

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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**EAST-WEST GATEWAY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS ANNOUNCES 2026 OUTSTANDING
LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACHIEVEMENT HONOREES**

***Richard T. Bradley, Jerry Kane, and Paul Payne
to receive Gateway Lifetime Public Service Awards***

ST. LOUIS – East-West Gateway Council of Governments will honor 11 organizations and individuals with Outstanding Local Government Achievement (OLGA) awards at its Nov. 13 Annual Meeting and Luncheon at the Hyatt Regency St. Louis at the Arch. These awards recognize the extraordinary work of municipal, county, special purpose, and school district officials in the St. Louis (bi-state) region. This year's honorees are:

Gateway Lifetime Public Service Award, presented to individuals with records of exemplary public service spanning more than 30 years.

- Richard T. Bradley, president, Board of Public Service, City of St. Louis
- Jerry Kane, retired founder and executive director, Agency for Community Transit
- Paul Payne, director, Budget Division, City of St. Louis

Exemplary Accomplishment by a Local Government Jurisdiction, Agency, or Individual

- Brian Hendricks, chief, Mehlville Fire Protection District, for statewide advocacy in creating Safe Haven drop-off points for infants at risk of abandonment
- The BackStoppers Cardiac Wellness Program, The BackStoppers, Inc.
- City of St. Peters New Recycling Program and Material Recovery Facility, City of St. Peters

Exemplary Collaboration, Partnership, or Regional Initiative

- MetroLink Expansion Project to Mid-America St. Louis Airport, St. Clair County Transit District
- Dutchtown Beautification Initiative, Dutchtown Main Streets and Community Development Administration, and Employment Connection
- City of Wentzville Pedestrian Bridge Project, City of Wentzville

Leadership in Planning and Design Innovation

- AltonWorks, John and Jayne Simmons
- Lincoln Trail Great Streets Plan, City of Fairview Heights

Both [individual tickets and table reservations](#) for the 2026 Annual Meeting and OLGA Awards Luncheon remain available. For more information, [click here](#).

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Incorporated in 1965, East-West Gateway Council of Governments (EWG) is the St. Louis region's official council of governments (COG) and federally designated municipal planning organization (MPO). EWG provides a forum where local governments coordinate and work together to address and find solutions that cross jurisdictional boundaries. Its members include the City of St. Louis, Franklin, Jefferson, St. Charles, and St. Louis counties in Missouri, and Madison, Monroe and St. Clair counties in Illinois.

