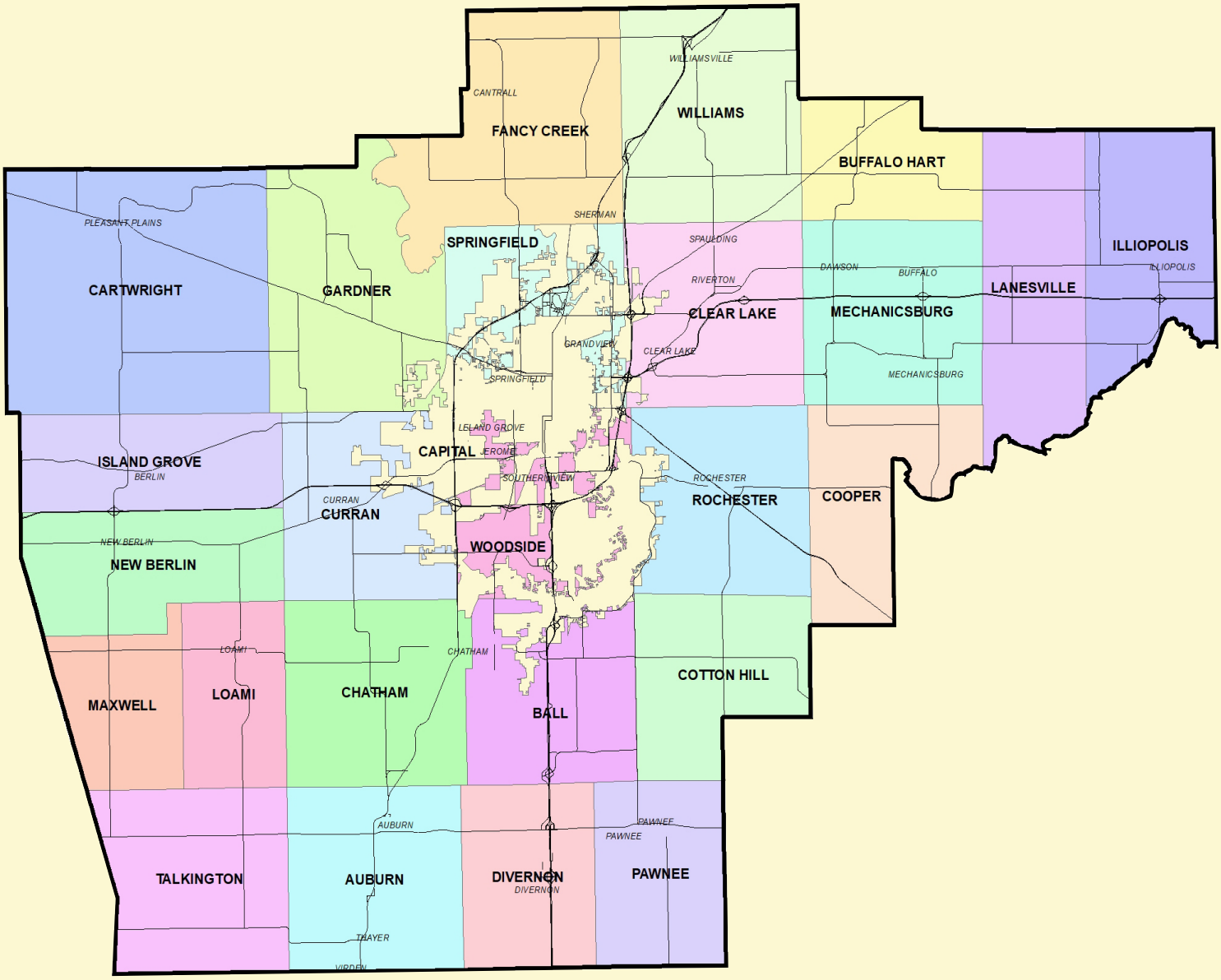
Annual Program Year Activity Report

Addressing the Period July 1, 2017 — June 30, 2018



SSC RPC Springfield-Sangamon County Regional Planning Commission

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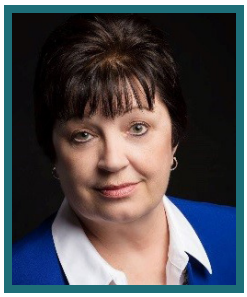
TRANSITIONS...

A Message from the Executive Director

The Sangamon County Planning Commission was formed in March, 1957. The joint group known as the Springfield Plan Commission began meeting in June of that same year. The two groups were organizationally separate but operated and met jointly, and were served by one staff. By 1966, the two Commissions had merged. On October 6, 1987, Sangamon County utilized its authority provided under the State of Illinois' Regional Planning Act to create the Springfield-Sangamon County Regional Planning Commission (SSCRPC). That action 30 years ago resulted in the SSCRPC as we know it today.

The purpose of this history lesson is to make the point that "the more things change, the more they stay the same." Certainly things have changed in the past 60 years. Back in 1957, the minutes of meetings were taken by long hand, or sometimes shorthand, and later converted to a typewritten manuscript by using a manual typewriter. Fortunately, carbon paper and mimeograph machines helped with the duplication process. Maps were drawn by hand. Fast forward to program year 2017-2018. Meeting minutes are recorded on a small device the size of an ink pen, or a telephone which can also take pictures of the meeting attendees. Transcribing the minutes can be as easy as letting a specially designed software program listen to the meeting and transcribe what was said and by whom. Digitized maps are developed using computer aided design (CAD) that combines metadata with coordinates obtained from a global positioning system (GPS) with advanced ortho imagery. Oh, and all of this is available on (gasp) a telephone that will fit in the palm of your hand. There is no question that things have changed dramatically.



Molly S. Berns, Executive Director

As I thought about the history of the SSCRPC and the seven Executive Directors who preceded me, there was one thing that I knew had not wavered: the dedication of your planning staff. The name of the organization and its leadership may change, the methods and tools used to accomplish our work may advance, but the mission of the staff remains the same: to provide quality service to the residents of Sangamon County.

This report provides an overview of some of the Commission's work during the 2017-2018 program year. As we transition into PY 2018-2019, the staff is prepared to face the challenges ahead with a continued commitment to excellence.

Molly S. Berns, Executive Director

Ms. Valera Yazell, Chairman of the Executive Policy Board for PY 2017-2018.

