JOPLIN COMMUNITY
PHASE II
RECOVERY PLAN



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Background

Joplin was devastated by an EF5 tornado which touched down at 5:41pm on May 22, 2011. The massive tornado cut a path of destruction 3/4 to a mile wide and 6 miles long through the heart of the community. The overall storm path was estimated by the National Weather Service at nearly 14 miles in length. An estimated 8,000 structures were impacted. Thousands of homes, along with churches, schools, businesses, a hospital, and a variety of infrastructure components were completely destroyed in its wake. In the immediate response to the disaster, the city identified a primary goal of minimizing Joplin's population loss, which is currently approximately 5.8%.

Since the disaster, the City, along with numerous partners and stakeholders, have worked to expand on an aggressive pre-tornado planning document, *Blueprint for the Future,* which captured ideas and proposed developments that not only define the community's past, but also provide a clear direction for the future. With previously awarded CDBG funding, and now with this latest round of funding, we are moving past planning and toward implementation of projects that will greatly advance the recovery and resiliency of Joplin.

The following projects were compiled by staff leadership during a series of planning meetings and discussions over an eight week period. The resulting priorities have undergone an exhaustive research and review process in order to meet multiple objectives of the city and CDBG program itself. Due to the nature of the federal funding, the city will have a mere 24 months to complete the identified projects—time is of the essence.

Project Goals and Descriptions

Joplin's *Blueprint for the Future* and the Citizens Advisory Recovery Team *Implementation Next Steps* both identify opportunities to continue to develop, invigorate, and nurture the areas most devastated by the tornado, as well as create synergy among major anchor projects and other projects underway in the community. By design, many of the proposed projects and programs have ripple effects beyond the tornado damage zone and are intended to reach a broad base of citizenry and their expressed needs and issues. Since the early stages of recovery, the city's objective and actions have been to stabilize and minimize population loss. With a variety of existing resources, and now an additional $113 million in Community Development Block Grant funds, our focus has shifted beyond minimizing loss to encouraging population growth through common sense, yet dynamic, long view efforts. In addition to the reconstruction and development underway across the city and disaster area, the importance of this specific round of funding stems from the fact that it advances a suite of priority reconstruction and recovery efforts previously unfunded, including critical infrastructure improvements and anchor developments intended to transform the face of Joplin into an interconnected, vibrant and growing city moving forward.

This funding has a broad and powerful catalytic effect within and adjacent to the tornado recovery zone and provides incentives and implications for associated ancillary development, while specifically addressing a multitude of community challenges and needs in order to broaden the community impact of the funding. The whole of these projects will benefit the Joplin community well into the future and represent an unprecedented, once in a life time opportunity.

Objectives include:

- Creating synergy among the redevelopment area and other anchor efforts of the community
- Expanding economic opportunities for job growth, employment, education, and training
- Creating and enhancing economic and recreational center(s)
- Encouraging population growth through modernization and improved infrastructure

Priority Projects Focus Area

The greatest concentration of this funding will be across the tornado damaged area with ties to primary economic corridors, anchor developments, and adjacent residential and recreational areas. The following projects and background information detail the public benefits of each project in order to provide a comprehensive rationale and approach to both project development and implications for the recovery and growth of the community. Project costs include construction and design and several incorporate multiple funding sources.

Projects

Sidewalks & ADA Ramps	$21,000,000
Sanitary Sewer Relining & Manhole Repair	$12,000,000
Storm Sewer Replacement & Repair	$17,500,000
Curb & Gutter	$14,700,000
Streets/Asphalt Overlay	$3,700,000
Tree Planting	$1,600,000
Mental Health	$750,000
20th Street Streetscape	$10,350,000
Crossroads Street & Sewer Extension	$3,600,000
Job Training & Education	$500,000
Joplin Commons	$40,416,000
Green Neighborhood	$500,000
CDBG Administration	$3,500,000
TOTAL	**$130,116,000**

* These numbers are preliminary based on cost estimates, not actual project costs, and may be modified upon Housing and Urban Development review.

ACTIVITY:

Sidewalks & ADA Ramps

AMOUNT:

$21,000,000

CDBG ELIGIBILITY AND NATIONAL OBJECTIVE:

Eligibility – Public Facility, Sidewalks
National Objective – A portion of the Activity will be completed within a predefined LMI area. The remaining will utilize the Slum & Blight designation.

DESCRIPTION:

Staff analyzed city aerials and determined which areas of the tornado area had sidewalks on both sides, one side, or none. Pre-tornado, there were 658,096 feet in the tornado area that did not have sidewalks, 321,120 feet that had sidewalk on both sides, and 38,178 feet that only had sidewalk on one side.

Staff code enforcement officers surveyed the area that had sidewalk on one or both sides to determine condition. After the survey, it was determined that there are 116,193 feet in the tornado area that were severely damaged and needed immediate replacement. Added to the 658,096 feet without sidewalks and the 38,178 feet to add a sidewalk on both sides in areas with only one sidewalk, we have a need of 812,467 feet of sidewalk to be installed or replaced in the tornado area. At $20/Lineal Foot this highlights $16,249,340 needed for sidewalks.

In addition, almost every ADA ramp surveyed is not in compliance and most intersections do not have ramps at all. There are 416 intersections in LMI areas, each with 4 corners providing 1,664 ADA ramps needed. At $2000/ramp gives us $3,328,000 needed for ADA ramps inside the LMI area.
This will maximize our CDBG usage in the tornado area for ADA. The other ramps outside the LMI areas will be done with the curb and gutter money from the state. A significant number of street curb and gutters were heavily damaged during debris removal process and will be replaced through this process as well.

BENEFIT:

This project will dramatically improve the quality of life as sidewalks are the backbone of a multi-modal pedestrian access network to the new trails through neighborhoods to major retail and commercial destinations and services. Having newly installed sidewalks and modernized ADA compliant ramps at intersections conforms to the newly adopted *Comprehensive Plan 2012* and also meets the needs expressed by residents as identified in the Citizens Advisory Recovery Team's *Implementation Next Steps*.

