

Springfield-Sangamon County Regional Planning Commission



Annual Activity Report Covering the Period June 1, 2010– May 30, 2011

Program Year Overview: Advising, Planning, Evaluating and Leading

For over 50 years the Springfield-Sangamon County Regional Planning Commission and its predecessor agencies have had the mission of providing the professional expertise and objective analysis that communities in Sangamon County need to assess their opportunities, sharpen their visions, and design the strategies needed to achieve them.

We believe that achieving our mission requires us to be prepared to **advise, evaluate, plan** and **lead**. The 2010-2011 program year demonstrates this continuing commitment, and this report simply highlights a few of the efforts undertaken by the Commission and its staff in this regard.

First, the SSCRPC's professional staff works with our partnering jurisdictions and others to study problems facing municipalities, agencies and organizations, providing objective professional opinions and advice as to how problems can be addressed and opportunities secured.

The Commission's work with the Springfield Area Transportation Study (SATS) is indicative of this sort of effort, but this report also notes such other examples as the updating of the East Side Neighborhood Plan, and our continuing work with the MacArthur



Blvd. and Enos Park Neighborhood redevelopment plans.

There are always more public and municipal needs and wants than the

resources to address them. That is why the Planning Commission offers its help in evaluating community services and operational plans. Our work this past year to assist the Springfield Metro Sanitary District with components of its Combined Sewer Overflow project offers but one example.

But as part of this work the Commission's staff also conducts surveys and other public involvement activities, and helps identify measures useful in anticipating future service needs. The Commission's work with the *Maturing of Illinois* project is an excellent example of



this type of initiative.

Of course the Commission's staff also assists communities and public agencies with their planning efforts. A large part of the Commission's staff capacity is directed toward these efforts, including the review of City and County zoning cases, the review of land development projects through the Commission's Land Subdivision Committee, serving as Plat Officer, and the management of floodplain protection efforts.

As mentioned above, as part of our planning mission we are involved in the review of land development projects, conduct many special planning projects and studies, and try to keep our member communities informed about best practices in a number of critical areas.

Some of our major activities during the current program year in this regard

include staff's work with the Springfield Area Transportation Study, the



development of a bicycle and pedestrian plan for the area, identification of the roadway network central to the distribution of agricultural products, the completion of the Williamsville Comprehensive Plan and the start-up of the Village of Curran's Comprehensive Plan, and the continuation of the multi-year Sangamon Regional Comprehensive Plan project.

And finally, we believe that the SSCRPC has a responsibility to lead. Since planning looks to the future, it must anticipate the future as well. The SSCRPC can often provide communities with fresh insights into how changing patterns and new trends might affect them, and offer useful and objective counsel as to how communities might best prepare to address them.

Leadership involves helping communities in Sangamon County to be *prepared* for the future, not simply *react* to it. The Commission's staff work on Transit Oriented Development, the SSCRPC's assistance with the County Board's Rural Transit Initiative, and the recent Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program for smaller communities in the county are indicative of SSCRPC efforts of this sort.

The information on the following pages highlights these and other 2010-2011 Program Year (PY) activities.

Springfield-Sangamon County Regional Planning Commission

Long Range Transportation Planning



One of the significant Commission responsibilities each program year is to conduct planning that addresses the transportation needs of the public. This is done through the Springfield Area Transportation Study (SATS) which is the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the area. The Commission provides staff and analytic support to SATS and is a voting member of the SATS Policy and Technical committees.

One of the goals of the Commission is to improve public access to the planning process and encourage public involvement in transportation planning. This being the case, addressing all travel needs of the public was a theme developed through several public input activi-

ties conducted during the process of preparing the SATS 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP).

The 2035 plan was adopted in March 2010 by SATS. This document is more comprehensive than previous plans as it recognizes the importance of all modes of transportation in establishing goals and objectives, most of which are identified for implementation over the next five years. The SSCRPC is assigned responsibility for many of these activities and has already initiated several projects pursuant to the LRTP. These include:

- Development of a bicycle/ pedestrian way plan.
- Identification of a roadway network central to the distribution of agricultural prod-

ucts.

- Development of a coordinated rural transportation system.
- Creation of a system to identify locations with high numbers of crashes.
- Adoption of a “complete streets” policy.
- Enhancement of the SATS website.
- Research for and preparation of the Maturing of Illinois report for Springfield.

SSCRPC staff continue to expand the data and transportation research available to SATS for prioritizing projects and creating sound planning decisions.

