

# Springfield-Sangamon County Regional Planning Commission

## Annual Activity Report Covering the Period June 1, 2009– May 30, 2010

### Program Year Overview: Trains, Turbines & Transportation Challenges

The Commission's efforts over the past year were challenging in that at the same time that the staff took on a number of new projects and initiatives, it did so while addressing significant budget and staff reductions.

Due to a shortfall in revenue arising from the national economic downturn, the Commission's authorized budget was reduced, causing the Commission to operate at only 70% of its established staff level for a large part of the program year (June 1, 2009 to May 30, 2010).

Even so, by eliminating a number of existing activities and services the Commission staff was able to take on several important new projects and activities.

For example, the Commission staff was significantly involved in assessing the local planning implications of the State's selection of Springfield's 3rd Street rail corridor as the site of choice for the proposed Illinois high speed rail (HSR) project.

The Commission first learned of the identification of the 3rd Street Corridor as the path of choice during a meeting of the Sangamon Regional Comprehensive Plan's Transportation Study Group.

Immediately upon learning of this choice, the staff began considering the various planning challenges that selection of this corridor would create and

produced a number of brief studies related

to the issues identified.

The staff continues to be involved in the new HSR environmental impact assessment, supporting the traffic modeling component and serving on the public agency stakeholder group. As part of this effort, the SSCRPC became one of the few regional organizations to add a railroad module to its transportation demand model.



As part of its general planning services for Sangamon County, the Commission's staff was also asked to look at various issues related to a utility-grade wind farm proposed for the western part of the County. In response to this request the SSCRPC

staff reviewed the research literature concerning the impact of large-scale wind farms on property values and the implications of sound emitted by wind turbines, compared County wind farm setback requirements to those in other jurisdictions, and produced reports providing the public with information on how wind turbines are taxed and regulated in the County. Commission staff also assisted with three public meetings where the County's Wind Energy Conversion Systems ordinance was explained and discussed.

During the reporting period the Commission also began efforts to create a redevelopment plan for Springfield's MacArthur Blvd. using a planning grant provided through the U.S. Dept. of

Housing and Urban Development. The Commission selected the Lakota Group as the prime consultant on the project. The project will look at various aspects of the corridor, including transportation, housing, design and commercial development. It is expected that the project will conclude in early fall and provide direction for short and long-term corridor improvements.

Similar to the Commission's work on the MacArthur Blvd. project, the SSCRPC is assisting Mansur Real Estate, Inc., in the development of a master plan for the Enos Park neighborhood, providing GIS mapping and other services to the project.



As part of its work for the Springfield Area Transportation Study, the Commission completed the 5-year update of the Long Range Transportation Plan for the

metro planning area this year.

The Commission is also continuing its work to help communities in Sangamon County develop or update their comprehensive plans. Going into the program year the Commission completed work on the Sherman comprehensive plan, which has been approved and is being implemented, and began work on Williamsville's. The SSCRPC anticipates that the Williamsville plan will be completed during this program year.

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

## Springfield-Sangamon County Regional Planning Commission

### Transportation Planning & Public Involvement



As in the past, one of the Commission's major responsibilities during the program year was addressing the transportation needs of the public. This is done through the Springfield Area Transportation Study (SATS) which is the 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) this past year. The updating of the LRTP began during the previous program year and was completed in March of 2010.

Planning Commission staff and SATS members facilitated citizen participation in many ways, including: through an open house held in Springfield's Lincoln Library this past July; an on-line survey conducted in July and August; a Citizens' Advisory Committee that met from August through January; a Transportation Plan Symposium held in December; and dissemination of information about the plan and the planning process through the SATS Contact List, the media, and the SSCRPC website.

As noted, the 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan was adopted by the voting SATS members (the SSCRPC, City of Springfield, Sangamon County, Village of Chatham, Springfield Mass Transit District, and the Illinois Department of Transportation's District 6) this past March.

This Long Rang Plan, which is available in its entirety on the Commission's website, is more comprehensive than previous plans as it provides increased attention to non-vehicular travel modes and gives greater emphasis to them.

One input for the Long Range Plan is the Springfield Downtown Parking Survey, which was updated.

### Transit District Support and Planning



During the past year the Planning Commission staff continued to assist the Springfield Mass Transit District (SMTD) in its work.

A Comprehensive Operational Analysis of SMTD's fixed line service routes by the District resulted in some of the largest changes in its history, requiring a complete overhaul of its route maps and brochures. This required the Commission staff to undertake an effort to update the District's main map and its individ-

ual route brochures.

