



# The Quarterly

## Southwest Michigan Planning Commission

*Planning that is Credible, Credentialed, and Connected*

### SWMPC

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## PARTNERSHIPS FOR CHANGE

Partnerships for Change is a multi-jurisdictional planning assistance program developed by the Land Information Access Association (LIAA), Michigan Municipal League (MML), and Michigan Townships Association (MTA).

The premise of the organization is to foster new and expanded cooperation between cities, townships, and villages in developing and carrying out local land use policies that contribute to the preservation of cultural and natural resources.

Professional services and technical assistance will include a broad range of options such as:

1. On site facilitation services, surveys, workshops, and educational support
2. Research and analysis
3. Geographic analysis and map production
4. Development and drafting of land use policies

LIAA will provide three levels of project assistance consistent with the needs described by the selected communities.

- **First-Steps Service Grants**

Short term service grants will provide communities with facilitation, information, training, and expert assistance to open the discussion and address the barriers to cooperation.

Applications are accepted at any time, there is no deadline.

- **Small-Scale Service Grants & Large-Scale Service Grants**

These grants will provide for a wide range of planning objectives including training, facilitation, mapping and geographic analysis, research and writing. A joint application supported by formal resolutions of support is needed. Local governments are expected to contribute at least 35% of project costs in cash (higher match contributions may increase the success of an application). However, the match requirement may be reduced to as low as 20%. While community foundations and others may provide a portion of the matching contributions, local jurisdictions must contribute at least half of the match money. The maximum cost for a Small-Scale project is \$25,000. The maximum cost for a Large-Scale project is \$67,000.

Applications are accepted prior to December 1, 2008.

**<http://www.partnershipsforchange.cc/>**

# TRANSPORTATION

## Regional Transit

Public transportation providers and human service agencies are facing the challenges of higher fuel prices and increasing demand for transportation by older adults with health, mobility, and income limitations. Five counties in southwest Michigan (Berrien, Branch, Cass, St. Joseph, and Van Buren) imagined improved

The \$90,000 grant will assist five counties in improving coordination between transit and human service agencies.

cooperation between transit providers and senior service agencies to expand transit services to older adults. A

\$90,000 grant was written by the SWMPC and awarded by the National Center for Senior Transportation (NCST). The dream became a reality as the SWMPC facilitated the purchase of web-based software for each of the transit agencies involved. Representatives of eight transit agencies came together and worked with the SWMPC to discuss methods for increasing the mobility of older adults in the region.

With this web-based system in place, transportation service providers have the opportunity to become fully coordinated. Participating human service agencies will be able to log on to a secure site to determine how their clients are using transit and ensure that all resources are being efficiently utilized. Transit providers will use the scheduling portion of the software, which takes into consideration any special needs and travel requirements, automatically selecting the most efficient vehicle, and providing the dispatcher with a list of options resulting in maximizing passengers per vehicle/route.

Software training has taken place at the transit agencies and the feedback is favorable from the transit agency staff. The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) is pleased that this coordination is taking place between numerous service providers. This project could serve as a model to other areas in the state, bringing the reality of greater transit coordination and mobility to more Michigan residents.

## SWMPC Transportation Department

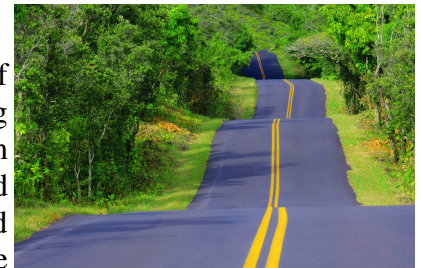
The SWMPC transportation planners have been very busy with several projects over the past couple of months. These projects include the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRP) and the PASER Road Rating.