Transit District Support and Planning

Throughout PY 2010-2011, the Planning Commission continued to assist the Springfield Mass Transit District (SMTD) with the transition brought about by the findings of a Comprehensive Operational Analysis. Route changes were implemented in two phases, the first of which occurred in June 2010. The second phase was implemented on Aug. 23, 2010, and again required major activities by Commission staff to update SMTD

route and marketing materials. Additionally, SSCRPC staff provided support during a review and ultimate rerouting of the district’s Historic Sites route. Large print versions of the district’s various marketing materials were also created to better serve its ridership.

The Planning Commission also continued its efforts to inventory the location and attributes of bus

stop locations. The information collected will aid the mass transit district’s future route maintenance operations and provide more route information to its riders.



County Board Rural Transit Initiative



During the past program year the Sangamon County Board asked the Planning Commission to facilitate the development of a rural transit service for Sangamon County. This effort is being done under the leadership of County Board member George Preckwinkle, chair of the County’s Rural Transportation Ad Hoc Committee, and Ed Heflin and Dawn Piper, with the Rural Transit Assistance Center at Western Illinois University. The work is being conducted through the volunteer Sangamon County Transit Part-

nership Group (TPG) which is utilizing an established process to create a transit system that will serve the needs of rural county residents while using existing resources. TPG membership includes interested citizens, agencies, employers, local governments, transportation providers and other stakeholders.

The proposed service would use accessible vans or small buses and would function as a demand-response service taking people from one location (such as home) directly to their destination (such

as a job, medical appointment, etc.). Rides would be reserved by calling a toll-free number.

After conducting a citizen survey to assess rural transportation needs, the TPG is now working through a System Development Group and an Education and Outreach Group to both create the transit system and to educate citizens about the services to be provided. Commission staff anticipate that the work to finally establish the system will take another two years.

2010-2011 Program Year

Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning

In July of 2010, the SSRPC entered into a contract with the League of Illinois Bicyclists to assist in the development, production and dissemination of a bicycle/pedestrian way plan for the Springfield Area Transportation Study (SATS). A steering committee composed of representatives from SATS municipal jurisdictions as well as the Springfield Park District, Springfield Bicycle Advisory Council, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Regional Office of Education, and St. John's Hospital, is assisting in this work.

SATS recognized the need for bicycle and pedestrian planning and solidified its support when it adopted a "complete streets" policy statement in January 2011. The complete streets policy statement and Bicycle/Pedestrian Way Plan will guide future planning efforts in regards to non-motorized travel in the Springfield metropolitan planning area.

Additionally, the SSRPC, in collaboration with many community partners, sponsored for the 4th year Curb Your Car Day during

Bike to Work Week, May 16-20, 2011. A challenge was issued to employers in the County to encourage employees to leave their cars at home and instead bike, walk, run or take the bus to work. The highlight of the event was a "Ride with Sheila" promotion featuring Lieutenant Governor Sheila Simon, who led a group ride from Washington Park to downtown Springfield in support of this annual event.



Maturing of Illinois Initiative

One of the projects conducted during this program year was the Springfield Maturing of Illinois Initiative. This effort was conducted by the SSRPC in partnership with the Area Agency on Aging for Lincolnland (AAAL). The project gathered information useful to the Commission's ongoing transportation and comprehensive planning efforts, and to the AAAL's mission to provide a wide variety of services and information to assist older persons in leading independent, meaningful and dignified lives in their own homes and communities as long as possible. The initiative was comprised of three research and data collection activities: a Rate Your Neighborhood Survey; a Field Assessment; and a Community Assessment Survey.

The Field Assessment involved an appraisal of the walking conditions throughout census tracts 3, 14, 15

and 20 in Springfield. The selected tracts include four of the top five tracts with the highest percentage of persons over the age of 65 according to the 2000 Census.

Examples of data recorded include sidewalk conditions, sidewalk obstructions, and length of time given at signalized pedestrian road crossings. The assessment documented nearly 150 miles of sidewalk and roadway conditions.

The Rate Your Neighborhood Survey asked residents to rate their neighborhood as a way to determine how they perceived its livability. A livable neighborhood was defined as one that has: affordable and appropriate housing; supportive community features and services; ample access for walkers, bikers, bus riders, and drivers; and that is safe for people of all ages and abilities. Although the focus of the assessment was

the aging population, the Commission urged people of all ages to complete the survey. Over 200 responses were received from area residents.

The Community Assessment Survey consisted of nearly 270 questions spanning 10 subject areas based upon the Illinois Association of Area Agencies on Aging 14A Survey. It was completed by the Commission by means of soliciting information from various agencies and organizations throughout Springfield. The responses from this survey present a broad picture of the various services, facilities, and accommodations available to Springfield's aging residents and their caregivers.

