

# SEMCOG REGIONAL UPDATE

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

Vol. 12, No. 19

September 10, 2007

## Executive Meeting meets September 28

SEMCOG's Executive Committee will meet on Friday, September 28, 2007, in SEMCOG's downtown Detroit office. Action items to be considered by the committee are as follows:

- amendment to 2030 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP);
- resolution supporting federal action on ballast water;
- work program amendment concerning the Detroit to Ann Arbor rail study;
- designation of non-voting delegates to the Executive Committee; and
- bylaws amendment — proportional allocation of votes for school bloc members.

Kim Schatzel, Director of the Center for Innovation Research at the UM-Dearborn School of Management, will discuss the Entrepreneurial Cities Index study, an annual research study that examines the factors that influence entrepreneurship, economic development, and job growth. *Contact: Amy Malmer, SEMCOG Membership Manager.*

## SEMCOG hosts DWSD meeting on September 18

The Detroit Water and Sewerage Department (DWSD) will hold the first in a series of four meetings with its community customers on the 2008-2009 sewer and water rates on Tuesday, September 18, 2007, in the Ambassador Room of SEMCOG's downtown Detroit office (535 Griswold, Suite 300). The focus will be to present the Capital Improvement Program for the DWSD Water Supply and Sewage Disposal Systems. The meeting will be held from noon to 4 p.m.

All sewer and water customer communities are encouraged to attend this session. Lunch will be provided at SEMCOG from noon to 1 p.m. Please contact George Ellenwood (313) 964-9460 (or send e-mail to [ellenwood@dwsd.org](mailto:ellenwood@dwsd.org)) at least two days before the meeting to RSVP.

Structured similar to last year's customer meetings, preliminary budget data will be presented as it becomes available throughout the process, culminating with the proposed rates in advance of the formal public meetings.

The next three meetings will be held:

- Wednesday, October 10, 2007;
- Tuesday, November 13, 2007; and
- Monday, December 10, 2007.

Please refer to the DWSD Web site — [www.dwsd.org](http://www.dwsd.org) — for the final meeting schedule with times, agendas, and background materials.

Proposed rates for 2008-2009 will be in place prior to the public hearing, scheduled for early 2008. *Contact: Angela Riess, SEMCOG Environmental Programs.*

## 2035 forecast member outreach meetings in Oakland, Washtenaw Counties scheduled for September

SEMCOG's 2035 forecast member outreach meetings begin this month. A facilitated discussion of each county's recent past, near-term population and job forecast, and possible actions necessary to respond to future challenges will be held. Members are encouraged to attend. Below are details on the first two workshops in Oakland and Washtenaw Counties.

- Oakland County — Tuesday, September 25, 4-5:30 p.m.; Oakland Executive Office Building, Waterford; and
- Washtenaw County — Thursday, September 27, 7-8:30 p.m.; Washtenaw Intermediate School District, Ann Arbor.

You can register online now for these meetings. A complete list of all workshops can be accessed from SEMCOG's meeting calendar at [www.semco.org](http://www.semco.org). Watch your mail for additional information. *Contact: Amy Malmer, SEMCOG Membership Manager.*

## Executive Committee tours race exhibit

SEMCOG's Executive Committee toured the *Race: Are We So Different* exhibit at the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History Museum on August 23, 2007. "It is important to understand how race has influenced our past and present and may influence our future," noted Paul Tait, SEMCOG Executive Director. Executive Committee members participated in hands-on activities and gained perspective on three different aspects of race and racism — science, history, and everyday impact. *Contact: Amy Malmer, SEMCOG Membership Manager.*

## MCDDA conference is October 3-5

SEMCOG is proud to co-sponsor the Michigan Community Development Directors Association (MCDDA) conference on October 3-5, 2007, at Grand Valley State University - Eberhard Center in Grand Rapids, MI. The conference, "Building Great Communities through Creativity, Innovation and Inspiration," will focus on energizing practitioners and revitalizing the spirit of community development in Michigan through educational sessions and

networking. There will also be sessions on leveraging public dollars by working with community foundations; creating housing opportunities for persons with special needs; innovative approaches to community development; and a tour of Grand Rapids' downtown. *Contact: Clarinda Harrison, SEMCOG Community and Economic Development Planner.*

**September is storm drain awareness month**

With almost five million people living in Southeast Michigan, we all need to be aware of what goes into our storm drains. Storm drains lead to our lakes and streams. So, any oil, pet waste, leaves, or dirty water from washing your car that enters a storm drain gets into our lakes and streams.

Here are a few individual actions that will help protect our environment:

- **Sweep it.** Sweep extra fertilizer, grass clippings, or dirt off your driveway and back onto your lawn. Hosing your driveway sends these pollutants into storm drains.
- **Keep it clean.** Whether in the street or in your yard, remember to keep leaves, grass clippings, trash, and fertilizers out of storm drains.
- **Only rain in the drain.** Never dump motor oil, chemicals, pet waste, dirty or soapy water, or anything else down the storm drain.
- **Label it.** Volunteer to label storm drains in your neighborhood to inform residents that storm drains flow directly to our lakes and streams.

Please view the new SEMCOG video on best practices to help keep pollution out of our storm drains. Click on the Ours to Protect logo on SEMCOG's Web site. *Contact: SEMCOG Information Center.*

**Freight conference set for September 17-18**

This day-and-a-half conference (at the Park Inn, 101 N. Summit St., Toledo, OH) sponsored by the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments, will bring

together transportation professionals and economic development interests in a review of challenges and opportunities in the freight and transportation industry. Topics will include on public/private partnerships, planning for freight movement, security concerns, and recent innovations in freight handling. Register at [www.tmacog.org](http://www.tmacog.org). *Contact: Patrick Dennis, TMACOG, at 419-241-9155, ext. 115.*

**Using native vegetation for shoreline buffers**

On August 21, 2007 SEMCOG University discussed the numerous tools and techniques of installing native vegetation along the shores of ponds, lakes, and streams to discourage geese from using these areas. SEMCOG will host a Native Plant workshop this winter, which will provide further information on the benefits of using native plants, design aspects for various sites, maintenance requirements, and community case studies. Watch for additional information in upcoming issues of *Regional Update*. *Contact: Check Hersey, SEMCOG Environment 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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