Members of the Regional Planning Commission for PY 2017-2018

COMMISSION LEADERSHIP FOR 2017-2018:

Membership as of June 1, 2018

2017-2018 Officers and Members of the Executive Policy Board:

Ms. Valera Yazell, Chairman, Citizen Member, City of Springfield.
Mr. Larry Hamlin, Vice-Chair, Citizen Member, Sangamon County.
Mr. Joe Gooden, Citizen Member, City of Springfield.
Hon. Jim Langfelder, Mayor, City of Springfield (Ms. Bonnie Drew).
Hon. Andy Van Meter, Chairman, Sangamon County Board (Mr. Brian McFadden).
Mr. Dick Ciotti, Chairman, Sangamon County Water Reclamation District (Mr. Gregg Humphrey).
Mr. Eric Hansen, Citizen Member, Sangamon County, Immediate Past Chairman, member-at-large.

Other Commission Members:

Hon. Joe McMenamin, Alderman, Springfield.
Hon. Andrew Proctor, Alderman, Springfield.
Hon. George Preckwinkle, Member, Sangamon County Board (Mr. Charlie Stratton).
Hon. Greg Stumpf, Member, Sangamon County Board (Mr. Jim Stone).
Ms. Leslie Sgro, President, Springfield Park District (Mr. Elliott McKinley).
Mr. Brian Brewer, Chairman, Sangamon Mass Transit District (Mr. Frank Squires).
Mr. Frank Vala, Chairman, Springfield Airport Authority (Mr. Roger Blickensderfer).
Mr. Jeff Vose, Regional Superintendent of Schools, Sangamon County (Ms. Shannon Fehrholz / Mr. Lyle Wind).
Mr. Kenneth Springs, Citizen Member, Sangamon County.
Mr. Greg Kruger, Citizen Member, City of Springfield.

(Indicates member's official designated representative)

Concerning the Commission's Finances:

The column to the right provides information concerning the Commission's revenues and expenditures from Dec. 1, 2016, through Nov. 30, 2017, the last audited year. The reader will note the expenditures are shown as exceeding revenues by $54,148 However, the difference in the amount of Revenue and Expenditures is due to the fact that the SSCRPC bills on a quarterly basis. Therefore, two months worth of expenditures are included in the financial statement that are not billed out until the quarterly billing is done in January for the period of October - December.

The SSCRPC's financial planning must take into account a number of factors each year. First, the Commission must operate under four different fiscal years. As per its establishing ordinance, the Commission's budgeting must be done based upon the Sangamon County fiscal year, which runs from December to the following November. However, the Commission receives funding from the City of Springfield, the State of Illinois, and the Federal government, all of which have fiscal years that differ from the County's as well as from one another's. Their financial support may not be fully known when the budget is prepared. These years also differ from the Commission's program year — which runs from July 1 until June 30 of the following year — which is the period covered by this report.

Second, the Commission often competes for and is awarded grants and contracts during each fiscal year. These opportunities may be unknown when the budget is prepared because of the various project years used by the granting agencies. These projects often have performance periods with specified beginning and ending dates that are different from the government fiscal years noted above.

The Commission staff must pay close attention to both budgeting and the management of resources it receives. This is one of the reasons the SSCRPC is the subject of two audits each year — the Sangamon County audit and a separate, independent audit of the Commission's finances. The results of the independent audit are presented here.

Draft Financial Statement as per Hughes, Cameron, & Company LLC audit conducted for the period of 12/01/2016 – 11/30/2017

FINANCES:

Receipts and Disbursements,
December 1, 2016 through November 30, 2017.

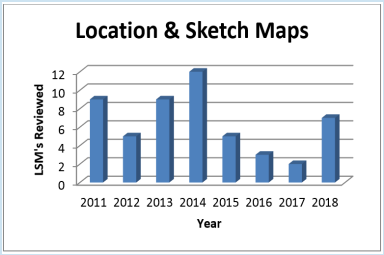
REVENUES:

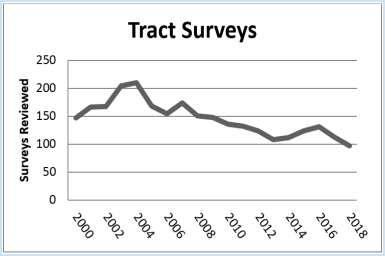
General Planning - City of Springfield	$189,267
General Planning – Sangamon County	$442,787
Transportation Study	$393,249
Mass Transit Study	$98,089
Marketing Materials - SMTD	$11,805
Regional Comprehensive Planning	$57,388
Springfield Comprehensive Plan Update	$5,291
Other Projects	$1,500
Reimbursed Expenses	$129
TOTAL REVENUES	**$1,199,505**

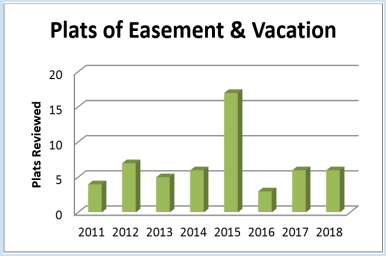
EXPENDITURES:

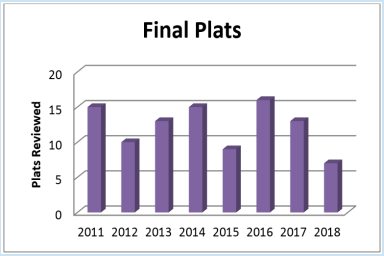
Personnel	$704,684
Boards & Committees	$4,750
Fringe Benefits	$302,599
Materials & Supplies	$4,139
Printing	$159
Meetings & Dues	$3,219
Travel & Mileage	$1,140
Equipment Maintenance	$4,154
Equipment Rental	$494
Publications	$3,697
Postage	$3,850
Contractual Services	$81,208
Allocated Administrative Costs	$134,673
Equipment Purchases	$3,816
Depreciation	$1,071
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	**$ 1,253,653**

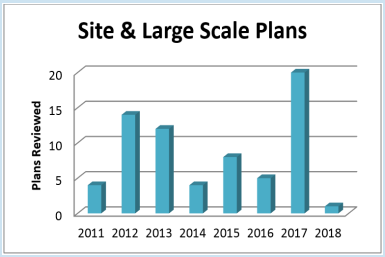
SSC RPC Springfield-Sangamon County Regional Planning Commission

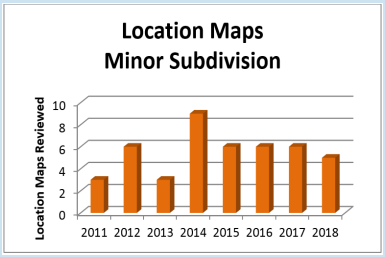












LAND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

The SSCRPC's Development Planning staff is responsible for the review of all subdivisions and large-scale development plans for unincorporated Sangamon County and the City of Springfield.

The procedure for dividing land through the subdivision process begins at the Planning Commission and requires further consideration by the Commission's Land Subdivision Committee, Springfield City Council or the Sangamon County Board.

