

2015 Planning & Development Services Annual Report

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City of Lawrence
PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

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The total valuation of building permits issued during 2015 was \$227.9M, which was 128.6% higher than the total permit valuation of \$99.71M in 2014, and nearly \$53M higher than the previous annual permit valuation record of \$175.0M. The 2015 total permit valuation was 59.1% higher than the rolling 5-year annual average of \$143.2M (2011 through 2015).

During 2015, the Building Safety Division website was revamped and reorganized. New guides and tables for contractor and trade licensing were developed and added to a new Contractor Licensing webpage in March. Reconfigured BSD web pages went live in September 2015. New forms were converted to fillable PDF format and many new links to relevant industry and partner websites were added.

Department Statistics

The Planning and Development Services Department (PDS) handles a multitude of inquiries, applications, and projects related to development in the community throughout the year.

Overall, the PDS Department handled **12,080** planning applications, licenses, permits, code enforcement cases, rental licenses and inquiries in 2015.

PDS Applications Submitted in 2015	
Planning Applications	649
Code Enforcement Cases	1,627
Building Safety: Permits	2,320
Contractor/Trades Licenses	971
Rental Licenses Issued or Renewed	5,447
Inquiries/Investigations	1,066
Total	12,080

Building Safety Division Statistics

The Building Safety Division processes and reviews building permit applications, performs inspections, investigates work without a permit complaints and manages the contractor licensing program. In 2015, the division performed **8,359 inspections** and issued **971 contractor licenses**. Total project valuation was around **\$228 million** resulting in almost **\$1.1 million** in fees collected.

	2015 Total	2014 Total
Inspections/Occupancy		
Inspections Performed	8,359	6,962
Investigations	60	46
Certificates of Occupancy Issued (Commercial)	240	195
Certificates of Occupancy Issued (Residential)	122	
Licensing		
Contractor Licenses Issued	609	574
Trades Worker Licenses Issued	362	379
Fees		
Permit Fees Collected	\$1,093,327	\$669,545
License Fees Collected	\$76,210	
Construction Valuation		
Total Valuation	\$227,899,792	\$99,707,903
Public Project Valuation	\$35,430,989	\$12,518,055

*BSD staff performed **8,359** inspections in 2015, up 20% over 2014.*

*BSD issued **609 Contractor Licenses and 362 Trades Worker Licenses** in 2015.*

*BSD staff worked with the Lawrence Home Builders Association to sponsor **continuing education** for contractors and trades workers.*

BSD staff also contributed regular articles for the LHBA monthly newsletters on topics such as BSD current events and code updates and reminders.

Residential Units Built - 2015

Single Family	161
Duplex	78
Multi-Family	467
Total	706

Building Safety Division Program Enhancements

- To facilitate code-compliant new construction, additions, remodeling and/or change of occupancy for commercial building permit projects, staff initiated a new program in 2015 to offer and encourage **pre-construction meetings** with project general contractors (GCs), subcontractors, designers, owners and City Staff at the time a commercial building permit is issued. The primary objectives of these meetings are to: (1) review pertinent City codes, policies, procedures and expectations; (2) establish open lines of communication among City Staff, the GC, subcontractors and project owners for the duration of the project; (3) review the GC's/owner's projected construction and completion schedule; and (4) assist the GC, the project owner and, when applicable, the project tenant to successfully obtain a temporary and/or final certificate of occupancy for the project in an efficient and timely way.
- Staff developed and implemented new procedures to assist general contractors, project owners and project tenants obtain required final City inspections, temporary/partial certificates of occupancy (TCO) and final certificates of occupancy (CO) for commercial building permit projects in the most efficient and timely manner possible. Information about TCO/CO procedures and requirements are provided and reviewed by Staff during building permit pre-construction meetings, and as the project progresses toward completion. The general contractor is also encouraged to contact BSD to arrange for one or more "courtesy" TCO/CO inspections by City Staff (at no cost) one to several weeks prior to the anticipated TCO/CO date (depending on the size and complexity of the project), the results of which are communicated to the GC. This **path to a CO program** has been well received by the building community.
- Staff coordinated review of **2015 editions of the family of International Code Council residential and commercial building, trade (mechanical, electrical, plumbing, fuel & gas), energy and fire codes** with/among Staff, the Building & Trade Boards and various stakeholder groups. After dozens of Board meetings, all Boards prepared and made recommendations for code adoptions, with amendments, and proposed adopting ordinances, for City Commission review and consideration during the first quarter of 2016.

