

Northeast Sector Plan

Visioning Exercise

The following information was gathered during the visioning exercise at the kick-off meeting for the Northeast Sector Plan on September 17, 2009. Those in attendance were asked to write newspaper headlines reflecting their vision of the future for four categories: transportation, land use, growth management and economic development.

Transportation

- South Lawrence Trafficway Finished. Now connects 59, K-10, I-70 and 24 Highways
- Proximity of prime farmland to markets reduces food transport costs
- Intermodal hub plan denied by County Commission
- Chancellor's plane makes emergency landing in farm field near airport – no injuries were sustained
- Last personal automobile in County donated to Historical Museum
- Bike lanes and pedestrian corridors to North Lawrence river bottoms provide access to farm plots and river recreation
- Light rail connects I-70 cities, with hubs to local public transportation systems. Use tax for non-ag use vehicles increased funding for system
- Lawrence Municipal Airport extends runways to expand service to include larger commercial aircraft
- North Lawrence Airport needs new jet runways
- Light rail developments in Grant Township allows for ideal transportation of local foods to produce to surrounding metro areas
- Airport relocates to Vinland
- Twenty trains a day now carry Kaw Valley Produce to greater Kansas City Market – Obesity way down
- This area has access to very good transportation – rail, highway and air. Take advantage of this asset
- Business limited to Hwy 24/40/59 minimizes North Lawrence pollution
- Jet service comes to Lawrence Airport
- New bike path and walking trail – limited truck and office
- Light rail between KC and Topeka provides eco-friendly alternative to I-70 congestion
- Larger airport for Lawrence to serve larger airplanes
- Rail commuters from the Life Sciences center in Manhattan stop in Lawrence to buy fresh produce for dinner in their homes in KC
- Multiple modes of non-vehicular transportation supporting the recreational opportunities in the Township
- Transportation plan gets Lawrencians to NE Sector opportunities
- It could be used for industry use
- Nothing needs to really change, Kansas is ranked third in state for best highway system

- South Lawrence Trafficway complete – Lawrence is not fully connected to North Lawrence Business Park
- A commuter rail system connects Lawrence with Topeka and Kansas City
- New bridge extends 9th Street across the river
- Transportation costs prevent importation of inexpensive food. Residents depend on local food sources
- All modes of transportation serve all people in the planned development of Grant Township
- Visionary planning accommodating utility, bicycles, transit and pedestrian in the form of “complete streets” enabled the emergence of a low density, high productivity agro-ecology farm economy for the local market
- New bullet train speeds delicious vegetables to Kansas City Markets
- Bike trail connects county to downtown
- Walking/biking trail complete – connects north to south, east to west, from Harry Fitch Trail to Clinton Lake.
- Passenger rail from Lawrence to KC, Topeka fast, affordable and easy, clean
- New north/south Kansas River bridges planned for North Lawrence
- Light rail to KC and Topeka replaces I-70; I-70 dismantled
- Public
- U.P. shares tracks with high speed transportation to KC
- No one would have predicted the demise of car based transportation 25 years ago. But thanks to wise planning we have a comprehensive plan that includes multiple sustainable methods of transporting goods and people to markets
- Safer Highway! Dangerous Midland Junction “straightened out”; Accident rate drops
- Runway extension spurs area economic growth
- Local school first to have bio-diesel bus for its students in the state!
- Improved flow – change Midland intersection
- Increase smaller public transportation to North Lawrence – aging population at low cost. Improve streets and sidewalks for all traffic including yearly stormwater improvements to an area that has always been limited in needed systems.