ACTIVITY:

Sanitary Sewer Relining and Manhole Repair

AMOUNT:

$12,000,000 Million

CDBG ELIGIBILITY AND NATIONAL OBJECTIVE:

Eligibility – Public Facility, Water/Sewer Improvements
National Objective – A portion of the Activity will be completed within a predefined LMI area. The remaining will utilize the Slum & Blight designation. The breakdown of inside and outside the LMI is as follows inside LMI $6,404,960 and outside the LMI for $5,595,040.

DESCRIPTION:

As with storm sewers, the tornado and ensuing heavy equipment caused significant damage to the manhole and sanitary sewers across the tornado recovery area.

The city has an annual capital program that repairs and replaces sanitary sewers and the annual budget is $1.5 million, which is currently being used primarily to clean and TV the entire system as per DNR bypass elimination plan and for I&I reduction projects in portions of the Turkey Creek collection system that have the highest metals levels as a requirement of the operating permit for Turkey Creek WWTP. All EDR area sanitary sewers were videoed, measured, and rated from 1-5, 1 being best condition and 5 being the worst condition. We extrapolated those rankings and percentages across the entire tornado area. Using bids from Springfield we calculated approximately $12 million for repairing the category 3 and above lines. Estimates and ranking scale, as well as the sewers in the tornado area, are included as a part of this work. The work involves cleaning and TV inspection of the remaining lines in the tornado area to determine exact project scope, similarly to what was done for the EDR portion of the project. The project also involves repairing all manholes in the tornado area, of which there are approximately 1700. The repair of the sewer lines is anticipated to be slip-lining the pipe with occasional replacement in areas that cannot be navigated by the slip lining process. The intention is to complete as many storm sanitary projects as possible prior to paving activity to minimize damage to new pavement.

BENEFIT:

This project will dramatically improve sanitary sewer service as well as significant reductions in Infiltration and Inflow (I/I). Having an upgraded and modernized sewer system reduces I/I and also extends the life of our treatment plants, as well as reduces the number of sewer backups into citizens' households after large rain events. The city will have a well mapped system with a ranking to identify future preventative maintenance needs. In combination with annual capital funds in 2013, this funding will result in 30% I/I reduction of the city's sewers being newly repaired or replaced. In addition, the Department of Natural Resources has a storm water management program which requires modernization to reduce I/I. This upgrade to our system will position us in better compliance with state regulation and will ultimately reduce citizen user fees.

ACTIVITY:

Storm Sewer Replacement and Repair

AMOUNT:

$17,500,000 Million

CDBG ELIGIBILITY AND NATIONAL OBJECTIVE:

Eligibility – Public Facility, Water/Sewer Improvements
National Objective – A portion of the Activity will be completed within a predefined LMI area. The remaining will utilize the Slum & Blight designation. The breakdown of inside and outside the LMI is as follows 15 projects inside LMI $10,284,000 and 19 outside the LMI for $7,170,000.

DESCRIPTION:

The tornado and ensuing heavy equipment caused significant damage to the manhole and storm sewers across the tornado recovery area. In addition, storm debris resulted in blocked drains and significant water damage caused erosion and collapse of areas.

The city has an annual capital program that repairs and replaces system storm sewers with an annual budget of $96,185.00 annually. Staff surveyed our existing storm water system and estimated replacement costs on undersized, damaged, or otherwise inadequate lines and inlets. The total estimated cost for this project is $14.97 million. Thirty-four projects identified consist of existing priority drainage problems and are largely made up of needed residential neighborhood drainage improvements with a smaller number of improvements at street intersections and commercial areas. A map showing the proposed projects is attached. These improvements also allow comprehensive GIS mapping of existing and added improvements. Modernized GIS maps reduce future operational costs as well as master planning development. Stormwater projects will be completed prior to paving activity to minimize damage to new pavement.

BENEFIT:

This project will dramatically improve identified residential and commercial concerns by getting the stormwater off streets quicker and into upgraded conduits, and provides appropriate detention areas for stormwater. The areas identified have deteriorated or were damaged by the tornado and need repair/replacement in order to provide the appropriate amount of service to the areas. Handling the water prior to it backing up streams and onto properties also helps alleviate sanitary sewer issues as well as property flooding. Stormwater flooding can cause significant damage, erosion to property, as well as potential life threatening issues. This project will enhance the targeted neighborhoods by significantly mitigating flooding and reducing stormwater on roadways and properties as quickly and efficiently as possible.

ACTIVITY:

Curb & Gutter

AMOUNT:

$14,700,000

CDBG ELIGIBILITY AND NATIONAL OBJECTIVE:

Eligibility – Public Facility, Sidewalks
National Objective – A portion of the Activity will be completed within a predefined LMI area. The remaining will utilize the State Grant funding.

DESCRIPTION:

Staff code enforcement officers surveyed the area to determine extent of tornado damage and ensuing heavy equipment damage to curbs and gutter due to debris removal. Roughly 700,000 linear feet of curb and gutter is damaged. Staff has the least invasive approach is to partially remove the curb and replace with an S-Curb, or a stand-up curb in lieu of removing and replacing the entire curb and gutter. This will expedite the process and result in less disturbance on areas already paved. The estimated cost for saw cutting, removal and replacement of curb is $20/linear foot.

BENEFIT:

This project will dramatically improve aesthetics of streets and private property frontage while improving stormwater capture and management through neighborhoods and commercial areas. Improving the stormwater capture as well as directing it appropriately, helps us with our permitting, not only for stormwater, but efficient stormwater management reduces Infiltration and Inflow (I&I) in the sanitary sewer system as well, thus having a significant cumulative effect and cost benefit. These improvements conform to the adopted *Comprehensive Plan 2012*.