The main map includes 13 regular daytime service routes, five night service routes, the Historic Sites route, a new Saturday route to the Springfield Park District's new Southwind Park, and seven supplemental service routes.

The Planning Commission developed a new comprehensive map that provides the public transit rider with a complete view of all of SMTD's services, and also fea-

tures the locations of many Springfield area parks and open spaces as well as various other points of interest.

The first phase of the recommended route changes are to be implemented on June 7, 2010, with a second phase of recommended changes planned for implementation on August 23, 2010. This will require additional updates to be made by Commission staff during the 2010-2011 program year.

### Travel & Transportation Modeling



Planning is often only as effective as the data that can be brought to the planning project and the tools available to turn that data into information that can be used in decision making. During the past year the SSCRPC and its transportation staff continued efforts to provide additional data and improve its decision-making tools by advancing its use of computerized Travel Demand Modeling (TDM).

The SSCRPC is one of the few regional planning entities of its size

to make use of a county-wide TDM, implementing and managing a computer model designed by LSA Associates last summer.

The model, which encompasses travel on arterials and collector streets, has been used to predict the effect of road improvements or other projects that could impact traffic in the county, and was used this year in the up-dating of the SATS Long Range Transportation Plan.

The model was first used this past

year during the preparation of reports analyzing the potential impact of the proposed Illinois High Speed Rail project.

Because of this use, the Commission worked with the City of Springfield and LSA Associates to develop a rail module that allows the Commission to consider the influence of rail traffic (passenger and freight) on roadway traffic. The model is now being used as part of traffic modeling for a new HSR environmental impact study.

## 2009-2010 Program Year

### High Speed Rail Project Analysis

The proposal to develop a St. Louis to Chicago high-speed rail line running through Springfield and Sangamon County is a somewhat controversial one for the SSCRPC planning area. This is not due to the project's goal — to allow for passenger trains that would travel up to 110 mph, reducing travel time from St. Louis to Chicago to somewhat less than four hours — which has general community support, but because of the path selected to run through Springfield, the current 3rd Street rail corridor, and its additional use for freight.

For this reason the Commission staff was called upon to consider various aspects of the proposal and the planning issues that arise from them. Because of the project's importance and the impact

that it could have on the planning area, the Commission committed to finding ways to meet its ongoing responsibilities while still setting aside time to consider the project and its implications.

During the past program year the Commission staff attended a number of meetings and public sessions related to the HSR project, and also produced several reports pertaining to it. These reports included:

- An initial consideration of planning issues associated with the use of Springfield's 3rd St. corridor for HSR and additional freight traffic.
- Two reports on the effect the project would have on road traffic.

- A report considering the effect the project might have on property values along both the 3rd and 10th street corridors.
- A review of the proposed mitigation activities.
- An assessment of train corridor capacity.
- A consideration of the implications of the project for critical and community facilities.
- A review and consideration of the 2009 HSR environmental assessment.

The Commission staff is now working with Hanson Professional Services to provide a new environmental impact study addressing HSR route alternatives.



### Alternate Modes & Special Needs

Of course not all travel is by train, truck or car, and not all modes of travel meet the needs of all residents. For these reasons the SSCRPC continues to consider alternate modes of transportation and how special needs might be met.

For example, the third year of encouraging people to use alternative travel modes in lieu of single occupancy vehicles saw an expansion of the "Curb Your Car" event from one day to one week (May

17-21), and the addition of additional partners and incentives. The Commission established this promotion to reinforce the link between good planning and public health, environmental impact, energy conservation, transportation and urban design.

Also, and in partnership with the Area Agency on Aging for Lincolnland, staff have begun a project to assess community livability related to our aging population.

Four census tracts that represent

diverse demographics and physical environments in Springfield have been targeted for specific analysis. Fieldwork to gather data such as sidewalk condition, roadway features, and pedestrian amenities, will be conducted in the new program year. In addition, a survey to determine how people view their neighborhoods in terms of livability is being conducted. Although surveys completed by citizens age 60 and over will be used in the study, people of all ages are encouraged to take part.



### SATS Membership

The SSCRPC'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 Chairman, President of the Village of Chatham, IDOT District 6 Engi-

neer, Chairman of Springfield Mass Transit District, and Chairman of SSCRPC, 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 members, as well as 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.

SATS members were significantly engaged this year in decision making concerning the use of Federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act stimulus funds. SATS reviewed and rated projects, selecting those with merit that could be quickly implemented.



