

ANNUAL REPORT



*For the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission
from January 1 to December 31, 2010*

July 2011

FROM THE CHAIR . . .

Clear vision and focused decision-making is the hallmark of leadership. But leaders do not tend to come to those characteristics by accident. In the words of President Kennedy; “the time to repair the roof is when the sun is shining.” The season to plan is before challenges mature into major problems or controversies. Planning for a large category of challenges is possible. Similarly, good things often require concerted, systematic effort and application of resources before they can be brought to fruition. With resources at a premium, clarity of direction and efficiency in execution are essential. For all of these reasons, there is wisdom in sound planning. The SWMPC is an advocate for, and a source of, quality planning for the communities of southwest Michigan.

In 2010 the SWMPC began the committee work of rethinking its governance and bylaws. Is our Board structure appropriate for the SWMPC in the Twenty-First Century? As a three-county region we are among the smallest planning regions in the State, yet we have one of the largest governing Boards, with forty-two members. It is the right time for us to be exploring this issue but to do so in light of our continuing focus on representing the interests of the entire region. Stay tuned in 2011 as we navigate through this important work.



This annual report is a brief compilation of our work in 2010. If you are not familiar with the SWMPC, we hope that this report will encourage you to get acquainted with us. For those who are already familiar with us, we appreciate your collaboration and we thank you for the part you played in a rewarding year for the Commission.

*Sincerely,
Linda Preston, Chair 2011*

The Southwest Michigan Planning Commission (SWMPC) is one of fourteen Planning and Development Regions in the State of Michigan and one of approximately five hundred in the United States. A 1968 order by then-governor George W. Romney enabled planning regions in Michigan.

Resolutions of the Berrien, Cass, and Van Buren County Boards of Commissioners officially formed the SWMPC in 1973. The Commission was first staffed in 1974.

In addition to serving public and private entities within Berrien, Cass, and Van Buren Counties by providing technical or management assistance, the SWMPC acts as an intergovernmental forum to discuss regional concerns. The SWMPC addresses issues and administers programs that its membership deems appropriate and which are in keeping with locally established area-wide planning and development goals.

For more information about the SWMPC, please visit our website:

www.swmpc.org

LOCAL SERVICES PLANNING

The SWMPC provides customized planning and information services to local governments and organizations including comprehensive and land use planning, research and analysis, GIS mapping, surveys, recreational planning, grant writing and grant administration. Outreach to build support for wise planning and awareness of vital regional development issues leads to program initiatives that address local needs.



BEYOND OUR BORDERS

PARTICIPATION

American Planning Association
 Great Lakes Association of Regional Councils
 Lake Michigan Watershed Academy (Delta Institute)
 Michigan Association of Planning
 Michigan Association of Regions

Michigan Business Incubator Association
 Michigan Economic Developers Association
 Michigan Transportation Planning Association
 Quad State Directors
 Wingspread Accord

PARTNERS

Community Media Workshop
 Land Information Access Association
 Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians

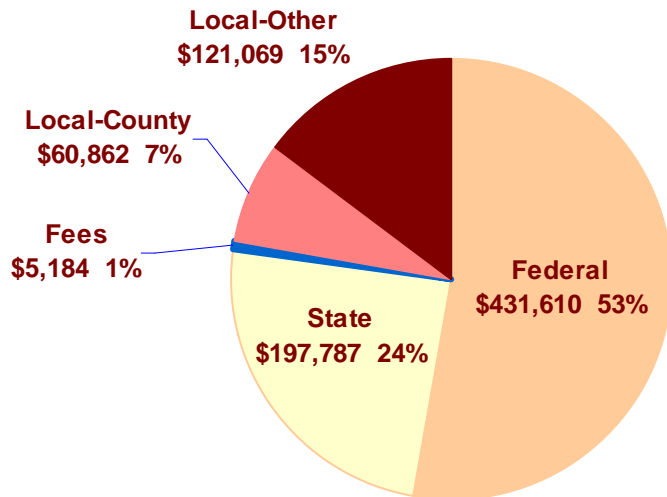
Michigan Economic Development Corporation
 Michigan State University
 University of Michigan

MORE ABOUT SWMPC



The July 20, 2010 SWMPC Full Board Meeting was held at the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians' Tribal Council Lodge located in Dowagiac, MI. The agenda included a Michigan Prosperity Initiative presentation by planner Elizabeth Luther with small group discussions to prioritize goals and objectives following (above). After the close of business, Doris Higgins, Executive Director of the Volunteer Center of Southwest Michigan, led a Board training session with staff and Board members. The event ended with an outdoor picnic lunch with SWMPC charter member Johnie Rodebush providing fresh corn.

