

# The Current

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

Mid-Missouri Regional Planning Commission

September 2009

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### Senator McCaskill meets with RPC Directors

U.S. Senator Claire McCaskill met with representatives of Missouri's Regional Planning Commissions on August 26, 2009 to discuss the planning commissions' programs and services. In particular, the delivery and planning partnerships of federal programs that the regional planning commissions are engaged in delivering to the membership was discussed. Federal program guidelines encourage regional collaboration in economic development, transportation, homeland security, and hazard mitigation concerns.

The discussion reviewed that all of Missouri's regional planning commissions are recognized as planning partners and economic development districts by the Economic Development Administration. This planning partnership provides the opportunity for the membership of the regional planning commissions to qualify for funding assistance for economic development projects.

McCaskill was informed that all of Missouri's RPCs are a planning partner with the Missouri Department of Transportation. The RPCs facilitate local Transportation Advisory Committees (TACS) to provide local grassroots input into the transportation planning process. Missouri RPCs also aid MoDOT in statewide needs



Senator McCaskill meets with representatives of the RPCs

prioritization and development of Regional Transportation Plans.

In 2006, the Regional Planning Commissions entered into partnership with the Missouri Office of Homeland Security to provide a framework for effectively distributing Missouri's homeland security dollars. This regionalization framework uses nine Regional Homeland Security Oversight Committee (RHSOCs) to provide local funding recommendations to the State Homeland Security Advisory Council.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) requires that all counties (communities) have an adopted All-Hazards Mitigation

Plan in place to be eligible for any federal hazard mitigation funds. The State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) has partnered with the Regional Planning Commissions to facilitate the creation of these plans in Missouri. As a result of this partnership, all of the Mid-Missouri Regional Planning Commission's counties (communities) have approved Hazard Mitigation Plans.

The directors of the regional planning commissions reviewed the structure for Missouri's Regional Planning Commissions created by the Missouri Legislature in the 1960's with oversight provided by the Governor's Office and the Office of Administration with McCaskill. The membership of the RPCs is local governments (city and county governments). The agencies are governed by the local elected officials and appointed representatives of these local governments. They serve as the primary local mechanism in the administration of key federal and state programs.

### Learn More About Mid-MO RPC

Each year, the Mid-Missouri Regional Planning Commission hosts an orientation meeting. The purpose is for new mayors, city council people, and other interested parties to become more familiar with the services and programs provided by the RPC.

This year, our orientation will be on **Wednesday, September 16 at 5:00 pm**. A light dinner will be served and the meeting portion

will begin at approximately 5:30.

If you know of anyone in your organization who could benefit from a better understanding of the workings of the regional planning commission, please feel free to pass this information along to them.

RSVPs are encouraged. Please contact our office at 573-657-9779 or [mmrpc@mmrpc.org](mailto:mmrpc@mmrpc.org) to respond.



## AREA F RHSOC Grant Activities Updates

### Area F Emergency Management Agencies Receives

**Mobile Generators-** Just in time for the upcoming winter months, nine mobile generators will soon be delivered to the Boonville Emergency Management Agency for transfer to the following county EMD's: Audrain, Callaway, Cooper, Gasconade, Howard, Moniteau, Montgomery, Miller, and Osage. This activity is a part of the FY08 Grant from the Department of Homeland Security with a cost of \$225,934. The purchase of these generators will strengthen the ability of the 911 call centers to continue operation during a power outage or supply power to a mass care shelter or serve other needs as requested.

**Jefferson City Police Department Receives Flash Resistance Uniforms-** New flash resistance uniforms were delivered to the Jefferson City Police Department on August 25<sup>th</sup>. The uniforms purchased are 5.11 Tactical Gear with a cost of \$4603. These uniforms and a requested Tactical Mobile Robot were granted to the Jefferson City task force to aid with bomb threats and hostage situations, as well as other events that can occur. The Tactical Mobile Robot is currently in the bidding process, which should be completed in early September. The task force was granted a total of \$167,360 through the Department of Homeland Security at the request of the Area F RHSOC.

**Homeland Security Response Team (HSRT) Receives New Equipment -** The Area F HSRT received two XD-2i Portable Explosive Detectors that were purchased through the Department of Homeland Security FY08 grant with a combined cost of \$24,990. The new equipment will allow the HSRT to identify explosives quickly and accurately. This equipment is solution based and can detect more than 40 different types of explosives including: liquid explosives, black powder, nitrocellulose, smokeless gun powders, ANFO, nitrates, nitro-aromatics, plastic explosives, peroxides, chlorates, explosive taggants, as well as many other wet or dry threat explosives.