The conventional subdivision process consists of three separate phases. The first phase is a Location and Sketch Map (LSM). The LSM is the most important phase of the subdivision planning process because it identifies the potential problems a development may encounter that the developer will need to address.

The second phase is the Preliminary Plan, which addresses such things as the drainage of the development and the manner in which a development will be constructed with the coordination of all utilities and services. This plan is valid for three years from the date of approval.

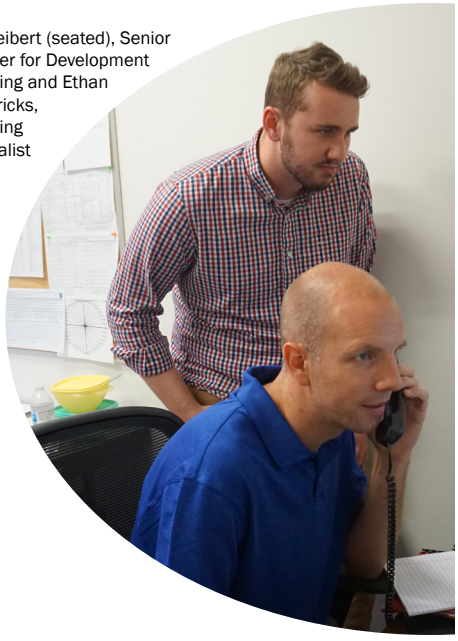
The third phase is a Final Plat, which establishes the boundaries and easements of each lot within the subdivision. Each time a Final Plat is approved the validity of the Preliminary Plan is extended another three years.

From the 2016-2017 program year through the current one, the trend in development has changed. Previously, we had seen a decrease in the number of LSM and Preliminary Plan reviews, but the number of Final Plats remained constant. This indicated that most developments are completed before new developments are started. Over the last program year, however, the Development Planning staff saw an increase in the number of LSM reviews, and a similar number of Preliminary Plan reviews as the previous year. Coupled with a decrease in the number of Final Plat reviews, this indicated that the development cycle is beginning to start over as plans start to expire.

During this reporting year, the Development Planning staff and the Land Subdivision Committee have reviewed fewer items as compared to previous years. This reduction is a sign that the economy in our area continues to be sluggish. Also, in June, 2017, the City of Springfield changed its threshold for a large-scale development from five acres to 12 acres which reduced the number of plans that are typically submitted for review. Since this definition was changed, there has been only one large-scale development plan reviewed in the City of Springfield compared to 20 large scale developments reviewed the previous year.

The staff also reviews Minor Subdivisions for the City of Springfield and unincorporated Sangamon County. A Minor Subdivision is designed to allow for an abbreviated approval process for those lots having minimal impacts on an area. Only one Minor Subdivision is allowed for each parcel of record as defined within the respective jurisdictions subdivision ordinance. During the 2017-2018 program year, staff has reviewed five Minor Subdivision location maps, which is consistent with previous development years.

In addition to plan review, the SSCRPC is responsible for Tract Survey approvals for unincorporated Sangamon County, City of Springfield, and the villages of Chatham, New Berlin and Pawnee. The staff approved 97 Tract Surveys during the program year. This is a continued decrease in tract survey approvals, which is down by 34 since 2016-17.

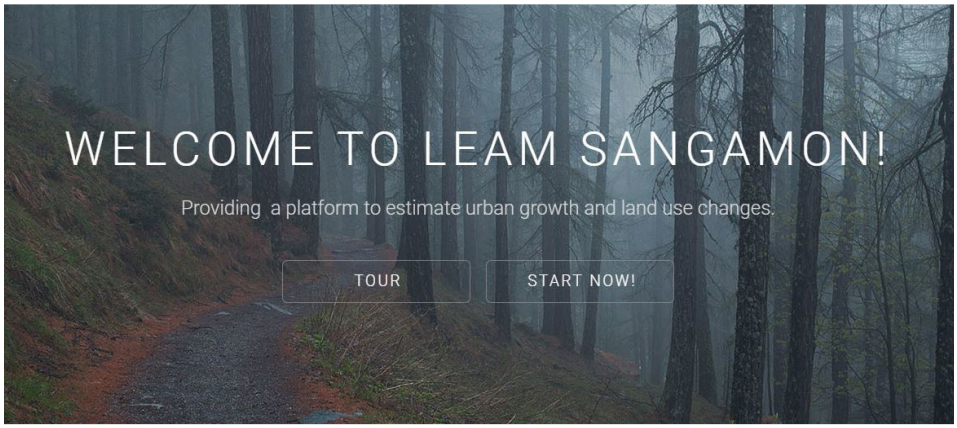


Joe Zeibert (seated), Senior Planner for Development Planning and Ethan Hendricks, Planning Specialist

LEAM: A SOPHISTICATED MODEL FOR LAND USE PLANNING AND ANALYSIS

Predicting the future is virtually impossible, but the SSCRPC has found the Landuse Evolution and Impact Assessment Model, or LEAM, to be a valuable forecasting tool to assist with land use planning. Developed by the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC), LEAM combines the data related to population, employment, uses of land, roadway networks and location of undeveloped land for a specific area. Users create and input scenarios into LEAM which are then processed and evaluated by the model. The system produces maps which visually show where development is most likely to occur, the type of development (residential or commercial), and the location and magnitude of the development. LEAM was used successfully during the development of the Springfield Comprehensive Plan.

The second phase of the LEAM project is called LEAMecon which adds an economic impact component to the LEAM Land Use system. Thanks to the continued financial assistance received from the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), the SSCRPC has invested in LEAMecon.



Using data derived from the Bureau of Labor Statistics to establish a 2015 employment base for 11 industry sectors, the model allows staff to input data for scenarios such as an infrastructure improvement, new construction or other development occurring in an area as well as the impacts in relation to the loss of employment or investment. LEAMecon then calculates the effect of a project on different industry sectors and provides the real-time shocks (output changes) on each industry sector's future employment.

Currently, the two LEAM based systems operate independently of one another. The UIUC is developing a digital linkage so that the economic outputs can be utilized to help illustrate possible land use changes resulting from changes in development. The SSCRPC has been awarded a state planning grant from IDOT to continue to work with UIUC as it develops the linkage. The LEAM systems will continue to be valuable tools for staff to use when helping communities develop comprehensive plans.

MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION'S LAND SUBDIVISION COMMITTEE

Membership as of June 1, 2018

Much of the work done by the Land Development Planning staff is with the assistance of the Commission's Land Subdivision Committee. This committee includes representatives of both the City of Springfield and Sangamon County, as well as representatives of relevant special districts and private utilities. It also includes representatives of the Commission and the public. All SSCRPC officers serve as ex officio members of the Land Subdivision Committee.

