PART ONE

SUMMARY, GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Overview of Existing Conditions

About 92.8% of Franklin County land (552,610 acres) is unincorporated and about 3.8% of the county land (22,604) is incorporated. Of the unincorporated land, 77,550 acres (14%) are considered residential use only. The greatest percentage of occupied parcels in the unincorporated county are less than 1 acre in size, which is the case in 38.5% of occupied residential properties. Almost a quarter of residential properties (27.4%) are between 1 and 3 acres in size. The remaining 34.1% are over 3 acres in size; however, only about 5% are greater than 10 acres.

The number of commercial and industrial properties is fairly small in the unincorporated county when compared to the other types of land use. The following table shows the number and overall size of these uses in the unincorporated areas.

Commercial/ Industrial Properties	Number of parcels	Total acres	% of county land
Commercial Parcels (All commercial types)	813	4795	0.8%
Vacant Commercial Parcels	118	297	0.1%
Industrial Parcels	56	315	0.1%

Incorporated Cities

Franklin County has 12 incorporated cities or villages including Washington, Union, Pacific, St. Clair, Sullivan, New Haven, Berger, Gerald, the Village of Leslie, the Village of Oak Grove, the Village of Miramiquoa and the Village of Charmwood. Washington is the largest city in the county. Dubbed as the "Corncob Pipe Capital of the World," Washington is home to many historic properties as well as a variety of industry. Other cities, including Union, Pacific, St. Clair, and Sullivan also have historic pasts and growing commercial and industrial sectors.

The cities in Franklin County have a variety of land uses including single family residential properties, multi-family properties, commercial properties, and a variety of industrial properties. In the incorporated cities, 80% of the parcels are residential with an average parcel size of just over 1/3 of an acre as compared to the average of just over 3 acres in the unincorporated county. Agricultural land in the cities accounts for less than 2% of parcels, but about 16% of city land. Multi-class residential parcels account for less than 1% of the parcels in cities, but cover about 8% of the city land. As would be expected, commercial properties make up a larger percentage o f city land, comprising over 14% of city land area. About 24% of these commercial properties are currently vacant. Industrial properties also have a larger presence in the cities than in the unincorporated county, making up 6% of city land area.

In addition, there are several unincorporated communities in Franklin County. These types of areas generally consist of historic groupings of residential uses with one or two commercial uses (grocery, feed store) and one or two institutional uses (church, post office, school). The largest of these include Gray Summit, Villa Ridge, Labadie, St. Albans, Catawissa, Robertsville, Lonedell, Beaufort, Stanton, and Krakow.

Land Use Goals and Objectives

Goal 1: Encourage planned, supportable growth in the county.

- Encourage orderly, higher density developments in defined corridors and near public infrastructure.
- Encourage lower intensity development in areas without infrastructure and that have factors that make development challenging.

Goal 2: Encourage a variety of land uses throughout the county.

- Encourage a variety of residential uses.
- Encourage the growth of new and existing commercial and industrial uses through zoning.

Goal 3: Ensure contiguous land uses are compatible.

- Ensure new developments minimize conflict with existing residential or agricultural uses.
- Encourage commercial and industrial developments to be attractive, site-appropriate, and compatible with surrounding uses.

Overview of Existing Conditions

According to the most recent Census of Agriculture (2007), Franklin County had 2,004 farms. . This is an increase in the number of farms from the previous Census of 2002 by 171 farms. Franklin County seems to be following the trend that is happening nationwide by seeing farming occupation (as a means of living) on the decline and retirement farming/residential farming (recreational farming) on the rise.

According to the Census, farming in Franklin County peaked in 1920 when 87.1% of all land in the County was classified as agricultural. Since that year the amount of agricultural land has generally been declining. The number of farms has also declined since the early 1900s, especially between 1945 and 1997, but the number of farms has been increasing somewhat during the past decade. Just over half (50.8%) of all land in the County was still classified as agricultural by the Census in 2007.

