve the neighborhoods most impacted by the Bridge.

*Bolded policy indicates a Partnership top priority.*