Gregg Humphrey, CHAIRMAN	Sangamon County Water Reclamation District
Nate Bottom, VICE-CHAIRMAN	Springfield Dept. of Public Works
Michael Johnson	CWLP-Water
Matt McLaughlin	Springfield Building & Zoning Dept.
Elliott McKinley	Springfield Park District
Chris Cole	Springfield Fire Dept.
Brad Bixby	CWLP-Electric
Brian Davis	Sangamon County Highway Dept.
Andrew Bodine	Springfield Dept. of Public Works
Steve Hall	Sangamon County Public Health Dept.
Trustin Harrison	County Zoning Administrator
Bonnie Drew	Springfield Office of Planning and Economic Development
Kenneth Springs	Citizen Member
Dean Graven	Citizen Member

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

Transportation planning staff (from L to R): Senior planner Shannon Karrick and Associate planners Neha Soni, Jason Sass and Brian Sheehan

The work of the transportation staff is an ever-evolving process. Although the primary responsibility of the transportation planning staff continues to be facilitating the work of the MPO, how that takes place is largely dependent upon state and federal requirements, priorities and funding.

In PY 2017-2018, the transportation staff provided support to the SATS committees, attended numerous meetings, two conferences, nearly 30 webinars and four classes. Attendance at training opportunities available through a variety of venues provides staff with the ability to learn about potential funding opportunities, best practices, learn new regulatory requirements and how they will influence the work of the MPO, become familiar with new programs and network. Other primary components of administrative tasks include the development of the FY 2019 Unified Planning Work Program that outlines the work to be conducted during the year and the preparation and submission of documents required by the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act.

The SSCRPC recently completed the Springfield comprehensive plan and is currently working on plans for the Village of Chatham and Sangamon County. Transportation staff have been compiling, assessing and analyzing information in order to provide a complete picture of the current transportation network for these entities. Utilizing the data accessible to and collected by staff provides an opportunity to confirm it is the most current, accurate and from the best source available.

Our MPO stakeholders, the Illinois Department of Transportation, Sangamon County and various municipalities provide public engagement opportunities when transportation elements will affect area residents. The SSCRPC is also involved in educating and interacting with our planning partners and the community. Involvement in such activities this year included the 217 Bike Share Program, Downtown Open Streets Initiative, Illinois Department of Natural Resource's Greenways and Trails Committee, and Springfield Urbanized Area Human Services Transportation Plan Advisory Committee. The annual transportation improvement program, listing road and bridge, rail, transit, bicycle and pedestrian projects; as well as the long range transportation plan prepared every five years, are also made available to the public for review and public comment.

Several projects, tasks and reporting obligations have been transformed by new regulatory requirements and/or access to new data sources. Performance targets covering safety, bridge and pavement condition, travel time reliability and transit asset management are required. In order to establish baselines, set realistic targets and monitor progress, both historic and current data must be available and accessible by the MPO. Safety data is provided through the Illinois Department of Transportation's (IDOT) safety portal and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS). IDOT's interactive data tools provide information on bridge and pavement conditions. MPOs have also been given access to the Federal Highway Administration's National Performance Management Research Data Set (NPMRDS) through the Regional Integrated Transportation Information System (RITIS). These readily available data tools enable staff to collect, analyze and report findings.

Travel demand modeling was used several times to forecast the potential impact of transportation projects. Using existing and planned road network, economic and residential development, employment, socioeconomic, traffic count and National Highway Travel Survey data allows the program to predict the anticipated effect on traffic flow. SSCRPC staff utilize a program addressing only the immediate area; staff have begun working with IDOT to determine the needs of a statewide modeling system.

The MPO is responsible for cataloging and maintaining an inventory of Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) components utilized within the MPA. ITS Architecture is comprised of interrelated components that work together to deliver transportation services. It

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also identifies the stakeholders that will initiate the action and the end users that will be affected. It includes devices such as traffic cameras, early warning systems, traffic signals, dispatch systems and electronic road signs. Within the overall system, subsystems exist. Traffic management, roadside traveler information, and emergency response are functions of these subsystems. The purpose of developing and recording a regional ITS Architecture is to illustrate and document the components and parties involved in order to assure that planning and deployment are executed in an organized and coordinated manner.

Everyone is a consumer of transportation and a safe, reliable and efficient system of mobility for all users of all abilities is the goal. SSCRPC transportation staff continue to work with stakeholders to plan and manage the transportation system by relying more on information to improve operations and performance.

TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

The transportation network within the Springfield Area Transportation Study (SATS) MPA is undergoing a transformation. Several projects have been completed or are well underway and progress is evident.

The installation of design elements is intended to improve safety along roadways. The roundabout at Archer Elevator Road and Iles Avenue, guard rails, dedicated turn lanes and traffic signal modernization are expected to reduce the number and severity of crashes.

The Springfield Rail Improvements and High-Speed Rail Projects continue. Ground was broken on the Ash and Laurel Street underpasses and work is anticipated to begin on the underpasses at Fifth and Sixth Streets, as well as Iron Bridge Road. In addition to the grade separations, new gates have been installed at several existing rail crossings. Fencing has been placed and crossings closed along the high speed corridor.

Mobility options have improved for those in vehicles, on bicycles or walking. The Stanford Avenue extension from Fox Bridge to Taylor includes sidewalks and sidepaths. These accommodations will also be available to those traveling along the 11th Street extension from East Knox to Lincolnshire as it nears completion.

Several structures, including underpasses, overpasses and bridges, on the National Highway System have undergone repair. This work took place along segments of interstates 55 and 72, as well as Illinois Route 29 and Dirksen Parkway. A complete bridge replacement was completed on Wesley Chapel Road.

Moving the downtown transfer center from Capitol Avenue to 11th Street between Washington and Adams Streets will provide riders with a dedicated and safer option for boarding and disembarking the buses.

Woodside Road widening with lane separation and guardrails.

Pedestrian and vehicular gates and fencing on 5th Street.

Sidepath and lighting along 11th Street extension.