ACTIVITY:

Streets/Asphalt Overlay

AMOUNT:

$3.7 Million

CDBG ELIGIBILITY AND NATIONAL OBJECTIVE:

Eligibility – Public Improvement; Street Improvement
National Objective – A portion of the Activity will be completed within a predefined LMI area. The remaining will utilize the Slum & Blight designation.

DESCRIPTION:

Prior to the May 22nd tornado, the city's asphalt program primarily consisted of a two-pronged approach. Firstly, the city was divided into 7 zones which received a microsurfacing treatment on a rotational basis. Secondly, more severely distressed pavement received annual asphalt mill and overlay until the funds are expended for the year.

Many roadways were severely damaged from the tornado and the associated cleanup. These funds will help repair these roadways to previous- or better-than-previous condition. Due to the tornado, we did not do any paving in 2011, so we are currently using allocations from 2 years of the asphalt paving program, plus an additional $1 million dollars to install roughly $4.8 million dollars of paving in the tornado area, as well as other parts of the city.

Staff has evaluated the entire tornado damaged area and determined the appropriate measures for repairing our roadways. Many of these areas are in need of substantial infrastructure work and sustained greater damage during the cleanup due to catastrophic damage to area structures, resulting in intensive debris removal operations and associated heavy equipment. Next year we will use CDBG funds to focus on "improving" the pavement condition in the LMI area, making the most efficient usage of these monies by allowing some other infrastructure work such as stormwater to proceed in advance of paving the streets—this will eliminate having to excavate freshly paved areas. A coordinated approach is being taken with storm and sanitary sewers construction to minimize damage and ensure completion prior to paving activity.

With initial funding sources available in FY2013 and the associated reconstruction program, approximately 25% of City streets can be surface treated. Now, because the CDBG area is being removed for 2013 and moved to FY 2014 and combined with our annual maintenance money, this will add approximately an additional 10% of roadway to total 35%. These are all streets that will require more work than just an overlay.

BENEFIT:

By the conclusion of next year, this project will dramatically improve over 23 miles and up to 35% of roadways in the city with the majority of improvements within the tornado area. Having a quality roadway network is critical for the creation of an accessible and enjoyable community and helps attract citizens to the city.

Smoother roads reduce tire wear, increase fuel efficiency, lower emissions, enhance safety to vehicles and pedestrians alike, and will also help with stormwater drainage.

ACTIVITY:

Tree Planting

AMOUNT:

$1.6 Million

CDBG ELIGIBILITY AND NATIONAL OBJECTIVE:

Eligibility- Public Facility; Tree Planting and/or Streetscape
National Objective- Low/Mod Income Benefit and Slum and Blight inside TIF area

DESCRIPTION:

As part of the reestablishment of the urban forest, this funding would help reach our goal to replace 25,000 trees across the tornado zone. By planting large 1½ inch caliper trees we can reintroduce 7,766 trees in public spaces of the affected area. These trees will be reintroduced according to the Tree Study currently being developed by a consultant.

BENEFIT:

These trees will significantly advance the redevelopment of the affected area and greatly enhance tornado-affected neighborhoods to encourage a more attractive place for residential redevelopment and population growth objectives. Trees will be a significant and tangible visual prompt of the positive recovery progress underway and helps with the beautification of the area while reducing carbon dioxide emissions and the Heat Island Effect, a result of large portions of developed and paved urban areas that are not shaded from UV radiation. Replacing destroyed trees at this magnitude will continue to secure our place as a Tree City USA member.

ACTIVITY:

Mental Health

AMOUNT:

$750,000

CDBG ELIGIBILITY AND NATIONAL OBJECTIVE:

Eligibility – Public Service; Mental Health Services (Part of 15% Public Service Cap).
National Objective- Low/Mod Income Clientele. Income information collected for participants.

DESCRIPTION:

The city relies on other organizations to provide public mental health programs. The mental health community has expressed a need for training and educational funding support to expand mental health programming to all age groups: children, teens, parents or caretakers, families, and adults. Programs can also help businesses and neighborhoods work together.

BENEFIT:

Recovery programs after a disaster span a wide range. The goals of education and training programs help survivors, responders and the community recover. Programs will help advance understanding in how disasters affect young and old alike and teaches coping and support methods.

Education and training programs will focus on:

- Joplin Schools Check & Connect Student Engagement Program supporting at risk youth engagement
- Organization reactions to disaster
- Building resilience and positive coping skills
- Providing support among age groups and organizations
- Connecting community and residents to additional programs, resources and health and mental health care providers.

ACTIVITY:

20th Street (Main Street to Range Line Road) – Streetscape

AMOUNT:

$10,350,000.00

CDBG ELIGIBILITY AND NATIONAL OBJECTIVE:

Eligibility- Public Improvement; Street Improvements
National Objective- Slum and Blight Area inside the TIF area.

DESCRIPTION:

The streetscape project would provide sidewalks with pedestrian-friendly amenities on both sides of 20th Street from Main to Range Line, approximately 2 miles.

BENEFIT:

Many of the vacant lots remaining exist in the areas contiguous to the 20th Street Corridor. Adding this amenity will add momentum to additional nearby commercial and residential development allowing us to enhance our goals of population growth. This provides an important opportunity to stimulate and enhance redevelopment along this heavily-damaged main thoroughfare with modern amenities like street lights, benches, and public gathering places to help generate a sense of place and connectivity—oft referred to as "the cool factor". Opportunities exist to integrate motifs and attractive design elements with the new High School and Library/Theater anchors, and the associated 100,000 sq ft of adjacent mixed-use, loft-over-retail, and boutique grocer. Importantly, this funding would allow for the implementation of the EPA Green Streets 20th Street Corridor design currently underway. Once complete, the 20th Street Corridor will be an attractive and powerful commercial sector with significant residential and recreational dimensions and is a core aspect of our population gain objectives.

