

# The Current *rrrrrrrr*

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

Mid-Missouri Regional Planning Commission April 2009

### Announcements, Conference, and Grant Opportunities

**Downtown Revitalization Conference- March 31-April 1 -Jefferson City.** The Missouri Main Street Connection, Neighborhood Assistance Program through the Missouri Department of Economic Development is hosting a downtown revitalization conference for anyone interested in learning about commercial district revitalization and improving the economic health and vitality of the community. Conference to be held at the Truman Building, 301 W. High Street in Jefferson City. Questions call or e-mail Phyllis VanderNaald 417-334-3014, e-mail [momainstreet@aol.com](mailto:momainstreet@aol.com).

**Farmers' Market Promotion Program** The Agricultural Marketing Service of the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture provides competitive grant funds to producer networks, producer associations, local governments, nonprofit corporations, economic development corporations, regional farmers' market authorities and additional organizations. The grants are targeted to help improve and expand domestic farmers markets, roadside stands, community-supported agriculture programs, agritourism activities, and other direct producer-to-consumer market opportunities. Visit the website, [www.07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&flag2006=false&opId=46141](http://www.07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&flag2006=false&opId=46141), for more information and the grant application. Closing date for applications is April 27.

**Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Local Program - ARRA Funding** The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), Office of Justice Programs (OJP), Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) has announced that it is seeking applications for funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 ("Recovery Act"). The Recovery Act - Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Local Program allows local governments to support a broad range of activities to prevent and control crime and to improve the criminal justice system. The Recovery Act - Local JAG program will solicit applications from units of local government for local initiatives, technical assistance, training, personnel, equipment, supplies, contractual support, and information systems for criminal justice, as well as research and evaluation activities that will improve or enhance: law enforcement programs; prosecution and court programs; prevention and education programs; corrections and community corrections programs; drug treatment and enforcement programs; planning, evaluation, and technology improvement programs; and crime victim and witness programs (other than compensation). For additional information on this and additional Office of Justice Programs' Recovery Act Grant Programs (Grants for Internet Crimes Against Children Initiatives, Grants for Victim Compensation and Assistance, Assistance to Rural Law Enforcement to Combat Crime and Drugs, and others), go to [www.ojp.usdoj.gov/recovery](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/recovery)

### Calendar

**April 9-Economic Development Grant Training Workshop.** 8-3:30 pm. Columbia Elks Lodge. Columbia. Senator Claire McCaskill will host this workshop to provide resources and useful tools to organizations to help them access federal grant and loan programs which support public infrastructure, job growth, business development and other needs. To register- visit Sen. McCaskill's website or contact Katy Disinger at the Columbia office at 573-442-7130.

**April 14 -Economic Development Advisory Committee.** 9:00 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@mrrpc.org](mailto:colleenvollman@mrrpc.org), or see [www.mrrpc.org](http://www.mrrpc.org)

**April 21-Area F Homeland Security Oversight Committee.** 1:30pm. Meeting to be held at Cole County Fire Station #4. 5206 Monticello Road, Jefferson City. Contact the Mid-MO RPC at 573.657.9779 for additional information.

**April 22-Mid-MO RPC Board of Directors Meeting.** 5:00pm. Columbia. Life Science Business Incubator at Monsanto Place, For details contact Mid-MO RPC staff at 573.657.9779 or [leeannjestis@mrrpc.org](mailto:leeannjestis@mrrpc.org).

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

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Presiding Commissioner  
Moniteau County

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Pamela Murray  
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Bill Watkins  
City Manager  
City of Columbia  
Boone County

### McCaskill to Host Grant Workshop- April 9

Mid-Missouri Regional Planning Commission to Participate

Sen. Claire McCaskill's office is hosting an economic development and grant training workshop in Columbia on April 9. The event is intended to provide resources and tools to organizations to help them access federal grant and loan programs supporting public infrastructure, job growth, business development and other needs. The agenda includes presentations

by representatives of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development program, Economic Development Administration (EDA), Missouri Department of Natural Resources, State of Missouri Economic Stimulus Team and many resource agencies.