Permit Statistics

The number of building permits issued during 2015 for new one- and two-family dwellings was **239**, which was **106%** higher than the number issued in 2014, and **60.2%** higher than the rolling 5-year annual average of 149 (2011 through 2015).

	2015 Total	2014 Total
Permits Issued		
Single-Family	161	101
Duplex	78	15
Multi-Family (dwelling units)	7 (467)	6 (143)
New Commercial	22	18
Commercial Remodel/Addition	168	154
Residential Remodel/Addition	223	210
Mechanical/Electrical/Plumbing	1,320	1,123
Sign	245	237
Other	96	66
Total Permits Issued	2,320	1,930
Total Valuation	\$227,899,792	\$99,707,903

Permit Review Times

BSD, in cooperation with other City review staff involved with development and construction, have a goal of completing at least **90%** of all initial reviews of submitted commercial building permit applications/plans within 15 business days; and of submitted residential permit applications/plans within 5 business days. These initial reviews were completed within target timeframes for **89%** of commercial applications/plans, with an average initial review period of **7.9 days** and for **95%** of residential applications/plans, with an average initial review period of **2.6 days**.

Commercial Permits – 1 st Round Review Times	
	2015
% Completed in 15 Days	89%
Average Review Time - Days	7.9
Total Number of Reviews	1,777

Residential Permits – 1 st Round Review Times	
	2015
% Completed in 5 Days	95%
Average Review Time - Days	2.6
Total Number of Reviews	1,699

Community Development Division Overview

- The Community Development Division (CDD) administers multiple grants provided directly by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Kansas Housing Resources Corporation (KHRC) and the Kansas Department of Commerce. These include the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), the HOME Investment Partnership (HOME), and the Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) programs.
- The First Time Homebuyer Lawrence Community Housing and Land Trust (LCHLT) program provided down payment assistance and placed seven first time homebuyers in new homes for a total subsidy of **\$98,050.67**.
- There were **10** properties that received Weatherization assistance, averaging **\$1,499.65** each. Attic insulation, weather-stripping of entry doors, and new storm windows were installed for a total of **\$14,996.49**.
- The Community Development Division, in partnership with Independence, Inc., provided accessibility modification grants to 4 low income renters who had income below 50% Area Median Income in the amount of **\$31,641.38**. In partnership with the Public Works Department the city was able to improve sidewalk safety near South Middle School with gap infill in the amount of **\$11,041.19**. Additionally two Social Service agencies were assisted with facility repairs for **\$16,689.00**.
- Brad Karr of the Community Development Division **audited** all of the CDBG homeowner rehabilitation repair loans made since the mid 1980's. Several CDBG home rehab/repair programs require that promissory notes be executed and recorded for the loans/mortgages; these notes/mortgages require payment of the full loan balance to the City if/when the mortgagee ceases to own the home or occupy the house as their primary residence. All loan payoffs are returned to the City's CDBG program and can be used to assist other income-eligible homeowners with necessary home rehabilitation and emergency repair solutions. Through diligent and thorough research of hundreds of CDBG loan files, County records, City water records, City Rental License Program records and other documentation, Brad discovered 32 mortgagees, with a total of nearly \$209,000 in outstanding CDBG loans, that were out of compliance with the terms of their note/mortgage (primarily the term requiring they reside in the home - mortgagees still owned the house, but had moved out of it and, in many cases, were now renting it out). Brad devised a procedure to contact these homeowners and through November of 2015 has collected **\$81,000** in cash repayments and staff has amended an additional **\$28,000** worth of mortgages which has brought in money that has gone back into the CDBG program and has been able to help additional income-qualified households.

There were **18** **Emergency or Furnace Loan** applications approved and completed for a total of **\$58,934.23**.

During 2015, three homes were completed in the **Comprehensive Rehabilitation Program** for a total of **\$79,284.00**.

In conjunction with Tenants to Homeowners, the City received an additional **\$215,000** in **Neighborhood Stabilization Program** funding, which will be used in the infill development of affordable housing on vacant lots in Lawrence.

Planning and Development Services Staff Changes in 2015:

Jamie Mwongela was hired as a part-time temporary Administrative Support III for the Rental Licensing and Inspection Program.

