



**Mid-Missouri Regional  
Planning Commission**

# The Current

*Connecting the Cities and Counties of the Mid-Missouri Region*

## June 2007 Announcements

### MMRPC EXECUTIVE BOARD:

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### 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. The Missouri Department of Economic Development (DED) is working with the Missouri Housing Development Commission and the Missouri Development Finance Board to provide assistance to the selected communities. The goal of the DREAM Initiative is to help the selected communities re-establish the properties in use in the downtown core, increase property tax values and sales tax opportunities, re-establish a sense of place and cultural heritage in the heart of the community, and attract private investment and new jobs.

Applications will be due by 5 PM on July 6, 2007 and may be obtained through the DREAM Internet site, [www.dream.mo.gov/](http://www.dream.mo.gov/). Two applications are available, one for previous applicants who were not selected as part of the first ten and a second for first time applicants. Last year, communities selected included Cape Girardeau, Excelsior Springs, Hannibal, Hermann, Kennett, Neosho, Sedalia, St. Joseph, Washington and West Plains.

### MMRPC Transportation Committee to Determine Transportation Priorities

The Mid Missouri RPC Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) will evaluate transportation investment priorities for the Region at their July 25<sup>th</sup> 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.

Cities and counties should submit priorities by the end of June. This will allow time for MoDOT and MMRPC staff to compile cost estimates and supporting data prior to the TAC meeting on July 25.

### MMRPC Interns

Diana Gaughan and Zach Walker are graduate students at the Truman School of Public Affairs at University of Missouri-Columbia. They are interning at the Mid-Missouri Regional Planning Commission

as planning interns over the summer. Activities they will be working on include the regional transportation plan, and the City of Ashland Comprehensive Plan,

Diana Gaughan, originally from Versailles, MO, completed her undergraduate degree at William Jewell College, where she also worked as a Human Resources Assistant. At the Truman School, her specializations are Regional Development and Public Policy as well as a GIS Certificate. This past year, Diana has worked for the Institute of Public Policy and the Community Information Resource Center at MU.

Zach Walker, originally from Trenton, Missouri, is a 2005 graduate of the University of Missouri, earning a BA in Political Science. Upon graduating, he worked as a legislative assistant in the Missouri House of Representatives before returning to pursue his masters. In addition to his coursework, Walker is a graduate research assistant in the Asian Affairs Center, teaching American government and public policy classes to visiting government officials from various Asian nations. He is specializing in Regional Development and Public Management.

### June EDAC Meeting Change

The Economic Development Advisory Committee (EDAC) meeting scheduled for **Tuesday, June 12, 2007 at 10:00 a.m.** has been changed to **Monday, June 11, 2007 at 10:00 a.m.** so that Mary Paulsell, Director of the University Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, can present current economic information and data regarding the Mid-Missouri region to the EDAC. The information provided by Ms. Paulsell will be incorporated into the current Mid-Missouri Regional Planning Commissions' (RPC) "Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy" (CEDS) document; this document is used by RPC staff and member counties and communities as an economic development planning tool.

The presentation will cover the state of the regional economy, trends, and resources for economic development in Mid-Missouri. The Mid-Missouri region has many unique advantages and opportunities for economic growth, including interstate and major highway access, and a concentration of higher education and health care facilities. In 2005, the per capita income in the Mid-Missouri region was \$29,888 (MERIC). The 2005 per capita income for the state of Missouri was \$31,231. All MMRPC counties except Howard have had a positive rate of economic momentum, as defined by the Missouri Department of Economic Development. Since 2000, there has been an overall 7 percent increase in housing units for the region, with growth in all counties.

Between 2002 and 2012, the MMRPC counties will see the largest declines in factory jobs, clerical positions, stock clerks, electronics assemblers, computer operators and tailors or dressmakers. The highest growth in the MMRPC counties will be in personal financial advisors, software and systems engineers, network systems analysts, vehicle mechanics, environmental engineers, fitness trainers, respiratory therapists and database administrators.

**Please remember to mark your calendars to reflect the meeting change as noted above.**

## Announcements

### **MERIC Looks to the Future with New Industry Cluster Report**

A recently released MERIC research report provides an overview of Missouri's eight targeted industry clusters identified by the Missouri Department of Economic Development. The report "Looking to the Future: Missouri Targeted Industry Clusters" combines economic analysis of historical employment data, projections, mapping, current and future trends, discussions of Missouri's strengths and industry highlights. For more information visit the MERIC website <http://ded.mo.gov/researchandplanning/>.

### **USDA Rural Development Offers Housing Grants**

Pre-applications for USDA Rural Development housing grants are being accepted from government entities and nonprofit corporations until June 18. Housing Preservation grants are issued to eligible entities for repair or rehabilitation of individual homes, rental properties or co-ops and/or occupied by very-low and low-income rural residents. Further information on rural programs is available at a local USDA Rural Development office or by visiting USDA's web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>.

### **MODOT- Work Zone in Cooper County**

Interstate 70 from Saline County line to Route M has been identified by MoDOT as a "top ten workzone". Lanes will be reduced eastbound for resurfacing work scheduled for completion in summer 2007. This area carries 28,000 vehicles a day. Expect lane closures during the day, and a reduced speed limit through the work zone.

## Calendar

**Monday-June 11. MMRPC Economic Development Advisory Committee.** 10:00 a.m. MMRPC Office- Ashland. For additional information contact Colleen Vollman @ 573.657.9779 or [colleenvollman@mmrpc.org](mailto:colleenvollman@mmrpc.org).

**Wednesday-June 27. Mid-Missouri Regional Planning Commission Board of Directors.** MMRPC Office-Ashland. 5:00p.m. For additional information contact Ed Siegmund @[edwardsiegmund@mmrpc.org](mailto:edwardsiegmund@mmrpc.org) or 573.657.9779. Please RSVP to [lisanichols@mmrpc.org](mailto:lisanichols@mmrpc.org) or by calling the office.

## Conferences and Events

**June 24 - 27: Missouri Waste Control Coalition Conference** - Registrations for the 2007 Waste Management Conference at the Lodge of the Four Seasons are now being taken. Three tracts will be offered: Landfills, Alternative Energy Uses, and Recycling/Reuse. Maria Vickers, deputy director for the U.S. EPA will be the keynote speaker. Brownfields training will be offered on Tuesday. Conference details and the agenda are available at <http://www.mowastecoalition.org>.

**June 26: The Missouri Brownfields Conference** will be held as a one-day workshop in association with the Missouri Waste Control Coalition (MWCC) Conference. Four sessions are planned and will be presented on Tuesday, June 26, at the Lodge of Four Seasons in Lake Ozark, Mo. A limited number of scholarships to cover the registration fee and conference materials for the conference are being provided to personnel with local governments, nonprofits, and other community groups. To apply for a scholarship and/or to register, contact Jim Gilstrap at (573) 522-8139 or [jim.gilstrap@dnr.mo.gov](mailto:jim.gilstrap@dnr.mo.gov) or fax Jim at (573) 526-4817. Registration for the Missouri Waste Control Coalition conference is not required to participate in the conference.

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