### Long Range Transportation Plans (LRP)

The LRP serve as the foundation for future activities for the Twin Cities Area Transportation Study (TwinCATS) and the Niles-Buchanan-Cass Area Transportation Study (NATS). Through the transportation planning process, participating local units of government along with the county road commissions, transit agencies, MDOT, and others collaborate to set regional priorities for all modes of movement in the transportation system. The plans are updated every four years and are expected to be completed in the winter of 2009. To learn more, or to comment on transportation issues in the Twin Cities or Niles-Buchanan-Cass areas, contact the SWMPC transportation planners, Kelly Getman-Dissette or Nick Musson.

### PASER Road Rating

Each summer a team of three people including representatives from SWMPC, MDOT, and local road



commissions, rates the surface conditions of federal aid eligible roads in the tri-county region. The team watches for cracks, potholes, and other signs of distress and rates the road segments on a scale from 1-10, with one being worst and ten being best. These ratings help local decision makers determine what types of road repairs are needed to extend the life of the road. Ratings in our tri-county region are complete, and reports will be available soon on the SWMPC website ([www.swmpc.org/asset\\_mgmt.asp](http://www.swmpc.org/asset_mgmt.asp)). For more information on how your community can benefit from asset management, contact SWMPC.

## Graham Woodhouse Intergovernmental Effort Award

Nominations are due by **December 1, 2008**

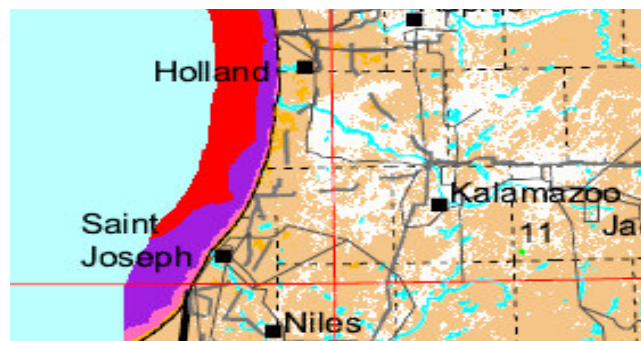
[www.swmpc.org/board.asp](http://www.swmpc.org/board.asp)

# ENVIRONMENT

## Wind Power Classification

Wind Power Class	Resource Potential	Wind Power Density at 50 m W/m <sup>2</sup>	Wind Speed <sup>a</sup> at 50 m m/s	Wind Speed <sup>a</sup> at 50 m mph
1	Poor	0 - 200	0.0 - 5.6	0.0 - 12.5
2	Marginal	200 - 300	5.6 - 6.4	12.5 - 14.3
3	Fair	300 - 400	6.4 - 7.0	14.3 - 15.7
4	Good	400 - 500	7.0 - 7.5	15.7 - 16.8
5	Excellent	500 - 600	7.5 - 8.0	16.8 - 17.9
6	Outstanding	600 - 800	8.0 - 8.8	17.9 - 19.7
7	Superb	> 800	> 8.8	> 19.7

<sup>a</sup> Wind speeds are based on a Weibull k of 2.0.



U.S. Department of Energy  
National Renewable Energy Laboratory

## Wind Energy in Michigan

There is a great deal of discussion about how humans are impacting the world in which we live. Several discussions have focused on the dependence that we have on fossil fuels. We use fossil fuels for many of the daily functions of our lives. New attention is being paid to the link between fossil fuels and the effects that they have on our environment.

As a result, states such as Michigan, have decided to make a change in their future energy policy to ensure that environmental quality will be maintained or improved in the future. In January of 2007, Governor Granholm signed the State of Michigan's 21st Century Electric Energy Plan that calls for a renewable portfolio standard (RPS) of 3% by 2009 and 10% by the end of 2015. "A renewable portfolio standard sets a goal for the percentage of energy that should be produced from renewable sources by a target year" (Planning and Zoning News, May 2008). This renewable energy source could come from one of the most treasured resources in our region, Lake Michigan. "The state of Michigan is endowed with very large wind energy potential," said Imad Mahawili, director of the Michigan Alternative & Renewable Energy Center in Muskegon. "This renewable wind energy can be harnessed using advanced wind turbines that have been successfully proven over many years in various parts of the world" (Muskegon Chronicle, 2008). Currently, there are three utility-scale wind turbines operating in Michigan – two in Mackinaw City and one in Traverse City, which together account for 2.4 megawatts of wind energy.