Open to the public and targeted to small businesses, local govern-

ments, chambers of commerce and not-for-profit organizations, the workshop is scheduled for 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Columbia Elks Lodge, 4747 E. Elk Park Drive.

More information about the workshop and registration details are available at McCaskill's web site, [mccaskill.senate.gov](http://mccaskill.senate.gov) or by calling Katy Disinger at 573-442-7130.

### Mid-MO RPC Executive Board Meeting Scheduled for Life Science Business Incubator at Monsanto Place

The Board of Directors of the Mid-Missouri Regional Planning Commission will hold their next scheduled meeting on April 22, at the Life Science Business Incubator at Monsanto Place on the University of Missouri campus. The meeting will begin at 5pm, and include a tour of the facilities by the board members with Jake Halliday, PhD, President & CEO of the incubator technology initiative.

The business incubator initiative

began in 2004, to establish a technology business incubator to support economic development in mid-Missouri. The facility, which opened in 2009, leases wet lab and engineering space to allow for business technology opportunities. The incubator allows for activities that may stimulate entrepreneurship technology, allow for the planning, financing and accomplishing research and product development, developing the

business plan and securing startup funding and growth capital, and/or for incubating the ventures that result (mentoring and physically accommodating startup firms).

Funding for the facility included funds through the Department of Commerce - Economic Development Administration which recognizes the Mid-Missouri Regional Planning Commission as an economic development district and planning partner.

### Legislative Updates

The following is a synopsis of current legislation that might be of interest to Mid-Missouri Regional Planning Commission membership, partners, and associates:

- **Housebill 65** (Wilson): Allows rural empowerment zones to exist in any county with 18,000 or fewer residents and prohibits more than two rural empowerment zones in any county. On 3/25/2009, this bill was referred to Senate Committee on Senate-Jobs, Economic Development and Local Government.
- **Housebill 108** (Bivins): Requires all public governmental bodies to make and retain a verbatim audio recording of any closed meeting. On

1/8/09, this bill was read for the second time in the House.

- **Housebill 120** (Komo): Eliminates the cap for tax credits issued under the Missouri Quality Jobs Act. On 2/5/09, this bill was referred to House Committee on House-Job Creation and Economic Development.
- **Housebill 121** (Komo): Re-establishes the Rural Communities Economic Assistance Program. On 1/8/09, this bill was read for the second time in the House.

and establishes the Small Business and Entrepreneurial Growth Act. On 4/01/2009, a Public Hearing is Scheduled.

- **Housebill 429** (Hobbs): Establishes a regional economic development initiative which allows tax credits for donations to regional economic development organizations. As of 3/3/09, a public hearing has been completed.

Please visit the website, <http://www.house.mo.gov/content.aspx?info=/bills091/rpt/HBcurbil.HTM>, for current status of House bills.



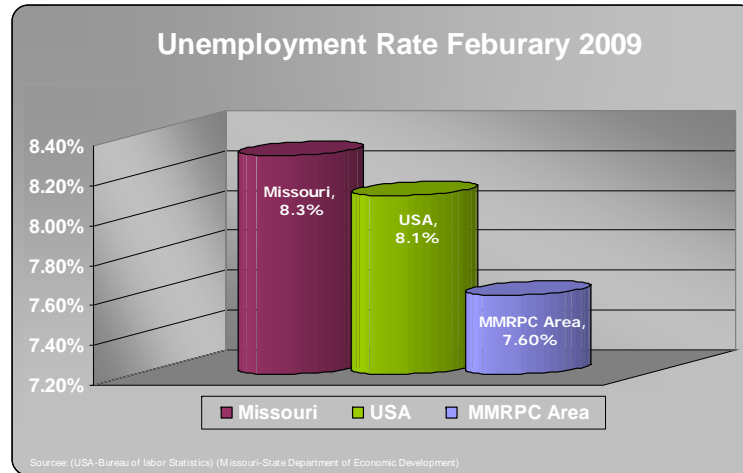
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## Mid-MO Unemployment Rates Significantly Less Than State, Fed