The average size of farms in the County increased throughout most of the 20th century and peaked in 1978 at 193 acres per farm. Since that year the average size of farms has decreased fairly substantially to 149.6 acres per farm in 2007. The size of farms has been decreasing rapidly since 1997 at the same time that the number of farms has been increasing. This seems to indicate that farmland in the County is being fractured at an increasingly rapid rate.

The top crops in the County, based on total number of acres, were forage (land used for all hay and haylage, grass silage, and greenchop), soybeans (for beans), corn (for grain), corn (for silage), and wheat (for grain). The top agricultural commodities produced by the county, based on value of sales, were grains, oilseeds; cattle and calves; hogs and pigs; and milk and other dairy products (from cows).

Very small farms increased substantially between 2002 and 2007. The number of very small farms (less than 10 acres) increased by almost 50% from 2002 to 2007. The number of farms between 10 and 50 acres in size also increased fairly substantially (27.8% increase). Farms on less than 50 acres of land constituted over a third of all the county's farms according to the 2007 Census.

In addition to those farms that are small in size, the number of farms with relatively few sales is also increasing. According to the 2007 data, about 30% of farms in the county have less than $1,000 in annual farm-related sales. These farms accounted for about 23% of farms in 2002. Overall, 69% of farms in the county have less than $10,000 in farm-related sales. Also, an increasing number of farms are identified as residential/lifestyle farms, which means that the principal operator reported his/her occupation as other than farming. In 2002, just over 50% of farmers reported farming as their main occupation. In 2007, this number constituted just over 35% of all primary operators, with the remaining 65% farming more as a hobby than a main occupation.

The number of very large farms is also increasing in Franklin County. The number of very large farms – those with 2,000 or more acres – almost tripled, going from 4 in 2002 to 11 in 2007; however the number of farms with acreage between 500 and 2000 acres decreased by nearly a quarter. This reflects a national trend of increasing numbers of very small and very large farms with the numbers of mid-sized farms dwindling.

The Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) created a map that shows areas of prime farmland as well as farmland of statewide importance. Prime farmland is the land that has the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for producing quality crops. Farmland of statewide importance is land that does not meet the criteria for prime farmland, but that may produce high yields of crops if managed properly. Overall, 6.7% of the county is considered prime farmland and 47.5% is considered farmland of statewide importance. The prime farmland is concentrated in the far northern part of the county in the Missouri River Bottoms. Other prime farmland is located along some of the county's other creeks and rivers. Farmland of statewide importance is located throughout the county, but is concentrated in the north central portion, mostly north of Hwy 50.

Agriculture Goals and Objectives

Goal: Encourage agriculture in Franklin County.

- Ensure that county regulations support agriculture and do not add unnecessary burdens to farm operators.
- Support agriculture with the help of community projects and plans.

Overview of Existing Conditions

According to the 2010 Census data, the number of housing units in Franklin County is 43,419. Of these units, 39,170 (90.2%) are occupied and 4,249 (9.8%) are vacant. According to the 2010 5-year estimates, the most common type of unit was a single family detached home, accounting for 74.6% of all housing units. Attached single-family homes accounted for 2.1% and multi-family units with two or more units per structure constituted 10.9%. Mobile homes were estimated at about 12.5% of all housing units. As compared to the state, Franklin County has comparatively more detached single family homes and about twice as many mobile homes, but it has about 9% fewer multi-family units. In Franklin County, the percentage of mobile homes and rental units has gone down since 2000 and the percentage of single family detached and attached units has gone up.

According to the 2010 estimate (5-year), just less than half of the housing in Franklin County (49.1%) was built in or after 1980. This is greater than the state's percentage at 39.4%. Franklin County's share of older homes is slightly smaller than the state with 34.1% of homes built between 1950 and 1980 and 16.9% of homes built before 1950. In the state of Missouri, about 39.3% of homes were built between 1950 and 1980 and 21.3% of homes were built prior to 1950.

In general, residents in Franklin County have been in their homes longer than the average Missourian. According to the 2010 estimate, 52.9% of Franklin County residents moved into their homes in or after the year 2000. By comparison, 58.1% of Missourians have lived in their homes for 10 or fewer years.