ACTIVITY:

Crossroads Industrial & Business Park - Extension of Streets & Sanitary Sewers

AMOUNT:

$3.6 Million

CDBG ELIGIBILITY AND NATIONAL OBJECTIVE:

Eligibility – Public Improvement; Street Improvement & Sewer Improvement
National Objective – Low/Mod Job Creation (Minimum 95 jobs created)

DESCRIPTION:

Extension of Streets & Sanitary Sewer in the Joplin Industrial & Business Park:
24th Street east of County Road 190 - 1,232 Lin. Ft.
26th Street east of County Road 190 - 1,400 Lin. Ft.
County Road 185 south of 26th Street to 32nd Street - 2,500 Lin. Ft.
29th Street east of County Road 190 - 1,600 Lin. Ft.
Sanitary Sewer east of County Road 190

BENEFIT:

These cost-effective improvements to the industrial park will greatly enhance the city's position in leveraging additional business and commercial interests by providing economic growth and employment opportunities to a major addition of the park. 24th Street improvements provide access to six additional 5-acre lots and 26th Street provides access to approximately 40 acres along the south. County Road 185 provides access to 2.5 acres to the west and several hundred additional acres to the east, while 29th Street provides access to 25 acres. Extending the sanitary sewer system would serve an additional several hundred acres on the east side of the park. This would be a significant expansion of the park providing future industrial and commercial growth potential and provides significant employment opportunities to meet population growth objectives.

Please also see Attachment One - Chamber Memo

ACTIVITY:

Job Training and Education

AMOUNT:

$500,000

CDBG ELIGIBILITY AND NATIONAL OBJECTIVE:

Eligibility – Economic Development; Direct Financial Assistance to For-Profits (limited to Small Business)
National Objective – Low/Mod Job Creation (Minimum 15 jobs created)

DESCRIPTION:

Funding would create a training fund given state training resources are in high demand and short supply due to budget cuts. For smaller companies, it is nearly impossible to get resources, yet they are the ones with the least capacity to pay for quality training and growth. Also, the state retraining dollars (not new jobs) are very limited. It would be very beneficial to create a pool of training opportunities for upgrading employees' existing skills for better employment opportunities and pay as well as new job training.

BENEFIT:

These training funds would be directed to approximately 51% low-moderate job creation benefit and for training and hiring of area residents. This would allow companies to create more employment opportunities, while providing incentives for people to stay or relocate here, which is a high priority of the long term tornado recovery and enhances population growth objectives. Funding would provide training for approximately 1,000 people over two years allowing us to better serve existing companies, provide stronger incentives for new company attraction, and improve the skills of residents.

ACTIVITY:

Joplin Commons

AMOUNT:

$40.416 Million Total Project

CDBG ELIGIBILITY AND NATIONAL OBJECTIVE:

Eligibility- Public Facility; Parks/Recreational Facility
National Objective- Slum & Blight Area inside TIF area.

DESCRIPTION:

The City of Joplin does not have adequate indoor recreation facilities or diverse programs for the residents of Joplin. This severely limits the city's ability to offer year around recreation opportunities for our citizens. While many programs exist through other organizations, multiple recreational niches remain unaddressed that afford the city an opportunity to meet the expressed needs of constituent groups. This same lack of facilities also impacts the Joplin Sports Authority's ability to fulfill its mission to bring major sporting events to the City of Joplin. The Parks & Recreation/Quality of Life and Quality Jobs & Economic Development Issues, as outlined in the envisioning meeting results in regards to the adopted *Blueprint for the Future* plan, affords an opportunity to construct 180,000 sq ft field house that would include six basketball / volleyball courts, two indoor soccer fields, a competition natatorium, strength & cardiovascular training, both a walking track and sprint track, four modern field facilities, as well as constructing one new t-ball field and re-investing in an existing t-ball field, and a skate park. A complex of this type would also allow a variety of spaces for seniors use and large room rentals for community groups.

A competition natatorium would allow Joplin to implement a year around United States Swimming competitive swim program and allows the Stingrays and the Joplin High School swim team a place close to their new campus to train and host other swim programs. With the addition of a swim program that would enhance local youth opportunities to train for college scholarships, this would blend in with the new Joplin Demize soccer program and the Joplin Outlaws baseball program, which are also both designed to help Joplin area youth develop the skills needed to qualify for college athletic scholarships. The *Blueprint for the Future* plan also specifically mentions the need to address youth basketball deficiencies, as well as the need for more sports and recreation facilities.

The city of Joplin has always been a baseball-centric city and this culture is woven through the fabric of the community. Little League leadership has concurred with a $2.7 million need for four modern field facilities, as well as constructing one new t-ball field and re-investing in an existing t-ball field. Local fields are dated and conditions make it difficult for Little League to attract new players and members into their organizations—participating parents and volunteers manage and maintain the fields. Many of the children playing in Little League are from families that are unable to commit to travel leagues either for financial hardship or lack of free time to participate in a travel league and tend to play locally.

Joplin currently is lacking in skateboard, BMX and roller blading facilities. Community skate parks provide a physical activity for kids not interested in traditional team sports and provide a safe and challenging place for these children and young adults of all levels to develop as athletes. Most skateboard accidents happen on roads or involve automobiles in parking lots or at road crossings. Skateboarders can also be a hazard on sidewalks because a skateboard moves much quicker than a walking pedestrian and many of these young

athletes utilize roads and sidewalks because they don't have safe areas to ride and skate, away from pedestrians and automobiles.

The proposed $750,000 skate park would be approximately 20,000 sq ft and have changeable elements that are challenging for all levels of action sports participants. Built next to a proposed Joplin Fieldhouse, these two facilities would complement each other and the Fieldhouse could be used as a staging ground for a revived version of the JOMOPRO event. The stands will be designed to pivot to the different venue activities. The park would be open during the same operating hours as the Fieldhouse, thereby increasing supervision and safety by having staff on hand at all times the facility is open. Recent attendance of a large group of skate enthusiasts to a city council meeting highlighted the need for such an amenity. $240,000 in Parks and Stormwater Tax funding will be utilized for this portion of the facility.

