

# SEMCOG REGIONAL UPDATE

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

Vol. 14, No. 14

June 30, 2008  
Special General Assembly/40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Issue

## June General Assembly/40<sup>th</sup> anniversary highlights

More than 300 people attended SEMCOG's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration and the annual General Assembly (GA) meeting on Thursday, June 26, 2008, at the Village Pavilion Greenfield Village in Dearborn. The following is a list of SEMCOG officers for 2008-2009:

- **Mary Blackmon**, Chairperson; Wayne County Regional Education Service Agency;
- **Robert Hison**, First Vice Chair; Mayor of St. Clair Shores (will become Chairperson in 2009);
- **Robert Cannon**, Vice Chair; Supervisor, Clinton Township;
- **Philip Cavanagh**, Vice Chair; Commissioner, Wayne County;
- **Gretchen Driskell**, Vice Chair; Mayor of Saline; and
- **Michael Sedlak**, Vice Chair; Clerk, Green Oak Township.

## Bloc election results

Elections were also conducted for each Bloc at Bloc Caucus meetings. Here are the results of those elections:

### County Bloc

- Chair — Joan Flynn, Macomb County Commissioner
- Vice Chair — Floreine Mentel, Monroe County Commissioner
- Delegates to Regional Clearinghouse Review Committee — Betty Slinde, Macomb County Commissioner and Pam Wall, Vice Chairperson, St. Clair County Board of Commissioners
- Alternates to Regional Clearinghouse Review Committee — Eric Coleman, Oakland County Commissioner and Milt Mack, Chief Judge, Wayne County Probate Court
- Delegate to Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Development Committee — John Scott, Oakland County Commissioner
- Alternate to Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Development Committee — R. LaMar Frederick, Monroe County Commissioner

### Township Bloc

- Chair — Richard Henningsen, Northville Township Treasurer

- Vice Chair — David Flaisher, West Bloomfield Township Supervisor
- Delegates to Regional Clearinghouse Review Committee — Richard Henningsen, Northville Township Treasurer and Joe Zurawski, York Township Supervisor
- Alternates to Regional Clearinghouse Review Committee — David Flaisher, West Bloomfield Township Supervisor and Tom Raymond, Cottrellville Township Supervisor
- Delegate to Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Development Committee — Donald Green, Milford Township Supervisor
- Alternate to Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Development Committee — Patricia Pilchowski, Highland Township Supervisor

### City and Village Bloc

- Chair — Ronald Gillham, Mayor of Huntington Woods
- Vice Chair — Robin Beltramini, Troy Councilmember
- Delegates to Regional Clearinghouse Review Committee — Allen Dickinson, Grosse Pointe Woods Mayor Pro Tem and Susan Rowe, Wayne Councilmember
- Alternates to Regional Clearinghouse Review Committee — Jeff Jenks, Huntington Woods Commissioner and Florence Hayman, New Baltimore Councilmember
- Delegate to Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Development Committee — William Roberts, Mayor of Walled Lake
- Alternate to Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Development Committee — Scott Moore, Birmingham Commissioner

### Education Bloc

- Chair — Joan Gebhardt, Schoolcraft College Board of Trustees
- Vice Chair — Alan Anderson, Wayne County Community College District Trustee
- Delegate to Regional Clearinghouse Review Committee — Max McCullough, Vice President, Macomb ISD Board of Education
- Delegate to Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Development Committee — Joan Gebhardt, Schoolcraft College Board of Trustees

# REGIONAL UPDATE

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**Mary Blackmon's incoming Chair remarks**  
"I am honored and pleased to be elected Chair of SEMCOG during our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration. Not only do I lead this great organization for my one-year term, I am leading us into our next 40 years. I am proud to be Chair of SEMCOG

**Bill Roberts' outgoing Chair remarks**  
"I have been pleased and honored to be SEMCOG's Chair during this milestone year. My City of Walled Lake is a charter member of SEMCOG and I have personally been involved for much of its history. As a 22-year-old elected to the Walled Lake City Council, I was encouraged to participate, as well as having my city participate in SEMCOG by its first Chair, Milford Township Supervisor Larry Mainland. My involvement couldn't have been more strongly rewarded than when you elected me to chair this organization. an organization I greatly appreciate and highly respect. Throughout its 40-year history, the work of elected officials governing SEMCOG, its officers, and the staff have increased the influence and capacity of the organization. We are a positive force in the region!"