Missouri employment decreased again in February, while the state's unemployment rate increased by two-tenths of a point (8.1 percent in January to 8.3 percent in February) according to data released by the Missouri Department of Economic Development (DED). The month's changes reflect continuing deterioration in the national economy and labor markets. According to Missouri Economic Research and Information Center (MERIC) approximately 2,751,100 Missourians were estimated to have been jobless during the month of February.

The Mid-Missouri Regional Planning Commission (Mid-MO RPC) area included Boone, Callaway, Cole, Cooper, Howard and Moniteau counties. According to data calculated from MERIC's county data, in February the six county area average unemployment rate was 7.6%, which is significantly less than current Federal or State unemployment rates.



## Freedom's Frontier Executive Director to Speak on Heritage Tourism

On May 20, 2009, the Mid-Mo RPC Economic Advisory Committee will host the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Economic Development Seminar at Turner Hall in Boonville, Missouri. This year's seminar will focus on Heritage Tourism and its potential impact in the Mid-Missouri region. One guest speaker for this event will be Peter Jorgenson, a consultant for the Silos and Smokestacks National Heritage Area located in Iowa and Mary Jorgenson. Silos and Smokestacks NHA's historic focus is on agriculture and the industries that emerged from agricultural production in Iowa. Mr. Jorgenson will be discussing how Silos and Smokestacks began and how the National Park Service became involved in the project. In addition, he

will discuss an economic study that was completed on the financial effectiveness of the Silos and Smokestacks initiative.

In addition to Mr. Jorgenson, Judy Billings, Executive Director for the Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area, will discuss the development of the Freedom's Frontier NHA. Freedom's Frontier NHA includes twelve Missouri counties on the west side of the state. Freedom's Frontier's historical focus includes the events that led up to and the aftermath of "Order Number 11". Order Number 11 was enacted in 1863 to remove the settlers in western Missouri from the land. Prior to Order Number 11 there were skirmishes between Union and Confederate forces as well as conflicts arising from

guerilla, anti-union forces. In an effort to permanently remove settlers, homes, barns, and towns were burned to the ground to prevent residents from returning. Eastern Kansas and western Missouri share a colorful and very historic past that goes beyond Order Number 11 and the boarder wars and weaves a historic tapestry of cultures, traditions, hardships, and achievements.

A reception will be held at the Missouri Life Building from 5 to 6 p.m., the seminar will begin at 6:15 at Turner Hall in Boonville, Missouri. For registration information contact Colleen Vollman or Lee Ann Jestis by email [mmrpc@mmrpc.org](mailto:mmrpc@mmrpc.org) or at (573) 657-9779. Also see our ad in the April 09 Issue of "Missouri Life" magazine, page 25.

## Federal Auditors Visit SEMA and Area F RHSOC

Federal auditors visited SEMA and grant recipients throughout the state of Missouri as they traveled around the state, March 9<sup>th</sup> -18<sup>th</sup> 2009. On March 16<sup>th</sup> Area F Regional Homeland Security Oversight Committee (RHSOC) and the Mid-Missouri Regional Planning Commission (Mid-MO RPC) which is the procurement agent for Area F -RHSOC participated in the Federal audit. The Mid-MO RPC presented to the Federal auditor four key

equipment items that were purchased through the fiscal year 2006 (FY06) grant cycle; (1) radio caches, (2) mass care trailer, (3) satellite phone and, (4) image of the fixed satellite equipment. The MidMO RPC also present to the auditor Area F -FY06 closeout report and images of the equipment located in all thirteen Area F counties.