Land Use

- Commission concludes land owners do have rights
- Preservation of prime farmland (Classes I & II) makes Douglas County a national model in energy tight times
- River Valley Land a lifeline for local hungry
- Catastrophic flooding is averted through wise long-term planning 25 years ago
- Agriculture usage – KU agriculture program – buffer zone for flooding
- Large scale vegetable production fails to growing season and internal market structure
- Save the good farm ground – only allow land use for ag use – keep growth at a slow pace – only ag use – manage growth and do not allow large corporations to destroy our farm land

- Grant Township offers exciting model for local food system
- City and County Commissions issue Declaration of Thanks for citizen action in 2009 to set aside land now capable of feeding entire population of Douglas County
- Farming is what this area is used for and it should be used for
- Property owners should choose what to do with their land: It should be noted that industrial use provides many more jobs than does farming
- A pedestrian green corridor connects downtown with nature trails in the Fitch Preserve
- Land use decisions to keep Class I and Class II soils free of development is heralded as reason hunger is not a problem in Douglas County
- County limits industrial and commercial development to specific areas allowing for the continued ag use in the area
- KU Endowment commits more to agri-experimentation
- Northeast Sector Plan status quo – North Lawrence still has charm of yesterday
- New innovative farming opportunities piloted in Grant Township
- Class I and Class II soils protect county during economic downturn
- Flooding experienced in North Lawrence – could be worse says City Engineer. Flood was mitigated by soil conservation – flood plain management plan which encouraged open areas for storm water permeability
- A hard line delineation of the urban-rural line to reduce, minimize or eliminate encroachment impacts of urbanizing uses on agricultural land use
- Airport and industries abandoned – farmers haul off concrete and plant more crops and forests
- Work with farmers to develop good production of quality food
- Twenty-five years ago, planners saved developers from short range planning which has resulted in excess vacant warehouses and commercial development which is plunging the nation as a whole. The fertile fields are a tribute to their foresight
- Soil type in the area north of Lawrence is good for industrial development
- A county that feeds itself: Douglas County, Kansas, provides international model for local food economy
- Douglas County provided a model for greenspace residential development and clean industrial.
- I would like to see the land use be openly considered rather than considering use only in agricultural terms. This involves both natural resources and development
- Kaw levee/KU Reserve Trail opens
- Lawrence flood insurance rates drop following adoption of no adverse impact standards
- Zoning of land for industry to support new jobs for employment and tax base
- Flood disaster averted due to forward-thinking risk adverse planning
- Research study shows limited potential for vegetable production in valley north of Lawrence – short growing season, drainage problems
- Land trusts fund program to compensate landowners for forgoing development rights

- Grant Township is a model for smart farm/owner development leading to sustainable agriculture and increased employment
- State of Kansas lauds Douglas County for preserving Class I & II soils
- Grant Township leads nation in per-capita food supply
- Kaw Valley horticulture re-blooms as commodity agriculture is replaced by small fruit and vegetable farms
- Farmers win over greedy development for use of land!
- KU develops urban sustainable ag program
- City of Lawrence now extends contiguously to the airport
- Landmark court case establishes that landowners do not have a right to profit from intensified land use – 401-K attitude must end – not every investment earns interest; risk should be accepted
- Integrated land use plan provides jobs and protects environment
- Clean green way producing new variety of 200 bushel corn
- Preservation of Class I and II soils allow for “no adverse impact” flood control, protecting North Lawrence residents from flooding
- Worlds best soils saved for food production
- Farmers sustain agriculture land use open green grocer coop
- City services spur economic growth at airport
- A section of Grant Township rezoned to industrial for construction of a cold storage facility for locally grown foods
- Utilize undisturbed Class I and II farm ground to it’s full extent – Use green areas to protect residential areas/parks etc. to enhance flood control for North Lawrence
- Agricultural land keeps county well fed, secure. Citizens glad for the vision of the past generation
- Class 1 and 2 soils are maintained and provide no adverse impact for flooding in North Lawrence
- Exclusive farm use zoning removes the institutional barriers such as retail sales and open opportunities for small scale, high value produce, community gardens, CSA’s and U-Pick to supply the immediate urban market
- Saving prime soils for agriculture in the Kaw Valley what God want, says Pope
- Forest
- Disaster averted! Foresight by planners averts repeat of 1951 North Lawrence flood – implementation of North Lawrence Drainage Study credited with saving life and property
- Land use should be ag use save the soil and stop storm drainage from getting worse