**Michigan is the 14th most wind abundant state in the nation.**

One point that should be made is that there are different types of wind turbines for different purposes. Michigan State University Extension Wind Power Energy webpage identifies the following types of turbines:

1. **Small Wind Turbines**-These can be stand-alone or grid-connected, usually 100 kW or smaller, for use in residential, small farm, or small businesses.
2. **Small Distributed Wind Projects**-These are single or small clusters of utility-scale wind turbines. Often, projects such as these are owned and operated by individual farmers, farmer-owned business entities, local investors, municipalities, or large energy consumers to offset their own consumption.
3. **Community Wind Energy**-These projects come in many shapes and sizes, but are unified by having some level of local or public involvement, equity, initiation, and control. Examples include: school-owned wind turbines, farmer owned wind cooperatives or Limited Liability Corporations (LLCs), and local public power wind projects.
4. **Large-Scale Wind Power Plants**-These consist of large arrays of wind turbines concentrated in one area and governed under a single power purchase agreement.

**Start a discussion with your community about alternative energy sources!**

### Sources

[www.msue.msu.edu/](http://www.msue.msu.edu/) [www.landpolicy.msu.edu/](http://www.landpolicy.msu.edu/) Planning and Zoning News, May 2008;  
[http://www.mlive.com/news/index.ssf/2008/01/pondering\\_wind\\_energy\\_possibil.html](http://www.mlive.com/news/index.ssf/2008/01/pondering_wind_energy_possibil.html)



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## Calendar of Events

### October

**1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup>** MI Assoc. of Planning  
 Conf. in Kalamazoo, MI  
**4<sup>th</sup>** 9:00 a.m. Berrien Co.  
 Electronic Recycling  
**20<sup>th</sup>** 9:30 a.m. TwinCATS in  
 Benton Harbor, MI  
**28<sup>th</sup>** 1:30 p.m. NATS in Niles,  
 MI  
 NATS=Niles-Buchanan-Cass Area  
 Transportation Study  
 TwinCATS=Twin Cities Area  
 Transportation Study

### November

**4<sup>th</sup>** Election Day  
**11<sup>th</sup>** SWMPC Offices Closed  
**13<sup>th</sup>** 1:00 p.m. Trails Workshop  
 in Middleville, MI  
**17<sup>th</sup>** 9:30 a.m. TwinCATS in  
 Benton Harbor, MI  
**18<sup>th</sup>** 1:30 p.m. NATS in Niles,  
 MI  
**27-28<sup>th</sup>** SWMPC Offices Closed

### December

**1<sup>st</sup>** Graham Woodhouse  
 Nominations Due  
**15<sup>th</sup>** 9:30 a.m. TwinCATS in  
 Benton Harbor, MI  
**16<sup>th</sup>** 1:30 p.m. NATS in Niles,  
 MI  
**24-25<sup>th</sup>** SWMPC Offices Closed  
**31<sup>st</sup>** SWMPC Offices Close at  
 Noon  
**January 2009**  
**1<sup>st</sup>** SWMPC Offices Closed

[www.swmpc.org/calendar.asp](http://www.swmpc.org/calendar.asp)

### 2008 Board Meeting Schedule

**SWMPC Full Commission Meeting**  
 Location: Van Buren Conference Center  
 Lawrence, MI  
 October 21, 2008 at 9:30 a.m.

**SWMPC Administrative Committee Meeting**  
 Location: Vincent Place Conference Room  
 Benton Harbor, MI  
 December 16, 2008 at 9:30 a.m.

The public is encouraged to attend.