The median value of homes in Franklin County is greater than the Missouri median for home values. The median value for owner-occupied homes in Franklin County is $147,200 as compared to the state median value of $137,700.

Affordability of Housing

Affordable housing is generally defined as housing that costs no more than 30% of a household's income. In the 2010 Census, about 71.3% of the county's owner-occupied homes and about 88.5% of rental properties would be considered affordable, according to this definition. Compared with the 2000 Census, housing has become less affordable during the past decade. The percentage of unaffordable rental units increased from 5.7% to 11.6% and the percentage of unaffordable owner-occupied homes increased from 18.2% to 28.8%. These numbers are very similar to the state average for Missouri, indicating that Franklin County is about as affordable as the average county in Missouri.

The housing market overall is still balanced; however it is becoming less so. According to the 2000 data, a family making the median household income would easily be able to afford the median mortgaged home cost, which would be about 23% of their income. According to the 2010 estimate, the percentage of median household income consumed by the median mortgaged home cost has increased to 28.5%. While this is a larger percentage of the household income, it would still be considered affordable.

Housing Condition

According to data from the Franklin County Assessor's Office, there are 32,376 buildings in Franklin County that are being assessed as residential. 15.2% of all residential structures are mobile homes and 78.7% are single-family, traditional construction homes. For both types of housing, most homes are considered to be in normal condition – 79.7% of mobile homes and 68.7% of traditionally constructed homes. About 8% of traditionally constructed homes are considered to be above normal to excellent as compared to only 0.5% for mobile homes.

Housing and Neighborhoods Goals and Objectives

Goal 1: Encourage a variety of housing developments that meet the needs of all segments of the population.

- Promote housing that is affordable to meet residential needs.
- Encourage the development of a variety of housing types.

Goal 2: Strive to address problems that reduce quality of life for County residents.

- Reduce the number of unsightly properties in the County through enhanced enforcement of existing codes and regulations and additional resources.
- Work with the Board of Realtors to help provide information and support to private subdivision trustees to the extent possible.
- Strive to address neighborhood safety and public safety concerns.

Overview of Existing Conditions

Franklin County has approximately 2561 miles of active roads, highways, and streets. Of these, 547 miles are maintained by the state and 875 are maintained by the county highway department or area road districts. In addition, a significant amount of miles (808) are maintained privately by landowners or homeowners' associations.

The roads that carry the most traffic tend to be the state-maintained numbered routes, as well as the interstate. Interstate 44 starts in St. Louis and passes through Pacific, St. Clair, and Sullivan, before continuing southwest through Missouri and Oklahoma. Interstate 44 has more traffic than any other road in Franklin County (30,000 to 50,000 vehicles per day). Highway 100 is an east-west route that travels through the northern portion of the county, passing through Washington and New Haven. Highway 50 is an east-west route that travels through the central portion of the county; it passes through Union and Gerald and ultimately travels to Jefferson City. Highway 30 is the major east-west route in the southeastern portion of the county, connecting Jefferson County with I-44 at St. Clair. The major north-south routes in Franklin County include Highway 47 which connects the major population centers of Washington, Union, and St. Clair. Highway 185 is a north-south route that connects the City of Sullivan with Highway 100. Additional state-maintained letter routes and locally maintained county roads provide routes from the major road corridors to local destinations. Ways to improve and maintain a safe and efficient system of roadways in the county can be found in the Franklin County Long Range Transportation Plan

Of the roads maintained by the county, approximately 684 miles of roads are paved and approximately 140 miles are gravel. The County Highway Department plans to continue paving (asphalt or chip and seal) gravel county roads with funding from a capital sales tax. Approximately 135 miles of county roads have been hard-surfaced since 2007. It is the goal of the county to pave all of the county-maintained roads, except those located in the river bottoms.

Residents of Franklin County are highly dependent on roads for transportation within the county. According to the 2010 American Community Survey, 98.9% of households have at least one car. According to the same survey, 82.8% of residents drove alone to work, 12.4% carpooled, and just 1.4% walked. This is fairly typical for a rural area and indicates the importance of a well-planned and maintained road network.