## Springfield-Sangamon County Regional Planning Commission

### Regional Comprehensive Plan



The Sangamon Regional Plan is a major Commission initiative requiring the active involvement of municipalities in the region. At the time of this writing, 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 Mayors' Caucus which oversees the project.

During the program year the work on this project was significantly affected by two events.

The first was the reduction in funding for this effort that occurred when the Governor eliminated the Illinois Comprehensive Regional Planning Fund in the current State budget. We hope that

this funding will be included in the State's FY 2011 budget.

It was then affected by the State's High Speed Rail project (see page 3), which forced the Commission to draw staff from the Regional Comprehensive Plan project to address high speed rail issues.

Even so, the project continues to work through the Mayors' Caucus, as well as the six study groups addressing Environment and Natural Resources, Economic and Technology Development, Transportation and Public Infrastructure, Housing and Neighborhoods, Heritage, Recreational and Cultural Amenities, and Land Use and Development.

All but two of the Study Groups have completed the first phase of

their work. Because of the relevance of the other groups' work to economic development, the Economic Development and Technology Study Group did not begin its activities until the others had completed their "snapshots" of the region. It has now begun and is making good progress. The final group, the Land Use Study Group, will be established after the policy and goals section of the plan is completed, as it will only address land use in unincorporated areas of the County.

Once the Economic Development and Technology group completes its work, a regional survey will be finalized and community input meetings will be held. This will provide additional citizen input into the planning process.

### Municipal Comprehensive Plans



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 coordinated, and provides a consistent basis for land use and other decision making.

At the beginning of this past year the Commission completed its work on the Village of Sherman's comprehensive plan and began work on the comprehensive plan for the City of Williamsville. 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.

Local leaders in Virden have discussed the development of a comprehensive plan with Commission staff, and the municipality has indicated that it is trying to identify ways to fund such work. Should they be successful in identifying planning funds, the work could not begin until the Williamsville plan is completed.

### Energy Efficiency & Conservation Block Grant



For most of the program year the SSCRPC and other regional planning groups worked with the Illinois Association of Regional Councils (ILARC) and representatives of the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) to craft a program whereby Federal Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) funds could be made

available to the counties and smaller communities in the state that did not receive these funds directly.

In April 2010 the various parties concluded this work, crafting a program that will make EECBG funds available to municipalities with populations of 35,000 or less and non-entitlement counties.

Through the program the SSCRPC was granted almost \$250,000 that can be used for municipal energy efficiency and conservation programs. The SSCRPC will handle application review for Sangamon County, and hopes to have funds available to the successful applicants in August.

## 2009-2010 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.

During 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 Springfield's East Side.

In April of 2009 we were informed that thanks to the efforts of Congressman John Shimkus, the Commission was awarded a \$95,000 grant from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development to conduct a redevelopment planning project for the MacArthur Blvd. corridor.

The study is considering an area along and around MacArthur from South Grand Ave. to the new I-72

interchange, but its primary focus will be on the redevelopment of the segment from South Grand to Wabash.

To begin the project effort the Commission conducted a nationwide solicitation of proposals for a consultant team, ultimately selecting a team led by the Lakota Group. The study is expected to take 7-9 months and involve four phases: data collection and inventory of the area to determine the final target and land use issues; a strategic analysis to address market presence, development barriers, and design and identity components; a cost and implementation analysis; and an action plan.

The initial review of the area is complete and the project is on schedule to produce an action plan by September 2010.

During the program year the Commission also began working with Mansur Real Estate, Inc.,

assisting that firm in developing a master plan for the Enos Park neighborhood. The project is being 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 is 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, which was originally produced by PGAV Urban Consulting in 2002. SSCRPC staff is tasked with updating the Existing Land Use and Zoning portion of the plan as well as the Existing Property Conditions report. We expect this work to be completed in early July 2010. The update will be used to revisit strategies identified in the 2002 plan.



### Economic Centers & Transportation Barriers

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

The Economic Corridor and Freight Study project is being con-

ducted for the Commission by Hanson Professional Services. It is intended to identify up to eight Economic Activity Centers (areas that are major employment generators) and the key corridors connecting them in the SATS Metropolitan Planning Area, and examine 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 will also examine existing freight flows to determine barriers to efficient freight movement and opportunities for logistics development in the region.

This project will be completed in July 2010.



