

Marion on the Move

I am proud to have been a part of Marion's growth in the 1980s. I helped found an architectural practice in 1978 in downtown Marion, owned key properties with Wayne Engel and John Schlotterback in Marion Square, and served as chair of the Marion Chamber in 1982. All of this creates special excitement for me to highlight the success Marion is experiencing now in 2015:

1. Population estimated at 36,774 and growing to 40,000 by 2020.
2. Over 200 units of housing being constructed annually.
3. Home to the most active certified industrial site in the state, The Marion Enterprise Center, which features the nearly complete ELPLAST America Plastics manufacturing plant and the Legacy Manufacturing facility scheduled for completion in early 2016. Add the adjacent municipal airport to the mix, and this complex is very unique.
4. Two new senior housing projects are scheduled to start construction in 2015 creating 130 living units.
5. The relocation of the Marion Iron Works to a new industrial campus is complete with 4 acres now available for redevelopment along the busy 7th Avenue corridor.



ELPLAST Manufacturing facility. Photo by MEDCO

6. The Central Corridor street project with east/west end round-a-bouts is in the final stages of acquisition and construction with the entire project scheduled to open in 2017.
7. A new hospitality industry study to determine the hotel needs for the community is underway, as the proposed Prospect Meadows Sports Complex is on track for a 2016 construction start.

But, the real evidence of **Marion on the Move** is exemplified by 2 projects:

- Eleventh Street Mixed Use Project
 9,000 SF of commercial space on 2 floors
 12 market-rate apartments
 The city's first parking ramp (330-370 spaces)
 \$16 million dollar investment
- The Proposed Library Redevelopment
 45,000 SF library
 Grocery store
 4,000 SF of commercial space
 55 market-rate apartments
 \$28 million dollar investment

WOW, what a great time to have or create a business in this city and/or be able to call Marion your home.

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11th Street mixed use. Rendering by Neumann Monson Architects