

Springfield-Sangamon County Regional Planning Commission



Annual Activity Report Covering the Period June 1, 2011 – May 30, 2012

Program Year Overview: Working Across the “Silos”

One of the comments often made about government agencies is that they appear to work in “silos”, with each individual unit or component of the organization going about its work in ways disconnected from one another. The proverbial right hand not knowing what the proverbial left hand is doing.

This could certainly be the case at the SSCRPC as it is organized around four programmatic groups — Development Planning, Land Use Planning, Transportation Planning, and Strategic and Comprehensive Planning — each with its own project and program portfolios and responsibilities. The problem can even be exacerbated by the nature of the categorical or project specific funding the Commission receives.

But in reviewing the Commission’s activities over this past program year, we were struck by the degree to which the Commission’s work not only required that staff work and think beyond their individual silos, but that greater success often occurred when projects required that we reach across programmatic lines.

In some cases this occurs because of the very nature of planning. For example, the work described on the follow-

ing pages related to the development of local comprehensive plans — such as the one completed this past program year for the Village of Curran — could not have been done without the active involvement of staff from each of the four Commission program areas. The very nature of local comprehensive planning requires that strategic, land use, development and transportation planning come together in a coordinated and even holistic way.

This willingness and ability of the SSCRPC staff to think beyond their individual program areas was also evident in the successful development of a conceptual illustrative



plan for the Transit Oriented Development (TOD) that could occur around the Springfield Mass Transit District’s proposed multi-modal transit facility. Transit oriented development is emblematic of the sustainable and environmentally friendly forms of growth that communities are now considering and that federal funding agencies are rewarding. To be successful, TOD requires an interplay of all of the areas in which the Commission’s staff works.

Much of the research and analytic work that Commission staff is asked to take on for our partnering communities involves staff assistance from the four program areas, and is demonstrated in many of the SSCRPC *Information Briefs* and *TrendLines* that are produced each year.

SSCRPC responsibilities are often cross-cutting in ways that are not quite as observable. Transportation planning requires an understanding of how land may be used

and developed, land development and zoning review often



requires a consideration of transportation capacity and infrastructure availability, and commercial redevelopment planning — such as that done previously for the MacArthur Blvd. project and completed just this past year for a corridor in east Springfield — requires that all aspects of the Commission’s staff expertise be brought together.

And since our municipal and community partners often call upon Commission staff to assist them in problem solving, it is not uncommon to find staff from several areas working together to assess options and identify solutions.

Each year as the SSCRPC staff prepares this annual activity report, it asks itself what lessons have been learned over the past 12 months. One of the major lessons learned this year is that our organizational silos do not restrain us from doing the work that our partnering communities and organizations request and need, and that by joining our expertise we can address future challenges and opportunities as they arise.

For over 50 years the Springfield-Sangamon County Regional Planning Commission and its predecessor agencies have had the mission of providing the professional expertise and objective analysis that communities in Sangamon County need to assess their opportunities, sharpen their visions, and design the strategies needed to achieve them. The information on the following pages highlights some of the major projects, programs, initiatives and activities conducted by the SSCRPC during the 2011-2012 Program Year (PY).



Springfield-Sangamon County Regional Planning Commission

Long Range Transportation Planning



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

One of the goals of the Commission is to improve public access to the planning process and encourage public involvement in transportation planning. This being the case, addressing all travel needs of the public was a theme developed during the process of preparing the SATS 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP).

The SATS 2035 LRTP was adopted in March 2010 and designated several projects to be undertaken or facilitated by Planning

Commission staff. Some of the LRTP projects initiated or finalized during the past SSCRPC program year were:

- **Transportation Missing Links Mapping.** This project identified “missing links” in the roadway network that once built would provide essential connections in the transportation infrastructure.
- **Intersection Safety List.** A system was created to identify roadway locations with the highest safety concerns based upon number and types of crashes. Intersections were ranked using a weighted calculation reflecting the severity of injury associated with the crashes.
- **Developable Areas Mapping.** This mapping project identified locations in the Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA) where adequate transportation infrastructure is

available to support future development.