**Regional Homeland Security Oversight Committee (RHSOC) Annual Meeting - October 6 -** Cole County Emergency Services Building, 1736 Southridge Dr, Jefferson City, 10 am - 4 pm.

### Big Bags for Fighting Floods

In MoDOT's most recent issue of *Express Lane*, an article indicates that MoDOT is going to use "Big Bags" as a new tool for holding back floodwater. Big Bags are large sand bags that unfold like an accordion to create a 15-foot long by 3-foot high by 3-foot wide storage compartment for sand. One system of Big Bags takes the place of 500 sand bags. "They'll be used the next time floodwaters threaten to rise over our major roads," said Jim Carney, state maintenance engineer. "A new product like this can

help us save time and protect lives during a crisis." The Big Bags work much like Legos toys; a chain of dumpster-sized bags can be stacked, attached, filled with sand and built upon to create massive floodwalls quickly and easily. The bags are made of tightly woven polypropylene with wooden frames that are screwed together. Each system weighs only 50 pounds when empty, but when deployed they are filled with 2,800-3,500 pounds of sand, depending on the moisture content.

It takes just a few minutes to fill the bags with the help of a spreader box on dump trucks. Creating a traditional sand bag wall could take several hours. "The flood of 2008 prompted us to pursue the Big Bags," said Carney. "We want to have something new to try in our next flood emergency." MoDOT was the first state in the area to purchase the Big Bags, and currently has 885 systems in storage at the Central Office Distribution Center available to the districts when they are needed.

### Federal Highway Proposes Cuts to State Appropriations

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) will rescind over \$8.7 billion from the states' appropriated funds on Sept. 30, 2009. Missouri estimates this loss share at over 200 million or 42 percent of the states unobligated funds. Types of programs to be included are the STP-Enhancement and Off-System bridge programs - two programs the Mid-Missouri Regional Planning Commission membership is actively engaged in planning for project implementation.

In July, an amendment to remove this rescission was defeated by the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee. It is hoped that when Congress convenes in September, action will be taken to remove the rescission.

In addition, the legislation to reauthorize the federal highway and transit programs has been put on forward by the leadership of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. This proposed legislation eliminates the Federal Bridge Program. This program includes the Off-System Bridge (BRO) Program in which a substantial portion of the off-system set-aside goes to improving and replacing county-owned bridges. The Missouri Association of Counties has released information that Missouri has over 13,800 county-owned bridges over 20 feet long; of that total, close to 4,700 are over 50 years old. (The life span of a bridge is 50 to 60 years old).

The RPC membership is urged to contact all of Missouri's congressional delegation regarding this issue. (email directly from their websites):

**Senator Claire McCaskill**  
(573) 442-7130  
[www.mccaskill.senate.gov](http://www.mccaskill.senate.gov)

**Senator Kit Bond**  
(573) 634-2488  
[www.bond.senate.gov](http://www.bond.senate.gov)

**Congressman Sam Graves**  
(816) 792-3976 [www.house.gov/graves](http://www.house.gov/graves)

**Congressman Blaine Luetkemeyer**  
(573) 886-8929  
[www.luetkemeyer.house.gov](http://www.luetkemeyer.house.gov)

**Congressman Ike Skelton**  
(573) 635-3499 [www.house.gov/skelton](http://www.house.gov/skelton)

## Boone County Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

The Mid-MO Regional Planning Commission, in cooperation with local officials and agencies, has begun the process of updating the Boone County Hazard Mitigation Plan. Work will continue throughout the fall and winter with opportunities for elected officials, municipal staff and community members to provide input and feedback. The plan will be submitted to SEMA and FEMA for final approval by January 30, 2010.

Having a current and adopted plan makes the County and local governments eligible for pre-disaster mitigation grants from FEMA and for the mitigation portion of post-disaster funds, should a disaster occur. The Boone County Hazard Mitigation Plan was originally prepared by the RPC five years ago and adopted by the County and all the local governments.

A technical steering committee is currently being assembled to review the 2005 plan, identify sections of the plan to update, and lend technical advice regarding relevant issues. The team will consist of representatives from various agencies familiar with public works, utilities, emergency operations, floodplain management /permitting, GIS mapping, and school district emergency planning.

