



2024 Annual Report

2025 Calendar



EAST-WEST GATEWAY
Council of Governments
Creating Solutions Across Jurisdictional Boundaries

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Cover photo:
*View from Hostas on the Bluff, Fairview
Heights, Illinois*

To our colleagues

Every month, the leaders of seven counties and the city of St. Louis meet around a square of sturdy tables at our East-West Gateway Council of Governments office and commit to working together on the issues that impact all residents in the St. Louis region.

The influence among these board members spans every part of the East-West Gateway footprint. When they meet, they bring with them the differing needs and beliefs of their constituents.

Bringing everyone to the table to foster regional and equitable success is not easy. There are disagreements. Competition is real. Collaboration that leads to truly effective action often means accepting compromise.

East-West Gateway works to bring to this board and its partners the tools, data, planning and project management skills, fiduciary responsibility, and best practices to foster meaningful collaboration across jurisdictions that sparks innovation, opportunity, resiliency, success, safety, and well-being for St. Louis.

In the pages that follow, we've included a month-by-month account of the work achieved in 2024 by East-West Gateway. Yet, we would be remiss if we did not highlight here some key achievements in 2024.

Addressing violent crime and homelessness

In partnership with key stakeholders, East-West Gateway began building capacity for the **Save Lives Now!** initiative to reduce shootings and homicides in our region by 20% over a three-year period. Significant public and private partnerships developed in 2025 spanning dozens of jurisdictions, agencies, and nonprofits. We will begin the first quarter of 2025 with training of law enforcement and service providers to deliver evidence-based tactics to reduce violent street crime.

In October, East-West gateway and public and private partners conducted a House Everyone STL Summit and Practicum with 175 participants. We will start 2025 with finalized theory of change for our partners to build a new regional system to house the unhoused.

Emergency response

In July, East-West Gateway's STARRS program conducted a **dense urban terrain emergency response exercise**. This tested our emergency responders' ability to fully coordinate with a U.S. National Guard response during a catastrophic disaster. Drill sites included regional hospitals, Busch Stadium, a railyard, and a river crossing encompassing both banks of the Missouri River.



Tishaura Jones, Chair



Kurt Prenzler, Vice-Chair



Jim Wild, Executive Director

Transportation

East-West Gateway assisted jurisdictions to accelerate transportation projects and ensure they did not lose about \$20 million in dedicated funding to claw backs. This situation evolved from policy changes and delayed spending on planning, property acquisition, and construction caused by the pandemic.

In June, East-West Gateway released **Gateway to Safer Roadways**, a comprehensive look at crashes and high-injury networks regionwide that recommends ways to cut the region's crash fatalities by half by 2050. The report enables millions in potential funding for roadway improvements, safety enhancements, and policy changes.

Research

On November 15, East-West Gateway released the 9th edition of **Where We Stand** at its Annual Meeting. The deep data dive focuses on vitality metrics and their opportunities and limitations for defining success in our region and ways to move ahead. In 2025, you can expect briefings on where we are going to supplement the report.

Sustainability and resources

The seeds were planted, and work began on two regional studies, one to foster disaster resilience and the other to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. In late 2025, expect a **Comprehensive Climate Action Plan** that presents an array of economically attractive sustainability options suitable for urban, suburban and rural areas. Next year, further expect a full **Hazard Mitigation Plan** for parts of our region that opens the door to funding to alleviate damage and risk caused by weather and other unanticipated events.

Communication

In 2024, East-West created a new communications and community engagement department to encourage further collaboration across jurisdictions and to build stronger, more equitable community engagement to shape the work we do. You may have noticed a greater social media presence that included two public safety campaigns on roadway safety.

Thank you

Your partnership in 2024 was greatly appreciated, and your continued engagement with us in 2025 contributes to the vitality of St. Louis as a region.

2024 MILESTONES



EAST-WEST GATEWAY
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JAN

FEB

MAR

Collective Action: EWG outlines the initial draft of a plan to reduce the high incidence of shootings and homicides in the region by 20% with an emphasis on collaborating with law enforcement, service providers, nonprofits, and governments across jurisdictions. Police chiefs from St. Louis city and county and federal prosecutors endorse the plan.

