

The Current

Connecting the Cities and Counties of the Mid-Missouri Region

Mid-Missouri Regional Planning Commission

June 2008

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Street Inventories - Free Assistance

At the May 28th MidMo RPC Transportation Advisory Committee meeting, Pat Palmer of Missouri Petroleum introduced a new service available to cities and counties in the MidMo RPC service area. Missouri Petroleum will now assist cities and counties in inventorying road networks for street departments. They will measure the streets, classify them (asphalt or concrete), give a condition assessment and provide general comments. Then, Missouri Petroleum will take this information and populate an Excel spread sheet. A city representative can then manipulate

the data by condition rating, by pavement type, by ward or council district, or by a combination of these items. The program also calculates the areas of each road segment. This allows the street manager to "cost out" and program anything from a crack seal job to an asphalt overlay project.

The good news to cities and counties is that this service is offered free of charge. Missouri Petroleum will spend two days with a street department collecting data. At the conclusion of our work, the agency will be given a disc with an Excel

database of their pavement inventory. There is no obligation on the part of the participating agency to purchase any product or service from the company.

Missouri Petroleum believes that pavement networks are better managed when they are inventoried and condition assessments are made of the streets, and look forward to working with the street departments in the Mid-Missouri Region. For additional information, contact: Pat Palmer, Government Services Representative, Missouri Petroleum, 314-991-2180, ext. 245

Region F Homeland Security Oversight Committee Updates

Missouri Emergency Resource Information System (MERIS) Training Opportunity

The Department of Public Safety and the State Emergency Management Agency are pleased to announce the availability of training for the Missouri Emergency Resource Information System (MERIS). This is the primary disaster management and coordination system used within the state. Local jurisdictions are highly encouraged to participate in its use at **no cost** for their jurisdictions.

Available are the one-day System Operator (intended for end users) and the two-day Intermediate Trainer courses. Successful completion of the System Operator

Course is a prerequisite for attending the Intermediate Trainer course. These courses are available through the University of Missouri Fire and Rescue Training Institute (MUFRTI), the University of Central Missouri (UCM), The Missouri Police Chief's Association (MoPCA) and the Missouri Sheriff's Association (MSA).

Jurisdictions interested in obtaining this training simply need to have a governmental representative such as the EMD, Fire or Police Chief or other official contact one of the vendors and make the official request. This training will be

delivered in their area also at no cost to the jurisdiction. The maximum course attendance is limited to sixteen participants per delivery with multiple deliveries possible.

If you have any questions pertaining to this training please feel free to contact the SEMA Training & Exercise Staff at 573-526-9111 or Debbie.cheshire@sema.dps.mo.gov. For questions related to the MERIS system or capabilities please contact David Finch at the Office of Homeland Security, 573-526-4693 david.finch@dps.mo.gov

Energy Loan Fund Available for Emergencies

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources Energy Center, effective immediately, will begin accepting applications for competitive financing under the Energy Loan Program. This program provides loans to Missouri K-12 public schools, local governments and public higher education facilities to perform energy-efficiency projects.

This announcement pertains, specifically, to the use of Energy

Set-Aside Loan Fund monies to address emergencies. The department will consider loan applications involving emergency failure of or damage to energy-using systems, equipment or materials resulting from an unexpected situation or sudden occurrence of a serious and urgent nature that demands immediate action. The Department of Natural Resources Energy Center will accept applications for emergency situations on a

first-come, first-served basis at any time. Approximately \$500,000 is available for energy-efficiency projects under this emergency assistance. The maximum amount for which an individual applicant may apply is \$200,000. Please see www.dnr.mo.gov/energy/.



Announcements, Conference, and Events

MidMo Executive Director Speaks at Four-State Professional Development Conference

Representatives from regional planning commissions (RPCs) and councils of government (COGs) from Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa, and Missouri converged on St. Joseph, Missouri, May 5-7 to participate in the first-ever Four-State Professional Development Conference. The conference provided an opportunity for RPC and COG directors and staff from around the midwest to meet one another, professionally network, and take part in multiple peer-led sessions focusing on the issues important to their organizations. Ed Siegmund, Executive Director of the MidMO RPC presented an overview of the rural transportation process in Missouri to attendees.

2008 Recreational Trails Grant Program

The 2008 Recreational Trail Grant Program is open. Federal funding is available through the Department of Natural Resources for development of new trails, construction, maintenance and restoration. Details are provided in the 208 RTP grant guidelines and application which can be downloaded at: www.mostateparks.com/grantinfo.htm or call 573.751.5374 to request a hard copy. A workshop is scheduled in Jefferson City for June 4, 10 am, at the Missouri Department of Natural Resources Conference Center, 1739 E. Elm Street.

USDA Rural Development Section

9006 Clean Energy Grants Farmers, ranchers and rural small businesses nationwide can apply for a funding pool of \$36 million this year to install energy

efficiency upgrades and new renewable energy systems. Funding proposals to these annual funds, provided annually under the Farm Bill, are due June 16, 2008. See www.rurdev.usda.gov/mn/rbs.htm

Missouri Municipal League- Innovations Awards

The Missouri Municipal League is accepting nominations for this year's Innovation Award program. The awards spotlight successful municipal programs that may be of benefit to other municipalities. Three different population categories are available. Winners will be honored at the MML Annual Conference, September 7-10, in Springfield. All submissions will be entered into the Innovation Award database. See the MML website at www.moccities.com for details.

Calendar

June 10 - 9:00 am - Economic Development Advisory Committee Meeting at the Columbia Regional Airport meeting room. For additional information, contact Colleen Vollman at 573-657-9779 or colleenvollman@mmrpc.org.

June 25 - 5:00 pm - Board of Directors Meeting at our office at 206 E. Broadway, Ashland. For additional information, contact Lisa Nichols at 573-657-9779 or lisanichols@mmrpc.org.

Legislation Update

On the last day of the legislative session, more than 80 bills were passed into law-more than were passed the previous 5 ½ months. For detailed information regarding the bills, please see the Missouri senate and/or house websites.

Bills of Interest That Passed :

SB 711-Gibbons-Modifies provisions regarding property taxation: requiring tax rate roll-backs by all political subdivisions in reassessment years, changing the way voter-approved tax increases are applied to assessed values, changing the time line for the assessment and appeal of property taxes

SB 718-Kennedy-Modifies provisions of certain tax credit programs administered by the Department of Economic Development.

SB 720-Coleman-Modifies provisions relating to utilities: establishes a hot weather rule during the time period from June 1st to September 30th.

SB 765-Goodman-Modifies provisions relating to villages: Under the language being repealed, a city, town, or village may incorporate after a number equal to 15% of the registered voters petitions the county commission.



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