A full summary of this project is near completion and will be made available on the Commission's website.



SATS Membership

The SSRPC's work in transportation is done as part of its role in the Springfield Area Transportation Study (SATS). SATS works through two committees, a Policy and a Technical committee, which have both voting and non-voting members.

The SATS Policy Committee includes Springfield's Mayor, the Sangamon County Board Chair-

man, President of the Village of Chatham, IDOT District 6 Engineer, Chairman of Springfield Mass Transit District, and Chairman of SSRPC, as voting members. It also includes the Director of IDOT's Office of Planning and Programming and the Federal Highway Illinois Division Administrator, as non-voting members.

The Technical Committee includes

representatives of the same jurisdictions and entities as voting and non-voting members, with the addition of the Illinois Commerce Commission's Rail Safety Program Administrator, the IDOT District 6 Local Roads and Streets Project Implementation Engineer, and the Executive Director of the Springfield Airport Authority, as non-voting members.



Springfield-Sangamon County Regional Planning Commission

Regional Comprehensive Plan



The Sangamon Regional Plan is a major multi-year Commission initiative requiring the active involvement of municipalities in the region. Currently 20 jurisdictions, representing 98% of the County population, have passed resolutions of participation. The chief elected officials of these municipalities serve on the plan's steering committee.

Work on the first two phases of the project were completed prior to this PY. Phase I involved the organization of the communities into a planning alliance as well as the establishment of five study groups addressing the region's strengths and weaknesses. Phase II involved the development of background information developed through the work of the five study

groups. This involved assessments pertaining to: environment and natural resources; economy and technology development; transportation and public infrastructure; housing and neighborhoods; and heritage, recreational and cultural amenities.

Unfortunately the project was significantly affected by the elimination of Illinois Comprehensive Regional Planning funds in the state budget. However these funds were restored in the budget for this program year through the Illinois Department of Transportation. This allowed the SSCRPC to release a request for proposals for Phases III and IV of the project to help bring it to completion.

Phase III involves the establish-

ment of priorities for the region and is expected to build upon the work of the five study groups through public engagement and input activities. Phase IV involves the establishment of joint strategies to achieve the priorities identified in Phase III.

The request for proposals generated seven offers from consulting teams, and the selection committee recently selected Houseal-Lavigne Associates, located in Chicago, for this engagement.

We anticipate all activities associated with Phase III to be completed within nine months, with Phase IV to be completed within nine months of Phase III completion if additional funding is available.

Municipal Comprehensive Plan Assistance



During the program year the Commission continued to encourage municipalities without comprehensive plans to develop them, or update their plans if they have not been updated in the past 10 years. This is because a well developed plan helps identify where and how growth needs will be met, provides guidance for the development of public amenities such as parks and trails, provides for an expected level of environmental and neighborhood quality, helps ensure that public investments in

infrastructure are based upon identified needs and are coordinated, and provides a consistent basis for land use and other decision making.

The Commission attempts to take on no more than one local comprehensive plan per program year so that sufficient time and effort can be committed to the task of being of real help to the client community.

During this program year the Commission completed its work on the Village of Williamsville's

comprehensive plan and began work on the comprehensive plan for the Village of Curran.

In assisting local communities with their planning, the SSCRPC staff works with local leaders to conduct land use inventories and analysis, environmental assessments and utility studies, provides a population and growth analysis, and studies transportation, circulation and community facility needs, before assisting them in developing local goals, policies and objectives along with a land use map.

Energy Efficiency & Conservation Block Grant Project



During the previous program year the SSCRPC and other regional planning organizations worked closely with the Illinois Association of Regional Councils (ILARC) and the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) to craft program guidelines for funding provided by the US Dept. of Energy's Energy Efficiency Block Grant Program (EECBG). The program allows small local governments in Sangamon County to conduct projects to reduce their energy consump-

tion and create jobs.

In September 2010 the SSCRPC entered into grant agreements with seven local communities that competed for these funds. The local government projects selected were:

- Chatham, LED Street Light Retrofit Project.
- Illiopolis, Variable Speed Drives Project.
- Riverton, LED Street Light Retrofit Project.
- Rochester, Village Hall Lighting Project.

- Sherman, Street Light Upgrade Pilot Project.
- Williamsville, Village Hall Project.
- Sangamon County, Water Chiller and Pump Retrofit Project.