Connection: The EWG board enables the city of St. Louis and Metro to apply for funding for a new north-south MetroLink Green Line along Jefferson Avenue to connect riders with job, education, retail, and entertainments hubs. The action moves the project into its design phase.

Impact: EWG launches a new communications and community engagement department to amplify its mission across the St. Louis region, better communicate regional initiatives, and expand demographic representation in community outreach settings. Key projects in the months ahead include enhanced social media platforms, stronger public education, and communication regarding initiatives and increased media interest in EWG and partner activities.



Start-up: EWG board approves the Save Lives Now! regional anti-violence plan that focuses on the individuals in our region most at risk for street violence. The plan will coordinate law enforcement, service providers, and government jurisdictions in the use of three evidenced-based strategies that balance enforcement with services to reduce violent crime: focused deterrence, cognitive behavioral theory, and street outreach.

Access: EWG holds in-person and virtual meetings to gain public input for an updated Coordinated Human Service Transportation Plan to improve access and mobility for seniors and individuals with disabilities. The engagement events culminate with a staff presentation and public meeting at Paraquad attended by more than 30 constituents.

APR

MAY

JUN

Sustainability: As part of its work to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, EWG staff partner with Metro and Trailnet for a national Bike to Work Week celebration at MetroLink stops in parts of the region. Later in the month, members of EWG’s sustainability staff partner with Earthday 365 to host a Climate Action Zone during its annual Earth Day celebration in Forest Park. Participants learn about easy steps they can take to reduce greenhouse emissions.

Resilience: EWG staff assist St. Clair County in updating its Hazard Mitigation Plan, which leads to funding opportunities to assess risk and prevent damage and fatalities caused by natural disasters.



Expansion: EWG in partnership with government and private partners hosts its first Save Lives Now! Advisory Council meeting in north St. Louis County. Sixty council members representing private and public sector agencies attended the meeting, along with audience members and media, resulting in extensive radio, newspaper, and television coverage on the plan and next steps. The council is chaired by St. Louis Mayor Tishaura Jones and St. Louis County Executive Dr. Sam Page.

Innovation: EWG conducts its first-ever Great Streets Planning Panel process with three municipalities in the Metro-East Area. The new fast-tracking process increases access to federal funding for smaller jurisdictions to revitalize town hubs regarding walkability and economic vitality while enhancing accessibility, traffic flow, pedestrian safety, and overall aesthetics.

Collaboration: EWG conducts a community-based walk of downtown Alton as part of its Great Streets partnership with the city. The walk includes residents, government officials, planners, engineers, local business owners, civic and community groups, and others, all tasked with envisioning a more robust downtown Alton.

Design: EWG staff in partnership with MoDOT draft a study for improved arterial design, one of the first of its kind. The document is a blueprint for professionals on how to exceed state and federal standards for more dynamic designs of arterials to not only improve traffic flow, but leverage accessibility, walkability, aesthetics, and economic vitality.

Response: EWG Board agrees on a call to action to develop a regional approach to reducing homelessness. Staff begins work with an implementation team to plan a summit and practicum on homelessness to spark collaboration and rethink systems for the unhoused.

Safety: EWG releases the Gateway to Safer Roadways plan, a study of crashes and high injury networks across the region. The plan proposes initiatives and action to reduce crash fatalities by half by 2025 and further alerts the region to disparities in crashes that adversely affect economically challenged, Black neighborhoods. It further enables EWG jurisdictions to apply for millions of dollars to fund those initiatives.

2024
MILESTONES

Stewards
Resilience
Expansion
Collaboration
Design
Response
Safety
Preparedness
Resilience
Engagement
Service
Voice
Breath
Awareness
Leadership
Partnership
Wisdom
Education
Momentum
Vision
Stewardship
Blueprint
Celebration
Analysis
Assessment
Convening
Collective
Action
Connection
Impact
Start-up
Access
Sustainability
Resilience
Expansion
Collaboration
Design
Response
Safety
Preparedness
Resilience
Engagement
Service
Voice
Breath
Awareness

2024 MILESTONES

Preparedness: EWG's STARRS program hosts dense urban terrain emergency response exercises in partnership with dozens of local first responders and the U.S. National Guard Task Force 46 at locations across the region, including Busch Stadium and the banks of the Mississippi between Grafton and St. Charles. The drill, the first of its scope in our region, tested our region's ability to respond to a major earthquake and its capabilities to coordinate with military units brought into assist our region.