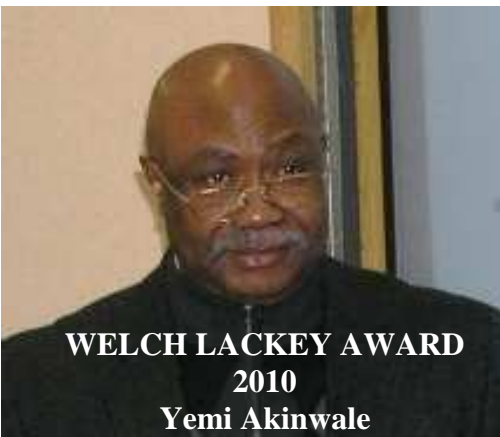
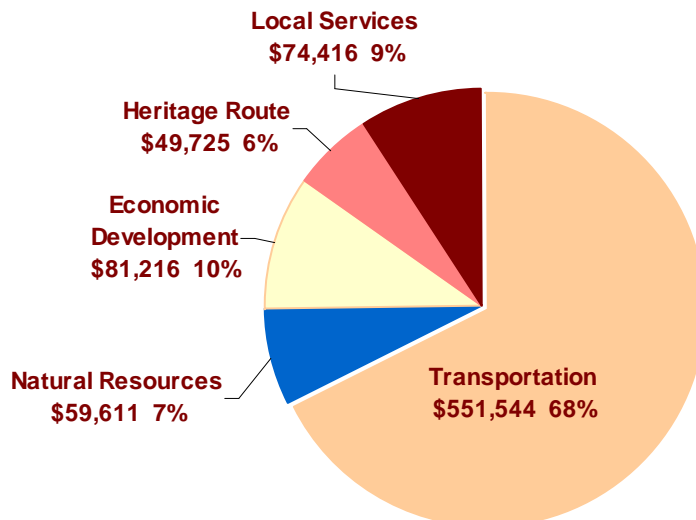
Revenue By Source



Mission Statement:

The mission of the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission is to promote a sustainable high quality of life through facilitation of sound planning and decision making.

Revenue by Theme



2010 BOARD MEMBERS

OFFICERS

Chair: Linda Preston
Cass Townships Representative

Vice Chair: Jeff Radtke
Van Buren Citizen Representative (Planning)

Treasurer: Donald Gast
Berrien Citizen Representative

Alternate Treasurer: Yemi Akinwale
Berrien Citizen Representative

Secretary: Frances Sage
Van Buren Citizen Representative

BERRIEN COUNTY

Victoria Chandler, Citizen Representative
Janet Clark, Citizen Representative
Wilce Cooke, Mayor, City of Benton Harbor
Marge Durm-Hiatt, Supervisor's Alternate,
Niles Township
Nora Jefferson, Supervisor's Alternate,
Benton Charter Township
Juan Ganum, Mayor's Alternate, City of Niles
Jon Hinkleman, County Commissioner
John Hodgson, Mayor's Alternate, City of St. Joseph
John Klimek, County Commissioner
Jesse Minks, Citizen Representative
Paul Pantaleo, Supervisor's Alternate,
Oronoko Township
Gloria Payne, Townships' Representative
Richard Remus, Citizen Representative
Donald Ryman, County Commissioner
Marletta Seats, County Commissioner
Roger Seeley, St. Joseph Charter Township
Supervisor (Tim Fenderbosch, Alternate)
Dick Stauffer, Lincoln Charter Township Supervisor
Tracy Vines, Citizen Representative (Planning)

CASS COUNTY

Barb Wood Cook, Citizen Representative (Planning)
Walter Lehmann, Townships' Representative
Robert Powers, Citizen Representative
Johnie Rodebush, County Commissioner
James Sayer, Citizen Representative
James Snow, Mayor's Alternate, City of Dowagiac
David Taylor, County Commissioner
Robert Ziliak, County Commissioner

VAN BUREN COUNTY

Robert Burr, Mayor, City of South Haven
Tom Erdman, County Commissioner
Dave Foerster, Citizen Representative
Don Hanson, County Commissioner
Dale Lewis, Citizen Representative
Daniel Ruzick, Supervisor, Antwerp Township
Ron Sefcik, Townships Representative
Mike Toth, County Commissioner
John Tapper, Townships Representative

POKAGON BAND OF POTAWATOMI

Jason Auvil, Tribal Chair's Alternate

SWMPC 2010 STAFF

K. John Egelhaaf
Executive Director

Matt Aslesen
Associate Planner

Nickolas Musson
Associate Planner

Nancy Perry
Business Manager

Marcy Colclough
Senior Planner

Suzann Flowers
Associate Planner

Anna Rahtz
Associate Planner

Terri Moore
Administrative Assistant

Kimberly Gallagher
Senior Planner

Elizabeth Luther
Associate Planner

Trevor Thomas
Associate Planner

Mark Gallagher
Traffic Data Supervisor

Jill Plescher
GIS Specialist

Christina Pippin
Mobility Manager

Linda Douglas
Traffic Data Assistant