The \$249,517 in EECBG funding is anticipated to: create 14 new jobs and retain 5; annually save 3,186.22 million Btu's; reduce energy consumption by 278,743 kWh each year; annually reduce CO2 emissions by 225 metric tons; and generate annual energy expense savings of nearly \$40,000.

2010-2011 Program Year

Corridor & Neighborhood Redevelopment Planning

Many of the activities of the Commission directly affect development and redevelopment, and we are often asked by communities, areas, and even neighborhoods to help them plan for economic development and redevelopment.

This program year efforts were undertaken to assist in corridor and neighborhood redevelopment planning in three areas: the MacArthur Blvd. corridor; Enos Park neighborhood; and a portion of East Springfield.

With the Lakota Group as the prime consultant, the MacArthur Blvd. project considered an area along and around MacArthur from South Grand Ave. to the new I-72 interchange, with its primary focus the redevelopment of the segment from South Grand to Wabash. With the completion of the redevelopment plan, an implementation committee was established by the Mayor of Springfield and is

now working to address elements of the plan. Commission staff continues to assist this implementation committee.

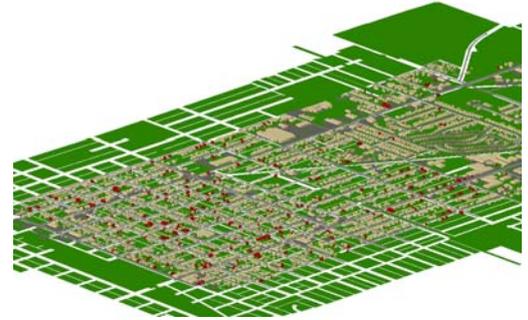
During the program year the Commission also continued working with Mansur Real Estate, Inc., assisting that firm in developing a master plan for the Enos Park neighborhood. The project was funded by Springfield's Office of Planning and Economic Development (OPED) through the Enos Park Neighborhood Improvement Association. The SSCRPC's role in this project was to provide Mansur with GIS, mapping and other consulting and advisory services.

The Commission staff was also engaged by OPED to provide an update of portions of the East Side Neighborhood Development Plan that was originally done by PGAV in 2002. SSCRPC staff was tasked with updating the Existing Land

Use and Zoning portion of the plan as well as the Existing Property Conditions report.

The Commission's work related to the redevelopment of East Springfield did not conclude with the updating of the 2002 East Side Neighborhood Plan, however.

During the program year the SSCRPC provided \$20,000 in Illinois Comprehensive Regional Planning Funds to a joint planning effort involving both OPED and the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce. This project, being conducted by PGAV, is looking at retail redevelopment in the vicinity of South Dirksen Parkway and Cook St. and South Grand Ave.



Economic Development Related Planning

Transportation, both motorized and non-motorized, is integral to economic success. For this reason the Commission completed work during the program year to identify transportation barriers and opportunities related to local economic growth.

The Economic Corridor and Freight Study project, conducted for the Commission by Hanson Professional Services, identified Economic Activity Centers (areas that are major employment generators) in the metro planning area as well as the key corridors connecting them, examining how transportation is affecting their economic growth.

Since warehousing and logistics have been identified as potential



sources of job growth in the area, the study examined existing freight flows to determine barriers to efficient freight movement and opportunities for logistics development in the region.

Given the implications of high speed rail for the planning area and SMTD's interest in developing a multimodal facility in Springfield's downtown, the Commission began a new effort this year to examine the value of what is often called Transit Oriented Development (TOD) as a redevelopment tool.

TOD is intended to blend transit facilities, residential improvements and commercial redevelopment together as part of a redevelopment strategy. The concept began with the observation that people who depend upon public transit systems (bus or rail) for transportation like to live near transit stops as well as shop in the area in which they live. This realization caused both planners and developers to come to the conclusion that transit facilities could provide a

focal point for development and redevelopment, resulting in a number of benefits to the community in which TOD occurred.

During the program year the SSCRPC staff were engaged in two efforts to study the applicability of TOD. The first was to study the research literature and the experiences that other communities have had with TOD. This resulted in a SSCRPC white paper on TOD titled *Transit Centers as Tools for Development and Redevelopment*. But to have a clear understanding of the nature and design of TOD, one must see the form that such a development might take. For this reason the SSCRPC completed a "table top" exercise during the program year to design a TOD using a site proposed for the SMTD multimodal center as the example.



Springfield-Sangamon County Regional Planning Commission

Zoning and Tract Survey Review



Planning Commission staff review zoning petitions for the City of Springfield and Sangamon County, and the Executive Director also oversees the Sangamon County Department of Zoning.