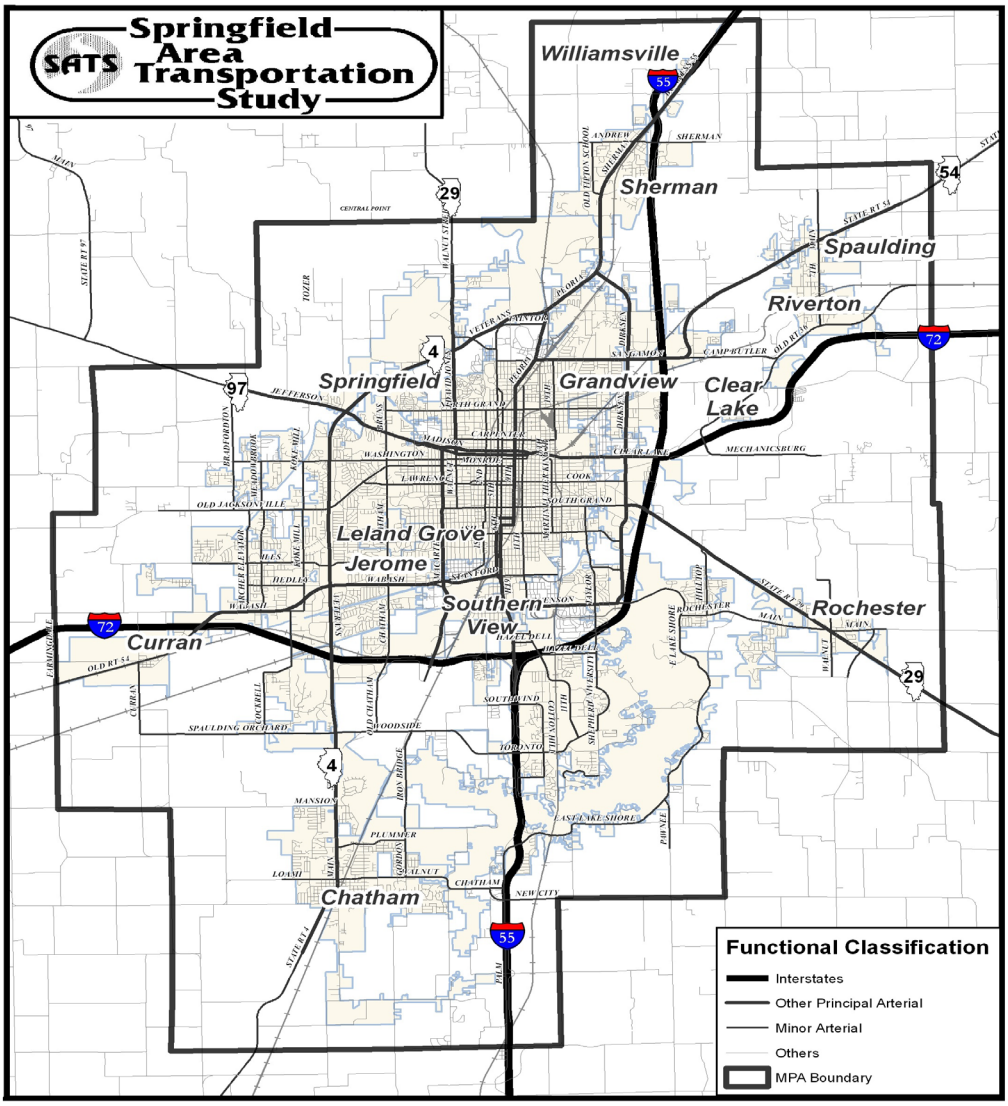
Wesley Chapel Road bridge replacement.

Transit Center on 11th Street.

ABOUT THE SATS METROPOLITAN PLANNING AREA

Federal transportation legislation requires that each urbanized area with a population of more than 50,000 be designated as a metropolitan planning area (MPA). The Springfield Area Transportation Study (SATS) is the transportation planning body for the greater Springfield area. Although originally covering the immediate Springfield area only, the planning area was expanded in 2003 to include the enlarged urbanized area defined by the 2000 Census and now encompasses nearly 27 percent of the county.

SATS is responsible for the direction, oversight and coordination of the transportation planning process for the region in a manner that will ensure that transportation planning and programming decisions are reflective of the needs and desires of its members and the public. Its policies take into account the physical, social, and economic effects of circulation, as well as regional impacts and coordination needs at all levels.



OUR SATS PARTNERS

Membership as of June 1, 2018

SATS POLICY COMMITTEE

(VOTING POSITIONS)

Hon. Jim Langfelder, Mayor, City of Springfield (Bonnie Drew)
Hon. Andy Van Meter, Chairman, Sangamon County Board (Brian McFadden)
Hon. Dave Kimsey, Board President, Village of Chatham (Pat McCarthy)
Ms. Valera Yazell, Chair, SSCRPC
Mr. Jeff South, IDOT Region 4 Engineer (Jeff Myers)
Mr. Brian Brewer, SMTD Board Chair (Frank Squires)

SATS TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

(VOTING POSITIONS)

Mr. Nate Bottom, Springfield City Engineer (Andrew Bodine)
Mr. Brian Davis, Sangamon County Engineer (Arlin Williams)
Mr. Pat McCarthy, Village Manager, Village of Chatham (Terry Fountain)
Ms. Molly Berns, SSCRPC Executive Director (Shannan Karrick)
Mr. Jeff Myers, Program Development Engineer IDOT Region 4/ District 6 (Sal Madonia)
Mr. Frank Squires, Managing Director, SMTD (Shoun Reese)

SATS ADVISORS

(NON-VOTING POSITIONS)

Mr. Mark Hanna, Executive Director, Springfield Airport Authority (Roger Blickensderfer)
Mr. Tom Kelso, Office of Planning & Programming, IDOT
Mr. Mike Stead, Illinois Commerce Commission Rail Safety Program Administrator
Mr. J.D. Stevenson, Planning, Environmental & ROW Team Leader, FHWA

(Indicates primary official representative in the member's absence.)

TRANSIT MOVING FORWARD

"You can't teach an old dog new tricks." It's an old saying that has been used to describe people or organizations that do not like to change. This phrase does not have use in transportation planning especially when it comes the transit providers in our area. In order to make utilizing the transit system as easy and convenient as possible, the SSCRPC staff helps the Sangamon Mass Transit District (SMTD) and the Sangamon-Menard Area Regional Transit (SMART) group procure and implement new technologies that make the transit experience better than it has ever been in Springfield and Sangamon County.

When SMTD changed its name in 2017 it was a sign of its continued commitment to ensure that the transportation network is inclusive, not only in Springfield, but throughout Sangamon County, to everybody who has transportation needs, regardless of ability or resources. But the "new tricks" go beyond a name change.

