



**Mid-Missouri Regional
Planning Commission**

The Current

Connecting the Cities and Counties of the Mid-Missouri Region

July 2007 Announcements

**MMRPC
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MoDNR \$50 Million in Grants and Loans
To be reviewed at July 25 MMRPC Meeting

Joy Reven, of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MoDNR) Water Protection Program will address the MMRPC membership at the July 25 meeting to be held at the Copper Kettle Restaurant in Ashland. Reven will address the membership regarding funding assistance from the MoDNR for small drinking and wastewater systems.

The MoDNR has received approval from the Missouri legislature for the sale of state water pollution control bonds to support grants and loans to small drinking water and wastewater systems. A total of \$50 million in bonding is approved.

Grant funds will be targeted to drinking water and wastewater projects. There are two grants that will be available for wastewater projects.: 1- State Forty Percent Grants are directed to unsewered districts and communities with populations under 1,000 and 2- State Rural Sewer grants that will fund up to 50% of a project cost and are directed to help communities add sewer connections and to assist publicly owned wastewater treatment facilities upgrades to meet more stringent operating permit requirements

The Commission meeting begins with dinner being served at 6:00p.m., followed by the presentation by Ms. Reven. For additional information contact the MMRPC Office at 573.657.9779.

**MMRPC Board Adopts
FY08 Budget and Work Program**

The MMRPC Executive Board adopted the budget for the upcoming fiscal year at the Executive Board meeting on June 27. The projected FY08 budget indicates a total funding level of \$472,850.

The staff of the MMRPC will continue to focus on providing administrative and technical assistance to the MMRPC membership in the areas of economic development, transportation, and community planning. Identified new projects to be undertaken include the City of Ashland Comprehensive Plan, and the preparation of the Regional Human Service Coordinated Public Transit Plan.

Partnerships that Work

Helping communities comes in an assortment of packages. The big package or project such as sewer system improvements that can impact an entire community; to the smaller package that involves helping an individual family. Here is a small package example.

June was National Home Ownership month.

Throughout June, USDA recognized organizations that assist in helping people purchase homes or those who assist existing home owners. On

Thursday, June 28, 2007 Mid-Missouri Regional Planning Commission staff member Colleen Vollman accepted an award from USDA Rural Development staff person Jan Bonnes for the coordination efforts Colleen undertook to assist a family in the City of Armstrong, Missouri. The project involved relocating a family into a rehabilitated house that was quit claimed to them by their daughter.

Elwood and Fleeta Jackson had applied for assistance to repair their home through the Community Development Block Grant program several years ago. Based on their income levels they qualified to receive assistance; however, the house that they lived in needed repairs beyond what was monetarily available to them in the grant. At the time of their application Mr. Perry Lovett suggested that the Jackson's also apply to the Central Missouri Community Action (CMCA) program in an effort to add to the funding. Although the Jackson's qualified for assistance, multiple concerns prevented CMCA from being able to assist in the project. The Jackson's daughter, Denise, suggested that she quit claim the house she owned in Armstrong over to her parents, hoping that would the available funding be enough to rehabilitate her house? MMRPC staff went to CDBG Compliance Specialist Denise Derks regarding this possibility. CDBG staff approved the transfer of ownership so that the project could continue. During the course of making inquiries on behalf of their parents, the Jackson's daughters also approached USDA about applying for a home loan at 1% interest to make additional improvements not covered by the CDBG grant or CMCA funds.



**Colleen Vollman,
Regional Planner/
Grant Writer for the
Mid-Missouri Regional
Planning Commission
receives an
Appreciation Award
from USDA's,
Jan Bonnes on
June 27, 2007.**

The total funding for this project is approximately \$35,000.00, with contributions from MoED Community Development Block Grant, USDA Rural Development, and the Columbia based Central Missouri Community Action Program and the City of Armstrong. The following is a list of all those involved in making this project a success: Tess Hayes, City Clerk, City of Armstrong; David Gregory, Central Missouri Community Action; Jan Bonnes, USDA Rural Development; Denise Derks, Compliance Specialist, Community Development Block Grant Program; Perry Lovett, Regional Development Services, INC; and Colleen Vollman, Regional Planner/Grant Writer, Mid-Missouri Regional Planning Commission. Colleen said "I could not have made all of these things happen by myself and I am grateful and thank each and every person who has provided time and effort to help Elwood and Fleeta Jackson."

Announcements

Missouri's 2007 DREAM Initiative - Assistance with Downtown Revitalization

Applications Due July 6

Gov. Matt Blunt has recently announced the opening of the Downtown Revitalization and Economic Assistance for Missouri (DREAM) initiative for 2007. The initiative was created last year to help small and mid-size Mo. communities the opportunity to revitalize their once prosperous and promising downtown areas. The program assists selected communities in understanding the various downtown revitalization, business development and residential resources available through state government programs. Applications will be due by 5 PM on July 6, 2007 and may be obtained through the DREAM Internet site, www.dream.mo.gov/.

Report Shows Big Improvement in Missouri Roads

Missouri's rank in overall performance of its state highway system jumped 11 spots in one year, from 28th in 2004 to 17th in 2005, according to figures released by the Reason Foundation - the second-largest increase in the nation, trailing only Nevada. For the five-year period from 2000 to 2005, Missouri's jump was even more dramatic -- from 39th to 17th in overall performance. Missouri was second only to New Mexico in the largest five-year improvement. The non-profit research and education organization cited Missouri's major improvements in road conditions statewide. Missouri also had the third lowest administrative costs per mile and the sixth lowest project expenses per mile - key measures of efficient operations and management.

Despite this progress, the Reason Foundation report warned about future transportation challenges. MoDOT's annual construction program will sharply fall from \$1.23 billion in 2008 to \$569 million in 2010. The state faces a transportation funding shortfall of \$18 billion over the next 20 years. The Reason Foundation report can be found online at <http://reason.org/ps360/>. The TRIP report is on the Web at <http://www.tripnet.org/>.

MMRPC Transportation Committee to Determine Transportation Priorities July 25th.

The Mid Missouri RPC Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) will evaluate transportation investment priorities for the Region at their July 25th meeting. This opportunity provides MoDOT and statewide planning agencies a list of potential investment priorities (projects or and/or general transportation initiatives to pursue if the state's investment in transportation is increased. The priorities list includes the following categories- specific roadway projects, multimodal projects, and general transportation programs or initiatives.

Calendar

July 4th. **MMRPC Office closed.**

July 11. **Small Business Leadership Series.** 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. Columbia Country Club. Sponsored by the University Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship. Session focuses on legalities of human resources, including interviewing, FMLA, and more. For more information call 573.882.7096

July 17. **Area F Homeland Security Oversight Committee.** 1:30 p.m. Jefferson City. Jefferson City Police Department Training Classroom. For additional information contact Reece Rose or Lee Ann Jestis at 573.657.9779

July 25.. **Mid-Missouri Regional Planning Transportation Advisory Committee.** 4:30 p.m. Copper Kettle Restaurant. Ashland. For additional information contact the MMRPC office at 573.657.9779., or see www.mmrpc.org.

July 25. **Mid-Missouri Regional Planning Commission.** 6:00 p.m. Copper Kettle Restaurant. Ashland. For additional information contact the MMRPC office at 573.657.9779. or see www.mmrpc.org.

July 31. **MoDOT and the Joint Committee on Transportation Oversight.** 9:00 a.m. Capitol Plaza Hotel, Jefferson City, 2007 Transportation Funding Summit. Register online at www.senate.mo.gov/tranporation (deadline July 16, 2007). For more information contact Heidi Kolkmeyer at 660.351.2663

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