During the past year Commission staff provided professional staff reviews and opinions on 130 City of Springfield and Sangamon County zoning cases, an average of 11 each month.

This represented no appreciable change over the previous year,

most likely demonstrating the lingering effects of the national economic downturn.

For each zoning case, staff must review the petition, conduct a site visit, identify surrounding uses, assess compliance with the comprehensive plan, and determine if the requirements of the ordinances are met.

Related to land use, the Executive Director of the SSCRPC also serves as the County Plat Officer and reviews tract surveys for ap-

proval.

Each of the 132 tract surveys submitted this past year (11 per month) were reviewed to ensure compliance with the Illinois State Plat Act, Springfield and Sangamon County zoning ordinances, and survey requirements. This represents only a slight decrease compared to the previous year (down 2), but much less than the decrease seen over the previous two years (down 35).

Floodplain Management



One of the important responsibilities of the Commission is to act as Floodplain Administrator for Sangamon County and Springfield. On a weekly basis the Commission's staff handles numerous requests from property owners, insurance agents, mortgage lenders and others who inquire as to whether or not a property is within a floodplain.

But aside from serving as a source of information, as part of this work the staff must also review and issue Floodplain Development Permits for property owners seeking to alter the topography of land within the floodplain. Only one Floodplain Development Permit was approved this year, two fewer than last year. The Commis-

sion staff considers the small number of permits requested an indicator of floodplain management success as property owners and developers have become more cognizant of the requirements of the Floodplain Development Permit process, and are less likely to attempt development in the floodplain.

While the Commission does floodplain verification for Springfield, the County, and a number of other municipalities, residents who own property in or near a floodplain in unincorporated Sangamon County benefit from the County's participation in FEMA's Community Rating System (CRS) program, which is administered locally by Commission staff. Dur-

ing this program year the Commission successfully completed the annual recertification to maintain the County's Level 8 rating under the national Community Rating System. Maintaining this rating results in property owners who are required to purchase flood insurance receiving a 5% to 10% discount on their flood insurance premiums under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

Maintaining the class rating requires various communication with and outreach to thousands of property owners, as well as extensive data collection and other administrative duties completed by SSCRPC staff each year.

Combined Sewer Overflow Financial Capability Assessment



The Springfield Metro Sanitary District (SMSD) treats wastewater from a number of communities in the area as well as the Illinois State Fairgrounds. Springfield and the fairgrounds have combined sewer systems (CSS) that convey domestic sewage during dry weather and accept storm water runoff in the same pipes during wet weather; hence the term "combined" sewer. During rainfall events when the sewer pipe capacity is exceeded, there can be a combined sewer overflow (or CSO) event that is considered potentially unsafe due to elevated

levels of bacteria. For SMSD to maintain its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit, SMSD is required to prepare a CSO long term control plan. One of the elements of this plan involves an assessment of the existing financial capabilities of the residential sewer customers to determine the burden that would be placed on them to finance CSO controls over a reasonable time frame. During the program year SSCRPC entered into an agreement to assist SMSD and its consultants with this financial assessment.

The SSCRPC's responsibilities include:

- Obtaining and geo-coding all addresses from each community affected that received bills for both public water and sewer (about 67,000 addresses).
- Conducting field work to classify all sewer user classes.
- Analyzing the average monthly sewer usage as well as sewer charges and rates.
- Conducting interviews with the affected communities to identify on-going and upcoming capital improvement projects that would affect CSO.

2010-2011 Program Year

Development Planning & Review

A large part of the Commission's efforts center around the analysis and review of development projects in Springfield and unincorporated Sangamon County. The Commission's responsibilities are spelled out by local ordinances relating to land subdivision, large scale development or planned unit development, and largely done through the work of the staff and

the Commission's Land Subdivision Committee.

From June 1, 2010, to May 31, 2011, the Commission had reviewed 46 development project plans, an increase of 18 over the previous period: an average of about 4 cases per month.

This included:

- 9 Location and Sketch Map

reviews.

- 11 Preliminary Plans.
- 15 Final Plats.
- 2 Site Development Plans.
- 2 Large Scale Plan reviews.
- 4 Partial Plats of Vacation.
- 3 Variances absent a plan.

As previously noted, 132 tract surveys were also approved as of May 31, 2011.



Development Plans Scanning Initiative

As noted in the item above, a large part of the Commission's activities revolve around the review of development plans of various kinds. In the past these plans were held as paper files making it difficult to automate the system and provide copies easily and cost effectively to developers and the public.