BENEFIT:

According to the National Parks and Recreation Association, cities with population bases of 50,000 to 99,000 citizens average two recreation/community centers per 24,431 citizens. At this time we do not have any recreation/community centers. This facility would enable us to offer year around programming to a vastly underserved population. The city would be able to offer healthy lifestyle opportunities by offering reduced rates and scholarship rates for our citizens of low to moderate income and offer the community as whole more affordable options to stay physically fit. Currently Jasper County ranks 43rd of 114 counties in the state in regards to overall quality of health. A major benefit of this project would allow the city to reach out to a broad cross section of the community and encourage residents affordable means to stay fit while offering year round programs and physically active sports that would help reduce sedentary lifestyles. Additionally, this facility could be used to help the Joplin Sports Authority in its mission to bring regional sporting events to Joplin, filling hotel rooms in Joplin and increasing sales tax and revenues for local businesses. Economic Impact projections from the Joplin Sports Authority indicate the possibility of generating close to one million dollars per year from events hosted in this facility. This facility would have a significant cultural and economic footprint.

A new attractive Little League Complex would enable the Little League organization to attract new players to their organization and provides a significant opportunity to secure an important historical institution in Joplin. Constructing the fields in the tornado zone where multiple children were affected by the tornado would be a significant contribution to the redevelopment area allowing those families rebuilding their lives opportunities for their children to play in a great local facility. Also, a new complex would allow Joplin Little League to schedule games with teams from out of town, helping to fill hotel rooms and generating sales tax for the city and revenues for community businesses. Having these fields coupled with the Commons concept creates a powerful synergy among programs.

There are over 9.3 million skateboarders in America and only about 3,000 skate parks nationwide. Joplin boasts over 2,500 dedicated skateboarders. Building a new skate park in the tornado zone would enhance the recovery while providing a world class action sports hub for Joplin and the surrounding areas. A modern professionally designed skate park will attract out of town visitors to recreate and spend money within the community, increasing sales tax and business revenues for the city as well.

With the average age of the action sport participants being between 12-17 years of age, providing recreational opportunities for these children and young adults helps them develop healthy, active lifestyles. With approximately 19% of the Joplin population being less than 18 years of age a public skate park would provide an additional healthy activity and outlet for kids and help eliminate problems associated with youth idleness and inactivity. Skateboarding, BMX, and roller blading are physically active and requires great concentration and it encourages children to spend time outdoors. Youth in low to moderate income areas are prone to

health issues related to a lack of exercise due to the expense of equipment and travel. This skate park located in an LMI area would provide an opportunity for physical activity.

For many years there has been a void in the area for a facility of this scale. It would serve as a multi-purpose venue allowing auditorium seating for up to 3,000, thus fulfilling long expressed needs of the citizenry for large meeting and event spaces. It would also serve as another major trail hub with connectivity into the network and also be designed and constructed to dually serve as a large emergency shelter, meeting an additional voiced need. Having a large facility with such flexibility and opportunity for cross-programming would be a welcome amenity to a broad cross section of constituents.

Joplin Commons Constituent Groups and Activities

1) Arena Football
2) Indoor Basketball
3) Senior Recreational Center
4) Large, Multi-use Meeting Space (3000)
5) Indoor Competitive Swimming
6) Four new Little League Fields; One New T-ball Field; One Refurbished T-ball Field
7) Indoor Soccer
8) Skate Board Park
9) Large Storm Shelter
10) Small Child Play Watch Area
11) Cardio/Weight Training
12) Three Large Meeting Rooms
13) Walking Track
14) Senior Therapeutic Pool

Senior Center – On 5/14/13 representatives from the senior citizen group that meets at the current senior center sent a letter indicating a need for a new facility. A new recreation center with a senior center as part of that project would allow the seniors to continue meeting regularly for lunch and socialization while allowing new fitness opportunities. A portion of the facility will also include a senior therapeutic pool.

Athletics – Currently the City of Joplin does not have indoor programming space in a capacity sufficient enough for the Parks and Recreation to build indoor recreation programs or to help the Joplin Sports Authority fulfill its mission to bring sporting events to Joplin. Specifically the Joplin Commons will allow year around soccer, basketball, flag football, arena football and volleyball programs to be offered. Additionally, Joplin Parks and Recreation will have the ability to host a multitude of skill development camps with the new facility. The lack of indoor programming space also conversely and negatively affects the Joplin Sports Authorities mission to bring major sporting tournaments and events to town to help fill local hotel rooms. The JSA must rely on facilities outside of Joplin to fulfill its mission. A facility of this magnitude with year around sports options would only serve to strengthen the high school sports program.

Swim Team – Currently the City of Joplin does not have indoor competition swimming facilities that are conducive for building a swim program for the youth of Joplin. Joplin residents who want their children to be a part of a year around swim team currently have to utilize facilities in Neosho or Webb City. Missouri Southern is the current home of the Joplin High School Program. The pool is not big enough to host large swim meets and with only six lanes is very crowded during practice. Year around swim lessons will also be offered. According to the 2012 Sporting Goods Manufacturers Association report, swimming ranks as a popular "aspirational sport" for in actives ages six to twelve and ages forty five and up.

Little League – Currently the Little League fields in Joplin are in need of repair and overhaul. The facilities are maintained strictly through volunteers and there is often not always volunteer time available to maintain the fields to today's standards. A facility built in tandem with the Joplin Commons would allow Little League modern fields to play on Monday through Thursday and allow the Parks and Recreation Department access to more fields on the weekends to help the JSA bring bigger baseball tournaments to Joplin. This includes four modern field facilities, as well as constructing one new t-ball field and re-investing in an existing t-ball field.

Outdoor Skateboard / BMX Park – With the closure of the Bridge as a skate and BMX facility a true need for a skate park is needed in Joplin and on a bigger scale than the money set aside in the sales tax is set up for. As part of the Joplin Commons project, this facility can be not only a great action sports spot for the local youth of Joplin, but encourage out of town visits as well. Laid out properly, this facility could host a new and improved JOMO Pro event. Several weeks ago many members of the skateboard community attended a City Council meeting to voice their support and desire for a centralized skate park.