There are three main railroad tracks that traverse Franklin County. Two lines are active in their entirety and are owned by large freight railroad companies. Union Pacific owns a railroad line at the north end of the county, Burlington Northern Santa Fe owns a railroad line that starts in the north east and travels to the southwest parts of the county, and Missouri Central Railroad Company owns a line that comes from the extreme northeast corner of the county and passes through the central part of the county, but is only active east of Union. Currently there are no plans to open the inactive portion of the line west of Union and while this decreases industrial transportation options in communities such as Beaufort, Leslie, and Gerald, this also creates an opportunity for a potential "rails to trails" path for bikers and walkers as

referenced in the Franklin County Bikeable Walkable Plan of May 2011. Amtrak runs the only passenger train that travels through Franklin County. The route, known as the Missouri River Runner, goes from St. Louis to Kansas City with stops in Washington, Hermann, Jefferson City, and other Missouri cities. Each day four trains stop in Washington, two eastbound and two westbound. Amtrak uses the tracks owned by the Union Pacific Railroad.

The Missouri River makes up the northern border of Franklin County, giving the county a large amount of riverfront on a major river; however there are no public ports in Franklin County. Franklin County does not currently have a port authority that would manage and fund any public ports in the county. According to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, two private ports are currently operating on the Missouri River in Franklin County, one in Washington and one in New Haven. The opportunity exists for greater use of the Missouri River for transportation of goods to and from the county.

Currently there are two organizations that provide limited bus services in Franklin County – OATS and the Franklin County Transportation Council. OATS is a non-profit organization that transports Franklin County citizens pursuant to a contract. They provide transportation to senior centers, hospitals and health clinics, and other locations. There are set times and routes for OATS buses. The Franklin County Transportation Council is a non-profit organization that provides services for the handicapped and others with special transportation needs. They work with the Missouri Department of Mental Health and other organizations to provide transportation for various day programs and sheltered workshops for the handicapped, among other services. OATS and FCTC mostly travel inside Franklin County except for a few trips to St. Louis for medical needs. These organizations provide a valuable service to a limited number of Franklin County residents, but they are currently not equipped to provide for the general transportation needs of most county residents.

Franklin County has three public airports – Washington Regional, St. Clair Regional, and Sullivan Regional. The Washington Regional Airport is owned by the City of Washington and has one runway which is 5,000 feet in length and has an average of 59 aircraft operations per day. The Sullivan Regional Airport is owned by the City of Sullivan and has one runway which is 4,500 feet in length and has an average of 39 aircraft operations per day. The St. Clair Regional Airport is owned by the City of St. Clair and has one runway which has been reported as being 3,198 feet in length. In 2010, the City of St. Clair announced that it would pursue closing its airport, but this has not yet been finalized.

Transportation Goals and Objectives

Goal 1: Provide for an efficient County road and bridge infrastructure to facilitate the safe and efficient movement of people and goods.

- Examine current road conditions as well as current maintenance practices and upgrade or enhance whenever needed as established in RSMo. 61.091.
- Continue to create mid-range and long-range plans that will improve safety and connectivity.

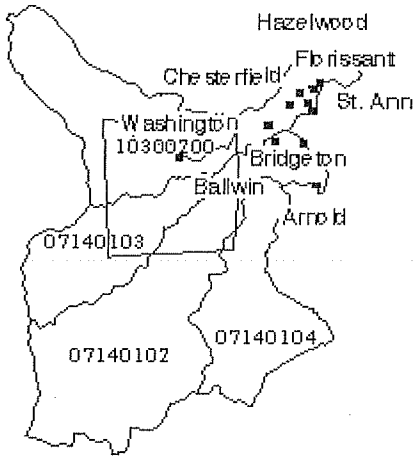
- Ensure that new subdivision roads and pedestrian facilities are designed in such a way to provide long life and maximize safety and connectivity.

Goal 2: Consider and plan for the usage of alternative transportation modes such as bicycles, public transportation, rail and, waterways.

- Continue planning for public transportation in Franklin County.
- Support alternative modes of commercial transportation, including use of railroads, waterways and air transportation.