In PY 2009-2010 the SSCRPC began the process of scanning and digitizing these files.

These activities continued into PY 2010—2011. Files from 1955 – 2010 have already been scanned and converted to digital format, and final scanning should be completed shortly. Once this is complete, all SSCRPC subdivision files will have been scanned and digitized. Depending upon the availability of resources, Large Scale Development plans will be scanned and digitized as well.

Staff is currently working to validate the documents scanned and coded, with the intention of developing an internet based system that will allow for on-going access and review.

The SSCRPC staff is working with the County's Information Systems Department to develop a web-based system to make the plans easily available on-line in the future.



Other PY 2010—2011 Projects & Initiatives

This report outlines major activities of the Commission and its staff during the program year, but the number of projects and initiatives in which the staff was involved is, of course, much larger and often cross SSCRPC program years.

Other significant projects and activities in which Commission staff were involved this past program year that are not otherwise outlined in this report include:

- Continuation of the *SangStat* Regional Index Initiative.
- Development of the Sangamon Regional Sustainability Planning Project Proposal.
- TDM Rail Module Project.
- Assistance to the Springfield Rail Consolidation Study.
- Assistance to IDOT's Rail Bureau for its HSR EIS Project.
- 2010 Downtown Parking Survey.
- Bus Stop Accessibility Survey Project..
- Continued Implementation of the IMPLAN Model.
- Clear Lake Ave. Corridor Redevelopment Plan Proposal.
- Illinois Housing/Transportation/Employment Linkages (Sustainable Communities) State Working Group.
- Sangamon County Zoning Map Web Project.
- MacArthur Boulevard Parking Survey
- Zoning Assistance to the Village of Curran.
- Development Planning and Review Primer.
- Realities of Living in Rural Sangamon County Guidebook.
- Continued research and updates relevant to wind energy conversion systems (WECS) and their regulation.
- Property Split Automated Tracking System Initiative.
- Natural Resources Inventory Update and Mapping Project.\
- Development of SSCRPC *TrendLines* on Energy Efficiency Options and Approaches for Local Governments.



Springfield-Sangamon County Regional Planning Commission

Volunteers & Interns Assist the SSCRPC



While the SSCRPC staff work very hard to carry out their duties, the level of work taken on by the Commission this past program year could not be done without an amazing cast of active volunteers and interns.

A complete listing of all of the volunteers who assisted in Commission activities during the past program year would significantly lengthen this report. For example: a wide array of residents helped this past year by serving on the Regional Comprehensive Plan's five study groups; the MacArthur Blvd. Redevelopment Plan was significantly assisted first by the volunteers on its steering committee and now by the volunteers serving on the MacArthur Blvd. Action Committee (MACBAC); and the new East Springfield Commercial Redevelopment Project is ably assisted by a steering committee brought together by the Greater Spring-

field Chamber of Commerce.

As just one specific example, we note the particular assistance provided by volunteers who assisted with the Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan Project. They include: **Alan Whitaker, John Allen, Kevin Greene, Kristina Mucinskas, Marla Gursh, Michael Higgins, Mike Eymann, and Stephan Paca.**

We also appreciate the assistance we have received this year from a set of very able and energetic interns. They have come from near and far, and from a diverse set of educational settings. During this PY they included: **Jacob Ferguson, Alex Myers, Bret Tate, and Neha Soni Agarwal.**

In addition to the other items mentioned, during the program year Commission staff provided such assistance as:

- **Helping various agencies and organizations with their mapping and other information requests.**
- **Continuing work related to the regional Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan.**
- **Staffing the Sangamon County Historic Preservation Commission and serving on and assisting the Springfield Historic Sites Commission.**
- **Advising communities on the development of zoning and other land-related ordinances.**
- **Assisting small communities in comprehensive plan pre-planning activities.**
- **Serving on the 2010 Census Complete Count Committee.**

COMMISSION LEADERSHIP FOR PY 2010-2011:

Membership on the SSCRPC is established in Section 2.36.020 of the Sangamon County Code of Ordinances. This section creates a 17 member board to be made up of Elected Officials (the Chairman of the Sangamon County Board; the Chairs of the County's Finance Committee and Public Health, Safety and Zoning Committee; the Mayor of the City of Springfield; and two Springfield Aldermen to be appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council), Special District representatives (the chief presiding officers of the Springfield Park District, Springfield Airport Authority, Springfield Metro Sanitary District, Springfield Mass Transit District, and Springfield School District 186), and Appointed Citizens (three citizen members appointed by the Chairman of the County Board and confirmed by that board, and three citizen members of the Springfield Planning and Zoning Commission appointed by the Springfield Mayor and confirmed by the City Council).

