

SEMCOG REGIONAL UPDATE

A BIWEEKLY PUBLICATION OF SEMCOG, THE SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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Executive Committee meets February 22

SEMCOG's Executive Committee will meet at 1 p.m. on Friday, February 22, 2008, in SEMCOG's downtown Detroit office. Action items to be considered by the committee are as follows:

- approving SEMCOG's FY 2008-2009 Annual Operating Budget and Work Program Summary for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2008;
- approving a Membership Drive incentive to be held in conjunction with SEMCOG's 40th anniversary. The incentive will provide a 50 percent initial year discount for members joining during calendar year 2008;
- approving the 2035 Forecast (of population, households, and employment for communities and small areas of the region from 2005 to 2035); and
- approving the adoption of the amendment of 16 projects to the 2030 Regional Transportation Plan for Southeast Michigan (RTP).

The Michigan Department of Transportation will provide an update on the status of the Detroit River International Crossing Project (DRIC). The presentation will review the two alternatives still under consideration, summarize the potential impacts of each, and identify the next steps in the process. *Contact: Amy Malmer, SEMCOG Membership Manager.*

Upcoming SEMCOG Universities focus on regional transportation and SEMCOG's new Web site

Regional Transportation Partnering Workshop: Working together for improved operations, safety, clearance, and communications — Monday, March 3, 2008, 8:30 a.m.-noon (registration begins at 8 a.m.). Transportation operations stakeholders will come together to network and learn the status of implementing the Southeast Michigan Regional Concept for Transportation Operations (RCTO).

Navigating SEMCOG's New Web Site — Tuesday, March 4, 2008, 9 a.m.-noon (registration begins at 8:30 a.m.). Learn how to get the most out of SEMCOG's newly designed Web site. The first hour will be an overview of the entire site. The rest of the workshop will be geared toward technical users focusing in-depth on getting the data you need and using available data for specific purposes.

Both workshops will be held in SEMCOG's Buhl Building office in downtown Detroit. SEMCOG University workshops are for members and partners; there is a \$75 charge for nonmember local governments. Seating is limited; please register online as soon as possible. At www.semco.org, click on the Calendar in the upper navigation bar; find the workshops on the March calendar.

Please also note that there's still time to register for the February 20 SEMCOG University – **Let's Get Physical: The benefits of promoting active communities** (from 4-6:30 p.m. at the Livonia Civic Center Library, 32777 Five Mile Road in Livonia). *Contact: Amanda Polanco, SEMCOG University Registrar.*

International Joint Commission to address local governments on Great Lakes Study

The International Joint Commission (IJC) will present an overview of the International Upper Great Lakes Study (IUGLS) to representatives of local governments and non-governmental organizations on Wednesday, February 20, 2008, beginning at 1 p.m. in SEMCOG's Ambassador Room.

The study was ordered by the IJC, a Canadian-U.S. environmental treaty organization. Its purpose is to identify any potential physical changes in the St. Clair River that have contributed to lower water levels in Lakes Michigan and Huron. More broadly, the study seeks to determine whether Lake Superior outflows should be altered to take into consideration a changing climate and changing interests of residents of the Great Lakes basin.

Representatives from the IJC and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are scheduled to speak. To attend the meeting, please register online at www.semco.org; click on the Calendar in the top navigation bar, then look for this meeting on February 20. Detailed information about the study is available at www.iugls.org. *Contact: Tom Black, IJC, at blackt@windsor.ijc.org, or 519-567-6972.*

Taubman Fellowship applications due March 3

Local elected officials and appointed staff from SEMCOG's member communities are eligible to apply for a fellowship to the prestigious program for Senior Executives in State and Local Government at Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government. Sponsored by the Taubman Company since 1991, the fellowships cover the costs of tuition, room, and board; travel is not included. Taubman Fellowships offer local

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government officials opportunities to improve their leadership skills and broaden their awareness of effective approaches to public sector problems during the three-week program in June or July. Completed applications are due to SEMCOG by 3 p.m. on Monday, March 3, 2008. *Contact: Amy Malmer, SEMCOG Membership Manager.*

New on the Web: A video message from SEMCOG Chair Bill Roberts

Click on the Members section (upper or left navigation bars) of SEMCOG's Web site – www.semco.org – then scroll down to the "Members Speak" link. The new video highlights some remarks by Bill Roberts, SEMCOG Chair and Mayor of Walled Lake. Past videos can also be found there, including the one featuring Michigan Governor Jennifer Granholm. *Contact: Sue Stetler, SEMCOG Communications Director.*

Additional materials from recent SEMCOG University on foreclosures on Web

SEMCOG and the Michigan Municipal League held a very successful SEMCOG University – Battling Foreclosures: What can elected officials do? To listen to a podcast (and view the one PowerPoint presentation) from this workshop, please go to www.semco.org, then click on Upcoming SEMCOG Universities under Hot Topics; once there, scroll down to Past SEMCOG Universities and click on the Community and Economic Development link. We will happily e-mail the link upon request. *Contact: Amanda Polanco, SEMCOG University Registrar.*

Winter issue of SEMscope now available

The Winter issue of *SEMscope*, SEMCOG's quarterly magazine, has been mailed. It contains a story about SEMCOG's 40th anniversary, focusing on how we've evolved throughout the years and includes some interesting observations from past chairs and partners. There is also a tear-out list of SEMCOG Universities especially for local elected

leaders; please keep it for future reference. Additional copies of this issue are available. A PDF of this issue is posted on www.semco.org; look for it under Reports on the home page. *Contact: SEMCOG Information Center.*

Job opening at SEMCOG

SEMCOG is seeking a self-starting individual with extensive local government experience for a new position in SEMCOG's Community and Economic Development Department – Facilitator of Intergovernmental Agreements. This individual will work with groups of local governments to identify, encourage, facilitate, and provide technical assistance to help engage SEMCOG members in joint purchasing, sharing facilities and equipment, and/or providing governmental services that save taxpayer dollars and improve the quality of these services. Read a complete description of this job and its qualifications at www.semco.org; click on About in the upper navigation bar, then Careers. *Contact: Greg Thomas, Human Resources Manager.*

SEMCOG is a regional planning partnership of governmental units serving 4.9 million people in the seven-county region of Southeast Michigan striving to enhance the region's quality of life. *Regional Update* is a publication of SEMCOG, financed through funds from state and federal grants and dues from member communities.

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