

4.10.08

TOLEDO BRAINSTORM

HELLO ST LOUIS! GREETINGS FROM TOLEDO, THE GLASS CITY! HOPE YOU ARE HAVING AS MUCH FUN AS WE ARE!

Here are some notes from our discussion- sorry this is so confusing!!!!

population loss- people leaving the area, and people moving to the suburbs
thinking of a piece of the region rather than the entire region
more regional work needs to be done

no major local bank

as a community we have not recognized the change that we are making- the world has changed- we have not thought about how to move from a manufacturing market to a global market

how do we become a player in the global market- is it energy efficiency (first solar, xunlight), biodiesel (ssoe has cutting edge patents)

need to market ourselves as a global player

regional infighting- things moving from downtown to wood county hurts downtown but is still an asset to the region- too focused on the microcosm that they live/work

focus on what is positive rather than fighting about what is negative

learn to recognize people who have something to offer and roll out the red carpet for them rather than giving them the typical cold shoulder of mayors office; selfish mentality- learn to cooperate - running through the woods with a blindfold on

semcog southeast michigan council of governments
putting businesses together to make the big thing happen

we have tmacog and regional growth partnership but there is a sense that they are not getting the job done

it is politics that is holding us back from moving forward and taking action on these issues of regionalism that we have been talking and talking about

we need a private sector push and leadership

all the time kids are leaving because there are no jobs here for them - brain drain - college towns always have things for kids to do but in toledo there is not enough for them to do here

jobwise we need to build the industries that attract young people to move back after they have lived elsewhere

there are some local companies that are doing great things for people emerging from college- ssoe creates many jobs for people just out of college and their starting salary is 60k

connect people locally and get them engaged so that they want to stick around

how do we market the events that are here so that they are reaching the right people

perhaps reach out to people who work in michigan to live in ohio where homes cost 20% less for the same home and \$4-5k tax obligation less

possibly also reach out to telecommuters who can live in toledo for much less money and get more home for the money

identify incentives for sustainable development- there has been talk of turning toledo into the silicon valley of solar energy and the saudi arabia of wind

how to create the place that is uniquely toledo and that will draw people and sustain them here

Ottawa River is the most polluted tributary of the Great Lakes. Woodward high school has a partnership with owens community college to provide 3 years of free tuition to this years graduating seniors.

continue to be positive about the region and promote positive development, utilize local expertise

one sentence:

Toledo has the potential to be the regional center of the movement toward sustainable energy.

REPLY FROM ST. LOUIS

Toledo and St. Louis are like long-lost brothers! They suffer from many the same problems/perceptions, as well as similar opportunities. Both have old, established and inefficient power structures and both hold great potential for brighter days.

These cities need to promote the qualities that make them special-- solid institutions, affordability, accessibility and distinctive neighborhoods. The list goes on and on. Rock on, Toledo!