

2023

Mo-Kan Regional Council



224 N 7th Street

St. Joseph, Mo 64501

Phone: 816 – 233 – 3144

Fax: 816- 233- 8498

www.mo-kan.org

An Economic & Community
Development Organization

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INTRODUCTION TO MO-KAN

Mo-Kan Regional Council (Mo-Kan) is a designated regional planning commission and economic development district recognized by the states of Kansas and Missouri and the federal government. Mo-Kan provides community and economic development services to Northwest Missouri and Northeast Kansas.

Services include long-range community planning, grant procurement/administration, business loans, hazard mitigation, GIS, transportation planning and homeland security.

The voting membership of the Mo-Kan Regional Council consists of 32 persons, 16 each from Missouri and Kansas. Kansas members are named directly to MKRC by Doniphan County and the municipality of Morrill, KS.

Missouri members are first named by the counties and municipalities to the ABCD Planning Commission.



Mo-Kan provides hands on training for the local counties and communities.

HAZARD MITIGATION

Natural hazards – such as tornadoes, snowstorms, flooding and drought – are likely to happen in the Mo-Kan region. Communities can take steps to minimize injuries and property damage. Hazard mitigation planning is the process authorized by the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act. Communities identify the hazards that present the greatest threats, assess their risks and vulnerabilities, then develop a strategy with goals to mitigate the potential effects. Mo-Kan worked with stakeholders in DeKalb and Clinton Counties to update their hazard mitigation plans. HMP plans are updated every five years and are a critical component for the county and its communities to be eligible for future FEMA grants.

Lathrop and the unincorporated areas in Clinton County were awarded a combined total of nine outdoor warning sirens in 2022 and 2023 from the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP).

A year prior, Amazonia, Cosby, Rea, Rosendale and the unincorporated area of Helena in Andrew County were awarded grants for outdoor warning sirens. Every provided the poles and electrical hookups as an in-kind match and the Community Foundation of Northwest Missouri also provided four of the communities a \$1,250 grant to assist with the local match.

Mo-Kan Regional Council is available to assist communities/counties in pursuing mitigation funds and updating hazard mitigation plans.



Andrew County SEMA Siren Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT & HOMELAND SECURITY



Mo-Kan provides grant writing services for the Community Development Block Program (CDBG) program and other funding sources to member communities. The following CDBG projects were awarded in 2022:

- The City of Union Star received \$500,000 for street and drainage improvements.
- The City of Clarksdale received \$456,633 for street and drainage improvements.
- The City of Cameron received \$500,000 for roadway improvements.

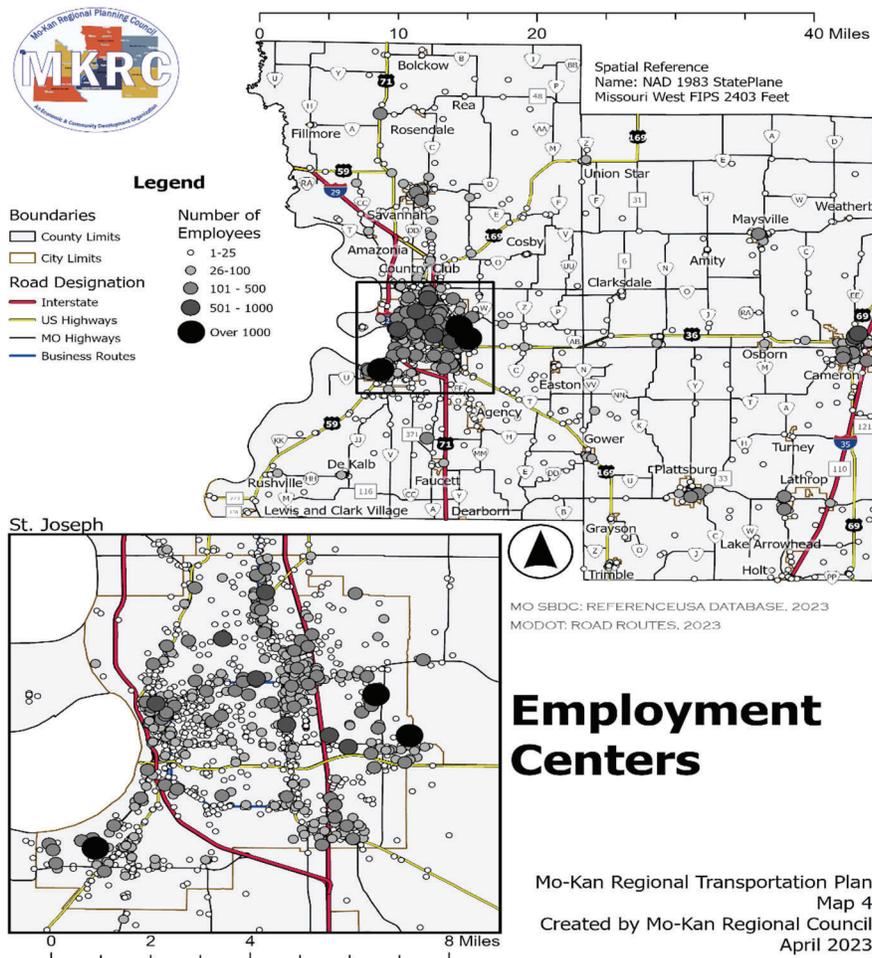
Homeland Security

Since 2006, Mo-Kan has led the Region H Regional Homeland Security Oversight Committee (RH-SOC), which oversees allocating the Office of Homeland Security (OHS) grants and regional disaster planning.