**Membership report: Strength and growth**  
As part of its 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration, SEMCOG is in the midst of a membership drive, with the goal of reaching 165 members. Since January, SEMCOG has welcomed five new members — Capac, Center Line, Chesterfield Township, Pleasant Ridge, and Van Buren Township. Current membership is at an all-time high of 158! SEMCOG's member communities believe that the strength of local governments working together to solve problems is better than any one community doing it alone. SEMCOG acknowledged the fiscal challenges that local governments are currently facing by reducing dues for the current year. Counties, who pay the majority of SEMCOG membership dues, are seeing, on average, a 5.3 percent dues reduction. Membership dues for local governments are reduced an average of three percent.

**View highlights of General Assembly on Web**  
From SEMCOG's home page — [www.semco.org](http://www.semco.org) — link to Podcasts in the upper right bar, then look for the General Assembly link in the center of the page. Contact: SEMCOG Information Center for additional information on anything contained in the special issue of *Regional Update*.

representing our education membership. And frankly, it couldn't be a more important time for an education member to be Chair. SEMCOG's forecasts this past year described how our economy is transforming — from an auto manufacturing base to a knowledge base. Those forecasts very strongly stated the necessity...the imperative...for better education in our region...better K-12 education for our children and adults — whether through college or skilled workforce training. I pledge, through SEMCOG, to strengthen the ties among education, our communities, and our economy to help meet these challenges this year and for the next 40 years."

**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.

**Mary Blackmon**, Chairperson  
Wayne County Regional Education Service Agency  
**Paul E. Tait**, Executive Director  
**Susan L. Stetler**, Editor

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# SEMCOG REGIONAL UPDATE

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Vol. 14, No. 15

July 7, 2008

## SEMCOG invites public comment on amendment to Transportation Improvement Program

SEMCOG announces the public comment period for an amendment to the FY2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), the short-range planning tool used to implement the goals, objectives, and projects found in the long-range 2030 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). Projects must appear in the TIP in order to receive federal transportation funding. This amendment adds 71 projects and removes eight for a net increase of \$128.1 million. The FY2008-2011 TIP has an estimated expenditure of \$2.7 billion.

Comments can be sent to the SEMCOG Information Center or can be made in person at the following meetings all held at SEMCOG offices:

- Transportation Improvement Program Development Committee (TIPDC), July 16, 2008, 10 a.m.;
- Transportation Advisory Council, July 23, 2008, 9:30 a.m.; and
- Executive Committee, July 25, 2008, 1 p.m.

A complete list of all TIP projects is available from the SEMCOG Information Center, or on SEMCOG's Web site — [www.semco.org](http://www.semco.org); link to Public Notices from the top navigation bar. *Contact: SEMCOG Information Center.*

## SEMCOG to hold public meetings this month to set future transportation direction

North. South. East. West. Whatever direction you're going, you need a way to get there. **Direction2035** will set the long-range direction for a transportation system in Southeast Michigan that is accessible, safe, and reliable and contributes to a higher quality of life for Southeast Michigan citizens

The local elected officials representing SEMCOG's member governments are responsible for establishing that direction, but they need the public's help. They want to hear from the public about how the transportation system is performing and how citizens would prioritize future transportation investments.

To that end, SEMCOG invites the public to express opinions at one of the following meetings:

- Monday, July 21, 2008, SEMCOG offices, 535 Griswold, Suite 300, Detroit; 4-7 p.m. (formal presentations begin at 4:10 p.m. and 5:40 p.m.);

- Tuesday, July 22, 2008, Southfield Public Library, 26300 Evergreen Rd., Southfield; 4-7 p.m. (formal presentations begin at 4:10 p.m. and 5:40 p.m.); and
- Wednesday, July 23, 2008, Washtenaw Community College, Morris Lawrence Building, Ann Arbor; 9 a.m.-12 noon (formal presentations begin at 9:10 a.m. and 10:40 a.m.).