- **Small Community Coordination.** Planning Commission staff facilitated a joint effort by the smaller communities in the MPA to inventory, fund, purchase and maintain road signage that would be compliant with Federal retro-reflectivity standards.
- **Route 66 Corridor Planning.** Commission staff assisted in the exploration of the feasibility of an existing building and site for reuse as a US Route 66 Heritage Center. As part of this effort a preliminary site analysis and conceptual design plan were prepared.

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

Transportation Planning Micro-Grants to Small Communities

During this program year, and for the first time, transportation planning micro-grants were awarded to smaller communities in Sangamon County through a competitive process. As part of this pro-

gram, small grants were provided to the villages of Curran, Riverton, and Spaulding so that they might develop Pavement Management Plans. The Curran grant also included the collection of traffic

volumes and vehicle class on Moffet Street so that this data might be used in future planning along this developing corridor.

Sangamon County Board Rural Transit Initiative



Following up on activities conducted during the last SSCRPC program year, work continued in PY2011-12 on development of a rural transportation service for Sangamon County.

Planning Commission staff have provided assistance to the Sangamon County Board’s Ad Hoc Committee on Rural Transportation throughout the project’s development. Commission staff also assisted the project’s two main advisory committees: the System Development Group, and the

Public Education and Outreach Group.

In August, 2011, Menard County proposed that its rural transit efforts be brought together with those of Sangamon County, and efforts since that time were directed toward the development of a consolidated two-county rural transportation system.

In May, 2012, an intergovernmental agreement was approved by both county boards. Under this agreement Sangamon County was

designated as the lead county for the system and Senior Services of Central Illinois was identified as the service administrator.

In coordination with the Illinois Department of Transportation and with guidance from the Rural Transit Assistance Center at Western Illinois University, the system is coming together with the intention of beginning service in the two-county service region by the end of 2012.

2011-2012 Program Year

Pedals & Peds: Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Activities

Work continued throughout PY 2011-12 on the development, production and dissemination of a bicycle/pedestrian way plan for the Springfield Area Transportation



Study (SATS) metro planning region.

A steering committee composed of representatives from the SATS municipal jurisdictions as well as

the Springfield Park District, Springfield Bicycle Advisory Council, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Regional Office of Education, and the medical community, assisted in this work.

A draft plan was posted from March 30 to May 1, 2012, for public comment, and on April 4, 2012, a meeting was held in Springfield's Lincoln Library to present the plan to the public. Citizen interest in the plan was evidenced by the significant number of comments received throughout the comment period. Steering Committee members now must address these comments and submit a final plan to SATS for its approval.

During the program year, and building from the metro plan, work also began on a Rural Sangamon County Bicycle and Pedes-

trian Plan. This plan will include areas outside of the SATS planning boundaries and look toward the development of connected rural and urban networks.

A steering committee for the rural planning area was created and held its initial meeting. It includes members from Sangamon County, the Illinois Department of Transportation, the Springfield Bicycle Club, and the villages of Buffalo, Illiopolis, Loami, New Berlin, Pleasant Plains, Thayer, Virden and Williamsville. Three public engagement workshops have already been held in Illiopolis, Thayer and at the Clayville Historic Site.

These workshops were intended to gather citizen input at the beginning of the planning process that will be used to guide the development of the plan and help ensure that an interconnected rural bicycle and pedestrian network is created.

In collaboration with the Springfield Bicycle Advisory Council and many other community partners, the SSCRPC sponsored the 5th annual *Curb Your Car* promotion during *Bike to Work Week* (May 14-18, 2012).

Once again, a challenge was issued to employers throughout the County to encourage their employees to leave their cars at home and bike, walk, run or take the bus to work.

The 2012 event included a group ride from Lincoln Park to down-

town Springfield by way of the historic Enos Park neighborhood. Springfield Bicycle Club members and Honorary Ride Leader, Illinois Department of Revenue Director Brian Hamer, guided the cyclists to the downtown Farmers' Market where new Lincoln-penny themed bike racks were unveiled.

In addition, this year McClelland Elementary School encouraged students to bike or walk to school during Curb Your Car Day. All participating students were entered into a prize drawing with the lucky winner receiving a new bicycle and bike helmet donated by St. John's Hospital.



