

Announcements, Conference, and Grant Opportunities

DED Seeks CDBG Disaster Funding Grants- Deadline June 5.

The Missouri Department of Economic Development is requesting proposals for participation in the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. This is the second supplemental funding appropriation from the Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act of 2009, which appropriated funds to address areas affected by flooding and other natural disasters that occurred in 2008. All Mid-Mo RPC cities and counties are eligible to seek funding assistance. Missouri's allocation is \$13,979,941.

All projects funded with CDBG funds must meet one of the following CDBG national objectives- low-to-moderate income benefit of at least 51%, slum and blight removal, urgent threat to health and safety. All activities eligible for the regular CDBG program are eligible for CDBG disaster funding. There is no maximum amount for this funding. Applicants should leverage all available local funds and other state and/or local funding.

Proposals for this supplemental funding must be submitted to DED funding and postmarked no later than June 5. For complete information, see the DED Division of Business and Community Services at www.missouridevelopment.org, Andy Papan at 573-751-3600 or contact the Mid-Mo RPC staff.

Elected Officials Training Conference

June 11 and 12. Jefferson City. The Missouri Municipal League is offering its annual training conference for municipal

officials. This conference offers a nuts and bolts review of the myriad of important issues municipal officials need to be familiar with - sunshine law, budgets, parliamentary procedure, taxes, conflicts of interest, planning and zoning - these are just a few of the topics to be covered. While the Conference focuses on providing the knowledge base that newly elected municipal leaders need to govern effectively, the changes that continually occur in the municipal arena make this a Conference that all officials should attend. The Conference will be held at the Jefferson City Capitol Plaza Hotel. Contact the Missouri Municipal League at www.mocities.com or call 573.635.9134

MEDC Spring Conference.

June 3-5. Lake Ozark. Lodge of Four Seasons. The Missouri Economic Development Spring Conference features insights on "Opportunities Tough Times". Program includes sessions on Best Practices with Site Location Consultants and Marketing Tips. See the MEDC website - www.showme.org or contact Pat Amick at 573.636.7383 for questions and registration details.

Missouri Main Street Connection

June 16 and 17. Cape Girardeau. Workshop focusing on "Profitable Sponsorship Training for Non-Profits." Learn effective ways in securing sponsorships for events, programs and year-round relationships in a time of tight budgets for corporate, small business and local governments. See www.momainstreet.org for registration details.

Calendar

June 9 - Economic Development

Advisory Committee. 10:00 am. Meeting will be held at the Columbia Regional Airport. For additional information contact Colleen Vollman, Mid-MO RPC at 573.657.9779 or colleenvollman@mmpopc.org, or see www.mmpopc.org

June 24 - Mid-MO RPC Board of Directors Meeting.

5:00pm. Mid-MO RPC Office in Ashland. For details contact Mid-MO RPC staff at 573.657.9779 or leeannjesis@mmpopc.org.

July 3 - Mid-MO RPC Closed.

Fourth of July Observed.

Missouri River Canoe Float.

June 20. The Missouri River Communities Network (MRCN) is organizing a unique recreational and educational event on the Missouri River on June 20. Participants will have the opportunity to canoe a 9.5 mile segment of the Missouri River. The float includes presentations by experts on river history and ecology. For additional information and questions contact Billy Polansky with MRCN at 573.256.2602



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The Current

Connecting the Cities and Counties of the Mid-Missouri Region

Mid-Missouri Regional Planning Commission

June 2009

2nd Annual EDAC Seminar Focuses on Heritage Tourism

Over 70 people - public officials, planners, tourism industry representatives, developers, and interested citizens from across the state - filled historic Turner Hall in Boonville on Wednesday, May 20, to hear a series of speakers discuss the economic benefits of and various approaches to Heritage Tourism and other cooperative efforts to further develop tourism in the Missouri River Corridor from St. Charles to St. Joseph.