Growth Management

- Number of applications for attached residences and co-housing projects breaks all-time record for year: only recycled materials to be used in construction
- Northeast Sector Plan allows retail businesses adjacent to Hwy. 24/40/59 only
- Property values increase as quality of life improves
- Large ag field north with irrigation – all farm land – very limited industry processing food

- The City of Lawrence feels that a specific number of acres is required for single family
- Preservation of prime soils protects local growth
- Water/sewer lines finished to North Lawrence
- Plenty of jobs in Lawrence due to the abundance of industry; State Department encourages people to move to Lawrence
- Finally, a public understanding that perpetual growth is not sustainable
- Lawrence and Douglas County showed foresight in planned industrial and residential development northeast of city.
- Government and staff should provide support for an orderly growth, recognizing a need to increase the tax base
- Commercial and residential development in the upland regions protects the fertile agricultural bottom lands
- Restrict development – sustainable development (must be LEED certified) – if development occurs it must conserve agriculture usage, preferably type 1 and 2 soil areas
- Green corridor blooms
- Decision to limit development is now considered the salvation of preventing hunger in Douglas County
- Kaw River Valley – a treasured oasis
- Zoning and codes staff to receive citizen reviews annually
- North Lawrence residents have no flooding in past 10 years
- County halts urban sprawl and encourages ag economy in North Lawrence
- “No Net Increase” mandated for all permanent structures and paving – trend towards permeable paving gains momentum; building footprints must not increase
- County reserves Class I and II soils, denies subdivision request, cites value of soils for local food production
- Grant Township citizens applaud lack of industrial development
- Grant Township land turned into high density area; “Big Mistake” County Commission declares in light of food shortfall across union
- Good planning/regulation preserving quality of life
- I would like to see an article about how the area was developed in a manner to support the city and responsibly used the local natural resources in that areas, instead of stringently locking in one use for the area that will stifle growth and the economic health of the city
- Grant Township develops a plan for industrial development involving energy
- Structured to protect pursuit of agri-industry businesses while capitalizing on convergence of multiple modes of transportation (air, rail, vehicle)
- Urban sprawl prevented by wise choice years ago. Thank you for the safe, local food and green space around our environment
- North Lawrence is recognized as model of sustainable growth
- Girth growth radically slowed by family’s working in and eating from their community gardens. Health costs plunge
- Douglas County, Kansas, provides national model for ag-related sustainable manufacturing sector (Jayhawk salsa now served throughout the nation!)

- Northeast Sector Plan identified key issues with future development of the Grant Township
- People thrive inside the city, enjoy preserved rural property as community amenity
- Grant Township feeds Lawrence
- With new retail options in North Lawrence, City expects to see new growth in jobs
- Preservation of Class I and II soils allows for sustainable local food system in Grant Township as a result of responsible growth management
- Non aviation business prevented from building on Lawrence Airport
- Limit industrial development near residential – make buffer areas - lower needed lot size to develop on residential areas – keep larger lot size
- Limit to improving airport area
- Lawrence Douglas County are having good economic gains due to jobs in Grant Township
- City’s smart growth policies result in high quality of life for Lawrence – sprawl is avoided
- On-site contained wetland sewage treatment eliminates need to extend sanitary sewers, so urbanization no longer threatens Class I and II soils nor flood absorption capacity
- Growth and environmental issues achieved
- Sector Plan completed so residents and community can see future growth patterns