Janet Smalter was hired as a Plans Examiner in the Building Safety Division.

Jessica Mortinger was promoted to Senior Transportation Planner.

Ashley Myers was hired as a Planner II in the Transportation Planning Division.

Adam Weigel was hired as a Transportation Intern in the Transportation Planning Division.

Becky Pepper was hired as a Planner II.

Community Development Staff Education

- In 2015 CDD staff participated in the spring conference for Kansas NAHRO that was held in Manhattan and the planning of the annual conference for Southwest NAHRO; Attended the Kansas Statewide Homeless Coalition Homeless Summit, the EPA Region 7 Radon Conference, the Lawrence Affordable Housing Conference, as well as 10 HUD-sponsored mini-conferences and webinars.
- Danelle Dresslar** assisted the Kansas Statewide Homeless Coalition by providing training on the annual required Point-In-Time homeless count to seven different regions of the Balance of State Continuum of Care. Dresslar also assisted with statewide data analysis on the count.
- Tony Hoch** continued in the Office of VP of Community Revitalization & Development in Southwest NAHRO and attended the Annual conference in New Orleans, LA and National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials summer conference in Austin, TX and the fall conference in Los Angeles, CA as a member of the National CR&D Policy committee.

Code Enforcement Division Overview

The **Code Enforcement Division** is responsible for managing and obtaining code compliance with many City codes, including: the Rental Licensing and Inspection Ordinance; the Property Maintenance Code; the Weed Code; the Development Code; the Fence Code; the Sign Code; the Sidewalk Dining Ordinance; the Graffiti Ordinance; and the Sidewalk Snow Removal Ordinance. During 2015, there was a continued focus and effort directed to the implementation and administration of the revised and expanded Rental Licensing and Inspection Program as multi-family rental properties began the licensing process in January with the inspection implementation beginning in July. Other important daily responsibilities of the division include investigating general property maintenance code complaints, responding to sub-standard housing inquiries from tenants, investigating Development Code land use violations and ensuring site plan compliance for residential and commercial properties.

2015 Code Enforcement Division Caseload (Excluding Rental Licensing)			
Code Violation Type	# of Cases Created During 2015	# of 2015 Created Cases Closed During 2015	Case Resolution Percentage*
Property Maintenance Code	785	726	92%
Weed Code	635	635 (134 Mowed by City Contractor)	100%
Sidewalk Snow Removal	12	12	100%
Sidewalk Dining License Cases	71	60	84%
Right-of-Way Sign Code	15	15 (124 signs removed from ROW)	100%
Tree Code	35	35	100%
Sign Code (Private Property)	5	5	100%
Development/Land Use Cases	46	42	91%
Illegal Right-of-Way Cases	9	9	100%
ADA Complaints	3	3	100%
Fence Code	1	1	100%
Graffiti Code	10	10	100%
Total Code Enforcement Cases	1,627	1,553	95%
*Since Case Resolution Percentage measures the number of cases closed in 2015 that were created in 2015, it is not practical to reach 100% in most categories, except for seasonal items (sidewalk snow & weeds) because some of the cases, specifically those created in the later months of the year, would not have had sufficient amount of time to reach compliance.			

Staff attends the monthly Lawrence Association of Neighborhoods meeting and drafts a monthly newsletter for the organization about important development related items, including upcoming Planning Commission agendas, the Rental Licensing and Inspection Program and the Comprehensive Plan Update process.

*The City of Lawrence participates in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) administered by FEMA, making flood insurance available to all community property owners. In addition, the city participates in the **Community Rating System (CRS)** which enables property owners to receive 15% discount on flood insurance.*

Code Enforcement Division – Staff Education

- Dan Devin and Jerrad Lewis, Code Enforcement Officers, obtained their **Property Maintenance and Housing Inspector certifications** issued and governed by the International Code Council (ICC). The ICC is recognized as a foundation that is dedicated to developing model codes and standards used in the design, build and compliance process to construct safe, sustainable, affordable, and resilient structures by providing minimum safeguards for people at home, school and in the work place. By obtaining the Property Maintenance and Housing Inspector certification, these two staff members have demonstrated code proficiency for existing residential and nonresidential structures in regards to light, ventilation, heating, sanitation, protection from the elements, life safety, safety from fire and other hazards and for safe and sanitary maintenance of structures within our community. This knowledge is used daily in their primary job duties of inspecting residential rental dwellings units that are regulated by the City's Rental Inspection Ordinance and responding to tenant complaint inspections of such dwelling units.
- In addition, CED staff attended the **Kansas Association of Code Enforcement (KACE) spring conference** that was held in Overland Park, Kansas and the continuing education spring and fall seminars hosted by the Johnson County Contractor Licensing.