Resilience: Work intensifies on a regional Hazard Mitigation Plan for EWG jurisdictions in Missouri that includes municipalities, schools and service districts, and others to be completed in 2025. It will assess risks related to natural events and opens the door to millions in federal funding to mitigate those risks before a disaster strikes.

Engagement: As part of its annual update of its FY 25-28 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), EWG staff conducts six in-person public engagement meetings across the region, virtual meetings, and a public survey to gain public input on proposed and current transportation projects. The TIP and related amendments to the Connected 2025 Long Range Transportation Plan, is completed in August.

Service: EWG completes a summer-long social media public safety campaign informing the region to information and data about roadway safety and crashes contained in the Gateway to Safer Roadways plan. The campaign informs drivers and pedestrians about risks and roadway safety hazards, including speeding and distracted driving.

Voice: EWG staff release a public survey asking residents across jurisdictions about what in the region contributes to their quality of life, and what distracts from it. The survey is highlighted on St. Louis Public Radio and in social media in various jurisdictions, prompting more than 700 responses, some of which were featured on EWG's social media platforms.



Awareness: As students return to high school, EWG partners with school districts and local agencies on a Street Smarts for Roadway Safety social media campaign targeted at student drivers and their parents or caregivers. The seven-week campaign responds to data in the Gateway to Safer Roadways report that finds young drivers, often commuting at dusk and prone to distraction, are at high risk for crashes.

Leadership: EWG hires a director to advance collaboration, planning, implementation, and funding resources for the Save Lives Now! regional violent crime reduction initiative.

Partnership: As part of the Save Lives Now! initiative, St. Louis city extends its partnership with EWG by funding and hiring national technical assistance providers to help build region-wide systems needed for collaboration, training, engagement, and evaluation to launch its anti-violence tactics.

Wisdom: EWG staff present to peers at the annual conference of the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (AMPO) in Salt Lake City.



JUL

AUG

SEP

OCT

NOV

DEC

Education: EWG kicks off its annual Planning and Zoning certificate program in partnership with the University of Missouri-St. Louis and the St. Louis chapter of the American Planning Association. Participants include mayors, city planners, administrative staff, and everyday citizens.

Momentum: EWG and partners host the second Save Lives Now! Advisory Council meeting. More than 70 people attended the meeting where they met the initiative's new director and heard from representatives from the initiative's national technical assistance providers on building collaborative systems and next steps.

Vision: EWG and its partners conduct a one-day Housing First STL Summit and three-day Practicum with about 175 total participants to envision a plan of action to create a new regional housing first system for addressing homelessness. The summit featured national experts on systems building to significantly reduce homelessness. Participants represented all eight regions of the EWG footprint, and included leaders from diverse sectors, including government, service providers, funders, businesses, faith-based organizations, civic groups and others.

Stewardship: EWG staff conduct a watershed summit to introduce public and private stakeholders to a sampling of the region's best management practices to promote the maintenance and care of healthy watersheds while also enhancing safety, sustainability, and civic life.

Celebration: EWG holds its Annual Meeting at the Hyatt Regency St. Louis at the Arch. It includes a morning panel discussion with local leaders on different sources of data that they use to define regional success and ways to better align data sources. A luncheon includes a brief annual membership meeting and an Outstanding Local Government Achievement awards ceremony celebrating six awardees.

Blueprint: EWG and its partners conduct a House Everyone STL Report-Out on the findings and collective vision created during the summit and practicum on homelessness held in October. Participants learn about its theory of change that emphasizes rapid placement of the unhoused in permanent housing supported by an aligned regional network of wrap-around services. The event presented a first look at potential regional collaborative structures to scale-up services and appropriate housing inventory, so no one is forced to sleep outside.