Fitness Center – Affordable fitness opportunities should be available to all. In conjunction with the athletic and aquatic concepts a modern fitness center will be available so that parents are able to work out and focus on their physical fitness while their children are involved in sports and athletics. Cardio vascular health and strength training will be available to the citizens of Joplin at affordable rates to all. Discount programs utilizing the same criteria as the current pool passes will be available to those that qualify. Currently the State of Missouri ranks 18.8% to 23.1% in regards to physical inactivity. With a modern field house equipped with fitness equipment the City of Joplin can encourage our sedentary citizens to become more physically fit while their children are participating in youth sports.

Walking track - An indoor walking track will enable adults of all ages the opportunity to run or walk regardless of the weather outside. This track will be suspended over the basketball/volleyball court area. Walking continues to be one of the most popular forms of exercise with over seventy seven million Americans using it as their primary source of exercise.

Large gathering space – Between the six basketball courts and two indoor soccer fields, there is enough open space to accommodate up to 3000 people for trade shows and special events. Additionally in the event of another catastrophe this space could be used as an emergency shelter. There have been a multitude of citizen concerns about the lack of meeting space large enough to hold large meetings and events. A facility of this size would be able to accommodate large gatherings.

Meeting rooms – Located in the middle of Joplin, the Commons will offer three meeting spaces with modern A/V and computer hook ups. One of the rooms will also have a catering kitchen available for use. Corporate team building exercises, birthday parties, staging areas for competitions, sports banquets & receptions.

The Blueprint for the Future as adopted in July of 2010 specifically addresses all of the needs laid out in this facility. Youth sports, sports and recreation facilities and quality of life infrastructure issues are all discussed in this adopted resolution. The 2009 Joplin Parks and Recreation Facilities and Activities Survey specifically address the needs for indoor recreation facilities, especially an indoor competitive pool able to hold regional competitions. Finally, the CART Plan identifies a need to "enhance the quality of life", the desire to "increase community gathering spaces" and to "provide space for more special events and activities for all age groups".

ACTIVITY:

Green Town Neighborhood

AMOUNT:

CDBG Funds - $500,000
Total Project - $3M-$6M

CDBG ELIGIBILITY AND NATIONAL OBJECTIVE:
Eligibility - New Housing Waiver/Reconstruction of Housing; even if only used for infrastructure, this would be to support the housing specifically.
National Objective - Low-Mod Housing Benefit; must qualify those individuals that will live in the neighborhood.

DESCRIPTION:

Green Town Joplin has expressed a need of support for Joplin's first sustainable and green neighborhood, consisting of construction of 4-10 modern innovative homes, funding dependent. Designated funding would be utilized toward an estimated $1.5 million in identified neighborhood infrastructure and site development to include enhanced stormwater management and berming, a community garden, storm shelter, earth work and remediation, and landscaping. Efficient "Mini-Homes" would range from 500-1,500 square feet and would meet an expressed need voiced by community young professionals and seniors.

The Green Town Neighborhood would adopt agreed-upon parameters in such areas as energy usage, water conservation features, durability of building envelope, etc. Funding would be awarded based on an agreed upon capital fundraising threshold being met by Green Town and would be leveraged with other stakeholders to raise additional resources for the development. Prospective homebuilders/residents would submit proposals and lots would be awarded to qualified entries that meet CDBG criteria. Homeowners could also participate and be qualified through the Principle Reduction Plan. Additional support can be provided under other proposed CDBG activities with sidewalk installation and land acquisition assistance.

Timeline:

1. City awards funding upon Green Town meeting fundraising threshold
2. City acquires properties with approved Round I CDBG
3. Greentown lets RFP and hires contractor/developer
4. Contractor/Greentown constructs and markets homes
5. City qualifies potential buyers

BENEFIT:

This activity would directly provide sustainable and affordable housing to Low/Moderate Income households. Well-constructed, efficient homes can be built utilizing 60% less energy equating to affordability for low to moderate income residents. The City's investment toward site development and infrastructure would help ensure affordability by reducing overall expenses of the project. This would fulfill a need to re-build affordable housing in the tornado area and would also add to the future resiliency of the area by using sustainable techniques and attractive and innovative design features. New homeowners would have a quality home with up to $30,000 in initial equity under the PRP. The demonstration project would serve as a practical eco-tourist attraction and high profile asset to the community and incorporates many of the principles expressed by citizens at the CART meetings.

Attachment One

To: Mark Rohr
From: Rob O'Brian
RE: CDBG Disaster Funds-Job Creation
Date: May 15, 2013

Along with infrastructure for Crossroads, detailed in a separate memo, CDBG funds have also been used by Joplin and other communities to support training of individuals to enhance their skills for new jobs or to advance as their current employer brings in new technology or adds new product lines.

Training Fund: State training dollars are in high demand and short supply. For smaller companies, it is nearly impossible to receive state funds, yet they are the ones with the least capacity to pay for quality training. Also, the state RE-training dollars (not new jobs) are very limited. If we could create a pool of training for:

1) Upgrading existing skills so people get better jobs/pay and
2) New, quality job training

We will then be able to better serve existing companies, provide stronger incentives for new company attraction and improve the skills of residents. In addition, I believe we have flexibility to put a "plus-up" on there for training / hiring Joplin / Duquesne residents. However, we also want companies to be able to use it to create more jobs period; part of getting people to stay and move here.