The SMTD is currently in the process of a complete network change. The new network is the result of a new focus at SMTD on multi-modal transportation for Springfield. Beginning this fall, SMTD will begin operating from an off-street transfer center, making it safer and easier for riders to board and disembark from buses. The new transfer center is also the beginning of a new vision for multi-modal transit in Springfield, as the first element of a center that is anticipated to provide local bus, regional transit, train, inter-city bus, automobile rental, and taxi and ride sharing services to Springfield in one location. The multi-modal transit center would be the first stop for people arriving from outside the city and the place where they can get "one-stop shopping" for transportation to their ultimate destination. The SSCRPC is providing assistance to SMTD for funding procurement, mapping services, research, and public outreach for the new network and transfer center. It's the beginning of a new paradigm for transportation planning, allowing transportation planners to incorporate new transit options and providing transportation services to everyone who needs it, not just automobile users.

Technology is also changing the way that transit operates, and the SSCRPC and SMTD are working together to bring the benefits of new technology to Springfield and Sangamon County. The SMTD is incorporating Intelligent Transportation Services (ITS) architecture into its fleet of buses and shuttles. This allows SMTD to share data between its buses and dispatchers, as well as between SMTD and other ITS stakeholders, such as police, fire, emergency responders, IDOT, and other area municipalities and agencies. Some of these improvements include:

Photo courtesy of Sangamon/Menard Area Regional Transit.

Photo courtesy of Sangamon Mass Transit District.

- **New buses.** SMTD has received shipments of new buses that are more fuel efficient, comfortable and cleaner operating via Federal funding through SATS. These buses allow SMTD to update its fleet, which had been nearing the end of its expected operational lifespan.
- **Computer-Aided Dispatch and Automated Vehicle Location (CAD/AVL) for buses.** Global Positioning System (GPS) allows SMTD dispatchers and bus operators to locate buses easier, enabling better route planning and trip planning. Eventually, CAD/AVL data will be made available to the public, allowing riders to track the location and timing of buses in their area.
- **Passenger Counters for buses.** Enhanced passenger counting allows the SMTD and the SSCRPC to determine where riders are most likely to need transit services. This data can be used to plan street upgrades for transit and the location of bus stops and shelters in areas where the most people will use transit facilities.
- **Automated stop announcement for buses.** Automated stop announcement will benefit bus riders by providing clear and strong announcements for each upcoming bus stop. This benefits unfamiliar riders and riders with vision impairments to ride more confidently and encourages future ridership.

In August 2018, the Sangamon-Menard Regional Transit transportation service will begin operations in Sangamon County. The SSCRPC has partnered with Sangamon County and other paratransit service providers within the SATS planning area to create a door-to-door rural transit service, servicing Sangamon and Menard County residents outside the Springfield Urbanized Area. The SSCRPC will continue to support SMART with mapping, demographic research, and data sharing.

Along with our transit partners, the SSCRPC is using new tools, data, and analysis to create a transportation network that meets the needs of all residents of Springfield and Sangamon County. Through the use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and cloud computing, the SSCRPC and SMTD have the ability to analyze route maps to ensure that routes meet the needs of the maximum number of potential riders and give those riders access to jobs, commerce, and amenities that may have been previously inaccessible without an automobile.

Transit in Springfield and Sangamon County is more than just operating bus routes. Thousands of people rely on a combination of buses, paratransit, and rural transit every day for their transportation needs. Transit allows people without automobiles access to jobs, commerce, recreation, and many other activities. The SSCRPC and the transit providers in Springfield and Sangamon County are working together to implement the latest strategies, technology, and data analysis to not only make sure that today's users are best served, but to identify and serve potential transit users in the future.

LAND USE AND ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING

Emily Prather, Associate Planner, and Steve Keenan, Senior Planner, Land Use Planning

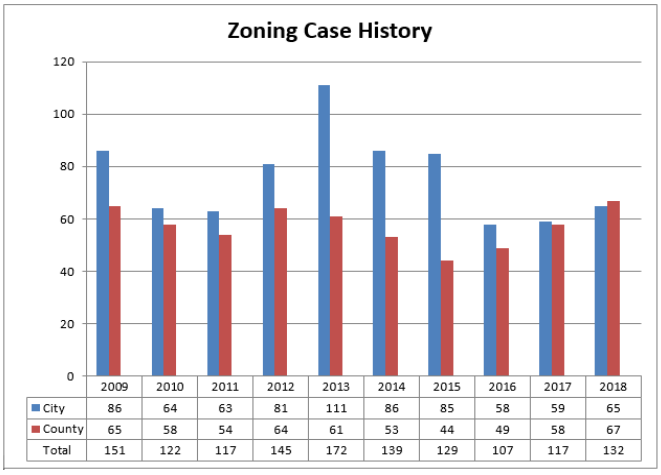
The Land Use & Environmental Planning (LU&E) staff is responsible for analyzing and formulating recommendations for zoning cases filed in the City of Springfield and unincorporated Sangamon County. For each zoning case, staff must review the petition, conduct a site visit, identify surrounding uses, determine if the requirements of the ordinance are met and complete a staff analysis which includes a professional recommendation. If the petitioner is requesting to change the zoning of property within the jurisdiction of the City of Springfield, the staff analysis must also evaluate if the requested rezoning is consistent with city's comprehensive plan.

As discussed on page 12, the City of Springfield adopted its new 2037 Comprehensive Plan in January, 2018. This action resulted in a transition for the Land Use & Environmental (LU&E) Planning staff. Beginning with the cases heard at the February 2018 meeting, the LU&E staff used the policies and future land use map contained in the newly adopted City of Springfield's 2037 Comprehensive Plan as part of the zoning case evaluation.

Overall, the number of zoning cases filed increased during this reporting period. Staff reviewed 65 cases under the jurisdiction of the City of Springfield and 67 in unincorporated Sangamon County for a combined total of 132 zoning cases. This is a 12.8% increase over the previous year's 117 cases.

There are several different kinds of zoning cases that LU&E staff must analyze. First, property owners may request to change the zoning of their property to allow different uses or uses with conditions. Second, a variance of the bulk or area regulations of the zoning regulations may be requested. Most zoning cases fall into one of these two categories.

Local governments may also initiate zoning petitions to amend applicable ordinances. Called "text amendments" the changes are often proposed to address new innovations or technologies that were the subject of state or federal legislative initiatives. Such was the case during this reporting period when the county adopted a new chapter to its zoning ordinance entitled Solar Farm Energy Systems. This text amendment was a proactive effort to develop regulations in response to newly adopted state legislation which encourages the use of solar as an alternative energy source.



	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
City	86	64	63	81	111	86	85	58	59	65
County	65	58	54	64	61	53	44	49	58	67
Total	151	122	117	145	172	139	129	107	117	132

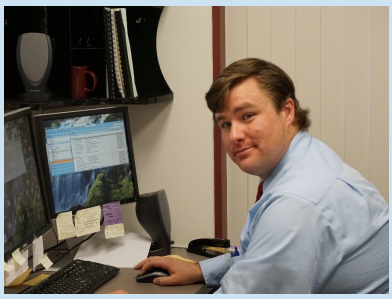
FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT

Floodplain Management is an area in which the SSCRPC staff always hopes that there is little to no activity. Otherwise, we would be reporting on activities related to flooding which usually involves some damage to property.