Analysis: EWG releases the ninth edition of Where We Stand, a deep data dive into where St. Louis ranks among peer regions on numerous vitality measures. The report further analyzes the quality of various metrics and their use in developing measures of success for the St. Louis region.

Convening: EWG staff start to convene dozens of meetings for a Comprehensive Climate Action Plan for the St. Louis Metropolitan Statistical Area. The plan, to be completed next year, will present an array of economically attractive and incentivized options for effectively reducing greenhouse gas emissions that are customized to specific constituencies in the region. The report will include modeling tools so regions can estimate the impact of strategies over time.






2024
MILESTONES



Snow Scape under the Gateway Arch


January 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	31	1 New Year's Day	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14  STARRS board	15	16	17	18
10	20 M.L. King Jr. Day	21  EAC meeting	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29  Board meeting	30	31	1



Soulard Mardi Gras Pet Parade

February 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2 Groundhog Day	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11  STARRS board	12 Lincoln's Birthday	13	14 Valentine's Day	15
16	17 President's Day	18  EAC meeting	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26  Board meeting	27	28	1



St. Patrick's Day Parade




March 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
23	24	25	26	27	28	1 Ramadan
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 Daylight Savings Begins	10	11  STARRS board	12	13	14	15
16	17 St. Patrick's Day	18  EAC meeting	19	20	21 Spring Begins	22
23	24	25	26  Board meeting	27	28	29
30	31	1	2	3	4	5



Brickline Greenway - Pillars of the Valley

April 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8  STARRS board	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
					Good Friday / Passover	
20	21	22  EAC meeting	23	24	25	26
Easter		Earth Day				
27	28	29	30  Board meeting	1	2	3



St. Louis Social Block Party

May 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
4	5 Cinco de Mayo	6	7	8	9	10
11 Mother's Day	12	13  STARRS board	14	15	16	17 Armed Forces Day
18	19	20  EAC meeting	21	22	23	24
25	26 Memorial Day	27	28  Board meeting	29	30	31



Festival of Nations

June 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17  STARRS board	18	19	20	21
Father's Day				Juneteenth	Summer Begins	Flag Day
22	23	24  EAC meeting	25	26	27	28
29	30	1	28  Board meeting	29	30	31



HYATT

PUBAMA

• BUDWEISER
• ANHEUSER-BUSCH
• DELTA
• AMERICAN AIRLINES
• HYATT
• SHERATON
• WYNN
• MARDIAN
• HILTI
• GORHAM
• KROGER
• UNION SQUARE VENTURES
• B&W
• CHEVROLET
• LINCOLN
• NISSAN
• KIA
• HYUNDAI
• RAM
• JEEP
• DODGE
• FORD
• VOLVO
• Acura

Summer on Kiener Plaza

July 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	31	1	2	3	4 Independence Day	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	1	2



Big Muddy Blues Festival

August 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3	4	5  STARRS board	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19  EAC meeting	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27  Board meeting	28	29	30
31	1	2	3	4	5	6



Forest Park Balloon Race

September 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	1 Labor Day	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9  STARRS board	10	11	12	13
14	15	16  EAC meeting	17	18	19	20
21	22 Fall begins Rosh Hashanah	23	24  Board meeting	25	26	27
28	29	30	1	2	3	4



Animals Aglow St. Louis Zoo

October 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	1 Yom Kippur	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13 Columbus Day	14  STARRS board	15	16	17	18
19	20	21  EAC meeting	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29  Board meeting	30	31 Halloween	1



November 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2 Daylight Saving Ends	3	4 Election Day	5	6	7	8
9	10	11 Veterans Day (Observed)	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27 Thanksgiving	28 Thanksgiving Friday	29
30	1	2	3	4	5	6



