This collection is available at The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-St. Louis. If you would like more information, please contact us at stlouis@shs.mo.org.

Introduction
Approximately 5 cubic feet

The Frank Hamsher papers contain correspondence, reports, meeting minutes, and newspapers, pertaining to Hamsher’s duties as the head of St. Louis City’s Community Development Agency (1981-1982) and counsel to Mayor Vincent Schoemehl (1982-1990). The bulk of the materials in this collection pertain to the St. Louis City-County Board of Freeholders, a nineteen-member panel first established by the Missouri Constitution of 1875, and later revived in 1987 by St. Louis County Executive, Gene McNary. The Board of Freeholders’ mission was to draft a plan for reorganizing St. Louis County municipalities, as well as consider the reunification of St. Louis City and County. Materials of interest include correspondence between Hamsher and Schoemehl, in which Hamsher provides him with advice and analysis on selecting candidates to the Board of Freeholders and public opinion regarding the Board of Freeholder’s plans.

Other subjects featured in this collection include the Schoemehl Administration’s efforts to convert Union Station into a hotel and shopping mall, the Gateway Mall project, and the St. Louis Center. An item of interest includes streetscape plans for Union Station. The majority of the collection is divided into six separate groupings, arranged alphabetically therein: The St. Louis City-County Board of Freeholders, the St. Louis City-County Board of Electors, Gateway Mall, Union Station, the St. Louis Center, and Redevelopment Projects. The materials in this collection date from 1961 to 1994.

A native of St. Louis, Missouri, Frank Hamsher graduated from Yale Law School and Princeton University’s Wilson School of Public and International Affairs. He returned to St. Louis in 1973 as a lawyer at the law firm of Husch, Eppenberger, Donohue, Elson, and Cornfeld. In April 1981, Mayor Vincent Schoemehl appointed Hamsher to lead the Community Development Agency, which oversaw federal community development projects relating to housing and economic redevelopment. After the Shoemehl administration reorganized the agency in January 1982 to deal exclusively with housing issues, Hamsher became Schoemehl’s counsel on redevelopment projects. During his tenure as counsel to the mayor, Hamsher was involved with the reopening of Union Station, the failed Gateway Mall project, as well as the St. Louis City-County Board of Freeholders. Hamsher left the mayor’s office on December 14, 1990, to join Fleishman-Hillard Inc., a public relations firm.

Donor Information
The papers were donated to the State Historical Society of Missouri by Frank Hamsher on September 11, 2018 (Accession No. 18-23).
The Donor has given and assigned to the State Historical Society of Missouri all rights of copyright, which the Donor has in the Materials and in such of the Donor’s works as may be found among any collections of Materials received by the University from others.

**Box List**

**Box 1**

St. Louis City-County Board of Freeholders

- Historical information, 1961, 1987
- 36 City Plan, 1988
- 42 City Plan, January-August, 1988
- Administrative and financial materials, September 28, 1987-September 22, 1988
- Agendas, minutes, and notices, November 5, 1986-September 19, 1988
- Airport, July 8-27, 1988
- Campaign (business), February-April, 1989
- Citizen’s comments, September 23, 1987-June 20, 1989
- City communications to Board, October 22, 1987-July 5, 1989
- Correspondence, 1987-1990 (3 folders)
- Draft plan, Governmental Reorganization in St. Louis and St. Louis County, September 1988
- Economic development, July 6, 1989-November 15, 1990
- Fire issues, 1988
- Fiscal plan, 1988
- Freeholders/County Plan, November 1987
- Government data (United States Census), 1985, 1987
- Ladue lawsuit, February 1989
- Lawsuit regarding property ownership requirement, November 4, 1987-June 15, 1989
- Legal materials, 1987-1989
- Meeting notes, 1987-1988
- Minority representation, January-February 1988
- Municipalities and Municipal League, September 12-October 4, 1988
- Newspaper clippings, 1987-1989

**Box 2**

- Pending issues, July-August 1988
- Plan for governmental reorganization in St. Louis and St. Louis County, 1988
- Post State Supreme Court, March 14-December 6, 1990
- Presentations to Board, October 5, 1987-August 28, 1988
- Proposals, October 6, 1987-December 7, 1987
- Public opinion, November 1987-June 1989
- Public outreach, October 14, 1987-August 22, 1988
- Report, guide, and plan, Coalition for an Informed Electorate, 1988-1989
Rules and procedures, September-October, 1987
Speaking engagements, September 20, 1988-June 8, 1990
Stadium Authority, November 13, 1987-May 5, 1988
Staff memos, October 29, 1987-April 27, 1989
Suit to reinterpret constitutional provision regarding board membership,
August 1989
Task Force for Improved Services, October 13-October 22, 1987
Tax data, 1984-1989
Taxes, draft plans, July 1-August 22, 1988
“Too Many Governments?” Confluence St. Louis, 1987
St. Louis City-County Board of Electors
Administrative materials, September 21-December 4, 1990
Correspondence, August 10-November 28, 1990
Issues, April 19-December 6, 1990
Legal issues, September 23, 1988-September 28, 1990
Meeting minutes and agendas, August 6-December 6, 1990
Membership, April 16-July 31, 1990
Presentation materials, September 13-November 8, 1990

Box 3
Gateway Mall
Board of Alderman bills, October 1-8, 1982
Building plans, no date
Cella, Charles J., Market Square Redevelopment Corporation,
March 31-September 28, 1982
Citizen comments, March 30-July 12, 1982
City block 131, 1978-1987
Community development agency report, July 1981-June 1982
Gateway Mall Redevelopment Corporation, February 23-June 28, 1982
Historic preservation issues, 1983-1984
Legal issues, 1983-1984
Lipton, Don, Landmark Redevelopment Corporation, 1982, 1985
Mayor’s compromise, June 22-23, 1982
Notes and memos, 1982-1984
Press, 1982-1991
Pride Development Corporation, development plans, June-September 1982
Public space, 1985, 1987
Serra sculpture, 1986-1987
Title Guaranty Redevelopment Corporation, 1982, no date

Union Station
18th street viaduct, 1984-1986
Aloe Plaza, June 28, 1985-July 21, 1986
American Institute of Architects, presentation regarding Union Station,
September 2, 1988-May 10, 1989
Amtrak, 1983-1986
Application materials, Urban Development Action Grant, April-September, 1982
Application notes, Urban Development Action Grant, April-September, 1982

Box 4
Correspondence, 1983-1990 (2 folders)
Grand opening, June 21-September 25, 1985
Minority business, 1984-1985
Newspaper and magazine clippings, 1985-1994 (6 folders)
Parking, publicity, retailers, and grand opening, 1983-1989
Promotional materials, 1981-1985, no date

Box 5
Promotional materials, 1982-1986
St. Louis Center party, July 2-September 11, 1985
Tax abatement, 1976-1987
Traffic, March 29-August 27, 1985
Urban Development Action Grant, refinancing, March 4-August 28, 1986
St. Louis Center
Correspondence and promotional materials, 1983-1989
Magazine and newspaper clippings and press releases, 1983-1988
(2 folders)
Redevelopment Projects
May Amphitheater, 1987-1988
St. Louis City-County Metropolitan Commission, February 10-July 29, 1988
Urban and Economic Development Action Grant, newspaper clippings, 1984-1988

Oversize Cabinet 2
Union Station
Economic Development Administration, Streetscape Improvements for Union Station, 1983-1984
Newspaper clippings, July 28-November 26, 1985 (2 folders)
Shopping Centers Today, article on Union Station, April 1987