Also this program year, Planning Commission staff developed a new multi-use trails brochure that shows the Interurban, Lost Bridge, Wabash, and Sangamon Valley trails. Along with the trail maps, the brochure also includes trail etiquette and other information useful to trail users.

Google Transit Project Makes Riding Easy

Throughout PY 2011-2012, Planning Commission staff worked to complete an inventory of all bus stop locations along the fixed line



routes operated by the Springfield Mass Transit District. Each stop was inventoried

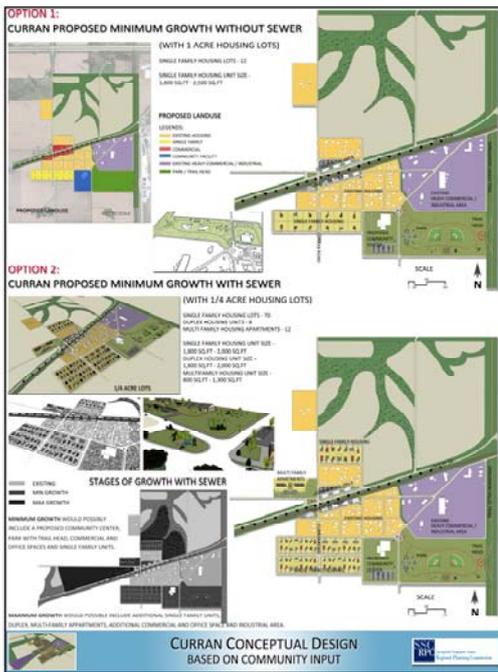
using a GPS device, yielding a precise geographic location for each bus stop.

A photograph was taken of the stop and data collected regarding accessibility, availability of accommodations (shelter, bench, etc.), and the current condition of the stop or shelter.

The data from this year-long project is being processed and organized to meet the General Transit Feed Specification defined by

Google. Once this process is complete, the feed will be uploaded and synced with Google Transit servers, providing the opportunity for Springfield's transit riders to plan their journey using Google Maps via their home computer or mobile device. Riders will be able to determine the shortest trips to and from their destination and will also be able to receive walking directions to the nearest bus stops.

Municipal Comprehensive Planning



The Planning Commission believes that one of its most important service efforts is to assist municipalities in Sangamon County with their planning, particularly the development of local comprehensive plans. The Commission staff encourages 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 to identify where and how growth needs will be met, pro-

vides guidance for the development of such public amenities as parks and trails, provides for an expected level of environmental and neighborhood quality, helps ensure that public investments in infrastructure are based upon identified needs and are coordinated, and provides a consistent basis for land use and other decision making.

The Commission attempts to take on no more than one local comprehensive plan per program year so that sufficient time and effort can be committed to the task and be of real help to the client community. For example, over the past two years the Planning Commission staff have completed comprehensive plans for the Villages of Sherman and Williamsville.

During the 2011-2012 program year the Commission completed its work on the Village of Curran's comprehensive plan and began initial activities to begin work on the comprehensive plan for the

City of Leland Grove.

The development of the Curran plan was an interesting one for the Commission staff as the village was incorporated just in the past few years, and the village is not currently served by a public sewer system and so depends upon individual septic systems. This led the Planning Commission to develop a comprehensive plan for the village that offered land use and development options that addressed growth both with and without the establishment of a public sewer system.

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.

Thinking Beyond Transit: Transit Oriented Development



On occasion the Planning Commission staff has the opportunity to work together creatively to address local problems or make use of potential opportunities. The possibility of grasping an opportunity was certainly in mind during the development of a conceptual plan for what is often called Transit Oriented Development, or TOD, in downtown Springfield.

TOD is intended to blend transit

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

During the program year the SSCRPC staff expanded upon the white paper, *Transit Centers as Tools for Development and Redevelopment*, completed the previous year. The focus in PY 2011-2012 was to complete an illustra-

tive, conceptual plan showing how TOD could be implemented on a real site as part of the planned SMTD multimodal center.