We are happy to report that no significant flooding occurred during this reporting period. While this was the case, the staff was still diligent to ensure compliance with the county's floodplain ordinance, provide the required notifications to residents who own property containing floodplain, answer questions related to best floodplain management practices and provide floodplain determinations upon request.

These tasks are required as part of the county's participation in FEMA's National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Community Rating System (CRS). CRS is a voluntary incentive program that recognizes and encourages community floodplain management activities that exceed the minimum NFIP requirements. Communities in the program are rated from Class 1 (highest) to Class 10 (lowest). Sangamon County is currently a Class 7 community in the CRS, which allows residents who buy flood insurance to receive a 15% discount. In 2019, Sangamon County will have its five-year review with the Insurance Services Office to evaluate our progress in the CRS program.

We are pleased to report that Sangamon County will be receiving a few extra points on its next review as a result of the pro-active actions of Senior Land Use Planner Steve Keenan. In the fall of 2017, Steve sat for, and passed, the Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM) exam which is valid until 2020. It has been about ten years since there was a CFM on the RPC staff. Our congratulations go out to Steve and his achievements.



HISTORIC PRESERVATION

SCHPC

Sangamon County Historic Preservation Commission

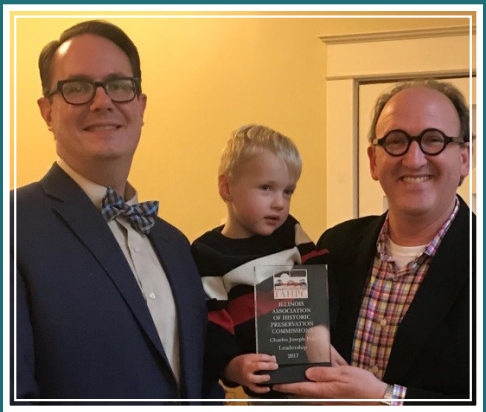
The Sangamon County Historic Preservation Commission (SCHPC) is charged with carrying out the provisions outlined in the Sangamon County Historic Preservation Ordinance as listed to the right. This may seem like a long list of responsibilities for any group to accomplish. But with dedication and commitment (and a little bit of organizational help from the SSCRPC Land Use staff), the SCHPC tackles its primary mission to educate residents about the county's history and advocate for the preservation of historic structures and landmarks.

The SCHPC has been diligently working on their most recent project, *The Barns of Sangamon County* e-book. The SCHPC reached out to the public and asked that residents submit photographs of historic barns located within Sangamon County. Over 40 photographs of barns were received for consideration. To prepare the e-book, Commissioners are researching each submission, talking with the property owners of the barns and writing brief histories for each barn submission.

Keeping a project of this magnitude organized is a time consuming task. Once again, technology to the rescue. The SSCRPC staff helps the Commissioners keep the information organized by using Dropbox, an online information storage system that allows Commissioners to add their own research to a shared folder that is visible to the rest of the group.

The Barns of Sangamon County e-book is a project that highlights rural structures that helps define the agricultural history of our county. The Illinois Bicentennial Commission agreed when it notified the SCHPC in March, 2018 that the barn book would be part of the Illinois Bicentennial as an official endorsed project.

"Identify, protect, preserve and provide for the restoration, rehabilitation, and continued use of buildings, structures, objects, areas, sites, and landscapes that are of historic, archaeological, architectural, or scenic significance; to foster education, interest, and pride in the beauty and accomplishments of the past; to promote economic development through protection and enhancement of resources important to tourism and business; to conserve and improve the value of real property and the property tax base; to ensure orderly, efficient, and harmonious development; to encourage cooperation between municipalities and Sangamon County; and to promote the general welfare" (Sangamon County Historic Preservation Ordinance, Chapter 15.06.010).



Great leadership also contributes to a group's success. That is certainly the case with the SCHPC. In December 2017, Chairman Chuck Pell of the Sangamon County Historic Preservation Commission (SCHPC) was honored with the Commission Excellence Award for Leadership from the Illinois Association of Historic Preservation Commissions at its annual meeting. Chairman Pell has been serving as the chairman for the SCHPC since it was established in November 2004. This recognition for his tireless efforts in the area of historic preservation for the county is well-deserved. Congratulations, Chuck!

STRATEGIC AND COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING

Transitions were very apparent in the area of strategic and comprehensive planning.

The City of Springfield's 2037 Comprehensive Plan, entitled "Forging a New Legacy" was adopted by the city council during this planning year. Generally a minimum of two years is set aside to complete a plan of this nature. However, by allocating staff resources appropriately, the SSCRPC staff was pleased to have met the city's request to have the draft plan completed within 16 months.

Much of the work completed on the city plan during PY 2017-2018 involved finalizing the land use policy recommendations and creating the proposed land use map which will be in place for the next 20 years. To make the land use maps as user-friendly as possible, the city was divided into 17 sectors. The Steering Committee members evaluated the existing land use in each sector and identified the trends of development that have occurred (or that they believed would occur) within the sectors. By applying the land use policies to each sector, recommendations for the future land use were identified.

Prior to the adoption by the city council, several amendments were made to the plan to address the concerns of the development community. The city council adopted the amended plan in January 2018.

Now that the adopted plan is in place, the city has transitioned to utilizing and implementing the new plan. It is being used by SSCRPC staff when analyzing zoning cases (see page 10), and reviewed when the land subdivision committee is considering a request to divide land. In addition, the Mayor has appointed and convened a committee to begin implementing some of the recommendations contained in the plan.

As soon as staff had completed the task of incorporating the requested modifications to the City of Springfield's comprehensive plan, staff transitioned into working on the comprehensive plan for the Village of Chatham and the plan for the unincorporated areas of Sangamon County. SSCRPC staff has been collecting and reviewing all existing plans applicable to these entities, conducting all of the research and analytic work and seeking input from residents. Both plans are scheduled to be completed during calendar year 2020.

