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Past issues of the SW Missouri Local Government Briefings can be found at: smcog.missouristate.edu

To subscribe or submit an item for the Briefings, please contact: JasonRay@missouristate.edu.

For information, call Jason Ray at 417-836-6977.

Announcements...

SMCOG Names New Executive Director

The Southwest Missouri Council of Governments (SMCOG) named Jason Ray, AICP as Executive Director in September. Jason replaces long-time Executive Director, Diane May, AICP after her retirement on July 31. Jason will also serve as the Director for Missouri State University's Center for Resource Planning & Management (CRPM), the administrative agent for SMCOG.

SMCOG also welcomes two new staff members: Megan Clark, Planner; and Theresa Moncrief, Office Manager.

Energy Loan Program Application Cycle Now Open

The FY2017 Supplemental Loan Cycle is now open. Loan applications are being accepted from **October 3, 2016 to January 13, 2017**. The loan amount per applicant is from \$10,000 to \$1,000,000 and the interest rate is 2.75%. Loans are repaid by energy savings with a maximum repayment term of 10 years including principal and interest. Loan amounts of more than \$1,000,000 will be considered if funds remain.

Eligible Entities: Public Schools (K-12), Public/Private Higher Education Institutions, City/County Governments, Local Government/Public-owned Airport Facilities, Public Water/Wastewater Facilities, Public/not-for-profit Hospitals, Zoological Park & Museum Districts, Ambulance Districts.

Eligible Projects: High efficiency lighting fixtures and lamps, High efficiency heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems, Combined heat and power systems, Renewable energy systems, Waste heat recovery, Energy efficient fine bubble diffusers and high efficiency pumps, building shell improvements such as insulation and other infiltration measures, Other measures that reduce energy use and cost.

Learn more and apply online: <https://goo.gl/joVs5d>

On-Site Wastewater Grant/Loan Program

SMCOG, in partnership with the Missouri Association of Councils of Governments (MACOG), and MoDNR is pleased to offer a grant/loan program for failing on-site wastewater systems (septic systems). The purpose of the Missouri On-site Wastewater Improvement Grant-Loan program is to provide financing for homeowners seeking to make improvements to, or replace their on-site wastewater treatment system, which will improve Missouri's water quality.

Program eligibility requirements can be found online: <https://goo.gl/62qtHG>
Contact JaneHood@missouristate.edu for more information.

October is National Community Planning Month!

The achievements of planning are celebrated in October with National Community Planning Month.

The 2016 theme is Civic Engagement. This year's theme underscores the necessity of engaging the public, elected officials, and key leaders in discussions that shape the future of our cities. Thoughtful local planning cannot happen without meaningful civic engagement.

Learn more about Community Planning Month and how you can get involved through the American Planning Association's website: <https://goo.gl/mvzro1>

Conferences and Events...

SMCOG Meetings

SMCOG Annual Breakfast & Board meeting, October 26, 8:00 AM, Tower Club, 901 E. St. Louis Street, #21, Springfield, MO 65806. Please RSVP to JaneHood@missouristate.edu.

RHSOC Annual meeting, October 19, 9:00 AM, Mt. Vernon Arts and Recreation Center (MARC), Mt. Vernon, MO

MoDOT Blueprint for Safety Conference

MoDOT and the Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety would like to invite you to Missouri's 2016 Traffic Safety and Blueprint Conference in Columbia, Missouri, **October 18-20**. The conference planning team has developed an excellent agenda. They are inviting transportation experts from across the country to speak about innovations in traffic safety.

The Traffic Safety and Blueprint Conference provides an opportunity to network with other traffic and safety professionals and learn about new advances and strategies in highway safety. An exhibit hall will display products and services from local and regional vendors, showcase transportation-related organizations, and share traffic programs to improve safety and mobility. Register online: <https://goo.gl/7YuHIW>

Fall Water Conference

Tri-State Water Resource Coalition and Missouri State University will convene their annual regional water conference to provide an opportunity for all stakeholders interested in water issues - cities, towns, counties, business and industry, agriculture, academics, utilities, elected officials, state and federal agency representatives, and other groups whose missions relate to water - to discuss current water issues and our regional water future. **October 20-21**, <https://goo.gl/1ZGF6>

Missouri Community Betterment Annual Conference

The theme for the 2016 Fall Conference is "Transformation and Preservation".

Transformation – The act of changing, altering, overhauling, reconstructing, remodeling, reshaping, redoing, rebuilding, reorganizing, rearranging, modifying. A complete or major change in something's appearance, form, etc.

Preservation – The act of protecting, maintaining, retaining. The act of keeping something as it is, esp. in order to prevent it from decaying or to protect it from being damaged or destroyed. Reclaiming, reusing, upholding, conserving, restoring.

Often times in rural communities, growth and community betterment occurs not by something new being built or brought in, but in transforming and/or preserving something already in existence. We see it all the time; restoration of an old school, church, courthouse; transforming a building that no longer serves the community into a thriving structure that brings communities together.

In today's world of utilizing what we already have to maintain the earth's resources, transformation and preservation are becoming more popular and/or necessary all over the world. Many communities have been recycling, re-purposing and reusing their resources long before it became recognized as "green" living. **October 23-24**, Columbia, MO <https://goo.gl/ADcZbG>

Conferences and Events Further Out...

November 9: MGT405 Mobilizing Faith-Based Community Organizations in Preparing for Disaster will be held in Cape Girardeau. <https://goo.gl/LZj4pY>

November 15-16: MoDED BCS Incentive and Finance Program Training, Springfield, MO <https://goo.gl/UVNIhe>

November 15-16: MO Rural Health Association's Get Link'd Conference about the important intersection between healthcare access and transportation. Registration now open: <http://goo.gl/Hft2xY>

News...

