

SEMCOG REGIONAL UPDATE

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RTP and TIP amendments announced

SEMCOG announces the public comment period for projects being considered for amendment to the long-range 2030 Regional Transportation Plan for Southeast Michigan (RTP) and the FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

The RTP amendment proposes 13 projects for amendment by local agencies — four new projects and a change in scope to an existing project, and nine existing projects from which funds will be transferred to some of the new projects.

The TIP amendment adds 118 projects and removes five for a net increase of \$352.5 million. The FY 2008-2011 TIP has an estimated expenditure of \$2.5 billion.

Projects in RTP and TIP amendments must undergo the same scrutiny as original projects — an air quality conformity analysis, an environmental justice review, a public comment process (details are available from SEMCOG), and must be constrained to reasonably available funding.

Information on how to comment and a list of upcoming meetings where comments can be made in person is available on SEMCOG's Web site (www.semco.org) under Public Notices in the upper navigation bar. *Contact: SEMCOG Information Center.*

Upcoming SEMCOG Universities focus on transportation funding and traffic noise

Fixing the Transportation Funding Crisis: The road to prosperity — May 13, 2008, 9 a.m.-noon (registration begins at 8:30 a.m.). This workshop will educate local elected leaders on the importance of fully funding the transportation system from an economic development perspective. Attendees will also be updated on current transportation funding issues, such as the need for alternative funding.

Highway Traffic Noise Guidebook: A community planning approach to noise abatement — May 20, 2008, 9 a.m.-noon (registration begins at 8:30 a.m.). Attendees will learn about highway noise and how to mitigate the need for costly abatement through community planning techniques, with a focus on a pilot study along M-6 in Grand Rapids. This workshop is for county and local agency planners, engineers, and consultants, and local government decision makers.

These SEMCOG University workshops, held in SEMCOG's Ambassador Room, are free-of-charge for members; there is a

\$75 charge for nonmember local governments. Seating is limited. Please respond as soon as possible. You can also register online at www.semco.org through the Upcoming SEMCOG Universities link under Hot Topics on the home page.

New tools available on SEMCOG's Web site to address local government effectiveness

Local governments interested in enhancing service effectiveness, operating efficiencies, and intergovernmental cooperation have two new tools accessible from the Local Government Effectiveness page on SEMCOG's Web site (www.semco.org); access the page from Programs and Projects in the left navigation bar. The self assessment tool gives local governments a better understanding of their effectiveness in providing timely services in a cost effective manner. A list of successfully implemented ideas provides the driving force behind improvements in local government efficiency. *Contact: Dave Boerger, SEMCOG Consultant.*

Member Outreach election results

SEMCOG announces the new members of the Executive Committee elected at the Oakland and Monroe County Member Outreach workshops and the General Assembly.

Oakland County

The delegates representing cities and villages are Walled Lake Mayor William Roberts and Madison Heights Councilmember Margene Scott; the alternates are Troy Councilmember Robin Beltramini and Huntington Woods Commissioner Jeff Jenks. Elected as the delegate representing townships is West Bloomfield Twp Supervisor David Flaisher; the alternate is Highland Twp Supervisor Patricia Pilchowski.

Monroe County

Elected as the delegate representing cities and villages is Monroe Councilman Edward Paisley; the alternate is Petersburg Councilman Jim Holeman. Elected as the delegate representing townships is Frenchtown Charter Township Supervisor James McDevitt; the alternate is Bedford Township Supervisor Walt Willburn.

Education Bloc

The delegate representing ISDs and ESAs is Macomb ISD Board of Education Vice President Max McCullough; the alternate is Wayne County RESA Board of Education Member Mary Blackmon. Elected as the delegate representing community colleges is Joan Gebhardt, Schoolcraft College

SEMCOG Regional Update

Trustee; the alternate is Alan Anderson, Wayne County Community College Trustee.

Elections are for a one-year term beginning July 1, 2008.
Contact: Amy Malmer, SEMCOG Membership Manager.

Climate Change Action Council meets at SEMCOG on April 25

SEMCOG is hosting a meeting of Governor Granholm's Climate Change Action Council on April 25 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. The council was appointed by the governor and charged with developing a climate change action plan by December 2008. On April 25, the council will discuss suggested high priorities and recommendations for an interim report to the governor. Contact: Chuck Hersey, SEMCOG Manager of Environmental Programs.

Brownfields 2008 in Detroit, May 5-8

The *Brownfields 2008* conference will be held in Detroit on May 5-7. This national conference is the largest, most comprehensive conference focused on cleaning up and redeveloping abandoned, underutilized, and potentially contaminated properties in the nation, and is expected to draw upwards of 6,000 participants. Registration is free, and includes the Brownfields Transaction Forum, educational and plenary sessions, networking events, and more.

SEMCOG is a co-sponsor of this event, and will be moderating a roundtable session, "Brains and Brownfields: Building Places for the Knowledge Economy," scheduled for Monday, May 5, 2:45 p.m. You're invited to share ideas with participants from around the country on the role of brownfields in rebuilding communities. Also, we encourage you to visit the SEMCOG booth in the conference exhibit hall. It is not too late to register for this free conference. Register at www.brownfields2008.org until April 23; onsite registration in Detroit begins at 12 noon on May 4. Contact: Kevin Johnson, Senior Planner, SEMCOG Community and Economic Development.

SEMCOG co-sponsors Harvard Forum on April 29

SEMCOG is a co-sponsor of a Harvard Forum on *Speeding Technology Transfer in Michigan's Research Corridor*, on Tuesday, April 29, 2008, from 4-7 p.m. at Pierpoint Commons, East Room, University of Michigan North Campus, 2101 Bonisteel Blvd., Ann Arbor, MI 48109. For more information, contact: 248-446-8799.

SEMPeople

Ed Koryzno, Ypsilanti City Manager, is the new President of the Michigan Local Government Management Association.

William Roberts, Mayor of Walled Lake; Jeff Jenks, Huntington Woods Commissioner; Robin Beltramini, Troy Councilwoman; Donald Fracassi, Southfield Councilman; Shea Charles, Howell City Manager; and Mark Vanderpool, Sterling Heights City Manager, recently received the Michigan Municipal League's Outstanding Service Award as part of a 12-member Legislative Policies Re-write Subcommittee of the Governance Committee.

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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