

Many college towns have successfully balanced the growth of Downtown, university expansion, residential and student residential demand, historic preservation and the needs of neighborhoods. **The DCLC proposes to organize tours to Lawrence, Kansas and Springfield, Missouri to gather ideas about how comparable cities have managed the issues Columbia is currently discussing.**

Appointed by City Council, the Downtown Columbia Leadership Council has broad representation from three at-large community residents, Stephens College, Columbia College, the University of Missouri, and neighborhood associations.

We propose to organize a structured half-day meeting with the other city's Mayor, City Manager, Planning Directors and relevant parties to generate ideas and identify successful strategies for downtown Columbia. We envision both trips departing Columbia at 8:00 a.m. followed by a guided tour and lunch at each City. By having two city trips—one to Lawrence and another to Springfield—it is our hope every city council member would have an opportunity to attend at least one of the tours.

City of Columbia staff has organized similar daytrips to other cities to discuss city purchasing priorities. The Downtown Columbia Leadership Council believes it would be beneficial if the City Council and members of the Planning & Zoning and Historic Preservation Commissions take the time and opportunity to study first-hand how other cities have balanced their student populations with their downtown business community.

The City has a 12-15 person city-owned bus available for this type of activity. Depending on the Council members' schedules, if demand is greater than this bus's existing capacity DLC would like for council to provide funds for a charter bus for the trip. Individuals would provide for their own meals.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Brent Gardner

DLC Chair