The project was completed and made available through the SSCRPC publication, *Thinking Beyond Transit*, which is available on the SSCRPC website. The results of this work were also presented in a number of public forums, including at the annual meeting of the Illinois Association of Regional Councils, and at special sessions sponsored by Downtown Springfield, Inc. and the Citizens Club of Springfield.



2011-2012 Program Year

The County as a Community: Regional Comprehensive Plan

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

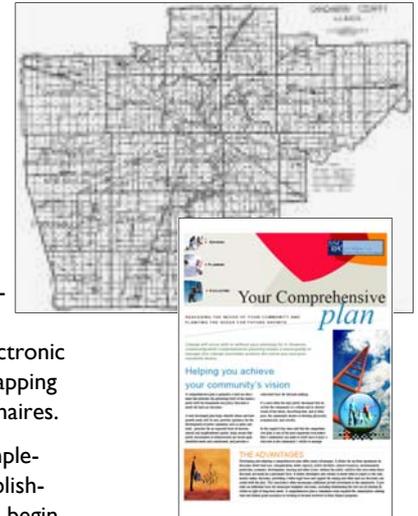
Work on the first two phases of the project was completed prior to PY 2010-2011. Phase I involved the organization of the communities into a "planning alliance" as well as the establishment of five study groups addressing the re-

gion's strengths and weaknesses. Phase II involved the development of background information through the work of the study groups, including assessments pertaining to: environment and natural resources; economy and technology development; transportation and public infrastructure; housing and neighborhoods; and heritage, recreational and cultural amenities.

Following the restoration of funding for the effort in the last program year, the SSRPC released a request for proposals for Phases III and IV of the project to help bring it to completion. House-

Lavigne Associates was selected for the Phase III work, which entailed building upon the work of the study groups and a number of community engagement activities. These activities included a series of public and student workshops, meetings with business leaders and community groups, and the development of electronic tools, such as interactive mapping and group-specific questionnaires.

Phase III is nearing final completion, and Phase IV, the establishment of joint strategies, will begin in the new program year.



East Springfield Commercial Redevelopment

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

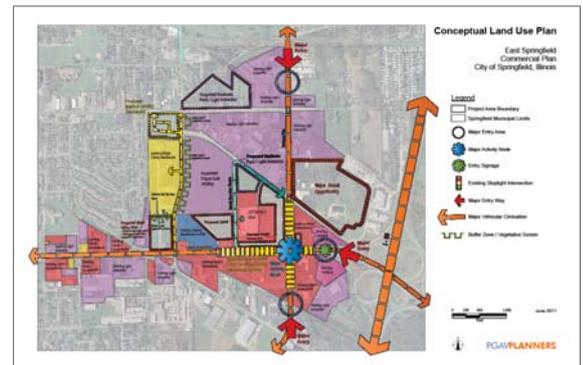
This program year efforts to create a commercial redevelopment plan for a major transportation corridor in East Springfield were completed and are already showing positive results.

As part of this project the

SSRPC provided \$20,000 in Illinois Comprehensive Regional Planning Funds to a joint planning effort involving both Springfield's Office of Planning and Economic Development and the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce. This project was conducted by PGAV Planners of St. Louis, with information and data assistance from the SSRPC. It looked at retail redevelopment in the vicinity of South Dirksen Parkway and Cook St. and South Grand Ave., assessing the

opportunities for additional

commercial growth in the area. This project has already stimulated additional activity with the announcement by the Schnucks grocery chain of a new market to be built



Citizens' Efficiency Commission: Better Service at Lower Cost

In 2010, the Sangamon County Board passed a resolution to place an advisory referendum on the general election ballot to establish a volunteer citizen body tasked with examining the efficiency and effectiveness of local government in the County and making recommendations as to how efficiency and effectiveness might be improved. Over 62% of those voted favorably on this effort, leading to the establishment of the first Citizens' Efficiency Commission (CEC) for Sangamon County.

Because of its unique multi-jurisdictional role, under the estab-

lishing resolution the SSRPC was tasked with providing staff and organizational support for the effort, a responsibility ultimately approved by the members of the Planning Commission.