Section 2.36.040 of the County's code allows the elected officials and the chief presiding officers to select an alternate representative who may serve on the Commission in their absence.

2010-2011 Officers and Members of the Executive Policy Board:

- Mr. Larry Hamlin**, Chair, Citizen Member, Sangamon County.
- Mr. Lawrence Eastep**, Vice-Chair, Citizen Member, Springfield.
- Mr. Eric Hansen**, Secretary, Citizen Member, Sangamon County.
- Hon. Mike Houston**, Mayor, City of Springfield (Mr. Mike Farmer).
- Hon. Andy Van Meter**, Chairman, Sangamon Co. Board (Mr. Brian McFadden).
- Mr. Dick Ciotti**, Chairman, Springfield Metro Sanitary District (Mr. Gregg Humphrey).
- Mr. Claudio Pecori**, At-Large, Citizen Member, Sangamon Co.

Other Commission Members:

- Hon. Sam Cahnman**, Alderman, Springfield (Mr. Joe Davis).
- Hon. Andy Goleman**, Member, Sangamon Co. Board (Mr. Charlie Stratton).
- Mr. Kip Kolkmeier**, Citizen Member, Springfield
- Hon. Frank Lesko**, Alderman, Springfield.
- Mr. William Looby**, President, Springfield School District 186 (Mr. Dave Smith).
- Hon. Tim Moore**, Member, Sangamon Co. Board (Mr. Brad Burnett).
- Ms. Leslie Sgro**, President, Springfield Park District (Mr. Brian Reardon).
- Mr. Kenneth Springs**, Citizen Member, Sangamon Co.
- Mr. Frank Squires**, Chairman, Springfield Mass Transit District (Ms. Linda Tisdale).
- Mr. Frank Vala**, Chairman, Springfield Airport Authority (Mr. Roger Blickensderfer).

(Indicates member's officially designated representative).

Membership as of June 1, 2011.

2010-2011 Program Year

Administrative Initiatives

The SSCRPC is like most other organizations in that a great amount of effort occurs behind the scenes. This work often addresses administrative initiatives intended to improve the Commission's efficiency and management capacity, or that of its partnering jurisdictions. The Commission was involved in a number of such initiatives during the past year.

For example, during the program year the Commission's Executive Director continued to provide assistance to the **Central Illinois Economic Development Authority (CIEDA)** in its efforts to establish an administrative and organizational infrastructure. CIEDA was established by the Illinois General Assembly to provide economic develop-

ment assistance in the region.

Due to its responsibilities pertaining to zoning in unincorporated Sangamon County, the Commission was also charged by the County's Public Health, Safety and Zoning Committee to develop a continuing education program for members of the County's **Zoning Board of Appeals**. This effort is intended to assist new and current members of the County's zoning board in better understanding the policies and process of zoning.

The Commission has also been called upon to provide organizational and staff assistance to the newly created **Citizens' Efficiency Commission (CEC)**.

The CEC is an independent body, established pursuant to a referendum passed in November 2010, made up of 23 citizens selected by the various municipal jurisdictions and bodies in Sangamon County.

Its purpose is to improve the economy, efficiency and effectiveness of local government in the area by assessing and proposing opportunities for improved cooperation, coordination and sharing of services between and among local governments, as well as the reduction or elimination of duplication of effort.



FINANCES: Receipts and Disbursements (rounded to nearest dollar), December 1, 2009, through November 30, 2010. Does not include Sangamon County Department of Zoning.

RECEIPTS:

Beginning Balance	\$276,275.00
Sangamon County	326,249.00
City of Springfield	206,382.00
Springfield Area Transportation Study	
State of Illinois (FHWA)	266,189.00
Sangamon County	29,946.00
City of Springfield	45,069.00
Village of Chatham	6,655.00
Mass Transit Study	
State of Illinois (FTA)	72,834.00
Spfld Mass Transit District	18,209.00
Marketing Materials (Work Task #314)	
Spfld Mass Transit District	38,065.00
MacArthur Blvd Redevelopment Plan (HUD)	92,910.00
Village of Williamsville	5,810.00
Springfield Park District	1,500.00
East Side Dev. Plan (OPED)	7,494.00
Energy Efficiency & Conservation	
Block Grant (DCEO/ILARC)	97,560.00
Interest Earned	1,529.00
Misc. Receipts	51.00
Reimbursed Expenses	<u>260.00</u>
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$1,492,987.00