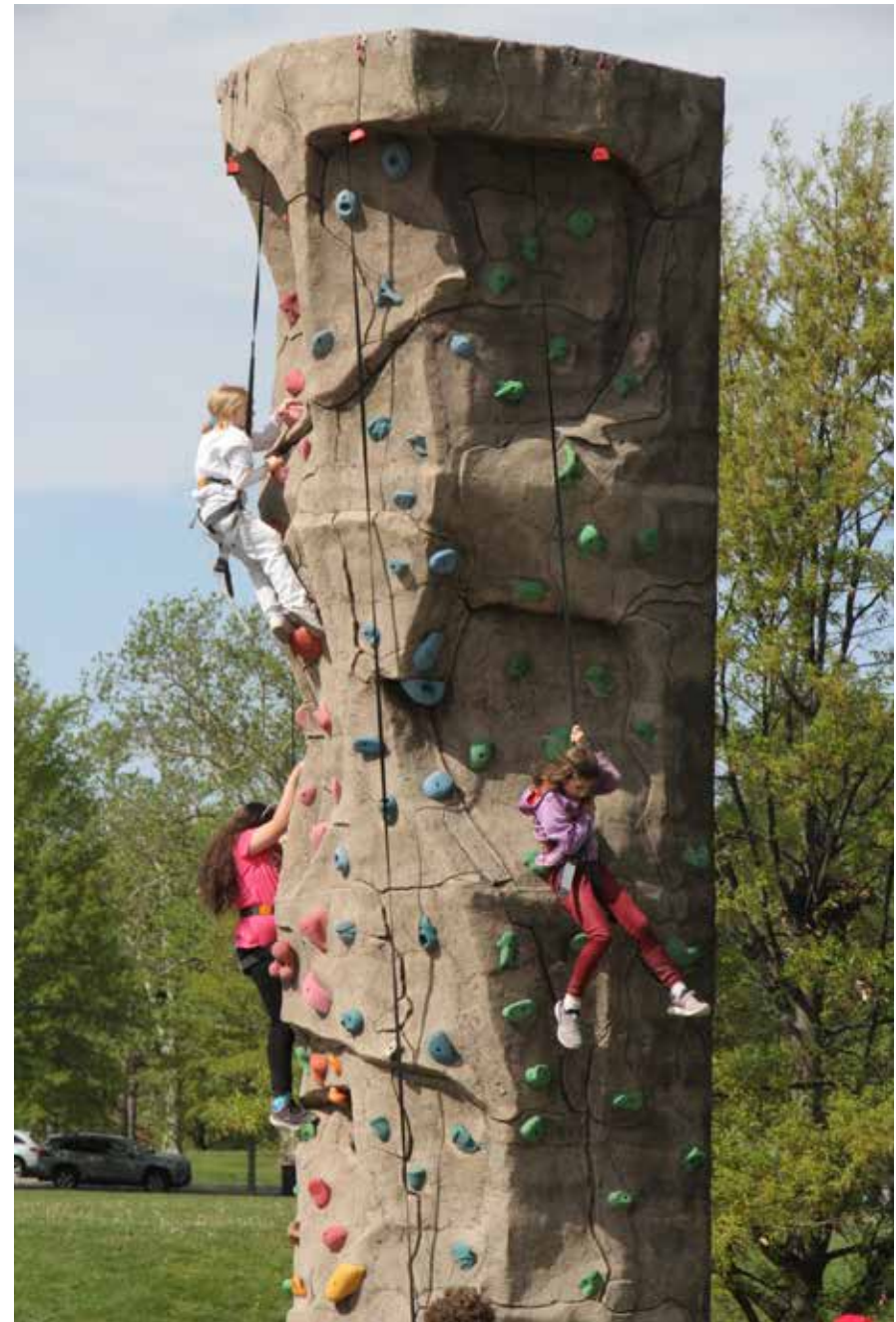
Winter on Ted Jones Trail

December 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 Chanukah	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 Winter begins	22	23	24	25 Christmas	26 Kwanzaa	27
28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve	1	2	3

Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Change in Net Position

	<u>2023 Audited</u>	<u>2024 Estimated</u>
Revenue		
Federal grants	\$7,349,741	\$7,809,503
State grants & appropriations	\$328,979	\$339,382
Local fees		
Local contributions	\$59,341	\$69,493
Per capita contributions	\$325,076	\$325,076
Other grants	\$267,673	\$181,314
Transp. project application fees	\$532,518	\$354,789
In-Kind match	\$222,589	\$185,105
Miscellaneous revenue	\$186,505	\$93,220
Total Revenue	\$9,272,422	\$9,357,880
Expenses		
Salaries & Wages	\$2,764,870	\$2,867,802
Employee Benefits	\$1,401,054	\$1,433,941
Services	\$1,415,761	\$1,791,539
Property	\$397,786	\$398,901
Facilities	\$74,400	\$59,399
Publications	\$14,873	\$9,182
Meeting & Conferences	\$96,688	\$31,759
Travel & Parking	\$38,688	\$62,094
Supplies	\$13,755	\$32,557
Professional Development	\$14,717	\$30,914
Non-Program Expenses	\$140,967	\$48,151
In-Kind Match	\$211,924	\$162,008
Training & Exercises	\$404,291	\$156,822
Sub-Recipient Expenses	\$2,024,929	\$1,990,378
Total Expenses	\$9,014,702	\$9,075,446
Change in net position	\$257,720	\$282,434



**Transportation Planning
Committee 2024**

Richard Bradley, Co-Chair
Norman Etling, Co-Chair
Amanda Brauer
Kirk Brown
Stan Darter
Jessica Gershman
Jim Grutsch
Angelica Gutierrez
Michael Henderson
Bob Hill
Christine Ingrassia
Pat Kelly
John Lyons
Bob Marcus
Aaron Metzger
S.J. Morrison
Dan Naunheim
Mike Parkinson
Chris Poehler
Herb Roach
Richard Sauget, Jr.
Ken Sharkey
John Shrewsbury
Cindy Simmons
Adam Walden

**Air Quality Advisory
Committee 2024**

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Alicia Daniels
Rory Davis
Jack Fishman
Susannah Fuchs
Michael Henderson
Pat Kelly
Mark Leath
S.J. Morrison
Jared Opsal
Bradley Schad
Christopher Schmidt
Ken Sharkey
Ryan Tilley
Betsy Tracy
James Watson
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**Water Resources Advisory
Committee 2024**

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Roland Biehl
Tracy Boaz
Rick Brown
Rene Dulle
Mark Eshelman
Timothy Ganz
Warren Grace
Tracy Haag
Danelle Haake
Amy Haddock
Bonnie Harper
Mike Hartoin
Dennis Hogan
Mark Hohlt
Jay Hoskins
Andy Knott
Abigail Lambert
Larry Levin

Traci Lichtenberg
Bill Malach
Chris Neaville
Jamie Paige
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Rob Pulliam
Jo Schaper
Tom Schweiss
Amy Shaw
Curtis Skouby
Shawn Sullivan
Mary Vandevord
Jessica Watson
John Weber
Edward J.
Weilbacher
David Wilson
Jianpeng Zhou

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Lisa Cagle
Chris Clercx
Scott Dunakey
Angelica Gutierrez
Kevin Jemison
Karen Karabell
John Kohler
Cindy Mense
Scott Ogilvie
Shaun Tooley
Mark Vogl
Travis Wood



**EAST-WEST GATEWAY
Council of Governments**

Creating Solutions Across Jurisdictional Boundaries

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East-West Gateway Council of Governments is both a federally designated metropolitan planning organization (MPO) and a designated council of governments (COG) for the St. Louis region. Its 29-member board of directors consists of representatives from Madison, Monroe, and St. Clair counties in Illinois; Franklin, Jefferson, St. Charles, and St. Louis counties in Missouri; and the city of St. Louis. As an MPO, its primary mission is to develop a comprehensive transportation plan for the region. As a COG, its current duties include monitoring regional air and water quality, building resilience to natural and manmade hazards, encouraging and growing collaborative sustainability practices, overseeing homeland security expenditures, assisting local governments in community planning, and incubating regional systems to address homelessness and violent street crime. East-West Gateway staff also assist local governments by providing research, analysis, and support in their efforts to more efficiently and effectively serve the needs of their citizens on a wide range of metropolitan issues.