



Mid-Missouri Regional  
Planning Commission

# The Current

Connecting the Cities and Counties of the Mid-Missouri Region

September 2007

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## Census Training -Workshop

Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) Technical Training Workshop for the 2010 Census. The LUCA Program offers each local government an opportunity to have input in the Census Bureau Address List for their community. The address list is used to control the distribution and col-

lection of census questionnaires. The completeness and accuracy of the address list is essential to obtain a complete and accurate census for our communities.

The technical training workshop for the Mid-Missouri region will be held Friday September 28, 2007,

at the Columbia Regional Airport meeting room (building 160). The workshop will begin at 9:00 a.m. and last until 1:00 p.m. with lunch being served. For additional information contact: Tammi at 573-442-9770 or the Mid-Missouri Regional Planning Commission staff at 573-657-9779.

## Legislature Called to Special Session to Address Bridge Plan and Economic Development Bill

Governor Blunt called for a special legislative session to convene Monday, August 20<sup>th</sup>. The governor called on the legislature to address two issues: economic development and bridge improvements in the special session. During this special session- the Missouri House and Senate have given approval to a bond authorization plan that would pave the way for an inventive program aimed at repairing or replacing more than 800 of the worst bridges in the state.

House Bill 2 fixes an area of Missouri law that has prevented the Missouri Department of Transportation from awarding a single bid to repair or replace the damaged bridges. Current law would require the contractor with the winning bid to obtain billion-dollar performance bonds lasting for 30 years - something that does not exist. With passage of House Bill 2 the bonding restriction would be reduced and the Missouri Department of Transportation could proceed with its program which has

been entitled the Safe and Sound Bridge Improvement Program.

The Safe and Sound Program has the goal of repairing or replacing 802 bridges by 2012. The project will be awarded to one contractor who will have until that date to renovate all of the damaged bridges. In addition the contractor selected will be responsible for maintaining the bridges in good condition for an additional 25 years.

The legislature also approved the economic development bill HB 1 sponsored by Representative Ron Richard and handled in the Senate by Senator John Griesheimer. The bill is a scaled down version of an economic development bill approved by the legislature in regular session, but vetoed by the governor. Governor Blunt rejected the original bill in July citing the high fiscal cost of the bill as being detrimental to the state.

The bill contains the following key parts:

- A quality jobs program that would bring higher paying jobs to low income areas
- Increased cap level for the Enhanced Enterprise Zone program
- Tax breaks for urban development -primarily in the St. Louis
- Tax break for beef ranchers to encourage ranchers to fatten cattle within the state

The Quality Jobs program allows provisions for many tax breaks to attract business to the state or retain current jobs. State Economic Development Director Greg Steinhoff explained to the House committee that the state has hit the cap has reached the cap and needs additional room to offer incentives to business. The bill would raise the cap on the Missouri Quality Jobs Act from \$12 million to \$40 million.

Both bills will be sent to Governor Blunt for approval.

## HSOC Committee Progressing on Grant Activities

Executive Order 06-09, signed by Governor Matt Blunt in February 2006, established Regional Homeland Security Oversight Committees (RHSOC) with the charge of "establishing strategies

and priorities for the Missouri Homeland Security Grant Funding programs and other Homeland Security initiatives".

As part of this mission, Region F

Homeland Security Oversight Committee has identified and developed the Homeland Security Grant program. Seven different investment justifications were

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formulated for this program. Two of these grants, Mass Care/Volunteer Coordinator and Donations and Resources Coordinator, required a formal search process to identify potential coordinator candidates and develop goals and timelines for the selected individuals.

We are pleased to announce Michael

Pickerel has been contracted to serve one-year as the Donations and Resource Coordinator. Michael will be meeting with businesses in each county to secure donations and resource contracts to be utilized in disaster response and will work with businesses to provide training in establishing/updating their emergency plans and preparedness.

In addition, Lisa Binkley has been contracted to serve one-year as Mass Care/Volunteer Coordinator. She will secure shelter agreements in each county and coordinate volunteer training for mass care services. They will be contacting each County EMD, in the near future, to give more details about their work in Region F and discuss how they can best provide their services in your county.

## Announcements

### New Publication from the National Association of Counties Now Available

The National Association of Counties (NACo) has updated a publication entitled *Using GIS Tools to Link Land Use Decisions to Water Resource Protection*. The guide provides practical case studies, a list of commonly available tools, and a newly created tools assessment section. This publication is available now at [www.naco.org/techassistance](http://www.naco.org/techassistance) under "Water Quality."

### Mid-Missouri Solid Waste District Grant

The Mid-Missouri Solid Waste Management District provides financial assistance to cities, counties, private for profit and not-for-profit organizations for implementing programs that will reduce the generation of solid waste, create new markets, improve existing markets for recovered materials, or improve the handling of items banned by Missouri law from landfills. The MMSWMD is announcing FY08 grant opportunities. See [www.mmswmd.org](http://www.mmswmd.org) or call 573-874-7574.

### Brownfields Assessment Grants

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has been selected for two EPA Brownfield Assessment Grants. Both grants will be used to expand the department's Site Specific Assessment Program. The program provides free-of-charge Phase I and Phase II environmental assessments through a state contract to cities, counties, and qualifying nonprofits.

## Calendar, Conferences, and Events

**September 9-12, 2007**— MML Annual Conference Hyatt Regency, Crown Center, Kansas City. Many informative sessions are planned, covering a variety of topics such as: council procedures and legal issues, economic development tools, code enforcement, personnel, planning and zoning, parks and recreation, and more! Call 573-635-9134 or [www.mocities.com](http://www.mocities.com) for more info.

**September 26, 2007**— Mid-Missouri Regional Planning Commission,

**Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting at 4:30 pm.** followed by **Mid-Missouri Regional Planning Commission meeting at 6:30 pm.** The Copper Kettle Restaurant, 508 East Liberty, Ashland.

**September 28, 2007, 8:30am-1:00 pm** — **Crisis Public Information and Media Management** Training for Public Information Officers (PIOs) and others interested in media interaction. Lunch provided. Armory Conference Room. Call Mary Pat Murphy at 573-874-7400 or

[mpmurphy@gocolumbiamo.com](mailto:mpmurphy@gocolumbiamo.com) to sign up or get more info.

**October 9, 2007, 8:30 am–4:30 pm**—**Risk Management for the Public Sector: Getting it Right the First Time** Conference with speaker Gordon Graham. It's FREE & includes lunch. Tiger Lounge, Faurot Field, Univ. of MO-Columbia campus. [www.gocolumbiamo.com/EM/graham\\_conference.php](http://www.gocolumbiamo.com/EM/graham_conference.php) for more info.

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