

SEMCOG REGIONAL UPDATE

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

Vol. 13, No. 6

March 10, 2008

General Assembly meets on April 3

The General Assembly (GA) of SEMCOG will meet on Thursday, April 3, 2008, at the Rock Financial Showplace (48100 Grand River Ave., Novi 48374) beginning at 4:30 p.m. (registration begins at 4).

A panel of local leaders will respond to the implications of SEMCOG's 2035 Forecast (of population, households, and jobs) and members will be asked to adopt this forecast. Also at the meeting, the GA will be requested to adopt:

- SEMCOG's FY 2008-2009 Annual Operating Budget and Work Program Summary for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2008, and
- an amendment to the 2030 Regional Transportation Plan.

As SEMCOG begins work on the 2035 Regional Transportation Plan, one of the first steps is to hear what residents think about the region's transportation system and the priorities for the future. A scientific survey will be in the field at the time of this General Assembly. Delegates and alternates to the General Assembly will take a sample survey at the GA using keypad voting. *Contact: Kathleen Lomako, SEMCOG Deputy Director.*

Member Outreach meetings to be held in April

SEMCOG's 2008 member outreach workshops will be held in each of our seven counties during the month of April. Please save the date below and attend the program in your county. Complimentary lunch or dinner will be served. Elections to the Executive Committee will be conducted.

- Oakland County — Tuesday, April 8, 4:30 p.m.-6 p.m.; Embassy Suites Detroit-Southfield, Southfield;
- Monroe County — Thursday, April 10, 4:30-6:00 p.m.; Cabela's, Dundee;
- Wayne County — Thursday, April 17, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.; Crowne Plaza, Romulus;
- St. Clair County — Tuesday, April 22, 4:30-6 p.m.; St. Clair Inn, St. Clair;
- Washtenaw County — Wednesday, April 23, 4:30-6 p.m.; Weber's Inn; Ann Arbor
- Macomb County — Thursday, April 24, 4:30 p.m.-6 p.m.; Andiamo, Warren; and
- Livingston County — Tuesday, April 29, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.; Genoa Woods Conference Center, Brighton.

You can register online now for these meetings on SEMCOG's calendar. Look for the calendar link on the top navigation bar of SEMCOG's home page at www.semco.org and watch your mail for additional information about two weeks prior to the meeting. *Contact: Amy Malmer, SEMCOG Membership Manager.*

CEDAC meets on March 14

SEMCOG's Community and Economic Development Advisory Council (CEDAC) meets on March 14, 2008 at 9:30 a.m. in SEMCOG's Ambassador Room. The agenda includes a presentation by Dan Hunter, Robert Donohue, and Lola Are from Oakland County Planning and Economic Development Division on the county's focus for economic development. In addition, Faron Supanich-Goldner and John Melcher from Michigan State University's Center for Community and Economic Development will discuss research findings on Downtown Development in a Knowledge Economy.

CEDAC will also discuss legislation that would provide for federal funding to local governments to redevelop abandoned and foreclosed homes and for innovative practices to achieve greater energy efficiency. *Contact: Naheed Huq, SEMCOG Manager of Community and Economic Development.*

Grants available for local governments; check semco.org for more

Below are descriptions of current grant opportunities for local governments. We have created a special page on the Members section of www.semco.org with information on available grants. Please check that page for additional information. To access, link to Members from the top navigation bar on the home page, then look for Grants about halfway down the right side of the page.

Homeland security – The Department of Homeland Security recently released application guidance for 14 federal grant programs aimed at strengthening prevention, protection, response, and recovery capabilities at all levels of government. Applications for Infrastructure Protection Program funds are due March 17, 2008 and applications for Homeland Security Grant Program funds are due May 1, 2008. *Further information: www.dhs.gov.*

Economic development – The Economic Development Administration has announced total funding of \$249,100,000 for the FY 2008 Economic Development Assistance Programs Competition. Proposals are accepted on a continuing basis for

public works, planning, local technical assistance, and economic adjustment assistance programs. *Further information:* www.eda.gov.

Water redevelopment – The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) announces approximately \$750,000 in Waterfront Redevelopment Grant funds is now available for projects across the state. MDEQ is requesting proposals for projects that revitalize waterfronts, create economic benefit for communities, and provide waterfront access for the public.

The Clean Michigan Initiative Waterfront Redevelopment Grant Program has funded 62 grant projects in 47 communities, totaling almost \$50 million. A number of these projects were completed under budget and have returned unexpended funds to the Waterfront Redevelopment Grant fund which is now available for new projects. Waterfront Redevelopment Grant funding can be used for any of four eligible activities: Environmental response activities, project acquisition, infrastructure, and public facility improvement and demolition. The project can be part of a larger development or a stand-alone project. The proposal must include a minimum 25 percent local match.

Proposals will be accepted until March 26, 2008. Applicants must also submit a Waterfront Redevelopment Plan along with the application. *Further information:* www.michigan.gov/deqbrownfields, or from Nancy Steffen at (517) 373-9540.

Commuter Challenge 2008: A better way of getting to work

SEMCOG and its partners are continuing the Commuter Challenge for a third year. The goal is to encourage commuters to find an alternative (e.g., carpool, vanpool, transit) to the drive alone work commute and alleviate some congestion. Not only will using an alternative commute to work remove vehicles from our roads, but will also save you money. Commuter Challenge runs from April 7-11. By

signing up for the “challenge” you will have a chance to win great prizes like an iPod, \$50 gas card, and a monthly transit pass. Additional information is available from the RideShare link on SEMCOG’s Web site. *Contact:* Iris Steinberg, SEMCOG Senior Communications Specialist.

Protect water quality in Southeast Michigan: Clean up after your pet

The fifth year of the “Seven Simple Steps to Clean Water” public education program for water quality begins this month with messages about picking up after your pet. Please remember that pet waste contains bacteria that is harmful to us and our water. Leaving it on the sidewalk or lawn means this bacteria will be transported into storm drains and then into our lakes and streams. Please dispose of pet waste in the toilet or the trash. Materials and messages about cleaning up after your pet are available on www.semco.org (link to Services, then click on Protect in the left navigation bar on the home page). *Contact:* SEMCOG’s Information Center.

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.

William T. Roberts, Chairperson
Mayor, Walled Lake
Paul E. Tait, Executive Director
Susan L. Stetler, Editor

SEMCOG Contact Information:
Southeast Michigan Council of Governments
535 Griswold Street, Suite 300, Detroit, MI 48226
313-961-4266 • Fax: 313-961-4869
Staff e-mail: lastname@semco.org
www.semco.org

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