

# SEMCOG REGIONAL UPDATE

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

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July 21, 2008

## Executive Committee meets on July 25

SEMCOG's Executive Committee will meet at 1 p.m. on Friday, July 25, 2008, in SEMCOG's downtown Detroit office. Action items to be considered by the committee are:

- approving a resolution in support of House Bill 5892, which provides for an extension to the "Emergency Telephone Service Enabling Act" from February 28, 2009 to December 31, 2013. This act enables funding of 9-1-1 programs;
- approving the Finance and Budget Committee recommendation to employ a dues freeze and reduction for 2009; and
- approving an amendment to the FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program to add 71 projects and delete eight projects (net amount of amendment is \$128.1 million, representing increases of \$95.9 million in federal, \$17.2 million in state, and \$15 million in local funding).

Transportation needs are growing while resources are shrinking. Executive Committee members will participate in an interactive discussion to develop transportation performance targets and investment choices for six key components of the 2035 long-range regional transportation plan — public transit, pavement, bridges, congestion mitigation, nonmotorized, and safety.

Molly Luempert-Coy, Regional Manager of DTE Energy, and Peter Smith, Manager of Nuclear Development Programs of DTE Energy, will be the featured speakers, discussing potential plans for a new nuclear facility in Monroe County. *Contact: Kathleen Lomako, SEMCOG Deputy Executive Director.*

## Advisory council appointments announced

SEMCOG advisory council chair and vice chair appointments for 2008-2009 were recently made by SEMCOG Chair, Mary Blackmon, Wayne County RESA Treasurer:

- Bylaws and Legal Committee: Chair — **William Roberts**, Walled Lake Mayor.
- Community and Economic Development Advisory Council (CEDAC): Chair — **Susan Rowe**, City of Wayne Councilmember; Vice Chairs — **Robin Beltramini**, City of Troy Councilmember, and **Kevin McNamara**, Wayne County Commissioner.

- Data Center Advisory Council (DAC): Chair — **Jeff Jenks**, City of Huntington Woods Commissioner.
- Education Advisory Council (EAC): Chair — **Max McCullough**, Macomb ISD Board of Education Vice President; Vice Chairs — **Alan Anderson**, Wayne County Community College District Board of Trustees Trustee, and **Debbie Macon**, West Bloomfield Township Trustee.
- Environmental Policy Advisory Council (EPAC): Chair — **Kathy Vosburg**, Macomb County Commissioner; Vice Chairs — **Rodrick Green**, Superior Township Trustee, and **James McDevitt**, Frenchtown Township Supervisor.
- Finance and Budget Committee: Chair — **Pamela Wall**, St. Clair County Board of Commissioners Vice Chair; Vice Chairs — **Kenneth Cockrel, Jr.**, City of Detroit Council President, and **Thomas Goldenbogen**, City of New Baltimore Mayor.
- Transportation Advisory Council: Chair — **Patrick Sutka**, City of Wyandotte Councilman; Vice Chair — **S.A. Trudy Swanson**, City of Ypsilanti Mayor Pro Tem.
- One task force continues. **Gordon Allardyce** chairs the Southeast Michigan Air Quality Task Force.

Advisory councils, committees, and task forces play important roles at SEMCOG. They direct regional plans and policies, recommend positions on state and federal legislative and regulatory proposals, and guide SEMCOG Executive Committee and General Assembly action. *Contact: Amy Malmer, SEMCOG Membership Manager.*

## SEMCOG transportation planning process certified by federal officials

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) have certified SEMCOG's transportation planning process for Southeast Michigan. The current review found that the transportation planning process conducted in the Detroit/Ann Arbor metropolitan area substantially meets the federal transportation planning requirements. The review team highlighted four areas of good practice including development of the report, *Integrating Environmental Issues in the Transportation Planning Process: Guidelines for Road and Transit Agencies*, development of a Regional Concept of Transportation Operations, efforts to identify transportation

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funding shortfalls, and involvement in development of the State Highway Safety Plan.

The review team also made 14 recommendations for areas where the transportation planning process could be improved. Work is underway on these items.

FHWA and FTA are required to jointly review and evaluate the transportation planning process for each urbanized area over 200,000 in population at least every four years to determine if the process meets the federal planning requirements. The next review is scheduled for 2012.

The complete June 2008 Transportation Planning Certification Summary Report can be accessed in PDF on the Transportation page of SEMCOG's Web site — [www.semco.org/transportation.aspx](http://www.semco.org/transportation.aspx). *Contact: Carmine Palombo, SEMCOG Director of Transportation Programs.*

### Washtenaw ISD is SEMCOG's newest member

SEMCOG welcomes the Washtenaw Intermediate School District (ISD) as its newest member. Washtenaw ISD serves more than 48,000 students and 4,800 public school employees, as well as more than 70 school board members in its 10 local school districts and nine public school academies. *Contact: Amy Malmer, SEMCOG Membership Manager.*

### SEMCOG's Regional Concept for Transportation Operations project receives national recognition

SEMCOG recently received a 2008 Transportation Planning Excellence Award for its Regional Concept for Transportation Operations (RCTO) project. This project sets a regional vision for the operation of the transportation system. The vision is designed to make the system more efficient and reliable. This is a biennial awards program developed by the Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration (and co-sponsored by the American Planning Association) to recognize outstanding initiatives across the country to develop, plan, and implement innovative transportation planning practices. Thanks to SEMCOG's partners in this effort — the

Michigan Department of Transportation; Michigan State Police; and Hubbell, Roth, and Clark — for their roles in developing one of the three initial ROTCs nationally. *Contact: Tom Bruff, SEMCOG Transportation Coordinator.*

### Grant opportunity for local governments

The Centers for Regional Excellence (CRE) has announced a new round of grants. The program encourages increased collaboration, efficiency, and cooperative problem-solving among communities. Under the grant, the CRE will provide eight grants of up to \$25,000 over two years. Proposals focusing on regional economic development, which include a greater variety and number of governmental organizations and community stakeholders, will be given priority. The grant application deadline is September 3, 2008, with an announcement of grant recipients in late October. A conference call will take place on July 22 to answer questions and provide information about the grant. *For more information visit [www.michigan.gov/cre](http://www.michigan.gov/cre).*

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  
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