The CEC first met in the fall of 2011 and has since worked to produce a number of findings and recommendations related to how Sangamon County's local governments might provide better services at lower costs. Throughout the fall, the CEC hosted a series of public meetings to gain input and suggestions from both public officials and local residents. It

then developed bylaws, heard from the various jurisdictions making appointments to the CEC, established a committee structure, and began to research and develop recommendations.

The SSRPC has assisted the CEC with the coordination and development of the numerous research and information collection projects that have been required as the Efficiency Commission takes on the challenge of this important and unique regional initiative.



Springfield-Sangamon County Regional Planning Commission

Zoning & 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.

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

During the past year Commission staff provided professional staff reviews and opinions on 145 City

of Springfield and Sangamon County zoning cases, an average of over 12 each month. This represented an increase of 15 cases over the previous year.

Of particular note was a significant increase in the number of zoning cases in the last quarter of the program year. This was particularly noticeable for cases under the City of Springfield's zoning jurisdiction. SSCRPC staff believes that this increase can be attributed to a turnaround in the economy that is leading to a steady rebound in local development.

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 124 tract surveys submitted this past year (10.3 per month from 6/1/11 to 5/31/12) were reviewed to ensure compliance with the Illinois State Plat Act, Springfield and Sangamon County zoning ordinances, and survey requirements. This represents only a slight decrease compared to the previous year (down 8), consistent with decreases seen over the previous two years.

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.

Five Floodplain Development Permits were approved this year, an increase of four over the previous

year. Commission staff attributes this increase to property owners and developers becoming more aware of the regulations and filing permit requests on a voluntary basis rather than on the occasions in which a violation of ordinance is identified.

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.

During this program year the Commission successfully com-

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

Maintaining the class rating requires various forms of communication with and outreach to thousands of property owners, as well as extensive data collection and a series of other administrative duties to be completed by SSCRPC staff each year. This Commission service often goes without notice, but provides a real benefit to residents.

Development Planning & Review



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

the Commission's Land Subdivision Committee.

From June 1, 2011, to May 31, 2012, the Commission had reviewed 42 development project plans, down 4 over the previous period: an average of about 4 cases per month.

This included:

- 5 Location and Sketch Map

reviews.

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

As previously noted, 124 tract surveys were also approved as of May 31, 2012.

2011-2012 Program Year

Special Mapping Projects During the Program Year

As indicated in other parts of this report, the SSCRPC is asked to take on many special projects and planning efforts each year. Examples include two mapping projects related to educational jurisdictions.

One of the project requests handled this past year was to provide professional mapping services to the Sangamon County Regional Office of Education. This project involved the preparation of digitized maps identifying the taxing boundaries and areas of the 10 operating public school districts under the jurisdiction of the Sangamon County Regional Superintendent of Schools. At the time of writing, the project is underway and is to be completed in August 2012.

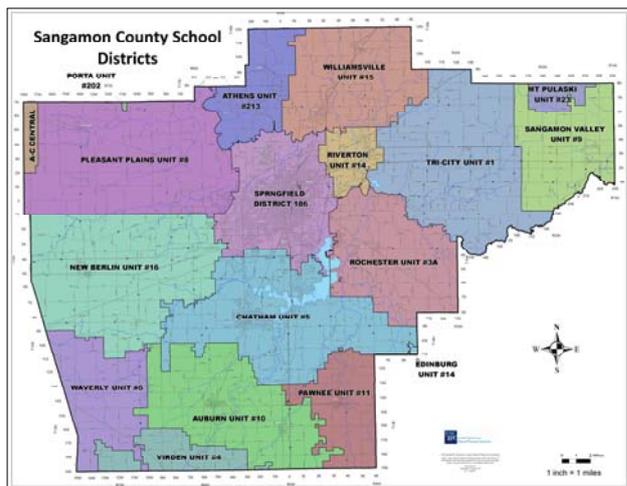
The SSCRPC also provided assistance to the Illinois Regional Office of Education and the Illinois State Board of Education in ad-

ressing provisions of 105 ILCS 5/3A-18 (Streamlining Illinois' Regional Offices of Education Commission) by preparing maps of existing boundaries of the Regional Offices of Education Districts. The SSCRPC also produced additional mapping at the request of the Regional Offices of Education (ROE) that indicate potential boundary changes based upon 2010 census demographic and geographic variables identified by the ROEs.