Code Enforcement Division - News of Note

- Staff prepared and presented two abatement resolutions (exterior yard violations and unsafe structures) of the Property Maintenance Code at **1231 Pennsylvania St.** The resolutions were adopted which resulted in the City continuing to work with the owner to bring the property into compliance.
- Staff executed an administrative search warrant for a deteriorated house located at **912 Chalk Hill Ct.** which resulted in staff presenting an abatement resolution to the City Commission. The resolution was adopted which prompted the owner to sell the property. The rehabilitation of the house began in December.
- Staff continued to monitor the rehabilitation of **1321 Tennessee St.** which had been previously presented to the City Commission in 2014 in lieu of an abatement resolution due to a significant fire. The property was successfully rehabilitated and is now rented for the 2015-2016 lease cycle.
- The City launched a new **Rental Licensing Interactive Map** in 2015 for citizens, prospective renters and landlords to access. The map can found at: <http://www.lawrenceks.org/pds/rental-licensing/map>. The map identifies all rental dwelling units that are licensed and in good standing with the rental licensing and inspection program requirements. The map is intended to provide consumers information about units that comply with the city's rental program as well as help landlords market their code-compliant properties. The map is linked to the department's home page. Citizens will be able to click on the blue map dot of a rental property and view the landlord name, zoning district, the number of units licensed and the apartment complex name if applicable. Staff believes the map will be a valuable resource for tenants, landlords and the general public as the program continues to license properties through 2015 and beyond.

Rental Licensing and Inspection Program

In 2015, the Code Enforcement Division (CED) completed the first full year of the expanded **Rental Licensing and Inspection Program**. Beginning on January 1, 2015, the licensing of rental properties located in non- RS zoning districts was initiated based on the licensing schedule table identified within the code. For the year, staff issued **5,547** licenses with a total of **15,523** dwelling units licensed. Staff collected a total of **\$325,894** in fees which includes license and inspection fees. For the year, inspection staff has completed **975** initial inspections, **531** re-inspections for a total of **1,506** inspections.

Program Standard violations were found in **583 (59.9%)** of the inspected units (average of **3.1** violations per unit). Some of the most common Program Standards violations found in 2015 have included inoperable or missing smoke alarms; missing or inoperable GFCI electrical outlets; missing electrical outlet covers; missing, inoperable and/or damaged windows and/or window locks; inoperable or improperly installed mechanical (HVAC) systems; and inoperable or improperly installed plumbing fixtures. In units where violations were found, violations were corrected within 60 days in **88.5%** of units.

Staff implemented the issuance of a master license for properties that have more than 2 dwelling units located on a parcel to better serve the property owner. The issuance of a master license streamlined the licensing process for property owners/agents of multiple dwelling unit properties while at the same time reduced work load for administrative staff.

The City has a dedicated Rental Licensing and Inspection website: <http://www.lawrenceks.org/pds/rental-licensing>.

In addition, the Rental Licensing and Inspection program can be reached at a dedicated phone number: **785-832-3345** and through a dedicated email address: rentallicensing@lawrenceks.org.

RENTAL LICENSE SUMMARY DATA		
		2015
LICENSES		
Licenses Issued - New and Renewed		5,547
Units Licensed - New and Renewed		15,523
Licenses Issued - Program Inception (July 1, 2014) to Month's End		6,407
Units Licensed - Program Inception (July 1, 2014) to Month's End		16,605
INSPECTIONS		
Initial, 3-Year, 6-Year or Additional Inspections Completed (by unit)		975
% of Units Inspected with Violations (for Initial, 3, 6 year or Additional inspections)		59.9%
Reinspections Completed		531
Reinspections Completed with Violations Corrected		509
Violations		
Average Number of Violations when Found		3.1
% of Units with Violations Outstanding after 60 Days		11.5%
% of Units Inspected that Qualify for Inspection Incentive (5 or less		92.2%
PMC Cases		
Total Number of PMC Cases Created as a Result of a Rental Inspection		314
% of Rental Units with PMC Case Created as Result of a Rental Inspection		36.7%
Total Number of Violations Found		763
Average Number of Violations on PMC Case		2.4
MISC.		
Number of Cases sent to Prosecution		35
FEES		
Total Fees Collected		\$325,894