DISBURSEMENTS:

Personnel	\$541,666.00
Part-time Personnel	00.00
Boards & Committees	3,500.00
Overtime	00.00
Fringe Benefits	210,735.00
Office Supplies	3,252.00
Toner & Ribbon	4,028.00
Printing	212.00
Exempt Printing	303.00
Meetings & Dues	7,304.00
Travel & Mileage	589.00
Equipment Maintenance	4,325.00
Publications	4,516.00
Postage	2,926.00
Contractual Services (Regular)	44,368.00
Contractual Services (Grant)	173,277.00
New Equipment > \$500	9,653.00
New Equipment < \$500	1,925.00
Cost Allocation	<u>147,063.00</u>
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$1,159,642.00



About the Springfield-Sangamon County Regional Planning Commission (SSCRPC)

200 South 9th Street, Room 212
Springfield, Illinois 62701-1629

Phone: 217-535-3110
Fax: 217-535-3111
E-mail: sscrpc@co.sangamon.il.us



The SSCRPC serves as the joint planning body for Sangamon County and the City of Springfield. It also works with other public and semi-public agencies throughout the area to promote orderly growth and redevelopment, and assists other Sangamon County communities with their planning needs.

Through its professional staff, the Commission provides overall planning services related to land use, housing, recreation, transportation, economics, environment, and special projects. The Commission prepares area-wide planning documents and assists the County, cities, and villages, as well as special districts, with planning activities. The staff reviews all proposed divisions of land and makes recommendations on all Springfield and Sangamon County zoning and variance requests. The agency serves as the Floodplain Administrator and local A-95 review clearinghouse to process and review all federally funded applications for the county.

The Commission has 17 members including representatives from the Sangamon County Board, Springfield City Council, special units of government, and 6 appointed citizens from the city and county. The Executive Director is appointed by the Executive Board of the Commission and confirmed by the Sangamon County Board.

The Executive Director also oversees the Sangamon County Department of Zoning and serves as Plats Officer for the County. Divisions of land must be reviewed by the Plats Officer to insure compliance with the State Plat Act and local zoning and subdivision regulations.

Administrative Staff

Norm Sims, Executive Director
Mary Jane Niemann, Account Technician and Operations Assistant
Jane Lewis, Clerk-Typist II

Commission Planning Staff

Land Use

Molly Berns, Senior Planner, Land Use Planning
Abby Bybee, Associate Planner, Land Use Planning

Transportation

Linda Wheeland, Senior Planner, Transportation Planning
Dale Schultz, Principal Planner, Transportation Planning
Chris Benson, Associate Planner, Transportation Planning
Kyle Phillips, Planning Aide, Transportation Planning
Neha Soni Agarwal, Intern/Planning Aide

Development

Joe Zeibert, Senior Planner, Development Planning
Steve Keenan, Principal Planner, Development Planning
Alex Myers, Intern/Project Aide

Strategic & Comprehensive

Jeff Fulgenzi, Senior Planner, Comprehensive & Strategic Planning
Jacob Ferguson, GPSI Intern, Univ. of Illinois-Springfield

County Zoning Staff

Cyndi Knowles, Zoning Administrator
Brian Schackmann, Liquor Code Enforcement Officer
Trustin Harrison, Zoning Inspector
Susan Taylor, Clerk-Typist

As of June 1, 2011



Respectfully submitted,
June 15, 2011,
E. Norman Sims,
Executive Director,
SSCRPC

Primary Committees & Formal Linkages

Sangamon County: Public Health, Safety and Zoning Committee; Historic Preservation Commission; Zoning Board of Appeals; Rural Transportation Ad Hoc Committee; Local Emergency Planning Committee; Aerial Flyover Committee.

City of Springfield: Historic Sites Commission; Planning and Zoning Commission; Road Impact Fee Advisory Committee.

SSCRPC: Executive Policy Board; Land Subdivision Committee; Springfield Area Transportation Study (Policy and Technical Committees).

State: Region 7 Rural Human Services Transportation Committee; Illinois Greenways and Trails Council; Illinois Association of Regional Councils; Illinois MPO Advisory Council; IHDA Sustainability Taskforce; APA Illinois.

Other: SMTD Disabled Persons Advisory Committee; Census Complete Count Committee; Downtown Springfield Inc.; Route 66 Trail Executive Council; Quantum 5 Partnership; Illinois Medical District at Springfield; Central Illinois Economic Development Authority; Citizens Efficiency Commission; American Planning Association.