The audit for Area F-RHSOC started at Cole county fire station number two and

included Miller county Sheriff, Jefferson City/ Cole county Homeland Security Response Team (HSRT), Camden county HRST and the Mid-MO RPC. The audit then moved to Columbia fire station number eight. At this location the audit included Columbia HSRT Boone County Fire, Boone County Sheriff, Audrain County Sheriff and Boone County HSRT. The Federal audit has been completed and SEMA is awaiting the results.

## New Public Safety Director Chairs Homeland Security Advisory Council

The Missouri Governor's Advisory Council on Homeland Security sounded a theme of "one state, one strategy" when it met March 4 for its bi-monthly meeting. New Department of Public Safety Director John M. Britt, who chaired the meeting for the first time, said "**coordination, cooperation and communication are vital to making all Homeland Security efforts**

**effective.**" The state of Missouri has taken a much different approach than most other state, in determining the needs of emergency and disaster response. The state has designated the one hundred fifteen counties, including St. Louis, into 9 Regional Homeland Security Oversight Committees (RHSOC). The RHSOC's are made of various emergency response

disciplines and public partners, who make recommendations through the RPC's to the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) for Homeland Security grant request. The effort to include various disciplines that respond to disasters and emergency situations has proven an effective process in decision making.

## New Round of Enhancement Funds Available from MoDOT

MoDOT District 5 will receive \$889,000 in Enhancement funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Stimulus Act). In addition to the funding from the Stimulus Act, MoDOT's Central District will also receive \$160,000 from a project that could not be completed.

These funds will be available to eligible Enhancement projects through a competitive application process. The maximum award amount if \$300,000 per project. Awards are 100% funding for construction

activities. Any preliminary design or engineering costs will be the responsibility of the local agency.

Eligible projects must fit one of the 12 Enhancement categories and can be those that have been previously submitted but were not funded. Safe Routes to School infrastructure projects are also eligible. Local agencies may only submit one application and must be certain that there are no right of way or environmental issues that could delay the project.

All projects must be submitted to MoDOT District 5, 1511 Missouri Boulevard - PO Box 718, Jefferson City, MO 65201 (Attn: Dion Knipp). Projects must also have their final plan, specification and estimate approval no later than December 31, 2009. For more information or to request an application, please contact Conor Henley, [conorhenley@mmrpc.org](mailto:conorhenley@mmrpc.org), (573) 657-9779 or Dion Knipp, MoDOT District 5, (573) 751-7399 or [dion.knipp@modot.mo.gov](mailto:dion.knipp@modot.mo.gov).