### Assistance to CIEDA

In 2006 the Illinois General Assembly created the Central Illinois Economic Development Authority (CIEDA) as a financing tool for development and redevelopment in the central Illinois region. CIEDA covers an 11 county region, including Calhoun, Christian, DeWitt, Greene, Jersey, Logan, Macon, Macoupin, Menard, Montgomery, and Sangamon.

As a development authority, CIEDA is authorized — with the

written approval of the Governor — to issue up to \$250 million in taxable and tax-exempt bonds for the purpose of developing, constructing, acquiring and improving properties or facilities for businesses, and some other public and not-for-profit entities, locating or expanding within the region.

The SSCRPC was asked by Sangamon County leaders to assist CIEDA in its organization and planning during the past year. During

this period the Commission's Executive Director worked with the County Board's CIEDA representative, economic developers in the other counties, and CIEDA leadership, on several tasks associated with CIEDA planning and start-up.

Work continues to make CIEDA an important economic development tool for Sangamon County and the entire 11 county region.



## 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 a noticeable decrease (down 49 cases), most likely at-

tributable to the national economic downturn. For each zoning case, staff must review the petition, identify surrounding uses, assess compliance with comprehensive plan, and determine if the requirements of the ordinances are met.

As part of this work the Commission also began a new series of informational planning policy bulletins addressing how the staff approaches zoning cases and provides interpretation of specific

zoning issues.

Related to land use, the Executive Director of the SSCRPC also serves as the County Plat Officer and reviews tract surveys for approval. Each of the 134 tract surveys submitted this past year were reviewed to ensure compliance with the Illinois State Plat Act, Springfield and Sangamon County zoning ordinances, and survey requirements. This also represents a palpable decrease compared to the previous year (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 three were approved this year, just one more than the previous year. The Commission considers

the small number of permits requested an indicator of floodplain management success.

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. This program results in a discount in flood insurance premiums under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) based on the community's CRS class rating.

Maintaining the class rating re-

quires various communication, outreach, data collection and administrative activities to be completed by SSCRPC staff on an annual basis. For example, in the Fall of 2009, over 3000 letters were mailed to property owners to inform them that their property was within a floodplain and to provide valuable information about NFIP.

In addition to its annual recertification, every three years the County program is required to undergo full reevaluation. This winter the SSCRPC staff was informed that the County was receiving its highest ever recertification score. This may allow for better insurance rating in the future.

### Wind Energy Conversion System Research & Analysis



The possibility of large-scale wind farming in Sangamon County generated a great deal of interest during this program year. Even though the County does not currently host a utility-grade Wind Energy Conversion System (WECS), the possibility of such development was considered several years ago resulting in the County adopting a WECS code as part of its zoning ordinance.

As questions were raised about the pros and cons of large wind

farms, Sangamon County Board members turned to the Commission for research and analysis of issues related to WECS, and for assistance in informing the public about how these systems are regulated under County code.

The Commission staff quickly responded to this request by producing reviews of the research literature concerning WECS impact on property values and the implications of sound generated by wind turbines. It also conducted a

review of how the County's setback requirements compared to those in other jurisdictions, a briefing paper on how wind farms were taxed, and a special issue of its *TrendLines* publication that provided the County's ordinance in an easy to read format.

The SSCRPC staff also help the County Board inform residents about WECS regulations by organizing and taking part in three county-wide informational sessions.

## 2009-2010 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.

As of June 1, 2010, the Commission's Land Subdivision Committee had reviewed 28 development project plans, 6 partial plats of vacation, 4 variances submitted

without plans, and 1 street name change. This was a decline of 6 project-related reviews over the previous year, representing an average of about 3 projects for review each month. This decline largely represents the economic downturn that affected all commercial and residential development during the Commission's program year.

As part of its work in development planning, during the first part of the program year the Commission staff continued to provide assistance to a committee of the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce's Quantum 5 Partner-

ship that was reviewing and updating Springfield's Land Subdivision Ordinance. This group has been working for over two years on updating and streamlining the City's development regulations.

The SSCRPC Executive Director also continues to serve on a committee considering a road impact fee ordinance and program for Springfield. While the Commission provided significant information and data to the committee on its start-up, as well as a potential approach to cost-sharing for development projects, the group did not meet during the reporting period.



### Development Project Scanning Initiative

Both developers and the general public have an interest in development activities going on in Springfield and unincorporated Sangamon County. Unfortunately there has not been an easy way for interested parties to track these projects through the approval process or a way to provide quick access to the development plans on file with the Commission.