Economic Development

- New aviation business builds facility at Lawrence airport
- New business park north of Lawrence
- Kaw Valley Agricultural Renaissance of the early part of the century recognized as the key to health and prosperity in Northeast Kansas
- New grocery store, pharmacy, bank, hardware store, laundry, fire station, etc. – as the area grows the need is there – more jobs, more houses, more taxes all works together
- DAR’s success secured strong market for Lawrence economy
- Diverse agriculture use increases employment in the County by 2%
- Abundant natural resources – agri producers coexist with industrialists – farming thrives – industrial activity thrives – employment base increases tax base. North Lawrence benefits from revenue generators, improving roads, flood control and other public amenities. Industrial tax base offsets agri driven economic shortfalls – both industries coexist in North Lawrence
- Agricultural jobs in county reaches all-time high
- Community agriculture offers economic opportunities for low-income individuals and families
- Lawrence-Douglas County Zoning made the right planning moves to allow industry to move into Douglas County!
- Farmers flourish economically in Northeast County

- Airport Business Park Plan Approved – Business park to add a dozen businesses creating 7,500 jobs
- Rural values – and ever increasing source of economic sustainability
- Possible KU agriculture program to compete with K-State – sustainable development
- North Lawrence firm named top 10 in world in ag research
- The City of Lawrence has decided that North Lawrence’s soil is too valuable to be destroyed and is to be set aside for agriculture only.
- Fertile fields grow fresh local foods for households, grocery stores, restaurants and schools
- Lawrence increases tax base through attraction of new manufacturing companies
- Green aviation industry wins innovation award
- Grant Township to remain green acres
- Ag tax base preserved throughout county because of industrial development in Grant Township
- Northeast Sector Plan driven “development” wins Nobel Peace Prize for carbon-neutral, sustainable ag, food and “social security” complex. Destination shopping for local foods, garden and farm supplies, alternative and conventional health care services, small scale processing for value-added local products
- Agriculture is still the economic engine in Grant Township
- Wise use of rich bottom land has made Douglas County the “fertile crescent” of the Midwest
- County promotes local agricultural development as North Lawrence economic engine
- Farmers sell all products to local citizens
- Grant Township provides food to support shortfall throughout Kansas; increases agriculture jobs state-wide
- Preserving Class I and II high absorbency soils lead to wealth and health
- Fresh produce from Kaw Valley exceeds \$50,000,000
- Northeast Sector Plan remains status quo
- North Bottoms, KU field station and airport serve to educate tomorrow’s leaders
- Improve airport water and sewer
- Farm based businesses of greenhouses, nurseries, CSA’s, and composting show increases in use, profits, and local food security
- North Lawrence finally gets a grocery store and fire department – an increase in jobs and housing
- The American Eagle that is moving to a site near the airport is creating good jobs
- Preservation of Class I and II soils allows for sustainable local food system in Grant Township
- County sees million in revenue from strong local food system. Citizens enjoy improved environment and rich culture of well integrated agricultural economy
- Company Eagle announces third plant expansion including capital investment of \$20 million and additional 50 employees. Community celebrates with neighborhood hog roast

- Wise city planning preserved farmland adjacent to city: unique area is an attraction to high value population growth in city
- Bio-tourism in Grant Township important to Lawrence
- NE Sector Plans spurs economic growth through farming and environmental activities
- Thriving, sustainable community where asset is active, productive farm-to-market industry
- Green aviation industry and W.M.A. wins innovation award
- Small intensive produce farms create many seasonal jobs for youth of Lawrence
- New industrial park to develop by airport. Golden Eagle (Eagle Outfitters) plans 3rd addition
- Douglas County farmers buffer against fluctuations in global commodity prices through specialization in customized food products grown on heritage Class 1 and 2 soils
- New business in North Lawrence to employ 100 people to build advanced health care service products for the disabled
- Development of local food demand creates new market for area farmers
- New company ag business, fresh food for Lawrence and surrounding area, lower fuel and less pollution to environment
- I envision substantial increase in desirable industry as well as an increase in residential development. This will increase the number of jobs and the tax base which will be beneficial to many
- Large employer shows interest in locating near interstate access