Overview of Existing Conditions

Franklin County includes three of Missouri's major rivers – the Missouri, Meramec, and Bourbeuse Rivers. Each of these three rivers has a watershed within the County.



The Missouri River forms the northern border of Franklin County. Much of the river has been channelized in Iowa and Missouri and it is heavily used for barges and other commercial navigation. The channel is generally nine feet deep and about 1,000 feet wide through the state of Missouri. The portion of the Missouri River that passes through Franklin County has been listed as impaired in 2010 by the EPA due to the presence of bacteria. There are an additional 7.5 miles of tributary streams in this watershed listed as impaired, but none of these lie in Franklin County.

The Bourbeuse River is one of the main tributaries that flow into the Meramec River. The Bourbeuse has a fairly low gradient for an Ozark stream, dropping 2.4 feet for every mile. Streams with low gradients tend to move slowly and be very sinuous, and the Bourbeuse is no exception. The river runs for over 100 miles in Franklin County; however the distance between those points is only 27 miles. The river generally has a good diversity of fish and other aquatic life. The Bourbeuse watershed has historically been considered fairly healthy and clean; however, the Bourbeuse River itself was identified as having unacceptable levels of Mercury in 2002, 2008, and has again been listed as impaired in 2010. An additional water body within this watershed in Franklin County was also listed as being impaired due to mercury in 2010 – Foxboro Lake near Gerald.

The Meramec River is one of the longer rivers in Missouri, flowing for 220 miles through the Ozarks and emptying into the Mississippi River just south of St. Louis. In Franklin Co, the Meramec River runs for over 60 miles; the straight line distance between those points is 27 miles. The Meramec is a popular recreation destination and fish and aquatic diversity has generally been considered good in the Meramec River, but some mussel species are declining, probably due to habitat disturbance. The portion of the Meramec River that flows through Franklin and Jefferson counties was identified as impaired in 2010 due to higher than acceptable levels of mercury. Additional tributaries in the Meramec River watershed were also defined as being impaired in 2010, but none of these lie in Franklin County.

The Big River, itself does not flow into Franklin County, but a small portion of the Big River watershed lies in the County. None of the water bodies in Franklin County's portion of this watershed are listed as impaired.

Many tributaries feed into the Meramec, Missouri, and Bourbeuse Rivers and add to Franklin County's water resources. The County has approximately 1550 total miles of streams, including the Bourbeuse

and Meramec Rivers. About 450 miles of streams have permanent flow and 1100 miles have intermittent or unknown flow. These water resources are located throughout the county.

Franklin County has a significant number of fairly large lakes. Fifty-one of the County's lakes are over 10 acres in size. Lake Serene is the largest lake in Franklin County, covering about 58 acres. Lake Serene is in the middle of a large subdivision. The second largest lake in the County, Port Hudson, is located on a Conservation Area and is open to the public. The locations of the other lakes are spread throughout the county with no area having a disproportionate number of large lakes.

Approximately 14% of the County lies within a 100-year floodplain. The floodplain next to the Missouri River is very wide – over 2 miles wide in some areas. Additionally, significant acres of floodplains are located along the Meramec, Bourbeuse and their tributaries, especially Boeuf and St. Johns creeks.

Stormwater Regulations

The majority of the municipalities in Franklin County as well as the County itself have stormwater regulations in place. The City of Washington is currently the only community in the County that must comply with the EPA's Stormwater Phase II Final Rule. Because of these requirements, Washington has completed a Stormwater Management Master Plan.

Groundwater contamination

Two Superfund sites have been designated in Franklin County due to groundwater contamination. One of these areas lies in and around the City of New Haven and the other lies in Oak Grove Village. The Oak Grove Village well has had high levels of tricholoethylene (TCE) since 1986 from an undefined groundwater plume. TCE has also been detected in other wells within a three mile radius. The New Haven area has a groundwater contaminant plume as well as contaminated soil. The principal contaminant is tetrachloroethylene (PCE), which was used for industrial activities by many entities in New Haven.

