



# TRI-STATE DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT

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## A Brief History...

In 1993, flooding on the Mississippi River wreaked havoc in the Midwest. As rising water closed bridges, highways, railways and barge traffic, the tri-state area of Northeast Missouri, Southeast Iowa and Western Illinois learned that a common transportation network was the lifeline of their economies.

There is no arguing our tri-state region shares common issues - we have a common workforce, we utilize area educational and healthcare facilities, we exchange goods and services and we depend on the same river, rail and roads to move products and people in and out of our region.

Born of the need to cultivate working relationships beyond state boundaries, a committee of five organized the first Tri-State Development Summit in 1996.

Nine Summits have taken place since 1996, rotating among the three states and hosting hundreds of leaders, including Governors from all 3 states, U.S. Senators and Congressmen and speakers of national significance.

## MISSION

To bring together tri-state area leaders to define common issues; to develop an on-going dialogue to effectively address those issues; and to improve the quality of life of the entire tri-state region through economic development activities.

## LOCATION

The tri-state region is made up of 14 counties in Western Illinois, 13 counties in Northeast Missouri and 8 counties in Southeast Iowa. Having 35 counties working together to address common issues gives our region a powerful advantage. According to the 2010 Census, the region has a population of 682,263. That means our united voice represents a population greater than three states and the District of Columbia.



## SPEAKERS & AGENDA

The Summit features an action-packed, four-hour agenda from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Speakers have included governors, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers division and district engineers, United States Congressmen, federal and state department heads, state senators, state representatives, rail and barge executives, and local private-sector business leaders. One of the most popular features of the Summit is a networking lunch where participants mix with their counterparts from other states.

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Tri-State Development Summit is sharpening its focus and addressing issues related to four task forces: Connectivity, Housing, Tourism and Transportation. Summit Task Force committees have been the driving force behind a number of accomplishments in the tri-state region, including:

- Achieving the development of over 1,500 miles of regional highway priorities
- Promoting regional tourist attractions through collaborative marketing pieces.
- Creating opportunities for entrepreneurs to network and grow their businesses.

**BE A PART**  
of the  
**TRI-STATE MOVEMENT.**



# TRI-STATE TASK FORCES

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**35** Counties  
**3** States  
**17** Years  
**9** Summits  
**100s** of Leaders  
**and You!**

## BUILDING THE TRI-STATE OF MIND

We've come a long way in 15 years. 35 separate counties in 3 separate states have become one "State of Mind". Together we are addressing common issues related to our four task forces: Connectivity, Housing, Tourism and Transportation. Coming together yields great power. It builds highways, creates jobs, fosters awareness and leads to sustained growth. We continue to experience it firsthand in the 35 counties that make up the Tri-State Development Summit.

### >>CONNECTIVITY

The Connectivity Task Force was formed in 2007 to represent the constantly changing needs of the 21st century tri-states. The goal of the Connectivity Task Force is to make sure broadband is accessible and affordable throughout the tri-state region. This includes: working with other organizations to facilitate the extension of broadband service; and advocating for redundant service throughout the tri-state area.

### >>HOUSING

The Housing Task Force was formed in 2005 to provide affordable workforce housing in the tri-state area. This includes: increasing affordable housing options for the region's workforce; counseling first-time homebuyers; and identifying funding sources for housing development throughout the region. The creation of affordable workforce housing can increase community pride, help attract industry and increase property values and the local tax base.

### >>TOURISM

The tri-state area is rich in tourism opportunities, and in 1997 the Tourism Task Force was created to work together to promote the tri-state region. The goals of the Tourism Task Force are to combine efforts and resources to market as a region using print and electronic media; and cross-promote tri-state events and attractions to encourage visitors to extend their stays and bring additional dollars into our tri-state economy.

### >>TRANSPORTATION

The Transportation Task Force was created in 1997 to evaluate all transportation issues within the tri-state region. The initial focus was to build highway corridors, and the Task Force successfully facilitated the completion of over 1,000 miles of four-lane highways. While continuing to focus on highways, the Task Force has expanded to include river transportation and now advocates for investment in the inland waterways system to maintain and upgrade lock and dam infrastructure and improve flood protection along the upper Mississippi, Illinois and Missouri Rivers.

Visit our website for more information

**TRISTATEOFMIND.ORG**

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