

The Current

Connecting the Cities and Counties of the Mid-Missouri Region

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Mid-Missouri Regional Planning Commission

April 2008

Don't Miss "How to Develop Sustainable Retail in Small Communities"

The Mid-Missouri Regional Planning Commission Economic Development Advisory Committee, in partnership with AmerenUE, is hosting an Economic Development Seminar "How to Develop Sustainable Retail in Small Communities" on Wednesday, April 16, 6 p.m. at the Courtyard by Marriott in Columbia. Registration will begin at 5:30, beverages and a light snack will be served.

The program will begin promptly at 6 p.m. and continue to 7:30 p.m. From 7:30 to 8 p.m. the audience

is invited to engage the panelists in one-on-one conversations at tables located at the back of the room.

The seminar will be facilitated by Mary Paulsell, Director for the University Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship. There will be four panelists, each will bring a different aspect of secondary market development to the seminar. H.E. Van Slyck from the Missouri Department of Economic Development will be discussing the importance of the planning process for small communities and introduce the audience to the MoCAPP process, a planning tool that can be completed by the community. Mr. Randy Becht will discuss how retail projects can be developed and completed in small communities. Mr. Mike Murley, Director of Real Estate for Pamida

General Stores will discuss the criteria that Pamida uses when scouting locations; Pamida typically locates in communities with populations of 1,600 and above, and Mr. Scott Stinson, Partner, Central Realty St. Louis will be discussing the process of site selection in secondary markets.

The Mid-Missouri Regional Planning Commission membership will be receiving invitations with passes into the seminar enclosed in the invitation. Anyone else can attend by paying \$10.00 at the door for admission to the seminar.



County Commissioners to Assist With Survey for Communication Study

As part of the Fiscal Year 2006 Homeland Security Grant Program, the Region F Homeland Security Oversight Committee is conducting a public safety communications study for the thirteen county region. The study is being undertaken by the RHSOC to assess public communications systems and interoperability in the region.

The Pennsylvania based consulting firm of L.Robert Kimball and Associates (Kimball) has been contracted to assist in conducting this assessment of communications systems and interoperability resources in the region. A short presentation concerning the survey was made at the Mid-Missouri Regional Planning Commission meeting in Ashland on March 26th to introduce area officials to the study.

The study will gather data through three primary mechanisms: 1) focus group meetings with

representatives of the various public safety disciplines; 2) a web-based survey to be completed within each county by a representative of each public safety discipline--police, fire, EMS, 9-1-1, and Emergency Management; and 3) the preparation of two propagation studies (maps) for two radio systems in each county. Focus group meeting dates and locations will be announced shortly.

In the meantime, County Commissioners will be receiving information from Kimball officials providing instructions for the web-based survey. **Commissioners should identify the appropriate individual(s) to complete the survey in each county.** Depending on the county- this may be a representative of each public safety discipline (i.e. police, fire, EMS,9-1-1,), or it may be appropriate for same individual to complete the survey for more than

one discipline. County Commissioners and/or identified survey respondents should contact ThomasHarmon@lrkimball.com to receive a user id and password to complete the web based survey.

Using the data gathered in the study, Kimball will prepare an assessment report of existing communications resources and provide recommendations to improve interoperability among the region's public safety agencies. The information developed in the study will enable the region to develop strategic plans for improving public safety communications and to be positioned to take advantage of any available funding opportunities for interoperable communications.

If you have any questions regarding the web based survey, please contact Zach Walker at 573.657.9779 or zachwalker@mmrpc.org.

Calendar

April 7 - MidMo RPC Economic Development Advisory Committee
10:00 am. Meeting will be held at the Columbia Regional Airport meeting room, building 160. For more information contact MidMo RPC at 573-657-9779.

April 15 - Region F Homeland Security Oversight Committee
1:30 pm. Meeting will be held at Cole County Fire Station #4, 5206 Monticello Road, Jefferson City. For additional information, contact the MidMo RPC at 573-657-9779.

April 16 – Seminar: “How to Develop Sustainable Retail in Small Communities” See article on front for all the details.

April 23 – MidMo RPC Board of Directors Meeting, 5:00 pm.
MidMo RPC office in Ashland.

Legislation Update

Missouri County Planning Act. House Bill (No. 1832) sponsored by Shannon Cooper (R-Clinton). Establishes the Missouri County Planning Act voted to pass by the Committee on Local Government by a vote of 11 to 0. This bill allows for the establishment of a county planning commission comprised of appointed

members to prepare a comprehensive plan for the county. The planning commission may be established either directly by the county commission or by voter petition and approval.

Supporters of the bill say it will eliminate some of widespread confusion caused by the fact that there are at least four different statutory procedures for establishing

county planning and zoning. Allowing a county to put an actual plan makes more sense than expecting voters to support an amorphous concept. The bill will promote responsible development.

Opponents say the bill takes the decision whether to have a planning commission away from the people; and if the current approval process takes longer, it is because of an educational component.

Announcements, Conferences and Events

Tree Resource and Maintenance Cost-Share Program The Missouri Department of Conservation is ready to award over \$250,000 in cost-share to public schools, communities, and not-for profit organizations for tree care activities. The program, Tree Resource Improvement and Maintenance (TRIM) intent is to provide financial assistance for the management, improvement or conservation of trees. Projects eligible include tree inventory, plan development, and educational activities centered on trees. Tree pruning, removal and planting activities are also funded.

To simplify the application process, a workbook providing examples of application elements is available free upon request or can be downloaded at www.mdc.mo.gov/forest/urban/TRIM/#trim. If you have questions please contact Justine Gartner at 573.522.4115 ext

3116 or justine.gartner@mdc.mo.gov.

Certified Economic Developer Program

The Missouri Economic Development Council (MEDC) will be hosting a CEcD Exam Workshop in Blue Springs, MO on April 18. This is a 5-hour course that will take the future CEcD exam candidate through the study topics of importance. Registration closes April 7. For details see www.showme.org/pdf/CEcD_Workshop.pdf

2008 MCB Award Competition Materials

The 2008 MCB Award Competition materials are now available at www.mocommunitybetterment.com. There will be no entry fees for communities to participate in the award competition this year. The project entry form deadline is June 30, and the project book deadline is July 31. If you need assistance, please contact Jan Simon-417.334.3474 or mcb@iland.net.

Business Retention & Expansion Course Cape Girardeau

The Workforce Investment Board of Southeast Missouri has opened up its Business Retention & Expansion (BRE) Course in Cape Girardeau on April 24 & 25. The deadline for registration is April 15. Course information and a registration form are available on the MEDC web site at www.job4you.org.

Government Relations Website Have you ever wondered how to address a letter to the Governor? How about understanding how a bill becomes law? What about finding out the status of a particular bill that is moving through the legislative process? Governmental Relations (GR) now has all those answers to your questions on its newly revamped and up-to-date **GR Intranet** website. This intranet sight is user friendly and takes you to the link you need to find the state and federal information you seek. You can link to it from our website at www.mmrpc.org.



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