An additional pollutant that can be found in the groundwater in certain areas is Methyl Tertiary Butyl Ether (MTBE). This substance was used as an additive to gasoline until about 2005. Private wells in Catawissa, Villa Ridge, and St. Clair have been found to be contaminated with MTBE.

Stormwater and Water Resources Goals and Objectives

Goal: Minimize the negative effects of erosion, flooding, and pollution runoff on county water resources and properties.

- Consider stormwater management as a regional issue (countywide) with cooperative involvement of municipalities.
- Minimize the impact of new development on streams, wetlands, and floodplains. Franklin County has already passed stormwater management regulations. Please refer to the Franklin County Unified Land Use Regulations
- Minimize ground contaminants to protect water resources.

Overview of Existing Conditions

Sewer Systems

The County's incorporated cities each have sewer systems. This includes St. Clair, Sullivan, Oak Grove (served by Sullivan), Pacific, Berger, New Haven, Union, Washington, Gerald, and Leslie. In addition, there are several rural public sewer districts, as shown in the following table.

Name of sewer district	Area served	Approximate capacity
Public Water Supply District (PWSD) #1 (supplies sewer and water)	Krakow and other areas between Union and Washington	3000
Public Water Supply District (PWSD) #3 (supplies sewer and water)	Northeastern section of the county (largest of the rural districts)	7906
Gray Summit Sewer District	Gray Summit	324
Calvey Creek Sewer District	Calvey Creek area (southwest of Pacific, around Catawissa and Robertsville)	2,590
Brush Creek Sewer District	Areas west of Pacific and around Gray Summit	Wastewater treated by Pacific
St. Albans Water and Sewer Authority	St. Albans community (northeast)	Wastewater treated by PWSD #3
Labadie Sewer District	Labadie community	740

In addition to the public sewer districts, three independent sewer districts in the County serve about 700 residents in specific subdivisions and are not identified as public districts. Many of the County's sewer systems that were designed to serve single subdivisions have been turned over to PWSD #1 and #3 for management. In addition, there are 49 sewer systems in Franklin County that serve single subdivisions, mobile home parks, or apartment buildings and are owned either by a private individual or company or by a subdivision association. Because of their size, these systems are not classified as sewer districts.

Altogether, the county's public sewer systems have the capacity to serve over 125,000 people. Over 86% of this public capacity is from the county's municipal sewer systems. In addition, the Franklin County Building Department estimates that there are between 14,500 and 15,000 private on-site septic systems in Franklin County.

Drinking Water

Community water systems serve several of the County's municipalities – Pacific, Sullivan, St. Clair, Union, Washington, Berger, New Haven, Gerald, Oak Grove Village, and Miramiguoa Park. There are four rural community water districts, as shown in the following table.

Name of water district	Area served	Approximate capacity
Public Water Supply District (PWSD) #1 (supplies sewer and water)	Krakow and other areas between Union and Washington	3280
Public Water Supply District (PWSD) #3 (supplies sewer and water)	Northeastern section of the county (largest of the rural water/sewer districts, also oversees the St. Albans Water and Sewer Authority)	7300
Public Water Supply District (PWSD)#4 (supplies water only)	Beaufort and Leslie areas in the central-western part of the County	760

In addition, there are 28 independent community water systems, mostly serving subdivisions and mobile home parks. The largest community system is run by the Franklin County Water Co, Inc. and serves about 300 persons in the Lake St. Clair Subdivision; however most of these water systems serve fewer than 100. The total number of persons served by these community water systems is 2509.

Telephone and Communications

The majority of Franklin County residents receive telephone service from AT&T Southwest. Fidelity Communications, based in Sullivan, provides telephone service to parts of western Franklin County, including the areas of Sullivan, Stanton, Gerald, New Haven, and Berger. In addition, Charter Communications offers telephone services to customers in Union and Washington, as well as some areas in between.