At these meetings, the public can complete SEMCOG's public opinion survey, browse information stations to learn how the transportation system works, spend \$100 in "SEMBucks" on various transportation improvements, and provide verbal or written comments.

Results will be presented to SEMCOG's elected officials before they adopt an official investment direction that will guide the submission of projects for funding by state and local road and transit agencies. For more information about **Direction2035**, visit [www.semco.org/Long-RangeTransportationPlan.aspx](http://www.semco.org/Long-RangeTransportationPlan.aspx). *Contact: SEMCOG Information Center.*

## SEMCOG University presents a Regional Traffic Safety Forum

SEMCOG University presents *Regional Traffic Safety Forum: Making the transportation system safer and more secure* on Wednesday, July 30, 2008, from 9 a.m.-12 noon (registration begins at 8:30 a.m.) in SEMCOG's Buhl Building office in downtown Detroit.

This SEMCOG University workshop will provide traffic safety stakeholders a forum to learn about some old and new strategies that improve traffic and road safety through community awareness, better nonmotorized (pedestrians and bikes) design practices, and improved intersections in Southeast Michigan. State and local planners and engineers, consultants, policymakers, local law enforcement, and other traffic safety partners would benefit from this workshop. Please register for this workshop online at [www.semco.org](http://www.semco.org) via the Calendar (upper navigation bar on the home page). *Contact: Amanda Polanco, SEMCOG U Registrar.*

## Tour the impact development best practices at SEMCOG University on August 7

SEMCOG University presents *It's Easy Being Green: Rain gardens, green roofs, and bioswales*, a guided bus tour of best practices, on Thursday, August 7, 2008, from 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Registration begins at 8 a.m. at the covered public

## SEMCOG Regional Update

pavilion at G. George Memorial Park on Moravian Road in Clinton Township, MI (park on the east side of Moravian Road, south of Cass Avenue). This SEMCOG University workshop will provide local elected leaders, public works staff, and municipal planners with a better understanding of Low Impact Development (LID) techniques to help protect water resources and enhance their communities. This guided bus and walking tour will provide an overview of various LID techniques and will visit some of the case studies located in Macomb County. While on the tour, participants will learn about LID techniques to manage stormwater, including rain gardens, green roofs, bioswales, native landscaping, and pervious pavement; local examples of successful LID techniques; and an overview of SEMCOG's LID manual. Registration is required for this workshop, as there are just 60 seats available on the bus. Please register online at [www.semco.org](http://www.semco.org) via the Calendar (upper navigation bar on the home page). This tour will include a fair amount of walking. Please dress comfortably and wear appropriate walking shoes. *Contact: Amanda Polanco, SEMCOG U Registrar.*

### Nominations accepted for Shining Light Regional Cooperation awards

Public nominations for three prestigious *Shining Light Awards* are now being accepted:

- Neal Shine Award for Exemplary Regional Leadership,
- Eleanor Josaitis "Unsung Hero" Award, and
- Dave Bing Future Leader Award.

Sponsored by the *Detroit Free Press* and Metropolitan Affairs Coalition, the awards recognize individuals who are making important contributions to regional cooperation, progress, and understanding in metropolitan Detroit. The specific area of cooperation is not restricted and may involve working across jurisdictional boundaries on social, economic, environmental, or quality of life issues affecting the region. Nominations are due by July 29, 2008.

Award recipients will be recognized at a breakfast ceremony to be held on October 9, 2008 at The Westin in Southfield, beginning at 8 a.m. More information on the Shining Light Awards and nomination process can be found on SEMCOG's Web site under Hot Topics on the home page. *Contact: (248) 336-8699 or [info@shininglightawards.com](mailto:info@shininglightawards.com).*

### CEDAC, EAC joint meeting is July 11

SEMCOG will convene a joint meeting of its Community and Economic Develop Advisory Council (CEDAC) and Education Advisory Council (EAC) on Friday, July 11, 2008, beginning at 9:30 a.m. in SEMCOG's Ambassador Room to focus on the relationship between education, workforce development, and economic development. Elsie Harper-Anderson, from the University of Michigan, and Gregory Pitoniak, from Southeast Michigan Community Alliance (SEMCA), will present ideas on strengthening this connection. *Contact: Naheed Huq, Manager, SEMCOG Community and Economic Development.*

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