The 2010 US Census also led the Planning Commission to take on another education-related mapping project during the program year.

On Feb. 29, 2012, the SSCRPC entered into an agreement with Springfield School District 186 to provide professional mapping services to assist the district in the reapportionment of its seven sub-districts based upon 2010 census

data. According to the Illinois School Code, in the year following each decennial census, school districts are required to reapportion board sub-districts to reflect the results of the census. The Planning Commission's work involved providing two different alternatives based upon criteria provided by District 186's legal counsel.



Other PY 2011—2012 Projects & Initiatives of Note

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

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

- Continuation of the SangStat Regional Index Initiative.
- Conducting and completing of the 2011 Springfield Downtown Parking Survey.
- Continued Implementation of the IMPLAN economic impact model.
- Continuation of the Sangamon County Zoning District GIS Mapping Project.
- Completion of the Citizens' Guide to Development Planning and Review in Sangamon County.
- Continued research and updates relevant to wind energy conversion systems (WECS) and their regulation.
- Completion of the updating and mapping of the Sangamon County Natural Resources Inventory.
- Updating of the Transportation Improvement Program for SATS.
- Updating of the Transportation Unified Planning Work Program for the metropolitan planning area.
- SSCRPC involvement in the 2012 Earth Awareness Fair.

- Updating of SMTD route schedule.
- Continuation of the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Project for Sangamon County and its smaller communities.
- Continuing assistance with Enos Park Master Plan and MacArthur Blvd. Redevelopment Plan implementation.
- Completion of the Neighborhood Livability Project.
- Development of a Trails Map for Sangamon County.
- Implementation of a Rural Transit Transfer Coordination system project.
- Completion of the LTCP Financial Capability Assessment Data Project for the Springfield Metro Sanitary District.
- Assistance in data collection and mapping for the American Institute of Architects' Springfield Sustainable Design Assessment Team Project.
- Implementation of the Central Area Inventory Project to collect, geo-code and map development-related data associated with Springfield's city-center.
- Continued production of SSCRPC Information Briefs, TrendLines and other special reports.

Additional information on SSCRPC projects can be found in the SSCRPC Project Update reports provided to Commission members.



Springfield-Sangamon County Regional Planning Commission

Volunteers & Interns Assist the SSCRPC



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

A complete listing of all of the volunteers who assisted in Commission activities during the past program year would significantly lengthen this report. For example, the Citizen's Efficiency Commission is successfully conducting its work by virtue of the 23 committed local citizens who serve, as well as the other citizens who have volunteered their own time to assist the CEC with logistics, research and data collection.

Local citizens continue to serve on the Regional Comprehensive Plan's five study groups and take part in its community engagement activities, assist with the implementation of the MacArthur Blvd. Redevelopment

Plan through the MacArthur Blvd. Action Committee (MACBAC), and serve on a steering committee established for the new East Springfield Commercial Redevelopment Project .

The involvement of the many citizens who have assisted with the bike and pedestrian way plan — both for the urban and rural areas — has been critical to this planning activity,

We also appreciate the assistance we have received this year from a set of very able and energetic interns. They have come from near and far, and from a diverse set of educational settings, to assist the Commission in its work. They bring a welcomed energy and new ways of thinking that broaden our horizons and provide new points of view. They are listed on page 10 of this report.

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

- **Helping various agencies and organizations with their mapping and other information requests.**
- **Continuing work related to the regional Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan.**
- **Staffing the Sangamon County Historic Preservation Commission and serving on and assisting the Springfield Historic Sites Commission.**
- **Advising communities on the development of zoning and other land-related ordinances.**
- **Assisting small communities in comprehensive plan pre-planning activities.**
- **Assisting communities with problem solving and policy analysis.**
- **Providing assistance and analysis for a number of bodies on which SSCRPC staff are asked to serve (see page 10).**

COMMISSION LEADERSHIP FOR PY 2011-2012:

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

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

2011-2012 SSCRPC Officers and Members of the Executive Policy Board:

Mr. Brad Mills, Chair, Citizen Member, Springfield.