In PY 2008-2009 the SSCRPC began an effort to address this problem by creating an internet-based, on-line system that would allow anyone to find out where a project was in the review process.

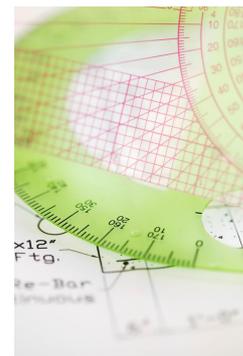
The intention was to also give residents a way to see the plans for a development at the various stages of review: location and sketch map, preliminary plan, and final plat.

Implementation of the project tracking system was delayed in 2008-2009 due to the anticipated loss of state Comprehensive Regional Planning funds. However, during this program year Commission staff advanced the effort by beginning to scan and digitize all City and County land development plan files.

During this PY the records for land subdivision projects for 14 years (from 1988 to 2001) were scanned and digitized, and work is continuing to make available all Springfield and Sangamon County land subdivision project records through a searchable database.

Work on the database began during this program year, and an initial version has been created and is being tested.

Staff hope to complete the scanning portion of the project in the 2010-2011 program year.



### Econometric Modeling

The proposal by the previous State administration to move the Illinois Department of Transportation's traffic safety division out of Springfield demonstrated the importance of the County and its communities to have access to the tools needed to assess the economic impact of various proposed projects.

This need was further heightened by Federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding activities that asked for communities to assess and project the economic im-

act of stimulus projects.

Unfortunately communities in the SSCRPC region have not had direct access to an econometric model that would allow for such assessments. For example, when the traffic safety division proposal was being debated, Springfield and the County had to call upon and pay Western Illinois University for this service.

Knowing the importance of econometric modeling to planning, during this PY the

Planning Commission acquired an IMPLAN econometric model for Sangamon County. IMPLAN is a well respected computerized model used by economists, researchers and planners throughout the nation.

Starting July 2010, the SSCRPC will be able to offer econometric modeling services to communities in Sangamon County and will be able to use this tool in its on-going planning activities.



## Springfield-Sangamon County Regional Planning Commission

### SangStat Regional Index Project



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

- Helping various agencies and organizations with their mapping and other information requests.
- Updating the Transportation Improvement Program.
- Beginning work on a Rural Transportation Plan.
- Continuing work related to the regional Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan.
- Updating the Human Services Transportation 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.
- Assisting with the Annual Earth Awareness Fair.
- Serving on the 2010 Census Complete Count Committee.

Understanding the forces acting on our region, as well as the effect these forces are having, is vitally important to the Commission's ability to plan and identify strategies for long-term success.

The *SangStat* regional indicators pilot project, which was begun this program year, is intended to provide local leaders and the public with a limited set of statistical indicators that we believe are important in understanding and evaluating where our region has been, is now, and is tending.

*SangStat*, which is available on the Strategic & Comprehensive Planning portion of the SSCRPC website, considers two sets of indicators: *Foundation* and *Performance*. Foundation indicators are intended to represent fundamental factors that affect long-term growth, and might be considered inputs. Performance indicators are intended to represent the results of local growth activities, and might be considered outputs. All indicators included in *SangStat* come from common data sets that can be tracked over time.

The Foundation indicators currently include information on: Population; Diversity; Education; Housing; and Transportation. While the Performance indicators include: Employment; Growth in Wealth; Employment Stability and Growth in Wages; Business Establishments; Crime; Health and Wellbeing; and the Environment.

The SSCRPC anticipates that additional indicators will be added over time. Our ability to track some items may become limited by the on-going availability and quality of local data.

### COMMISSION LEADERSHIP FOR 2009-2010:

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 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.

#### 2009-2010 Officers and Members of the Executive Policy Board:

- Mr. Claudio Pecori**, Chairman, Citizen Member, Springfield.
- Mr. Larry Hamlin**, Vice-Chair, Citizen Member, Sangamon Co.
- Mr. Lawrence Eastep**, Citizen Member, Springfield.
- Hon. Tim Davlin**, 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. Eric Hansen**, Chairman, 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).
- 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).
  - Vacant**, Citizen Member, Springfield.
- (Indicates member's officially designated representative).

*Membership as of June 1, 2010.*

## 2009-2010 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. The Commission was involved in a number of such initiatives during the past year.