A "Vendor Fair" was held in conjunction with the seminar at the beautifully restored *Missouri Life* building. Attendees sampled Missouri Wines and other locally grown products and visited displays with information about the abundance of activities, projects and historical resources in the Missouri River Valley.

The seminar featured two speakers from outside the region who spoke about their experiences in creating, expanding and sustaining heritage tourism efforts within their own regions.

Ana Koval, President and CEO of the Canal Corridor Association, located in LaSalle, Illinois, discussed how their project based economic development approach promotes and expands tourism in the 97 mile historic canal corridor which extends from Chicago to the Illinois River at LaSalle/Peru. The Association also manages some not-for-profit operations (e.g. museums, trails) which bring

tourists to the area and subsequently benefit other projects and businesses.

Judy Billings, President and CEO of The Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area, discussed the planning of the initial volunteer coordinating committee in pursuing a National Heritage Area designation for that 41 county area, which includes 12 counties in western Missouri. This 10 year process will be completed in the spring of 2010.

Their primary mission is to preserve and protect the natural and cultural resources within the area and to educate citizens about its rich history, including its central role before, during and after the Civil War.

The two keynote speakers were followed by brief presentations from local organizations currently active in promoting economic development and heritage tourism in the river corridor: The Missouri Regional Cuisines Project, The Katy Trail Merchants and Communities Association, The National Black Tourism Network, and Missouri River Communities Network. The message from these local groups was consistent - there is a lot of tourism activity in the River corridor and untapped natural and historical resources throughout the area.



The usual catalysts for a coordinated regional effort to develop and promote historical tourism are the desire to develop the economy and a shared sense of pride in the place and the history of the area. All of the speakers agreed that the identification of a "shared story" or the unique authentic experience of a place can lead to the improvement of the economy through the promotion of tourism. Working together regionally makes it easier for people to plan trips to the area, increases local buying and provides work in many related endeavors.

The crowd's positive reaction to the conference was confirmed by the surveys completed at the end of the event. Generally, attendees felt there is value in a coordinated effort to develop heritage tourism in the corridor. A significant number indicated their willingness to contribute time and resources.

The next planning meeting on June 9 will include a discussion of who should take the "lead" in organizing this effort and of the pros and cons of pursuing a designation as a National Heritage Area from the National Park Service. Anyone interested in this effort is encouraged to attend the planning meeting at 10:00 am on June 9 at the Columbia Regional Airport.



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2009 Legislative Update

The Missouri legislature ended the 2009 session on May 15, with the session highlighted by the budget and the allocation of federal stimulus money and the economic development bill. Governor Nixon has until July 15 to sign or veto bills into law, with the signed bills going into effect August 28. The legislature will hold its veto session on September 16. If the Governor vetoes a bill, the bill can only become law with the approval of a 2/3 majority of both the house and senate.

The legislature passed a \$23.1 billion budget on May 7, one day before the deadline. Included in the budget is \$785.5 million in federal stimulus funds to stabilize the budget for the upcoming year. County appropriations survived for the most part during the current depressed economic conditions. Appropriations for prisoner per diem, assessment maintenance, county circuit juvenile employee salaries and per diem remain at current levels.

Passage of the economic development bill allowed the Governor and the legislature to claim success on their number one priority for the 2009 session.

A key provision in the economic development bill includes raising the Quality Jobs tax credit cap to \$80 million from \$60 million. Quality Jobs provides incentives to certain business that add new jobs paying at least average wages and providing health insurance. The bill also places a cap on historic tax credits.

Other Major Bills (Passed):

Stimulus Projects (HB22). Allocated \$381 million in federal stimulus funds for capitol projects and other expenses.

State Treasurer Linked Deposits (HB883).

Allows political subdivisions to borrow funds from local banks to finance capitol improvements at reduced interest rates through the state treasurer's linked deposit program.

Property Assessments (HB148). Fixes a provision of the property tax rollback after reassessment that would have required many political subdivisions to further reduce tax rates after the 2009 reassessment.