Mr. Eric Hansen, Vice-Chair, Citizen Member, Sangamon Co.

Mr. Kip Kolkmeier, Secretary, Citizen Member, Springfield.

Hon. Mike Houston, Mayor, City of Springfield (Mr. Mike Farmer).

Hon. Andy Van Meter, Chairman, Sangamon Co. Board (Mr. Brian McFadden).

Mr. Dick Ciotti, Chairman, Springfield Metro Sanitary District (Mr. Gregg Humphrey).

Other Commission Members:

Hon. Sam Cahnman, Alderman, Springfield (Mr. Joe Davis).

Hon. Andy Goleman, Member, Sangamon Co. Board (Mr. Charlie Stratton).

Mr. Larry Hamlin, Citizen Member, Sangamon Co.

Mr. William Looby, President, Springfield School District 186 (Mr. Dave Smith).

Hon. Tim Moore, Member, Sangamon Co. Board (Mr. Brad Burnett).

Mr. Bill Moss, Citizen Member, Springfield.

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).

Hon. Doris Turner, Alderman, Springfield

Mr. Frank Vala, Chairman, Springfield Airport Authority (Mr. Roger Blickensderfer).

(Indicates member's officially designated representative).

Membership as of June 1, 2012.

2011-2012 Program Year

Administrative Initiatives

Each program year the SSCRPC staff implements programs and takes on projects intended to improve the Commission's efficiency and provide a higher level of service. The SSCRPC staff was involved in a number of such initiatives during the past year.

For example, one of the major projects completed during the past program year was the digitization of the land development plans held by the Commission. This multi-year project involved the scanning of City of Springfield and Sangamon County location and sketch maps, preliminary plans, final plats and large scale development plans that were reviewed through the land subdivision review process. A database was also

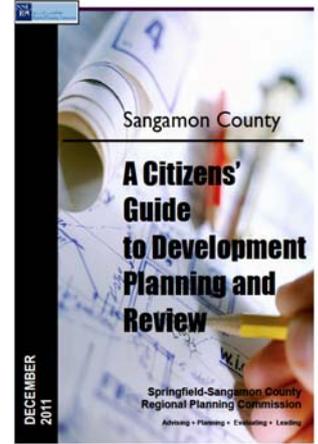
created to inventory and search these documents. The next stage of the project will be to develop an internet-based publicly searchable system that would allow the documents to be searched and reviewed online.

Due to its responsibilities pertaining to zoning in unincorporated Sangamon County, the Commission also began the task of creating a GIS-based digital zoning map for the unincorporated area. This project is intended to create a system that would allow the public to identify existing zoning by parcel. In its initial form this system will not be able to provide information concerning conditional permitted uses and variances, but

the inclusion of this information is planned for the future.

Related to this initiative, the Commission staff also produced a new document, *A Citizens' Guide to Development Planning and Review*, which addresses the development approval and zoning processes in the unincorporated area. It is our hope that this will help the public to better understand the various processes and procedures required by County ordinance.

During the year the Commission also continued to produce its *TrendLines* series of occasional publications as well as the *Planning Briefs* explanatory documents.



FINANCES: Receipts and Disbursements (rounded to nearest dollar), December 1, 2010, through November 30, 2011. Does not include Sangamon County Department of Zoning.

RECEIPTS:

Beginning Balance	\$276,993.00
Sangamon County	332,652.00
City of Springfield	140,924.00
Springfield Area Transportation Study	
State of Illinois (FHWA)	325,585.00
Sangamon County	35,034.00
City of Springfield	35,034.00
Village of Chatham	7,778.00
Mass Transit Study	
State of Illinois (FTA)	86,242.00
Spfld Mass Transit District	21,561.00
Marketing Materials (Work Task #314)	
Spfld Mass Transit District	13,008.00
MacArthur Blvd Redevelopment Plan (HUD)	2,036.00
Village of Williamsville	6,179.00
Springfield Park District	1,500.00
Comprehensive Regional Planning Funds	
Urban CRPF (IDOT)	215,984.00
Rural CRPF (IDOT)	14,665.00
CSO-LTCP Financial Capability	
Assessment (SMSD)	37,785.00
Energy Efficiency & Conservation	
Block Grant (DCEO/ILARC)	174,662.00
Interest Earned	1,095.00
Reimbursed Expenses	<u>470.00</u>
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$1,729,187.00