In 2023, Mo-Kan helped facilitate the update of the Threat, Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA) regional disaster planning tool, which is updated every three years under the direction of OHS.

GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS (GIS)

Mo-Kan offers comprehensive GIS services to both member communities and businesses. Using ESRI's ArcGIS software products and Trimble GPS units, we can perform on-site data collection, conduct spatial analysis, and create a variety of visualizations for internal or external use. With our large-format HP printer and scanning capabilities up to 36" wide, we can produce and laminate maps up to 34" x 44" for enhanced durability. We also specialize in developing community surveys, demographic profiles, and project infographics to effectively communicate data and engage stakeholders in the decision-making process. Whether you need asset inventory, land zoning, map digitization, or technical assistance with your own GIS infrastructure, we are here to provide support and guidance.



For more information about Mo-Kan's GIS support, please contact Lily Clajus (Lily@mo-kan.org) or call our office at 816-233-3144.

BUSINESS FINANCING

Since 1982, Mo-Kan has partnered with the U.S. Small Business Administration to provide commercial loans to area businesses in an effort to strengthen our region's economy. Loan programs offered by Mo-Kan are designed to be an affordable means in which businesses can access much needed capital.

Many of the entrepreneurs that Mo-Kan assists are in search of ways to preserve their cash on hand for working capital. Mo-Kan can fill the financing gap between what a local bank is able to provide and what the borrower has available for down payment. In many cases, the local lender provides 50 percent of the financing and Mo-Kan secures 30-40 percent of the project costs. All Mo-Kan's loan products offer a fixed interest rate for the life of the loan. Fixed rates provide entrepreneurs with assurance that their payments will not increase over time, which in turn, helps them gauge future growth opportunities.

Mo-Kan's primary objective for these loan programs is to improve the area's economy through job creation. Local job creation directly increases net wealth in our communities. Along with the loan programs, Mo-Kan offers technical assistance to entrepreneurs needing aid in finalizing and analyzing their endeavors. Technical assistance is provided in many forms, ranging from financial analysis to something as simple as introducing the right contacts.

For more information about Mo-Kan's loan programs, please contact Joe Penning (Joseph@mo-kan.org) or call our office at 816-233-3144.



Trail Theatre



Activate Your Health

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING



Since 1996, Mo-Kan has partnered with the Missouri Department of Transportation (Mo-DOT) to identify and prioritize the region's transportation needs through the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC). It is the TAC's primary responsibility to serve as the public conduit in the planning process, which ultimately shapes the Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP). Mo-Kan also works with Mo-DOT and the TAC to develop and expand on the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP).

Since 2012, the TAC has been tasked with new responsibilities, such as selecting Road Safety Assessment (RSA) locations and scoring regional Blueprint for Safety Grant funds. As the TAC's role expands, Mo-Kan aims to strengthen the lines of communication between Mo-Dot, local officials, and the public to help ensure a superior regional transportation network. This goal is also being reached through stronger statewide relationships established through the Missouri Association of Councils of Governments (MACOG).

Beyond the coordination of the TAC process, Mo-Kan Regional Council also provides an array of other services to assist their Missouri and Kansas member communities address their transportation needs. Mo-Kan staff continues to conduct Road Safety Assessments and assist communities plan for new road and bridge projects.

Mo-Kan also coordinates training and meetings for the Traffic Incident Management (TIM) program, the Freight Summit and the NW Transportation Planning Partners Meeting.

Mo-Kan has a portable event sign, speed radar and traffic counter available for communities to use.

For more information about training or use of the Mo-Kan traffic equipment, please contact Rebecca Thacker (Rebecca@mo-kan.org) or Trevor Tutt (Trevor@mo-kan.org) or call our office at 816-233-3144.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT



In 2010, the Northwest Missouri Workforce Investment Board (WIB) recognized Mo-Kan Regional Council's quality work and made the organization responsible for providing Adult and Dislocated Worker programs in Andrew, Buchanan, Clinton, and DeKalb counties.

The Career Center held multiple job fairs this year. All job fairs were a success. The turnout of job seekers was phenomenal. The Center had employers from all job sectors. Employers attending the career fair came from all areas - medical, production, hospitality, maintenance, and customer service. Several job seekers left with a job or further interviews to obtain

employment the day of the fair. These will be ongoing events at the Career Center each year.

The top hiring companies in 2022 were Triumph Foods, Daily's Premium Meats, Clarios, Altec Industries, Silgan Containers, Tyson Foods and National Beef Leathers.

The staff work diligently to assist job seekers, offering available services such as resume writing, career exploration, networking, and interview techniques.



EPA BROWNFIELD

Mo-Kan assists communities with cleaning up Brownfield properties through the Revolving Loan Fund Grant to revitalize and reuse otherwise blighted properties.



In partnership with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Mo-Kan helped the Village of Agency complete a Brownfield project in 2019, which involved removing an old convenience store, canopy, and underground gas tanks.

MO-KAN REGIONAL COUNCIL STAFF



Tyler Ferrell
Executive Director



Katherine Hahn
Fiscal Officer



Joe Penning
Senior Loan Officer



Trevor Tutt
Community Planner



Houston Roberts
Community Planner



Lily Clajus
GIS Specialist



Rebecca Thacker
Community Planner



Linda McNeiley
Bookkeeper



Teresa Simmons
Loan Processor



Sydney McCord-Ellis
WIOA Program Director



Tara Curtis
WIOA Case Manger