## \$33.4 Million in Transportation Projects for Mid-Missouri

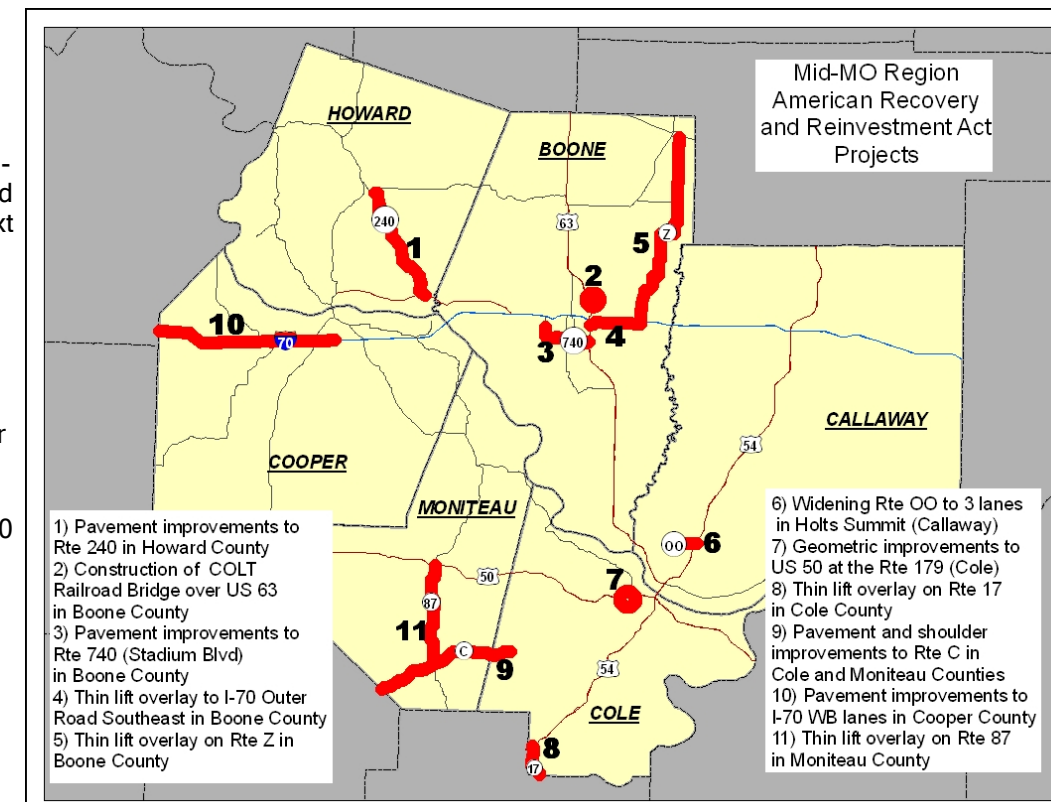
The Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission has approved the final project list for allocation of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds. The Commission's list will be used to distribute \$525 million statewide. The Mid-Missouri Region will see 11 road and bridge projects, worth approximately \$33.4 million, completed with ARRA funds.

Half of the funds from the Stimulus Act must be obligated by June of this year and the remaining 50% by February, 2010. This means that there will be significant construction within the state and Mid-Missouri over the course of the next year. The eleven projects in the Mid-Missouri Region are:

1. Pavement and shoulder improvements to Rte 240 from Rte 5 to Rte 40 in Howard County
2. Construction of a railroad bridge for the COLT Railroad over US 63 north of Rte B in Boone County
3. Pavement improvements to Rte 740 (Stadium Blvd) from Broadway to US 63 in Boone County
4. Thin lift overlay to I-70 Outer Road Southeast from US 63 to Rte Z in Boone County
5. Thin lift overlay on Rte Z from Rte 124 to I-70 in Boone County
6. Widening Rte OO to 3 lanes to add

7. Geometric improvements to US 50 at the Rte 179 interchange in Jefferson City (Cole)
8. Thin lift overlay on Rte 17 from US 54 to Brush Creek in Cole County and Miller County

9. Pavement and shoulder improvements to Rte C from Rte AA to Rte 52 in Cole, Moniteau, and Morgan Counties
10. Pavement improvements to I-70 west-bound lanes from Rte B to the Saline County line in Cooper County
11. Thin lift overlay on Rte 87 from Rte O to Rte C in Moniteau County



## MoDNR Reviews Potential Stimulus Funding Opportunities

Scott Totten, Director, and Curt Gateley, Unit Chief, with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources reviewed MoDNR programs that will be supplemented with additional American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (stimulus) funds at the March 25, Mid-MO RPC meeting in Ashland. Totten emphasized that funds were being allocated to the drinking water

revolving loan fund, clean water revolving loan fund, and the energy program. The energy program is providing funding assistance to address energy efficiencies in public buildings.

Totten also reviewed the State's grant programs targeted for smaller communities. The State Forty Percent Grant program is directed to unsewered districts

and communities with populations under 1,000. These grants allow new systems to get started. The second grant program-State Rural Sewer Grants fund up to 50% of a project and are directed to projects to help communities add sewer connections, or to assist publicly owned wastewater treatment facilities upgrade to meet more stringent operating permit requirements.