Top Violations on a Rental License-YTD	
Description	# Found
6-1314(a)(23) Smoke Alarms	655
6-1314(a)(19) GFCI Receptacles	363
6-1314(a)(20) Receptacle Outlet Covers	133
6-1314(a)(7) Window Locks	90
6-1314(a)(14) Mechanical Appliances	84
6-1314(a)(15) Combustion Air	62
6-1314(a)(4) Handrails and Guards	54
6-1314(a)(11) Plumbing Fixtures	52
6-1314(a)(22) Egress Windows	48
6-1314(a)(17) Electrical System Hazards	41

Comprehensive Plan Update

In 2014, Staff started work on updating the City and County's comprehensive plan: **Horizon 2020**. The City and County Commissions adopted a joint resolution setting up a steering committee to oversee and guide the review process. The Steering Committee started their review with an extensive public input phase which included gathering comments from all stakeholders through a variety of public input meetings, presentations and surveys.

Following the public input phase, staff worked with the Steering Committee in 2015 to produce an **Issue Action Report** that identified key issues that are in need of revision. That report was adopted by the Planning Commission, City Commission and County Commission in 2015. Staff, in conjunction with the Steering Committee, will continue to work on updating the plan according to the Issue Action Report in 2016.

Steering Committee meetings are video recorded, and along with agendas and more information, can be found on the website:

<http://www.lawrenceks.org/pds/horizon-2020-update-process>

Planning Division Overview

The Planning Division oversees growth and development in the City of Lawrence and Unincorporated Areas of Douglas County with respect to zoning and land use. A great deal of the division's time is spent handling information requests from the development community, other departments, neighborhood groups, and the general public. The Planning Division reviewed a total of **649 applications**.

In 2015, City Site Plan Applications are taking an average of **36** business days to complete. The first round of review comments were sent to applicants an average of **10** business days after the application was submitted.

2015 Site Plans - Round 1 Review Statistics (Business Days)	
% Completed in 15 Days	89.5%
Average Review Time	10
Max Review Time	32
Min Review Time	1

2015 Site Plans - Processing Time (Business Days), Submitted to Approved	
Average Review Time	36
Max Review Time	69
Min Review Time	3

2015 Planning Submittals	
ACCESSORY DWELLING UNIT	7
AGRITOURISM	0
ANNEXATION	1
CERTIFICATE OF SURVEY RURAL	16
CERTIFICATE OF SURVEY URBAN	5
CITY SITE PLAN	77
CITY ZONING	28
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AMENDMENT	1
CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT	10
COUNTY SITE PLAN	11
COUNTY ZONING	1
DESIGN REVIEW (Historic Resources)	166
FENCE VARIANCE	2
FINAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN	9
FINAL PLAT	12
FLOODPLAIN DETERMINATION	65
FLOODPLAIN PERMIT	14
HOME OCCUPATION TYPE B	3
LANDMARK NOMINATION	10
MINOR SUBDIVISION	25
NONCONFORMING USE REGISTRATION	5
PRELIMINARY DEVELOPMENT PLAN	5
PRELIMINARY PLAT	6
SECTION 106 REVIEW (Historic Resources)	6
SIGN VARIANCE	1
SPECIAL EVENT	45
SPECIAL USE PERMIT	11
TEXT AMENDMENT	8
VARIANCE	28
ZONING CERTIFICATION	71
Total	649

MPO staff organized the 7th annual counts of pedestrians and bicyclists in 2015 as part of the National Bicycle and Pedestrian Documentation Project. Dozens of volunteers counted 6,633 pedestrians and 1,238 bicyclists at 25 locations around Douglas County including sites in Lawrence and Eudora. For more information about the bicycle and pedestrian count visit:

www.lawrenceks.org/assets/mpo/bicycle/BikeCountLawrence.pdf



*Development Services staff again recycled **60 lbs.** of aluminum cans throughout 2014. The money received from this project again benefitted the Lawrence Humane Society.*

Historic Preservation – Updates

Part of the purpose of the Conservation of Historic Resources Code is to foster and encourage the preservation, restoration, and rehabilitation of structures, areas, and neighborhoods and to foster and encourage the study and interpretation of our historic resources. 2015 was the 150th anniversary of the establishment of Oak Hill Cemetery and staff prepared two grants to encourage the continued preservation of this significant historic resource.

