

SEMCOG REGIONAL UPDATE

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

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September 29, 2008

SEMCOG member survey in the mail soon

SEMCOG values all of its members and wants everyone to benefit from SEMCOG membership. To that end, SEMCOG is surveying its members about their experiences with our services and about their current and future needs. Results will help SEMCOG align its work program to better service members. Surveys are being sent to elected and appointed officials and staff in all of our member communities. We hope that everyone who receives a survey will take the time to complete the survey. *Contact: Amy Malmer, SEMCOG Membership Manager.*

Save the date: SEMCOG's November 20 General Assembly to feature progress on transit

Please join us on Thursday, November 20 beginning at 4:30 p.m. for SEMCOG's Fall General Assembly meeting that will feature a report to the region on transit in Southeast Michigan. There is much positive news to report. The keynote speaker will be Edsel Ford, Lead Champion of the One D Transforming Regional Detroit initiative. Also featured will be John Hertel, CEO, Detroit Regional Mass Transit. The meeting will be held at the Sterling Inn (34911 Van Dyke, Sterling Heights). Watch for additional information in the mail and on www.semco.org. *Contact: Kathleen Lomako, SEMCOG Deputy Executive Director.*

SEMCOG releases statistics on deer crashes in Southeast Michigan

There were 6,280 vehicle-deer crashes in Southeast Michigan in 2007 (down from 6,358 in 2006 and up from 6,097 in 2005), according to figures released by SEMCOG. That figure represents 4.5 percent of all crashes in 2007 (140,115 total).

County	2006 deer crashes	All crashes	Percentage
Livingston	1,157	5,401	21.4
Macomb	659	23,798	2.8
Monroe	288	4,050	7.1
Oakland	1,876	37,781	5.0
St. Clair	797	4,425	18.0
Washtenaw	1,169	10,787	10.8
Wayne	334	53,873	0.6
SE Michigan	6,280	140,115	4.5
Michigan	61,907	324,174	19.1

Rochester Hills and Scio Township experienced the most deer crashes in Southeast Michigan in 2007. Those SEMCOG member communities in the top 10 list — Rochester Hills, Scio Township, Independence Township, Orion Township, Oxford Township, Brighton Township, Oakland Township, Washington Twp., Genoa township, and Shelby Township, along with Livingston and Oakland Counties — will each receive, from SEMCOG, a special informational display customized for their community on the dangers of deer crashes, along with "take with" materials for residents.

SEMCOG is a member of the Michigan Deer Crash Coalition (MDCC), working to raise awareness of and decrease vehicle-deer crashes. A press conference will be held in Rochester Hills on September 30. For more information, visit the MDCC Web site; look under hot topics on SEMCOG's home page. *Contact: Tom Bruff, SEMCOG Transportation Coordinator.*

Executive Committee meeting highlights

View highlights of the September 26 Executive Committee meeting at www.semco.org. From the home page, link to Podcasts in the upper right bar, then look for the Executive Committee link in the center of the page. Highlights include Susan Mortel, Director of the Bureau of Transportation Planning at the Michigan Department of Transportation, discussing the current state transportation funding situation and the impacts this will have on state and local governments. Other highlights include the discussion that surrounded establishing a guide for spending transportation funds as part of the region's next long-range regional transportation plan and the formation of a new task force to evaluate and recommend revisions to SEMCOG's policies related to infrastructure. *Contact: Sue Stetler, SEMCOG Director of Communications.*

SEMCOG releases combined sewer overflow report

Southeast Michigan has invested \$2.4 billion in projects designed to reduce combined sewer overflow (CSO) pollutant discharges, resulting in an 85 percent reduction in untreated CSO discharges. According to a report just released by SEMCOG, those investments continue to improve water quality and quality of life in Southeast Michigan. The report, *Investment in Reducing Combined Sewer Overflow Pays Dividends*, was created jointly with the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department (DWSD) and several of its customers,

and is available in PDF format on SEMCOG's Web site, www.semco.org; look under Reports on the home page. Contact: Chuck Hersey, SEMCOG Manager of Environmental Programs.

Shining Light Awards honor regional leaders

Winners of the Shining Light Regional Cooperation Awards, sponsored by the Metropolitan Affairs Coalition and the *Detroit Free Press*, will be honored on October 9, 2008 at a special breakfast ceremony at The Westin in Southfield, MI, beginning at 8 a.m.

The three Shining Light Award recipients are:

- *Neal Shine Award for Exemplary Regional Leadership* — Dr. David DiChiera, Founder & General Director, Michigan Opera Theatre
- *Eleanor Josaitis "Unsung Hero" Award* — Carol Goss, President & Chief Executive Officer, The Skillman Foundation
- *Dave Bing Future Leader Award* — Kerry Doman, Founder & Chief Executive Officer, After 5 Detroit

The awards ceremony and breakfast is open to the public. Tickets are \$35. Contact: www.shininglightawards.com or call 248-336-8399 for more details.