Missouri Awarded \$634,134 in Funding to Boost Exports for Small Businesses

The funding is part of the State Trade and Export Promotion (STEP) grant program, established as part of the Small

Business Jobs Act of 2010 to award grants to states to carry out export programs that assist eligible small businesses. The program will be administered by the Missouri Department of Economic Development's International Trade & Investment Office and will complement the state's best-in-class trade initiative, **Export Missouri**. Read the full press release online: <https://goo.gl/qLBTAI>

Mayors: Next President Must Keep Muni Exemption; Focus on Infrastructure

With the presidential election just a month away, the U.S. Conference of Mayors (UCM) stressed the importance of federal support for preserving the tax exemption for municipal bonds and developing a national infrastructure investment policy. Both Congress and the Obama administration have proposed capping the value of the municipal exemption at 28 percent, a move which the UCM says would result in increased costs of almost \$200 billion. Read more from *The Bond Buyer*: <https://goo.gl/a956Fv>

Missouri Gubernatorial Candidates Discuss Financial Issues

During the Sept. 30 debate between Democratic Attorney General Chris Koster and Republican former Navy SEAL Eric Greitens, the two candidates for Missouri Governor covered several topics related to their plans for funding and improving the state's transportation infrastructure.

Online Resources...

CensusReporter.org

For the Springfield Metro Area and Branson Micro Area, the U.S. Census Bureau's online tool, Census Reporter, allows users to quickly find demographic, economic, housing, and social figures and visualize the data with their library of charts. The tool also provides valuable information alongside each data point so you can see how each place fits into a larger context. <https://goo.gl/o1382O>

Jobs...

Regional Planner, Lake of the Ozarks Council of Local Governments, Salary DOQ: <http://goo.gl/IK1zuB>

Assistant Professor, Planning/Human Geography, Missouri State University, <https://goo.gl/x5f3iV>

Community Development Director, City of Lebanon, \$56,025 - &57,723/yr.: <https://goo.gl/sPJSV2>

Patrol Officer, City of Republic, \$15.57/hr.: <https://goo.gl/4mc1IO>

Police Officer, City of Springfield, \$16.57 - \$28.35/hr.: <https://goo.gl/QGZKU3>

Police Dispatcher, City of Aurora: <http://goo.gl/4RF1uu>

Grants...

EPA Offers Assistance to Help Rural Communities Revitalize Downtowns

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) today invited rural communities to apply for planning assistance to develop strategies that help grow the economy and revitalize downtown neighborhoods. EPA is offering this assistance as part of Rural Advantage, a suite of federal economic development planning assistance programs for rural communities.

Communities may apply for assistance through the following programs:

- Local Foods, Local Places (LFLP), which helps communities leverage local food enterprise to diversify their economy and renew their downtowns.
- Cool & Connected, which helps communities use broadband service to create walkable, connected, economically successful neighborhoods.
- Healthy Places for Healthy People, a new program that will help communities partner with health care facilities to catalyze downtown revitalization and to improve options for healthy living and economic opportunity.

Communities may apply by submitting letters of interest by **November 6**. For more information and to submit an application, see: <https://goo.gl/4QlrCw>

DOT – Safety Research and Demonstration Program

The Safety Research and Demonstration (SRD) Program provides technical and financial support for transit agencies to pursue innovative approaches to eliminate or mitigate safety hazards. The federal cost share for proposed projects is limited to 80 percent. Applicants must be existing FTA grant recipients and clearly identify the eligible lead applicant and all project partners. **The deadline to apply is Oct. 14**. Read more: <https://goo.gl/ePY2So>

EPA – Building Blocks for Sustainable Communities

Building Blocks for Sustainable Communities provides quick, targeted technical assistance to selected communities using a variety of tools. The goal is to create a discussion about growth and development while strengthening local capacity to implement sustainable approaches. Eligible applicants are local or county governments. Nonprofits applying on behalf of a local government are also eligible. **Applications are due by October 12**. <https://goo.gl/zw0yRc>

EPA – Smart City Air Challenge Program

Funding from this program will help local communities collect air quality data. To qualify for the challenge, communities will need to submit plans for deploying hundreds of air quality sensors and managing the data they collect. EPA will award up to \$40,000 apiece to two communities that have the best data collection strategies, including their plans to share their data management methods with other jurisdictions. **The deadline to apply is October 28**. <https://goo.gl/eviVR1> The next challenge webinar will be on data management on October 13.

MoDOT – "Smart Highways" Proposals

As a part of its "Road to Tomorrow" initiative, the Missouri Department of Transportation is seeking proposals for a pilot project to incorporate innovative technology into a Missouri roadway that potentially could generate new revenue streams for transportation. The project will evaluate if "smart pavement" can make roads sustainably self-funded by providing value-added wireless services to support mobile connectivity and next-generation electric, connected and autonomous vehicles. **Proposals are due October 31**, and MoDOT hopes to select a best-value proposer in early 2017. [More information >](#)

RWJF – The Culture of Health Prize

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's (RWJF) Culture of Health Prize is awarded to recognize community efforts and partnerships that have helped people live healthier lives. Awards will honor entire communities, not single organizations or initiatives. Ten winning communities will each receive a \$25,000 award, given to a designated local government or tax-exempt public charity. **The deadline to apply is November 23**. <https://goo.gl/Tnep2b>

Quotes...

"It's a funny thing, the more I practice, the luckier I get." – Arnold Palmer