- The city received a Certified Local Government Grant to conduct a survey, write a National Register Nomination, and create a Teaching with Historic Places program for **Oak Hill Cemetery**.
- The City also received a Natural and Cultural Heritage Grant from Douglas County for the restoration of the **Receiving Vault** at Oak Hill Cemetery.

Spotlight on Current Planning Projects

During 2015, the Planning Division worked to process development applications and helped guide applicants through the development process. The following are a list of notable projects:

- Work to remodel the existing building at **2920 Haskell Avenue** began in 2015. The building has been modified to provide 5,500 sf for the **Lawrence Workforce Center**, 40,000 sf of manufacturing & production space for **Hyper Technology** and 33,000 sf for the **Peaslee Technical Training Center**, whose mission is to be a catalyst for economic growth by providing access to technical training to meet the emerging needs of our communities and employers.
- The **Lawrence College and Career Center** was constructed by USD 497 and opened in 2015 at 2910 Haskell Avenue adjacent to the Peaslee Center. The new structure includes 28,000 sf in the first phase and potential expansion to 56,000 sf of classroom and lab spaces. The Center provides hands-on learning experiences in an innovative, engaging environment.
- Redevelopment of the former Sears site located at 2727 S Iowa continued in 2015. Tenant finishes were completed for two new retailers in the development, **Ulta Beauty** and **Boot Barn**.
- The former Spangles Restaurant located at 3420 W 6th Street was demolished and a new building containing 4,700 sf was constructed. The redevelopment brought a new urgent care provider, **MedExpress**, to the community.
- Site plans for several new restaurants were reviewed and approved along the South Iowa Street corridor. The east end of the commercial development at 2329 S Iowa Street will be reconstructed to house **Texas Roadhouse**. Work is underway to construct **Raising Cane's Chicken Fingers** at 2435 S Iowa Street. A freestanding **Popeye's Louisiana Kitchen** was approved at 2540 S Iowa Street. Plans are also in review for a **Pie Five Pizza Co.** restaurant at 2500 S Iowa Street.
- Residential development highlights include a new 90-unit independent senior living community was approved and construction should begin in early 2016 at **Bethel Estates**. The development is located at the northwest corner of E 25th Street and O'Connell Road. Residential development was approved at **Bauer Farm**. The initial phase will include 100 multi-family dwellings located between W 6th Street and Bauer Farm Drive. **The West End/Kellyn Court Apartments** located at 5400 Overland Drive are under construction and will provide 172 multi-dwelling units in northwest Lawrence. A mix of single family and duplex homes, providing 87 new dwelling units, were approved as part of **Hutton Farms Phase II** located north of Peterson Road.

At the end of 2015, the City of Lawrence contained approximately 22,300 acres.

The Historic Resources Division reviewed over 170 projects for their impact on Historic Resources in 2015. This is in addition to providing guidance outside of formal development applications, staffing the Historic Resources Commission and processing Lawrence Register of Historic Places nominations.

More information on the Historic Resources and Preservation in Lawrence can be found at:

http://www.lawrenceks.org/pds/historic_resouces

*The **Small business Facilitator** can be reached at 785-832-3156 or visit the website at*

<http://lawrenceks.org/pds/small-business>.

Historic Preservation – Listing Properties

The **Lawrence Register of Historic Places** was created in 1988 and the first five properties were listed in 1990. During 2015, 6 properties (see below) were listed in the Lawrence Register bringing the total number of properties listed in the register to 90. Of the 90 properties, 28 properties have been listed in since 2013. Lawrence also has 834 properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places and the Register of Historic Kansas Places.