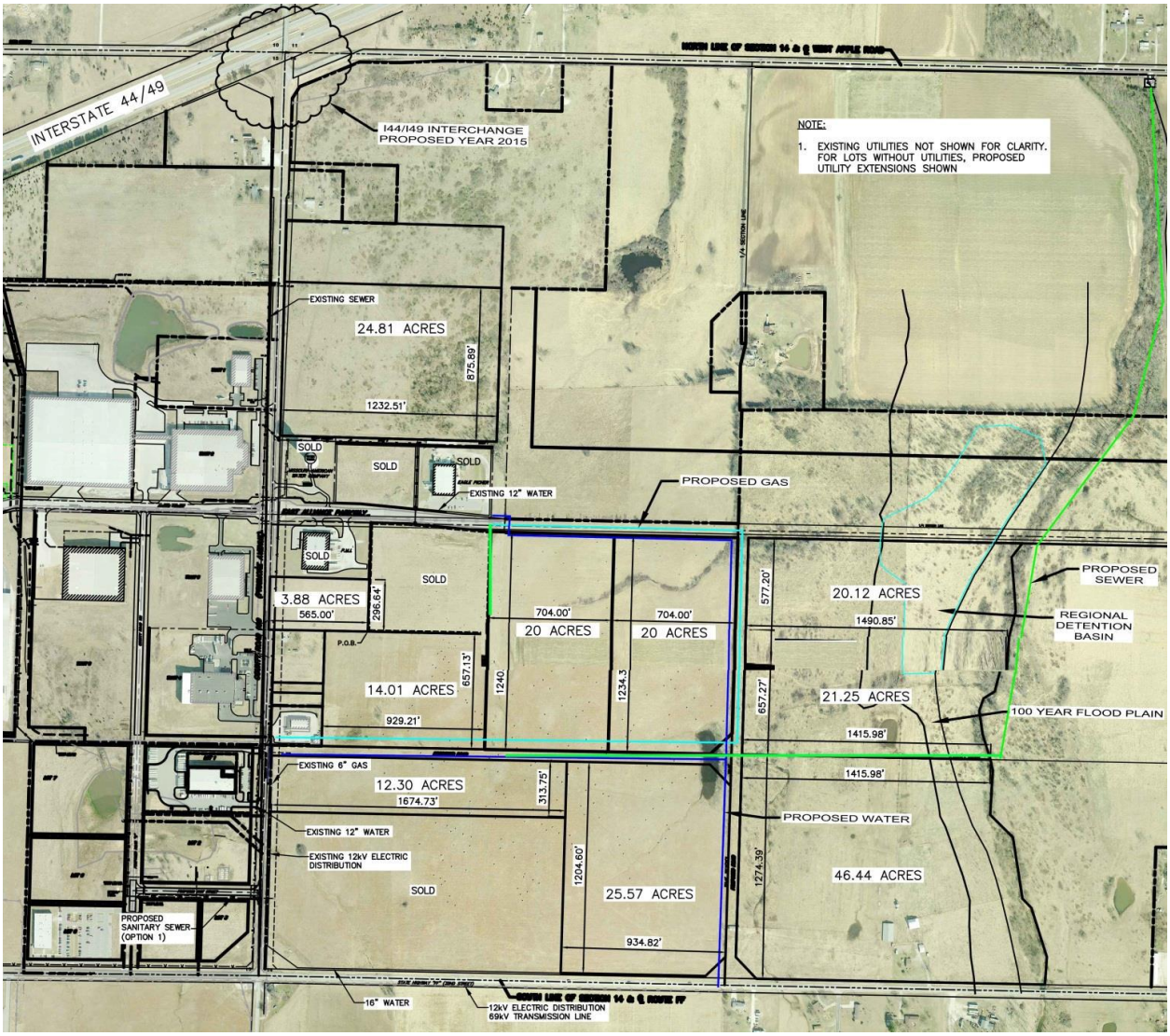
At an avg. training cost of $2,000 per head, we could get training to 250 people for $ 500,000.
Frankly, I believe we could easily train 1,000 people in two years, creating a higher skilled labor force overall if there is sufficient funding available. Also, EDA has some "job accelerator" grants which help with training but need local match. It is possible to layer local CDBG funds for part of the match.

Since the City has used a portion of its annual CDBG funding for training, there are some precedents in place to consider company requests for training dollars. These precedents should be further enhanced with more defined guidelines for allocating funds, since the pool is limited.

Total: $ 500,000

Jobs Clearing House. One goal we have is to create a "jobs" board to serve local/regional companies. This will be used as the focal point for an on-going campaign to those who graduated and left to find an job as encouragement to come back. I would see this having a HOUSING component attached so they can see jobs and housing in one location. This effort is not detailed out yet but as a place-holder: $100,000. This is sufficient to develop a robust web-site and market it internally to get jobs/housing posted and externally to drive people to it for the first two years. If there is any additional funding available, this should be considered as a priority project in economic development.

Crossroads Park
Potential Street & Sewer
Improvements



Joplin, Mo.
May 6, 2013

Joplin City Council
City Hall
Joplin, Missouri 64801

Dear Council Members:

It is our understanding that the state recently granted Joplin $113,000,000 for tornado relief. We would like for you to specify a portion of that gift to the Senior Citizens' Building. We really need a larger space. The exercise program has been a huge success, so much so, that we sometimes find ourselves bumping one another. At present, the building custodian moves 8 to 10 tables and their 60 chairs each Tuesday and Thursday to give us space. But with sometimes 40+ people exercising, we always extend back into the remaining dining tables. Our teacher has to yell to explain our moves which must be a problem to the staff doing their telephone work. Yet, with the noises of the kitchen preparing the next meal, we sometimes can't hear her instructions. It would be wonderful if we had a gym area of our own.

Although the roof was replaced after the May 22 tornado, it continues to leak leaving water puddles on our floor–a falling hazard! Our piano got damp and now needs tuning, especially in the bass area. It would be nice to hear it played again at lunch times.

The floor in the kitchen needs attention. In fact, it would be nice to have a kitchen make-over. We do appreciate our cooks and some people even depend upon the meals they cook. It would be nice to make their work easier.

