Welcome to MRCTI! This is our tenth anniversary year. In 2012, local governments from across the Mississippi River Valley came together to create a new, influential, and independent voice for the Mississippi River region of Middle America. The Mississippi River Cities and Towns Initiative (MRCTI) addresses priorities set by member mayors through five major programs including:

- **Clean Water, Sustainable Economies, Disaster Resilience and Adaptation, International Food and Water Security, Celebration of River Culture, History, and Heritage.**

There are 124 Mayor-lead Mississippi River main stem cities and towns. These riparian population centers are soundly River-centric. MRCTI gives a common voice to cities along the World’s most vital working river and by virtue of doing so, spans political and economic interests. That is, it taps a natural source of the longed-for integration of transportation, farming, industrial, municipal and environmental interests to launch solutions.

The outcome of the MRCTI is designed to be tangible improvement of Corridor City **Infrastructure, Sustainable development**, and River economy and environmental protection emphasizing on vulnerable populations.

**A House of Many Brands:** Cities are diverse places with many cross currents and deep experiences. MRCTI too is an association with many efforts to meet the various needs of our Mayors across a vast geography.
**Successes of the MRCTI include:**

- Worked with Congress to form the first bi-cameral Mississippi River Caucus
- Deployed the Corridor’s first Environmental Impact Bonds for natural infrastructure
- Secured a 10-fold increase in funding for pre-disaster mitigation
- Established the River’s first corridor-wide non-federal sustainable development fund
- Increased and/or saved over $1 billion in federal funding for conservation, resilience, and infrastructure
- Developed and got enacted into law the Resilience Revolving Loan Fund Act (STORM Act)
- Restored the Marine Highway Grant Program from zero to over $10 million in annual funding

The MRCTI builds capacity of member mayors to undertake effective local initiatives to attract jobs, move to sustainable economies, and achieve local environmental protection goals. Ultimately, this work helps protect and restore the Mississippi River as a natural system that can sustainably support human culture and economies as well as wildlife.

MRCTI is a Mayor-led, Mayor-comprised effort empowering the ten States and over one hundred cities that border the waterway to act for its continued prosperity, sustainability, and economic growth.

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**Testimonials:**

*Thank you, MRCTI for helping us respond when we need it most.*
- LaToya Cantrell, Mayor of New Orleans, LA

*Our ability to be good stewards of the River is critical to our future.*
- Melvin Carter, Mayor of St. Paul, MN

*In the history of the U.S. there have been few efforts as important to our nation as MRCTI.*
- Andrew Young, Former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations

*Thanks to MRCTI, I have a better stormwater management plan with an EPA Grant to develop it further.*
- Sharon Weston Broome, Mayor of Baton Rouge, LA