- 900 New York St - **Saint Luke AME Church**
- 1501 Pennsylvania St - **Samuel A Riggs House** (Pictured at Right)
- 1711 Massachusetts - **Eugene F. Goodrich House**
- 947 Louisiana Street - **Michael D. Greenlee House**
- 809 Vermont Street - **Lucy Hobbs Taylor House**
- 1005 Sunset Drive - **Fuller House**



Spotlight on Small Business Facilitator

The **Small Business Facilitator**, Cyndi Hermocillo-Legg, worked throughout the year to help businesses navigate the development process, including facilitating the Lunch N Learn series, and provided them with valuable resources to help their businesses grow. Initiatives of note include:

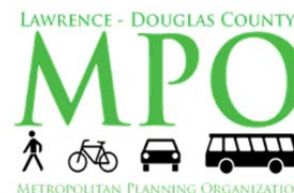
- **The Business Resource Guide**, which is designed to assist our local Small to Medium (SME's) sized businesses in their entrepreneurial pursuits, by giving them the tools and resources to strategically plan for their business needs and connect with the City's Small Business Facilitator.
- **GrowLawrence** is a road construction owner notification program that notified 147 small business owners or property owners of upcoming road construction projects so that they could plan effectively and stay informed.
- **BizFuel** is a public/private partnership between the City of Lawrence, Douglas County, the Lawrence Chamber of Commerce and other partners to assist Small to Medium Enterprises (SMEs) to start, grow, add jobs and succeed through a collective impact approach method.

Lunch N Learn

The Planning and Development Services Department continued a series of educational seminars for the development community designed to give insight on regulatory processes and services available in 2015. Four **Lunch N Learn** events were held: "The Comprehensive Planning Process", "Understanding the Sign Code", "Parking 101: Why it is Important to the Planning Process", and "The Plan Review and Approval Process". Between the four workshops, 86 members of the development community attended, including contractors, architects, engineers, developers and commercial real estate brokers. AIA continuing education credits were also offered for the sessions. Response from the development community has been favorable and staff will continue to host these sessions in 2016.

Transportation Planning Overview

The **Lawrence–Douglas County Metropolitan Planning Organization** (L-DC MPO) is designed to foster cooperation among local governments in the region to plan for and develop a multimodal transportation system. Special emphasis is placed on providing equal access to a variety of transportation mode choices (transit, bicycling, walking, automobile, carpool, etc.).



Find more information about the MPO online at: www.lawrenceks.org/mpo/

Transportation Planning Work Program

The MPO and its staff worked on many projects during 2015. The following items are highlights:

- Participated in the **Safe Routes to School** (SRTS) Planning Process with the Douglas County Health Department;
- Updated the regional **Intelligent Transportation Systems** (ITS) architecture to plan how technology and communications can improve the multimodal transportation system. ITS includes technologies like: detection systems and cameras for monitoring traffic conditions on roadways and dynamic message signs to provide real time travel information to users.
- Approved the **2016 Unified Planning Work Program** (UPWP) and completed quarterly amendments to the **2015-2019 Transportation Improvement Program** (TIP);
- Participated in conversations about **bicycle and pedestrian planning** with other local groups including the Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC), KU Bicycle Advisory Committee (KU-BAC), Lawrence Pedestrian Coalition, LiveWell Lawrence Healthy Built Environment Work Group, Lawrence Traffic Safety Commission, and other groups;
- Worked with paratransit and transit operators in Douglas County to implement the recommendations from the **Coordinated Public Transit - Human Services Transportation Plan** (CPT-HSTP);
- Awarded Competitive KDOT Consolidated Planning Grant (CPG) funding to complete a **Bike Share Feasibility Study** and a **Transit Comprehensive Operations Analysis** (COA) in 2016; and
- Obtained two LiveWell Community Wellness Grants through the Douglas County Community Foundation: to install four **bike repair stands and air pumps** and to install **three bike corrals** (30 bicycle parking spaces) and **44 spaces of on sidewalk bicycle parking** in Downtown Lawrence.

What is multimodal?
Multimodal planning refers to planning that considers a wide range of mobility options – automobile, public transit, walking, cycling, ridesharing (carpooling and vanpooling) and connections between modes.

Regional Pedestrian Plan

The **Regional Pedestrian Plan** is the first of its kind for the region. It presents a vision of safe and accessible pedestrian environments for all users. The Plan aims to help guide the planning of our diverse communities so that they develop into places where people are allowed the choice to get to their destinations on foot. When the plan is finalized in 2016 it will provide information about existing pedestrian infrastructure, possible funding, and implementation scenarios for each of the communities in Douglas County.

