



**Mid-Missouri Regional
Planning Commission**

The Current

Connecting the Cities and Counties of the Mid-Missouri Region

May 2007 Announcements

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**MMRPC Assists Communities with
Comprehensive Planning Efforts**

Staff members of the Mid-Missouri Regional Planning Commission are in the beginning stages of assisting the communities of Ashland and New Franklin with developing city comprehensive plan. The comprehensive plan is a statement of a community's vision of itself now and a "roadmap" to plan for the future. The plan directs the physical growth, development and redevelopment of the community.

For these communities- it will be the first time in recent years that city leaders will go through the process of combining the many functional parts of the community into a unified document that guides the community to achieve its long-term goals and objectives. Issues that will be addressed include land use, transportation, economic development, housing, parks and recreation, utilities, community design, environmental issues, and historic preservation. The process for creating a city or Comprehensive Plan requires extensive research, analysis and collaboration between these many interests. But most importantly, the Plan must reflect the needs and desires of the community.

The MMRPC is assisting the communities in developing methods to enhance public involvement in the planning process. The citizen's input is critical in helping city leaders and the planning team develop goals and objectives that reflect the community's character and values. The MMRPC is developing a series of various committees and neighborhood meetings, a town hall - community conversation meetings, design charettes, community surveys, public hearings, and other citizen involvement tools in which the community can use in the creation of the Comprehensive Plan.

Both Ashland and New Franklin have recently completed community surveys. At present, the MMRPC is coordinating a series of informational meetings designed to inform citizens of how they can participate in the planning process.

**Missouri's Long-Range Transportation
Plan Available**

The Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) has completed the *Missouri Advance Planning* or MAP. This document is the long-range transportation planning initiative, which considers a 20-year look into the future. The plan

was presented to the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission at their April 11, 2007 meeting.

The plan states that Missouri citizens are telling MoDOT the following issues are important to them: First, maintain and improve the transportation system; second stretch tax dollars; and three, secure more funds to help meet their expectations. These opinions and expectations have shifted from prior planning efforts when Missourians identified their highest priority as primarily improving the system's condition. While the condition of Missouri's most traveled highways has greatly improved since that time, Missourians are now mostly expecting improvements in moving people and goods.

An overview of the plan was presented by MoDOT staff to the MMRPC membership at the January 24th commission meeting. During this meeting- discussions included the acknowledgement that current transportation revenues do not buy as much now as they used to buy, that changing traffic patterns which include more truck traffic are leading to busier, more congested highways; and there is a continuing demand for highway and bridge expansion.

The plan can be viewed at:
<http://modot.org/expressland/documents/LRTP.pdf>, or contact the MMRPC office for a copy.

**Recreational Trails Grant Program
Accepting Applications**

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources has begun accepting grant applications from private organizations, and municipal, state and federal agencies for the Fiscal Year 2007 grant round of the federal Recreational Trails Program. The program is funded through the Federal Highway Administration as part of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act. A minimum of \$900,000 is expected in this cycle.

Eligible project categories include construction, maintenance, restoration and development of new motorized or non-motorized trails. All grants are awarded on a reimbursement basis; a minimum 20 percent match is required for projects. Applications must be postmarked by July 16, 2007. Grant requests up to \$100,000 are eligible. Eligible applicants include cities and counties, schools, and private, non-profit and for-profit businesses. To assist potential project sponsors with the application process, Department of Natural Resources staff is planning grant application workshops throughout Missouri during the month of May. A workshop is scheduled in Jefferson City on May 16. Online registration for these workshops is available at <http://www.mostatateparks.com/workshops.htm> or by calling (573)751-5374.

Announcements

58th Annual Traffic & Safety Conference in Columbia, Mo. May 9-11.

The Missouri Department of Transportation invites you to attend the 58th Annual Traffic & Safety Conference in Columbia, Mo. The conference is open to the public. The conference will provide you a opportunity to network with other traffic and safety professionals and learn about new traffic engineering technologies and safety strategies. An expanded exhibit hall will display products and services from local and regional vendors, showcase transportation-related organizations, and share traffic programs to improve safety and mobility. Go to <http://www.modot.org/tsc> for additional information and online conference registration.

U.S. Micro Enterprise Development Conference: The Rhythm of Successful Communities- Kansas City. May 15-18.

Empower your micro enterprise development program with the latest tools and strategies to support U.S. entrepreneurs. This is the premiere conference for micro enterprise development professionals. Sponsored by the Association for Enterprise Opportunity (AEO); locally hosted by the Missouri Coalition for Asset Development. The event will be held at the Hyatt Regency Crown Center, Kansas City. For more information, go to <http://www.microenterpriseworks.org/index.asp?bid=219>.

MoDOT Enhancement Grant Deadline.

MoDOT is accepting applications for the Transportation Enhancement Program from local governments to support a variety of "non road improvement" transportation projects. Some eligible activities include sidewalks, acquisition of scenic or historic easements and sites, landscaping and scenic beautification, control and removal outdoor advertising, historic preservation of building and facades in historic districts, restoration and reuse of historic buildings for transportation purposes. **Deadlines are: District 2 (Howard County and communities) May 15, 5 p.m and for District 5 (all other MMRPC counties and communities) May 16, 11 a.m.**

Public Safety (CEDAP) Grants.

The FY07 Commercial Equipment Direct Assistance Program makes available equipment to law enforcement agencies, fire, and other emergency responders who demonstrate the equipment will be used to improve their ability to respond to incidents. Interested organizations must submit applications through the Responder Knowledge Base(RKB) website at www.rkb.mipt.org by **May 29, 2007**.

Calendar

May 8. MMRPC Office Closed (Truman's Birthday)

May 23. MMRPC Transportation Advisory Committee. Ashland. 4:30 p.m. For additional info- contact Ed Siegmund @edwardsiegmund@mmrpc.org or 573.657.9779..

May 23. Mid-Missouri Regional Planning Commission. Ashland. Copper Kettle Restaurant. Ashland. 6:00 p.m. For additional information contact lisanichols@mmrpc.org or 573.657.9779.

May 28. MMRPC Office closed. (Memorial Day)

**Mid-Missouri Regional
Planning Commission
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