Other Major Bills (Failed):

Ameren (SB228). Would have allowed the utility to charge consumers for new nuclear plant while it is under construction

and changed other Public Service Commission regulations.

Enhanced 9-1-1 Funding (SB119). Would have changed the law regarding enhanced 9-1-1 funding, limited the number of Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs), and upon voter approval established a 25 cent per month user fee on every wireless telephone number to fund wireless enhanced 9-1-1 services.

County Planning Act (SB 5) Would have established the Missouri County Planning Act, which would have allowed counties to create a county planning commission. The commission, formed by county commission appointment or petition vote and approval, would have been able to recommend subdivision and zoning regulations, as well as adopt street plans for unincorporated areas. Nothing in the bill would have affected the existence or validity of a county ordinance or order adopted prior to Aug. 28, 2009. A Senate substitute was adopted on March 25 which, among several other provisions, would have required that the formation of a planning commission be contingent upon voter approval. The bill passed the Senate, but did not make it out of the House Rules Committee.

City of Hallsville Awarded MoDOT District 5 Enhancement Funding

The City of Hallsville was awarded \$281,250 in Transportation Enhancement funds by MoDOT District 5, Monday, May 18. The award will be used to construct three sections of sidewalk (nearly 7500 linear feet) within Hallsville, along Ricketts Road, Sunrise Drive, and Fairview Street, improving pedestrian access to all Hallsville Schools. The project will improve safety for pedestrians in Hallsville, including students walking to the Hallsville Schools Campus, which includes kindergarten through 12th grades. The additional sidewalks will also allow the Hallsville Schools to utilize a Safe Routes to School Education Safety Grant received in 2007.

The Hallsville sidewalk project was selected (along with three others from outside the Mid-MO region) by the MoDOT District 5 Enhancement Team, which consists of representatives from five RPC's and two Metropolitan Planning Organizations (CAMPO-Jefferson City and CATSO-Columbia). Mid-Missouri Regional Planning Commission staff represented the Hallsville project at this meeting after members of the RPC's Transportation Advisory Committee viewed presentations about all applica-

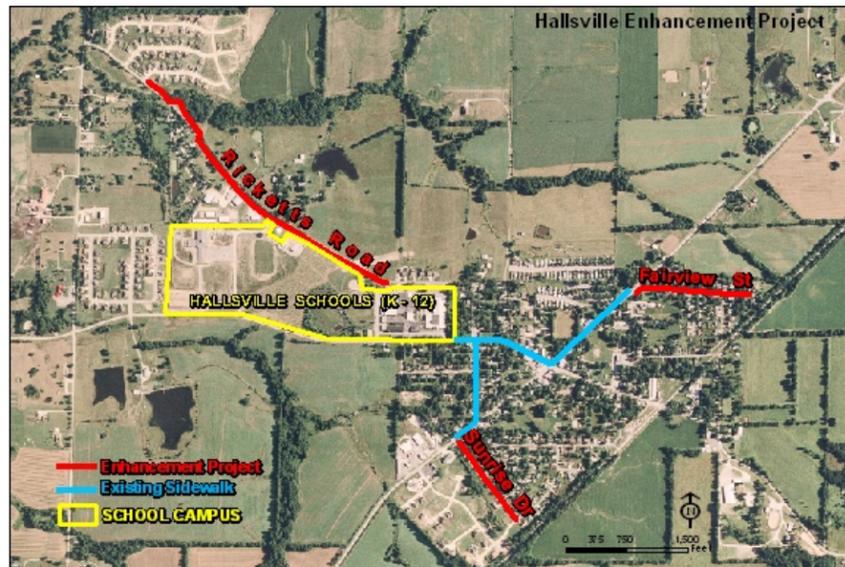
tions from within the region and scored the projects according to Enhancement criteria.

Funds for this award stem from \$889,000 allocated to District 5 from the MoDOT Central Office based on the district's proportion of the state's population. The Missouri Department of Transportation received the funds as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA/ Stimulus Act), through the Federal Highway Administration.