SMALL TOWN ROADWAY CHARACTER PILOT PROJECT

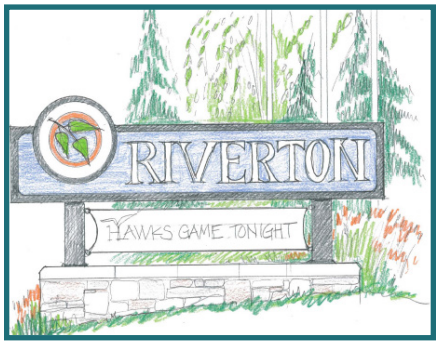
Four villages in Sangamon County now have designs for "character areas" thanks to a grant from the Illinois Department of Transportation. Massie-Massie & Associates of Springfield was selected by the SSCRPC staff to be the consultant for the project which concluded in December 2017.

Four communities participated in the project. The villages of Auburn, Dawson and Riverton chose to focus on the entrance points into their communities while Illiopolis sought ideas to improve their downtown area to create a more attractive environment for current and new businesses.

The plans include design ideas for entrance "community pride" signs, highway and street signs, wayfinding signs, community welcome stations, tree and flower planting programs and grain silo embellishments. While the project provided ideas for these four communities, the plans can be easily adapted for use by the other villages in the county.

Massie-Massie & Associates presented the project reports to the Regional Leadership Council (RLC) at its January, 2018 meeting. The designs are posted on the RLC's website and available for use in any of the villages in Sangamon County.

Painted silos.
PHOTO COURTESY OF MASSIE-MASSIE & ASSOCIATES



Riverton welcome sign rendering.
PHOTO COURTESY OF MASSIE-MASSIE & ASSOCIATES

Illiopolis welcome station rendering.
PHOTO COURTESY OF MASSIE-MASSIE & ASSOCIATES

Painted silos.
PHOTO COURTESY OF MASSIE-MASSIE & ASSOCIATES

Historic bandstand on the square in Auburn, Ill.
PHOTO COURTESY OF MASSIE-MASSIE & ASSOCIATES

Dawson welcome sign rendering.
PHOTO COURTESY OF MASSIE-MASSIE & ASSOCIATES

REGIONAL LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

The SSCRPC staff continued to provide assistance to the Regional Leadership Council (RLC) during this planning year. The RLC is made up of the mayors or presidents whom are elected to serve the incorporated areas of Sangamon County. The group was established as a response to the demand to improve efficiencies and inter-jurisdictional collaboration.

The objectives for the RLC include:

- Expanding cooperation between local units of government,
- Reducing unnecessary duplication of services,
- Improving and sharing information among township and units of government,
- Solving local and regional problems; and
- Making effective use of new opportunities.

One of the opportunities now available to the members is a new website specifically for the RLC. The website was developed by SSCRPC staff with assistance from the Sangamon County Information Technology Department, and is hosted by the county at no cost to the RLC. The website is a digital venue for villages/towns to share information about activities and events and employment opportunities. In addition, member communities are issued a login to access a private marketplace where towns can list equipment for sale. This feature is in response to several villages selling equipment to other towns who are in need.

Transitioning to this new website makes it much easier to RLC members to share information in between the quarterly meetings.

Senior planners Steve Keenan, Shannan Karrick and Joe Zeibert

PLANNING COMMISSION STAFF

(as of June 1, 2018)

ADMINISTRATIVE
- **Molly Berns**, Executive Director
- **Mary Jane Niemann**, Accounting Technician & Operations Assistant
- **Vacant**, Administrative Secretary

DEVELOPMENT PLANNING
- **Joe Zeibert**, Senior Planner for Development Planning
- **Vacant**, Associate Planner, Development Planning

LAND USE & ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING
- **Steve Keenan**, Senior Planner, Land Use Planning
- **Emily Prather**, Associate Planner, Land Use Planning

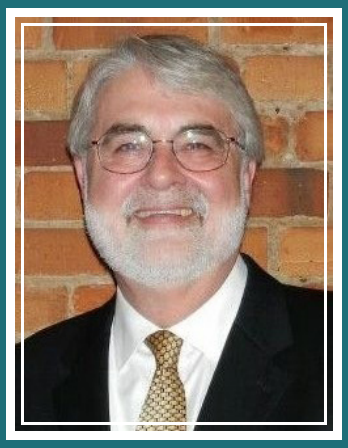
TRANSPORTATION PLANNING
- **Shannan Karrick**, Senior Planner, Transportation Planning
- **Neha Soni**, Associate Planner, Urban Design & Transportation Planning
- **Jason Sass**, Associate Planner, Transportation Planning
- **Brian Sheehan**, Associate Planner, Transportation Planning

INTERNED DURING PY 2017-2018
- **Jordan Hawks**, geology, Illinois State University

STRATEGIC & COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING
- **Jordan Leaf**, Associate Planner
- **Ethan Hendricks**, Planning Specialist

STAFF WHO LEFT THE COMMISSION DURING PY 2017-2018
- **Norm Sims**, Executive Director
- **Gail Weiskopf**, Administrative Secretary

TRANSITION TO A 'NEW NORMAL'



The theme of the 2017 Annual Report was "Addressing the 'New Normal.'" In this message, Executive Director Norm Sims discussed how the SSCRPC staff must be prepared to adapt quickly to challenges faced by local communities and our other planning partners. Even now, staff continues to explore new strategies to transition to the 'New Normal' discussed last year.

In December, 2017, Sims entered into his own 'New Normal' of retirement. Norm joined the Commission's staff as Executive Director on August 1, 2007, after serving as Executive Director of the Illinois Tax Increment Association. Prior to that position, he served as Springfield's Director of Planning and Economic Development for mayors Hasara and Davlin. He came to Illinois from the Commonwealth of Kentucky in 1991 to be part of Governor Jim Edgar's administration and held several positions in the Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs, including as that agency's director. Prior to coming to Illinois, he served as Director of State Services for the national Council of State Governments, located in Lexington, KY and on the research staff of the Kentucky Department of Education.

Sims commitment to public service is commendable and we thank Norm for sharing his dedication and expertise with the Commission.

ADVISING

PLANNING

EVALUATING

LEADING

Created in 1987 to address the planning needs in the region in a coordinated, cooperative and continuing way, the Springfield-Sangamon County Regional Planning Commission (SSCRPC) serves as the joint planning body for Sangamon County and the City of Springfield, as well as the Metropolitan Planning Organization for transportation planning in the region.

The Commission works with other local units of government, public agencies and special districts throughout the region to promote orderly growth and redevelopment, and assist Sangamon County's communities with their planning needs. Through its professional staff, the SSCRPC provides overall planning services related to land use, housing, recreation, transportation, economic development, environmental matters, and risk mitigation, while also conducting various special research, analytic and demonstration projects.

The SSCRPC's staff work is overseen by the Commission, a 17 member board which includes representatives from the Sangamon County Board, the Springfield City Council, various units of government, and six citizens appointed by the City and County.

SSC RPC Springfield-Sangamon County Regional Planning Commission

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