The natural disasters which the 2005 plan evaluated in relation to Boone County are floods, tornadoes, winter storms, drought, heat wave, wildfires, earthquakes and dam failure. The goal of this evaluation is to identify specific mitigation actions which can be taken to help protect life and property in vulnerable areas.

## Recent Community and Economic Development Activities

The following is an status update of recent community and economic development activities:

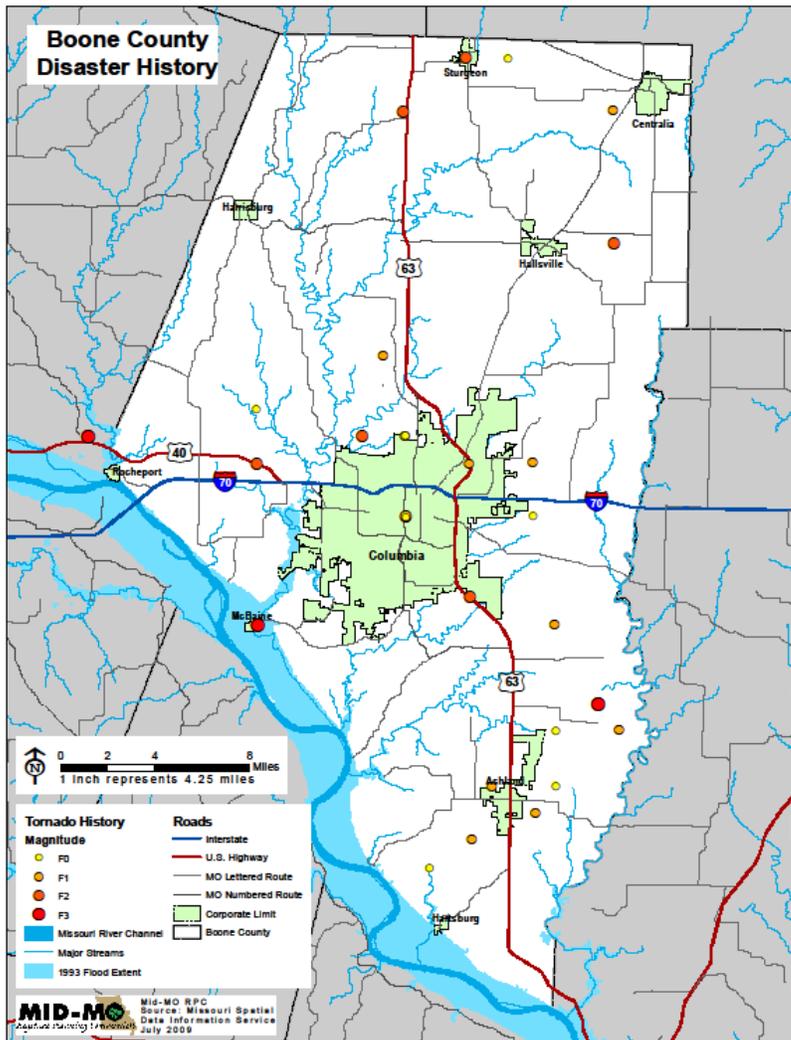
-Assisting **Otterville, Glasgow, Pilot Grove, Rocheport, Ashland, and Boone County** with funding requests made available through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Supplemental Funding as a result of the 2008 flooding and ice storm disasters in Missouri.

-Entered into agreement with the **City of Fulton** to assist with environmental review requirements for CDBG grant funds awarded to the City for demolition of the old power plant building.

-Assisted the **City of Sturgeon** with submitting a Law Enforcement Block grant request for P-25 compliant radios and emergency lighting equipment. Grant awarded in the amount of \$9,733.80.

-Assisting **Howard County** and the **City of Fayette** with environmental assessments for the Howard County Industrial Park site and the City of Fayette Industrial Park site as a component of the Missouri Department of Economic Development "Certified Sites Program".

-Continued grant administration activities for the **Callaway County CDBG Industrial Infrastructure** grant, and **St. Thomas sewer project CDBG** funds.



## RPC Staff Attends Benefit Cost Analysis Training

Curtis Owens and Susan Galeota, staff members from the Mid-Missouri Regional Planning Commission, attended a 3-day hazard mitigation training at SEMA Headquarters in Jefferson City during August. "Benefit Cost Analysis Training and Mitigation Application Orientation" familiarized attendees with the new FEMA Benefit Cost Analysis (BCA) software. In addition, the application process for FEMA hazard mitigation grants was explained in depth.

