



Program Reports – May 27, 2020

Announcements & Other Items of Interest

- SMCOG has sent several resources to members and is maintaining a COVID-19 Briefing and webpage.
- SMCOG is preparing to administer CARES Act funds for member counties. Staff has collected resources to develop a streamlined process and forms necessary to determine eligibility of expenditures from local governments within the county.

Transportation Planning Program

- MoDOT has reported that due to COVID-19 impacts and unknown revenue, the STIP will not be adopted this year. MoDOT has delayed the letting of a few projects in order to ensure cash flow for committed dollars.
- A handful of new transportation needs were submitted to staff. County needs lists have been updated and will be sent to counties for review. At the May 13th TAC meeting, members agreed that counties would be sent updated lists and if any new needs were added that the county wanted to prioritize, or if the County wanted to rework the top needs, then a virtual meeting will be scheduled. Counties that did not have any new needs will likely adopt the same priorities as last year.
- Members of the Transportation Advisory Committee are appointed by the SMCOG Board of Directors each year and serve a July 1-June 30 term. The SMCOG Board will be asked to approve the 2020-2021 TAC members at the June board meeting.
- Traffic counts for Polk County were completed at two locations in April and May.
- REMINDERS: Members get one free traffic count per fiscal year, additional may be done for a low cost. SMCOG also houses a regional traffic calming lending library that may be used to try a new street design before investing in permanent infrastructure.

Hazard Mitigation Planning

Christian County:

- The final meeting has been postponed to June 10th due to COVID-19 concerns. It will be held virtually via Zoom to ensure safety for all attendees. Staff continues to work on the plan document and request missing information.

Webster County:

- The planning committee has completed the planning meetings. Several jurisdictions are still identifying and scoring actions to be included in the plan. Staff continues to work on the document and request missing information.

Barry County:

- SMCOG has entered into a contract for the 2020-2021 update to the Barry County Hazard Mitigation Plan. Staff will be setting a preliminary meeting with emergency management in the coming months. The plan is due July 23, 2021.

Grant Writing & Administration

Monett Floodplain Buyout:

- Abatement work underway; demolition anticipated to be completed by July 22

Bull Creek Floodplain Buyout:

- Closings scheduled for May 28 and 29, with demolition to begin thereafter

Seymour Emergency Grant:

- Close-out documents submitted; project anticipated to be completed by May 31

Other Grant Activities:

- SMCOG staff has worked with the City of Branson to submit an EDA 2019 Disaster supplemental application for floodproofing a wastewater treatment plant. Staff is preparing to also submit a CDBG-MIT application once funds become available.
- SMCOG staff will be assisting the City of Cassville in possibly seeking NFIP participation. A grant awarded through MACOG will cover costs associated with conducting an inventory of parcels and structures located in the floodplain.
- SMCOG is awaiting notification regarding the grant submitted for the City of Marshfield through the Recreational Trails Program at DNR.
- SMCOG will be assisting the City of Rockaway Beach in applying for CDBG funding for general infrastructure for road improvements through the CDBG infrastructure grant. We are still awaiting the 2020 application.
- SMCOG has submitted a hazard mitigation grant program application for the Village of Saddlebrooke culvert replacement.
- Staff is assisting the City of Crane in preparing a grant through CDBG for the demolition of vacant, dilapidated residential and commercial structures.
- Staff is assisting Dallas County Health Department in pursuing CDBG funds for a new facility

Homeland Security Regionalization

- FY17 – Completed.
- FY18 - Is about 75% complete. There are a few big items remaining. The funding should all be spent by the August 31 date.
- FY19 – Is proceeding as normal. The funding is to be spent by August 31, 2021.
- FY20 – Closing for applications was May 15. Our M&A and Work Program applications were submitted. OHS has started its Administrative Review phase. We are now setting up the RHSOC primary members to be peer reviewers to score the Region D applications. The scoring phase is June 16-26, and the RHSOC will determine what projects will be funded at the July 15 meeting. Funding amount is anticipated to be the same as last year, approximately \$380,000.

Comprehensive Planning:

- The City of Billings comprehensive plan is completed, but the initial public hearing scheduled for March 26th was postponed due to COVID-19. Staff will work with the City to reschedule the public hearing when it is safe for large groups to attend public meetings.
- The City of Branson has requested a delay for a comprehensive plan update due to unknown revenues. Branson staff anticipates a fall 2021 start date.
- SMCOG has entered into a contract with the City of Battlefield for a comprehensive plan update in 2020-2021. The process will kick-off in August.
- SMCOG will be kicking off the Nixa Comprehensive Plan update process in June. Staff and interns have already begun collecting data and completing an audit of previous goals and objectives.
- SMCOG has been approached by the City of Republic to assist in preparing its Comprehensive Plan update. SMCOG will be subcontracting work for an industrial market study. The City has already completed much of the work for the plan, so SMCOG would focus primarily on the land use plan and working with a subcontractor on an industrial market study. The update would begin in August.