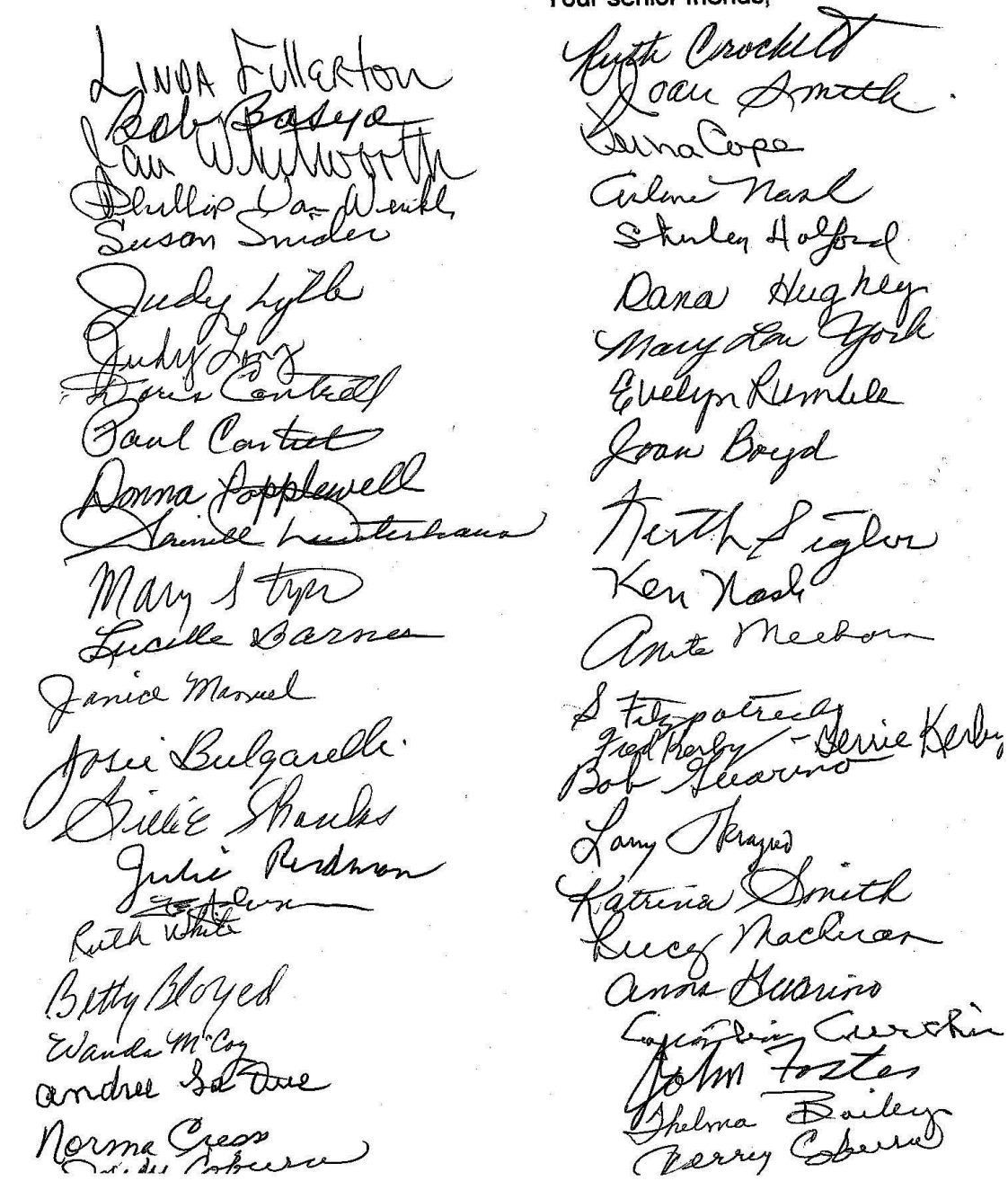
The men who play dominoes say their tables are wobbly, as are a few of our dining tables.

The windows along the roof line are pretty, but the ones on the east allow the sun to blind us as we walk up the center aisle. Maybe those could be eliminated in the new building. In case of another tornado they would shatter glass over the entire dining area. In fact, the building doesn't appear safe in case of such a storm. There is not enough safe room.

While you're shopping for the new facility, please purchase ~~taller, toilets~~. Low ones are difficult for arthritic people.

Thank you for your sincere consideration of our requests.

Your senior friends,



Richard Edwards
Leroy Potts
Frank Herron
Vivian Rendegraft
Louis Gene Wiseck
Betty Louise Strick
Nedra Barnes
Mary Tucker
Ken Tucker
John Sarrord
Jim Stever
Dorothy Stever
Betty Beard
Deborah Long
Clarence Long
Van H Greenwood
Elfride Greenwood
Lenny Dorsey
Evelyn Rumble
Dolores Shellenberger
Dick Baker
Connie Bailey
David B Bailey

P.S. One of our members crossed out the words "taller toilets" because her church donated money to get 2 taller toilets for us. However, there are 4 toilets, so we still need 2 more.

We also want to express our thanks to the city for giving us the present building and paying our utilities. You have been very gracious.

over

Attachment III

$113,276,000 CDBG-DR Project LMI/Slum and Blight Ratios

CATEGORY	Low-Moderate Income	Slum and Blight
Sidewalks & ADA Ramps	$11,4000,000	0
Sanitary Sewer	$6,400,000	$5,600,000
Storm Sewer	$10,300,000	$7,200,000
Curb & Gutter	$7,700,000	0
Streets/Asphalt Overlay	$3,700,000	0
Tree Planting	$960,000	640,000
Mental Health	$750,000	0
20th Street Streetscape	0	$10,350,000
Crossroads Extensions	$3,600,000	0
Job Training & Education	$500,000	0
Joplin Commons	$18,472,260	$21,703,740
Green Neighborhood	$500,000	0
	$64,282,260 (58.56%)	**$45,493,740 (41.44%)**

Projects Total	**$109,776,000**
CDBG Administration	**$3,500,000**
CDBG GRANT AWARD TOTAL	**$113,276,000**

***** These numbers are preliminary based on cost estimates, not actual project costs, and may be modified upon Housing and Urban Development review.