The Hawthorn Foundation is a highly diverse group of Missouri leaders in business, education, economic development, healthcare and labor dedicated to making the state of Missouri stronger.

Hawthorn was created as a non-partisan, non-political organization of Missouri-based businesses and community leaders in statewide business recruitment, retention, and development efforts. Hawthorn also supports the State of Missouri government’s efforts to improve its effectiveness and efficiency to better serve its citizens.
Hawthorn Foundation

What we do....

• Trade Missions (attracting foreign business investment into our state)
• Missouri Partnership (outreach)
• Government Efficiency and Effectiveness
• Workforce Collaborative (strengthening our talent pipeline)
Governor’s Innovation Task Force

Developing strategy to spur startup activity and next-generation business creation:

- Conducted survey to all stakeholders (Waggl)
- Held meetings throughout the state
- Input from business, labor, academia
- Produced 114 page report with data, other information, branding issues, and recommendations.
- The governor, working with the legislature, proposed and will hopefully enact new initiatives which will foster new businesses and workforce development.
- “reducing red tape, improving training for Missouri's workforce, and encouraging small businesses and entrepreneurs to start and grow in our state”
- **Missouri Innovation Fund**: For startups and entrepreneurs
- New businesses need a ready and trained workforce or they will go elsewhere.
Governor’s Innovation Task Force

**WHY** You Should Care to Spur Innovation:

- Access to top talent and thinkers
- Opportunities to invest
- Opportunities to acquire/partner on innovation
- Startups and Entrepreneurs account for most new job creation (see GITF report 9/5/2017)
Hawthorn Foundation’s Infrastructure Task Force

- The Infrastructure Value Proposition
- An enviable transportation footprint (center of the NA Continent)
- Rail ready sites
- Affordable and convenient land for grassroots sites
- Available business ready real estate and buildings
- Utility company engagement and assistance
Hawthorn Foundation’s Infrastructure Task Force

WHY you should care?

• Stronger bridges and roads = ability to make future growth plans
• Creates stronger logistics centers
• Improves MO’s entire logistics/transportation system
• Moves large industrial properties from “For Sale” to “SOLD”!
Hawthorn Foundation

What’s next?

- New task forces (Fleet Management, Real Estate Management)
- New initiatives (Education, Executive Roundtable, etc.)

TBD

IMPACT!!
Hawthorn Foundation

If you’re not an Economic Development Hawthorn partner, now is the time to get on board!
Questions????