High-speed internet is generally available in the area served by Fidelity Communications, both in the incorporated and unincorporated areas. The area served by AT&T Southwest only has high-speed internet/DSL in certain incorporated cities, including Union, St. Clair, Washington, and Pacific, and areas that are located within three miles of AT&T offices, including Gray Summit and Beaufort. Charter Communications offers high-speed internet service to its customers in Union, Washington, and has been expanding to other areas outside of those cities, including some rural areas. Other rural residents may have access to satellite, wireless, or mobile internet services.

There are currently about 60 communications towers in Franklin County. Because of the topography of the county, many towers are necessary in order to provide adequate cellular phone coverage. Early in 2010, the county approved a plan that would allow seven 500-foot towers throughout the county. These 500-foot towers were recommended by a region-wide land mobile communications plan developed by East-West Gateway. These towers would improve communication among law enforcement and rescue agencies and replace many of the shorter towers in the county, resulting in fewer towers overall. One 500-foot tower has already been erected between Union and Washington, replacing a 360 foot tower.

Other Utilities

The rural areas of Franklin County are served by three different electric companies – Ameren, Crawford Electric, and Three Rivers Electric. Ameren has the largest territory and serves the eastern and central portions of Franklin County, including Union and St. Clair, as well as the southeastern portion of the county, including the Lonedell and Luebbering areas. In addition, they serve part of the northwestern part of the county, including New Haven and Berger. The Crawford Electric Cooperative serves the southern and southwestern portions of the county, including Stanton, as well as portions of the central corridor along Highway 50. The Three Rivers Electric Cooperative serves parts of the rural northwestern portion of the county. Together, these electric providers cover all of Franklin County with the exception of Sullivan, which has its own municipal electric service.

Natural gas is provided to portions of Franklin County by Missouri Natural Gas, which is owned by Laclede Gas. Gas service is available in the cities of Pacific, Washington, Union, St. Clair, Sullivan, and parts of Labadie and St. Albans. New Haven operates its own natural gas utility, which serves both New Haven and Berger. Natural gas service is not available throughout most of rural Franklin County. Most municipalities are covered with the exception of Gerald and the Village of Leslie.

Utilities and Infrastructure Goals and Objectives

Goal 1: Promote adequate public water and sewer services.

- Increase discussion and facilitate coordination among water districts and sewer districts.
- Encourage sound development practices as they relate to public water and sanitary sewer services.
- Encourage the use of water systems for fire protection.
- Promote maintenance of sewer and septic systems.

Goal 2: Plan for adequate electrical service to be provided to all developments now and in the future.

- Coordinate with providers to develop plans for energy services and public utility facilities for the long term energy needs of Franklin County.
- Ensure that electric utility providers are included in the new subdivision development process and are aware of local regulations.
- Promote conservation of energy, especially in facilities with lower overall energy needs.

Goal 3: Encourage internet service throughout the County.

- Encourage internet service providers to supply Franklin County with the most appropriate level and highest band width of internet service available that corresponds to the needs of the County.

Overview of Existing Conditions

Each of the major municipalities in Franklin County either provides or coordinates trash pickup within their cities. Most of the cities also offer curbside recycling programs.

The only solid waste facility in Franklin County is the Struckhoff Sanitary Landfill in Washington. The landfill is permitted by the Department of Natural Resources for 35 acres, but only 25 acres are currently in use.

Residents of the unincorporated county are generally responsible for hiring a trash pickup service for their individual households. In circumstances where there is a large subdivision with an active homeowners' association, a trash pickup service may be coordinated through the subdivision. There is no coordinated system for removal of trash from Franklin County roads and fields and no regulations regarding how trash pickup should be conducted.

Franklin County has a small number of private recycling collectors, but these appear to only accept metals. These facilities are located in and around the cities of Washington and Union.

Franklin County is part of the East Central Solid Waste District (Region I) along with Lincoln, Montgomery, and Warren Counties. This District provides grants for solid-waste related projects, including recycling services and tire removal and re-use. The District has recently opened a recycling center in Warren County to the south of Warrenton for the use of residents of the district. This facility accepts a wide variety of recyclable materials, including paper, plastics, glass, metals, and electronics. Hazardous waste collection events may also be sponsored through this facility. In addition, there is an opportunity to station recycling trailers at various locations throughout Franklin County.