Federal brownfield grant opportunities available

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has posted competitive EPA Brownfield grant opportunities for 2009 on its Web site. The proposal deadline is November 14, 2008. These grants may be used to address sites contaminated by petroleum and hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants (including hazardous substances co-mingled with petroleum). Additional details about these grants are available on SEMCOG's Web site; visit the Members page and look for Grants. EPA's Web site has the detailed Proposal Guidelines; visit www.epa.gov/brownfields/applicat.htm. Contact: Kevin A. Johnson, Senior Planner, SEMCOG Community and Economic Development.

\$3.9 billion in CDBG emergency funding to local governments

On July 30, 2008, the Housing and Economic Recovery Act was signed into law. Included in this legislation is \$3.92 billion in emergency CDBG grants directed to states and local governments for redevelopment of abandoned and foreclosed homes. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is expected to release the allocation formula and program regulations on September 29, 2008. It is expected that a good percentage of Michigan's funds will be directed to Southeast Michigan as the seven-county SEMCOG region accounted for 74 percent of all foreclosure notices filed in the state in August 2008. Additional information on this funding is available on SEMCOG's Web site. Click on the link "Emergency foreclosure funding." Local governments are encouraged to visit this page often as SEMCOG will update this page as HUD releases the allocation formula and distribution of funds. Contact: Kevin Vettrano, Planner, SEMCOG Community and Economic Development.

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
Treasurer,

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

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SEMCOG UNIVERSITY

SEMCOG, the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments, 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.

Membership in SEMCOG is open to all counties, cities, villages, townships, intermediate school districts, community colleges, and public universities in Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, St. Clair, Washtenaw, and Wayne Counties.

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SEMCOG UNIVERSITY

PRESENTS

Winter Road

Maintenance:

Policy, Practice, and Technology

Thursday, October 23, 2008
SEMCOG Offices in the
Buhl Building
(535 Griswold St., Suite 300
Detroit 48226) and online via Webinar
9 a.m.-noon
(Registration begins at 8:30 a.m.)

SEMCOG

... Equipping local government leaders for the future

Southeast Michigan Council of Governments

LEARN ABOUT

Winter road maintenance guidance/policies.
Effective winter road maintenance practices.
Cost-effective/salt-saving solutions.
Improving service delivery through technology.
Strategies to minimize harmful effects on environment and transportation infrastructure.

PRESENTERS

Tom MacDonald, Wayne DPW Director
Mark Cornwall, Schmidt North America
Randy McKinney, MDOT Metro Region, Maintenance Engineer
Bob Myleyriak, Road Commission of Macomb County, Maintenance Superintendent
Curt Dumas, St. Clair Shores DPW Director
Peter Matheson, Windsor DPW Maintenance Manager
Dr. Lawrence Sutter, Michigan Tech Transportation Institute, Director

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

This SEMCOG University workshop is free-of-charge to SEMCOG members and partners; there is a \$75 charge for nonmember local governments. Seating is limited, so you are encouraged to **reserve a seat by October 16, 2008**. When registering online, please indicate in the "Additional Comments" box whether you plan to attend in person or via Webinar.

Parking at the Larned/Griswold garage will be validated. Please use the Griswold entrance. If there is a sign saying the garage is full, please tell attendant you are here for a SEMCOG meeting.

BACKGROUND

Managing a winter maintenance program today is an increasingly complex endeavor. With tight budgets and the high expectation of the public for keeping roads clear of snow and ice, today's maintenance manager has to be able to handle multiple tasks or risk getting behind the onslaught of winter weather. To meet these challenges, a brainstorming meeting was facilitated by the City of Wayne DPW earlier this year with researchers, local road maintenance, and operating agencies.

As a result of that meeting, this workshop is built to serve as an educational experience, and networking event focused on strategies and methods to improve the efficiency of winter road maintenance efforts.

OBJECTIVE

To provide a forum for discussing winter road maintenance practices, sharing information and experiences, and advancing cost-effective and environmentally friendly methods for snow and ice removal.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

State, county, and local planners, engineers, consultants, policy makers; maintenance and public works personnel.

Questions about this SEMCOG University?
Please call Amanda Polanco at 313-324-3362.

REGISTRATION

Winter Road Maintenance: Policy, Practice, and Technology

Thursday, October 23, 2008
9 a.m.-noon

Register online at www.semco.org. Find the workshop link under *Hot Topics* on the home page.

Or mail reply card to: SEMCOG
Attn: Amanda Polanco, SEMCOG U Registrar
535 Griswold St., Suite 300 • Detroit, MI 48226

Or fax this card to: SEMCOG • Attn: Amanda Polanco
(313) 961-4869

Please indicate below whether you are going to participate online or on-site.

Online On-site

Name: _____

Title: _____

Affiliation: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

Space is limited.
Please respond by October 16, 2008