Housing:

- Staff has received an estimate of \$25,000 total cost per participating community for local housing studies and we are exploring funding options.
- HUD is planning to do a Comprehensive Housing Market Analysis in the Springfield metro for the first time in the summer of 2020.

Economic Development:

- EDA Planning Partnership grant was awarded April 1. Staff has been using time to assist communities and local economic development organizations in responding to COVID, as well as preparing grant applications for critical infrastructure.
- SMCOG is anticipating an increased allocation to the Planning Partnership grant up to \$400,000 over 2 years. These funds must be used to assist the region in preparing for and recovering from COVID-19 long term economic impacts.
- SMCOG staff is exploring opportunities to partner with the SBDC at MSU and the eFactory to increase program opportunities in the region.
- SMCOG staff is assisting Taney County in applying for a multi-county EDA application in partnership with SBDC.
- SMCOG is preparing to submit an application to establish up to a \$1m revolving loan fund that would provide increased access to capital for small businesses throughout the region. The program is designed to assume higher risk than traditional lending opportunities would and will offer competitive interest rates.
- SMCOG staff participated in the Workforce Development Board zoom meeting on April 1.
- SMCOG staff participated in the Dade County Economic Development Summit on 3/4/20. Over 70 were in attendance.
- Jane Hood has been working with Mary Rajek from MO DED to develop a Rural Economic Development Summit. This is now on hold due to COVID-19.

2020 Census:

- The Regional Complete Count Committee (RCCC) continues to reach out to contacts in our ten-county area and meeting with the local Complete Count Committees to help create a strategic plan for each individual county. Courtney also is targeting our counties with low self-response rates. We are working with Ozarks Food Harvest to have printed flyers and rubber census bracelets distributed to the food pantries in these counties. We have also requested outdoor banners to be placed in these communities.
- Another area of low self-response rate is portions of Greene county where there had been a high college student population. We are working with the universities to ensure that they have completed the Group Quarters Enumeration. Also, we are reaching out to off campus apartments to try to work with them to get flyers handed out and/or posters put up.
- We have continued to work with media and social media outlets, such as KY3 and Facebook to get the word out about the 2020 Census and to educate our community.
- While we were under Stay at Home orders we kept in contact with our partners, checking in to see how we could assist and answering questions. With the state and local counties starting to reopen we are reaching out to our partners offering printed material to be posted throughout their communities and offering our assistance. Courtney has been updating the Missouri Census Hub with all activities in person or virtual, so that they can track the reach of the Complete Count Committee's efforts.

Other Activities:

VISTA:

- Created a COVID-19 resources webpage on the SMCOG website.
- Reached out to 27 communities in the SMCOG region to survey how COVID-19 has impacted them and to see if any assistance is needed.
 - If your community has any questions about relief from COVID-19 please reach out.
- Administering LMI survey for the City of Branson Compton Drive WWTP flood-proofing project.
- Gathering data to assess economic impact on communities from COVID-19/stay at home order.
- Gathering damage reports from county EMD's to assess how and what kind of data is collected in the event of a natural disaster.

911 Regional Coordination Center:

- SMCOG was selected to be the 911 Regional Coordination Center for SW Missouri
- Still awaiting additional information from the statewide coordination committee.

James River Watershed Management Plan:

- Compiling narratives from James River Basin Partnership and Ozarks Environmental and Water Resources Institute into a final document for submission to DNR by June 30.

Southwest Missouri Water Communications Plan:

- SMCOG staff continue to work with SWMO Water Staff to finalize key messages and finalize an updated communications plan and strategy. The initial website design has been completed and several graphics to communicate the updated messages have been developed.

MACOG Logo and Branding Update:

- SMCOG staff have completed designs for a new logo, business cards, brochure and inserts, thank you notes, banners, and folders. Several items have been ordered and will be delivered during the June MACOG meeting in Jefferson City.

Cost of Living:

- The next rounds of collection will be July and October.

Ozark Special Projects:

- SMCOG staff has conducted research regarding residential density and benefits and costs associated with varying degrees of density. Staff and SMCOG intern Tyler Wilson presented the research to the Ozark Planning and Zoning Commission via Zoom on April 27th. Additional research is delayed due to unknown revenues for the City.
- SMCOG has begun initial development of an online, interactive map for the City of Ozark to track projects and infrastructure improvements.

Kimberling City Zoning and Subdivision Codes Rewrite:

- SMCOG staff has been conducting public outreach, which has been impacted due to stay-at-home orders.
- Contract is being extended by two months to January 31, 2020 to allow for additional citizen and business community engagement events.

Proposals Submitted

- Republic Comprehensive Plan Update
- SMCOG Revolving Loan Fund
- EDA Planning Partnership Increase

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