Any mitigation project applying for FEMA funding through one of the mitigation grant programs must go through a benefit cost analysis using the BCA software and have a benefit: cost ratio of at least 1.0. This means that there must be at least one dollar of mitigation benefit for each dollar spent on the project. Trainers encouraged those considering a mitigation project to run the BCA before proceeding with any other grant preparation; this will give an idea of whether or not the project is eligible as envisioned or if changes in the plan need to be made.

Mid-Missouri has benefited from some mitigation funding in recent years. A tornado safe room was recently completed in Holts Summit. Bank stabilization projects were carried out on Smith Hatchery Rd. and on Jemerson Creek Road in Boone County.

With the extensive BCA training, staff at the Mid-MO RPC are now ready and able to assist communities in the region with the complete application for FEMA mitigation grants, including the required benefit cost analysis.

## Announcements, Conferences and Grant Opportunities

**September 9 - 11: Missouri Governor's Conference on Economic Development** Missouri's 2009 Governor's Conference on Economic Development will be held at the Hyatt Regency St. Louis Riverfront Hotel in downtown St. Louis. Go to: <http://www.ded.mo.gov/conference.htm> for the conference agenda & registration.

**MoDNR Requests Nonpoint Source Pollution Grants** The Missouri Department of Natural Resources is requesting proposals for nonagricultural projects that protect or restore waters affected by nonpoint sources of water pollution. In general these projects may provide information, education, riparian enhancement, and water quality restoration or protection. 75% of available funds will be targeted to nonagricultural projects. Projects typically range from \$5,000 to \$1,000,000 and may extend for periods of up to four years. The project sponsor is required to provide 40% of the project cost with non-federal dollars or in-kind activities. For more information contact: Darlene Schaben, MoDNR, at 573.751.7428 or e-mail: [darlene.schaben@dnr.mo.gov](mailto:darlene.schaben@dnr.mo.gov), or contact Ed Siegmund with the Mid-MO Regional Planning Commission.

**Region 7 EPA Brownfields Grant Competition** EPA Region 7 will be hosting a half-day workshop for the 2010 Brownfields Grant competition. Each half-day workshop is designed to cover the basics of submitting a proposal to the EPA Brownfields program, and offers guidelines to improve your brownfield proposal to EPA. Workshops in Missouri

area: St. Louis (Sept. 9) and Springfield (Sept. 16). See <http://www.epa.gov/region07/news.events/events/index.htm>

**September 16 - 17: SEMA Catastrophic Mass Care Conference**, Doubletree Inn & Conference Center, Chesterfield. Conference will be focused on addressing the needs of MO residents in the event of a catastrophic earthquake in the New Madrid Seismic Zone. It is anticipated that such an earthquake will impact the entire state of Missouri and as such this conference is not limited to just those in the New Madrid Seismic Zone. Attendees should include emergency management directors, Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COAD) chairs, mass care coordinators, government and voluntary agencies and other interested citizens. For more info or to register: <http://sema.dps.mo.gov/>

**September 16: Technical Steering Committee for the Boone County Hazard Mitigation Plan Update** will meet from 9:30 - 11 am in Conference Room A of the Daniel Boone Regional Library in Columbia.

### *The Current - online!*

In an effort to reduce costs, increase efficiency, and bring the information to you where you use it most - online - we are going to begin e-mailing the newsletter each month. As always, the current issue, as well as back issues, will be available on our website for you to reference. If you prefer to continue receiving a printed copy, please contact our office. Also, if you are unsure that we have your current email address, please contact our office to update your information.  
573-657-9779 or  
[mmrpc@mmrpc.org](mailto:mmrpc@mmrpc.org).

### Calendar

**September 7 - Labor Day Observance** -Mid-MO RPC Office closed.

**September 16 - Mid-MO RPC Orientation Meeting and Dinner.** 206 E. Broadway, Ashland. Mid-MO RPC Office. 5 pm. Please RSVP.

**September 23 - Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC).** 508 E. Liberty Lane, Ashland. Copper Kettle Restaurant. 4:30

**September 23 - Mid-MO RPC Meeting.** 508 E. Liberty Lane Ashland. Copper Kettle Restaurant. 6 pm. Contact the Mid-MO RPC Office for additional information.



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