Projects selected to receive funding through this cycle will be subject to a shorter timeline than Enhancements

funded through regular cycles. Funds will cover 100% of construction costs only and projects are expected to be ready for bidding by late November of this year.

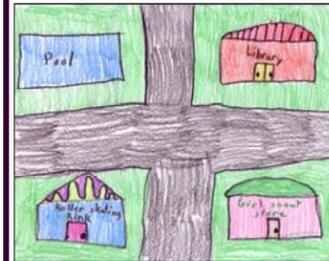
Other projects selected in District 5 are in Warsaw, Belle, and Osage Beach.



Ashland Youth Participate in Planning Process

As part of its comprehensive planning process, the City of Ashland challenged the community's third and fourth graders to become future city planners. Students were asked to submit drawings that represented why Ashland is a great place to live and things they would do if they were planning for the city.

Over 200 students participated in the planning exercise. City officials and the Mid-Mo RPC recognized the student efforts, with Ashland City Administrator Chris Heard discussing the challenges of planning for the community. Popsicles and ribbons were distributed to all the "future planners". Selected students' drawings are displayed to illustrate various sections within the *City of Ashland Comprehensive Plan*.



Area F RHSOC FY08 Grant Request Receives Approval

The Area F Regional Homeland Security Committee received approval of its identified grant activities for FY08 grant funds. At the May 6 Governor's State Homeland Security Advisory Council (HSAC) meeting, a total of \$4,400,000 was awarded to the nine regional RHSOC's to be used to purchase regional assets and resources that fall within the priorities set for the regions by the HSAC.

CBRNE (chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear) attack were added to the priorities list. Activities identified by the Area F RHSOC for use of the FY08 grant funds include:

- **Continuation of the development of volunteer database** including shelter agreements, development of special needs task force, and pet sheltering. \$65,000.
- **Disaster training and education.** Identified funds for disaster training in each of the 13 RHSOC counties. The training would train volunteers to work in mass care disaster situations. \$13,000.
- **Purchase of two portable explosive detectors and handheld spectrometer.** Equipment gives the user the ability to check suspicious package for explosive precursors without disrupting the package. To be used by the area's Homeland Security Response Teams (HSRT). \$77,000.
- **Portable Generators.** Generators to provide protection of critical infrastructure and maintain communications capacity during extended power outages, to be distributed throughout Region F. \$200,000.
- **Functional Exercise -** Six hour training exercise to test points of distribution for State and local public health officials to provide affected individuals and communities with rapid, reliable access to prophylactic medications. In light of the substantial health risks posed by anthrax, influenza, and other bacteria, spores, toxins, or viruses, the U.S. Federal Government has called on all States to devise comprehensive mass prophylaxis plans to ensure that civilian populations have timely access to necessary antibiotics and/or vaccines in the event of future outbreaks. \$38,000.
- **Purchase of a ½ ton 4x4 pick-up truck** to transport the Area F RHSOC Health Trailer. \$18,439.
- **Purchase of robotic platform for chemical /radiological detection and flash resistant uniforms.** To build first responder capacity in the region to address potential chemical and biological events. \$167,360.
- **Region F Incident Support Team Training Exercise.** The Area F IST teams provide a fully self-sustained capacity not drawing any resources from the requested jurisdiction for the first 72 hours of an event. These teams displayed great success the past winter during the southeast Missouri ice storms. \$45,000.

FY2008 Allocations

Area A	\$365,571
Area B	\$522,389
Area C	\$335,429
Area D	\$923,257
Area E	\$566,520
Area F	\$652,260
Area G	\$234,339
Area H	\$465,920
Area I	\$314,500

TOTAL \$ 4,400,000

Priorities established by the HSAC have included interoperability of communications, mass care and sheltering, planning and citizen preparedness, and training and exercises. For the FY08 grant funds- strengthening ordinance detection and response, and sustaining/enhance