DISBURSEMENTS:

Personnel	\$591,191.00
Part-time Personnel	00.00
Boards & Committees	3,550.00
Overtime	00.00
Fringe Benefits	231,548.00
Office Supplies	3,581.00
Toner & Ribbon	4,247.00
Printing	204.00
Exempt Printing	149.00
Meetings & Dues	4,366.00
Travel & Mileage	1,721.00
Equipment Maintenance	8,051.00
Publications	5,267.00
Postage	3,106.00
Contractual Services (Regular)	31,467.00
Contractual Services (Grant)	287,956.00
New Equipment > \$500	13,197.00
New Equipment < \$500	4,216.00
Cost Allocation	<u>156,159.00</u>
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$1,349,976.00



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

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

Phone: 217-535-3110

Fax: 217-535-3111

E-mail: sscrpc@co.sangamon.il.us



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

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

The Commission has 17 members including representatives from the Sangamon County Board, Springfield City Council, special units of government, and six 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.

Planning Commission Staff (as of June 1, 2012)

Administrative

Norm Sims, Executive Director

Mary Jane Niemann, Account Technician and Operations Assistant

Jane Lewis, Clerk-Typist II

Development Planning

Joe Zeibert, Senior Planner

Steve Keenan, Principal Planner

Jacob Ferguson, Contract Planning Assistance

Land Use Planning

Molly Berns, Senior Planner

Abby Bybee, Associate Planner

Transportation Planning

Linda Wheeland, Senior Planner

Dale Schultz, Principal Planner

Kyle Phillips, Planning Specialist

Neha Soni, Associate Planner

Dan Begert, Associate Planner

Strategic & Comprehensive Planning

Jeff Fulgenzi, Senior Planner

Amy Uden, GPSI Intern, Univ. of Illinois-Springfield

Martin Colloton, CEC Contract Assistance

Margaret Long, Intern, Benedictine Univ.

County Zoning Dept. Staff

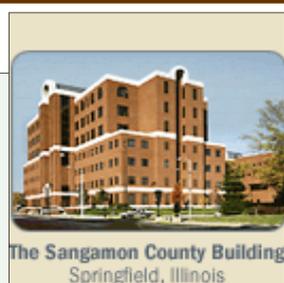
Cyndi Knowles, Zoning Administrator

Brian Schackmann, Liquor Code Enforcement Officer

Trustin Harrison, Zoning Inspector

Susan Taylor, Administrative Secretary

The SSCRPC also wishes to note the assistance of others who served the Commission during the past year. These include **Chris Benson** and **Nate Baker**, of the Transportation Planning staff, who left employment with the Commission during the past year, and student interns **Alex Myers**, **Lyndee Rodemaker** and **Andrew Taylor**, who completed their internship assignments during the year.



Respectfully submitted,
June 18, 2012,
E. Norman Sims,
Executive Director,
SSCRPC

Primary Committees & Formal Linkages

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

City of Springfield: Historic Sites Commission; Planning and Zoning Commission.

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

State: Region 7 Rural Human Services Transportation Committee; Urbanized Area Human Services Transportation Planning Committee; Illinois Greenways and Trails Council; IDOT South 6th Street Study Advisory Committee; IDOT I-55 Reconstruction Study Advisory Group; Illinois Association of Regional Councils; Illinois Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council; APA Illinois.

Other: SMTD Disabled Persons Advisory Committee; Downtown Springfield Inc.; U.S. Route 66 Heritage Center Working Group; Quantum 5 Partnership Executive Council and Development Policy Committee; Illinois Medical District at Springfield; Central Illinois Economic Development Authority; Citizens Efficiency Commission; Lincoln Funeral Coalition Advisor; Sustainable Development Assessment Team Project Steering Committee; American Planning Association.