Solid Waste Goals and Objectives

Goal: Ensure waste is managed in order to keep Franklin County clean.

- Coordinate the private service system as much as possible to minimize the wear and tear on the roads.
- Increase recycling opportunities and provide information about existing recycling opportunities to County residents.

Overview of Existing Conditions

Located only 40 miles west of downtown St. Louis, Franklin County is a prime place for business development. The County has a 2010 median household income of $49,120 compared to the state which has a median household income of $46,262. Franklin County is a pro-growth county and prime for business development. The county has access to Interstate 44 and major state highways including highways 100, 47, 50, 185 and 30. Other added benefits to Franklin County are the access to rail, air and even water transportation.

There are three main railroad tracks that traverse Franklin County. Union Pacific and Burlington Northern Santa Fe are active in their entirety and are owned by large freight railroad companies. The third line, Missouri Central Railroad Company, is active from the eastern end of the county through the City of Union. The Missouri Central Railroad is owned by Ameren, which also owns a railroad spur that connects the Labadie Power Plant to both the Missouri Central and Union Pacific tracks. Amtrak runs the only passenger train that travels through Franklin County. The route, known as the Missouri River Runner, goes from St. Louis to Kansas City with stops in Washington, Hermann, Jefferson City, and other Missouri cities. Each day four trains stop in Washington, two eastbound and two westbound. Amtrak uses the tracks owned by the Union Pacific Railroad.

Franklin County has two regional airports – Washington Regional and Sullivan Regional. The Washington Regional Airport is owned by the City of Washington, but located about 2.5 miles north of Washington in Warren County. The airport has one runway which is 5,000 feet in length and has an average of 59 aircraft operations per day. The City of Washington, FAA, and MoDOT have agreed to do a project to reconstruct the airport's taxilane and apron. The Sullivan Regional Airport is owned by the City of Sullivan and is located on the north side of the city. It has one runway which is 4,500 feet in length and has an average of 39 aircraft operations per day.

Franklin County houses 3 major rivers; the Missouri River, the Meramec River and the Bourbeuse River. The largest of these is the Missouri River which makes up the northern border of Franklin County, giving the county a large amount of riverfront on a major river. As of 2010, there are no public ports in Franklin County. Franklin County does not currently have a port authority that would manage and fund any public ports in the county. According to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, two private ports are currently operating on the Missouri River in Franklin County, one in Washington and one in New Haven. The opportunity exists for greater use of the Missouri River for transportation of goods to and from the county.

Manufacturing and educational/health care/social assistance are the dominant industries in Franklin County. According to the 2010 census, manufacturing makes up 21.6% of the jobs in Franklin County. Educational and health care and social assistance are not too far behind manufacturing with 19.2% of the jobs in Franklin County. Table 4 illustrates the largest employers in Franklin County in 2010.

Company	Industry	Employment
Mercy	Healthcare	1,268
Parker Hannifan – Sporlan Valve Division	Manufacturing	1,087
Washington School District	Education	529
CG Power Systems USA, Inc.	Manufacturing	450
Union School District	Education	384
St. Clair School District	Education	375
Aerofil Technology	Manufacturing	370
Esselte	Manufacturing	361
Wal-Mart	Retail	350
Franklin County	Government	340

Table 4: Largest Employers in Franklin County per local data

Economic Development Goals and Objectives

Goal 1 Strive for a diverse economy, with a focus on sectors that create jobs and boost the economy, including manufacturing, health care, transportation, logistics and retail.

- Work to create more job opportunities by targeting growing sectors and supporting new and existing businesses.
- Strive to further develop the quality of the Franklin County workforce.
- Provide the leadership necessary to advance the economic development of Franklin County and to promote cooperation between cities within Franklin County.
- Increase tourism in Franklin County through cooperation with cities, chambers, private and not-for-profit organizations.

Goal 2 Promote multi-modes of transportation for the movement of Franklin County's workforce and the delivery of goods for all industries.

- Highways, Roads and Bridges
- Rail
- Waterways
- Air
- Bike and Pedestrian Facilities
- Public Transportation