For example, its work on the high speed rail project drew attention to the fact that while the Commission maintains a great amount of information in its library and archives, the documents were hard to find because the indexing system in use had been built over a number of years and the collection had not been regularly reviewed to determine

which documents should be kept and which were obsolete. To address this problem the Commission engaged a consulting librarian to weed the collection, create an effective indexing system, and develop an automated way to search document records. This project is now nearly completed.

Also, while the Commission effectively used the County's budget and accounting system, that system made it more difficult for the five planning program units (Administration, Development, Land Use, Strategic and Comprehensive, and Transportation) to take responsibility for their subunit

budgets.

Working with our external auditor, the Commission has established a system that will allow subunit budgets to be created and tracked. This system will be tested and improved during the upcoming fiscal year.

The SSCRPC staff also continues to find ways to use new technologies to increase transparency and provide additional information to the public. The Commission's website, for example, has become not just a major repository for work product, but a point of public access.



### FINANCES: Receipts and Disbursements, December 1, 2008 through November 30, 2009. Does not include Sangamon County Department of Zoning and Building Safety.

#### RECEIPTS:

Beginning Balance	\$192,912.00
Sangamon County	326,249.00
City of Springfield	106,280.84
Springfield Area Transportation Study	
State of Illinois (FHWA)	271,956.75
Sangamon County	30,595.13
City of Springfield	15,472.53
Village of Chatham	6,798.91
Mass Transit Study	
State of Illinois (FTA)	69,771.95
Spfld Mass Transit District	17,442.98
Marketing Materials (Work Task #314)	
Spfld Mass Transit District	20,319.04
Hazard Mitigation Grant (IEMA)	9,114.36
Springfield Park District	1,500.00
Village of Sherman Comp. Plan	2,013.77
Travel Demand Model (St. IL)	100,228.50
Interest Earned	4,640.00
Reimbursed Expenses	<u>693.50</u>
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>\$1,175,989.26</b>

#### DISBURSEMENTS:

Personnel	\$521,041.74
Part-time Personnel	00.00
Boards & Committees	6,500.00
Overtime	00.00
Fringe Benefits	175,983.12
Office Supplies	2,781.81
Toner & Ribbon	951.80
Printing	94.98
Exempt Printing	1,243.50
Meetings & Dues	4,062.12
Travel & Mileage	1,530.20
Equipment Maintenance	3,488.99
Publications	2,382.12
Postage	2,604.03
Contractual Services (Regular)	23,498.08
Contractual Services (Grant)	86,091.30
New Equipment > \$500	18,092.87
New Equipment < \$500	1,397.71
Cost Allocation	<u>169,568.00</u>
<b>TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS</b>	<b>\$1,021,312.37</b>



#### Significant New SSCRPC Contractual Projects During Program Year:

- **Williamsville Comprehensive Plan.**
- **Enos Park Master Plan.**
- **HSR Traffic Modeling.**
- **MacArthur Blvd. Redevelopment Plan.**
- **Eastside Neighborhood Redevelopment Plan Update.**
- **Regional Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program.**

## 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](mailto: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 division 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 also maintains existing base maps, census tract maps, township and zoning maps and the road name map 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

**Jacob Ferguson**, GPSI Intern, Univ. of Illinois-Springfield

### Planning Staff

**Linda Wheeland**, Senior Planner, Transportation Planning

**Dale Schultz**, Principal Planner, Transportation Planning

**Chris Benson**, Associate Planner, Transportation Planning

**Kyle Phillips**, Planning Aide, Transportation Planning

**Joe Zeibert**, Senior Planner, Development Planning

**Steve Keenan**, Principal Planner, Development Planning

**Molly Berns**, Senior Planner, Land Use Planning

**Abby Bybee**, Associate Planner, Land Use Planning

**Jeff Fulgenzi**, Principal Planner, Comprehensive & Strategic Planning

**Bret Tate**, Intern, Univ. of Illinois-Springfield

### Zoning Staff

**Cyndi Knowles**, Acting Zoning Administrator

**Brian Schackmann**, Liquor Code Enforcement Officer

**Trustin Harrison**, Zoning Inspector

**Susan Taylor**, Clerk-Typist

As of June 1, 2010

### Primary Committees & Formal Linkages

**Sangamon County:** Public Health, Safety and Zoning Committee; Historic Preservation Commission; Zoning Board of Appeals; Rural Transportation 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 Regional 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 County Committee; Downtown Springfield Inc.; Route 66 Trail Executive Council; Illinois Greenways and Trails Council; Quantum 5 Partnership; Illinois Medical District at Springfield; Central Illinois Economic Development Authority; American Planning Association.

