



# The Quarterly

## SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN PLANNING COMMISSION

*Planning that is Credible, Credentialed, and Connected*

### **SWMPC**

**185 E. Main St. Suite 701**

**Benton Harbor, MI 49022**

**Phone: (269) 925-1137**

**Fax: (269) 925-0288**

**[www.swmpc.org](http://www.swmpc.org)**

### **SWMPC Staff**

K. John Egelhaaf, Executive Director  
[egelhaafj@swmpc.org](mailto:egelhaafj@swmpc.org)

Marcy Colclough, Senior Planner  
[colcloughm@swmpc.org](mailto:colcloughm@swmpc.org)

Suzann Flowers, Program Assistant  
[flowerss@swmpc.org](mailto:flowerss@swmpc.org)

Kim Gallagher, Associate Planner  
[gallagherk@swmpc.org](mailto:gallagherk@swmpc.org)

Jill Leale, GIS Specialist  
[lealej@swmpc.org](mailto:lealej@swmpc.org)

Elizabeth Luther, Associate Planner  
[luthere@swmpc.org](mailto:luthere@swmpc.org)

Terri Moore, Administrative Assistant  
[mooret@swmpc.org](mailto:mooret@swmpc.org)

Nick Musson, Associate Planner  
[mussonn@swmpc.org](mailto:mussonn@swmpc.org)

Nancy Perry, Business Manager  
[perryn@swmpc.org](mailto:perryn@swmpc.org)

Anna Rahtz, Associate Planner  
[rahtza@swmpc.org](mailto:rahtza@swmpc.org)

## **NEW FACES AT SWMPC**

### **Elizabeth Luther**



Elizabeth is the newest staff member at the SWMPC and her focus will be on Regional Economic Development and Community Planning. A 2004 graduate of the University of Notre Dame with a Bachelor of Arts degree and a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics, she received a Masters of Urban and Regional Planning degree from the University of Michigan in 2009. During her time at the University of Michigan and over the summer, she has worked on a number of community development and transportation accessibility projects in Detroit. Elizabeth enjoys running and playing ultimate frisbee.

### **Anna Rahtz**



Anna joined the SWMPC staff in June and has been working alongside Nickolas Musson in Transportation Planning. She has been seen and heard in the Herald Palladium and on local radio stations discussing transportation planning for Berrien County. She possesses a Bachelor of Science Degree in Architecture from Kent State University, and she graduated from the University of Cincinnati in June of 2009 with a Masters of Community Planning. In her spare time Anna enjoys ballroom dancing and her morning bicycle ride to work.

### **CONTENTS**

**Pg. 2 Connections**  
**~MAR and Clearinghouse Review**

**Pg. 3 Regional Transportation**  
**~Bike Safety**  
**~Heritage Route Summit**  
**~Public Input Meetings**

**The 2010 Graham Woodhouse nominations are due to Terri Moore by December 1, 2009.**

The Graham Woodhouse Award is presented annually for projects that exemplify intergovernmental cooperation. Local units of government along with other organizations may be nominated in recognition of demonstrated cooperative effort.

# SWMPC CONNECTIONS

## Regional Clearinghouse Review

In 1982, the U.S. Congress mandated that a process to review grant applications should be coordinated through existing State organizations whenever possible. In Michigan, regional planning organizations were assigned this task. The Southeast Michigan Council of Governments is designated as the clearinghouse for projects of statewide interest and the other planning regions respond to applications of less than statewide significance in their local areas. SWMPC serves as the clearinghouse for projects in Berrien, Cass, and Van Buren Counties. Currently most federal agencies require all applicants, government non-profits and private citizens, to submit to the same process. This requirement is now also part of some state agency grant processes.

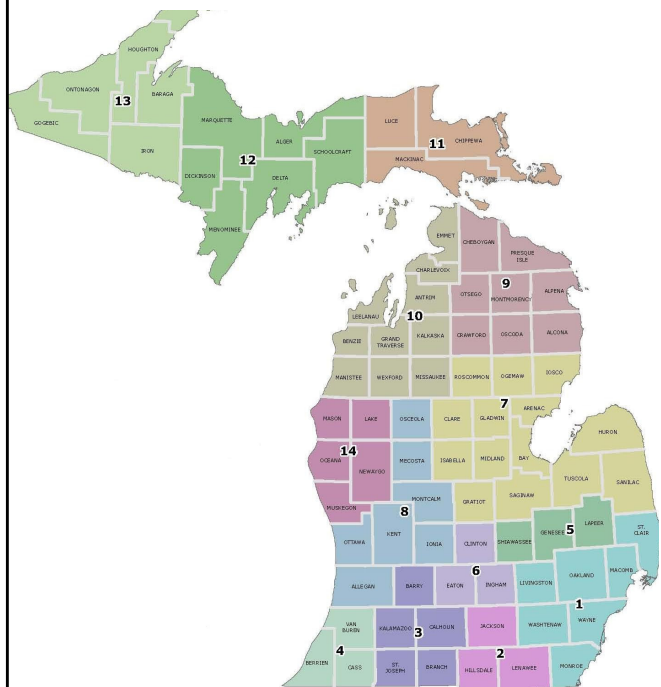
The clearinghouse process disseminates information about potential grants as widely as possible through a "Single Point of Contact" (SPOC) system. By submitting a copy of the standard grant cover from (SF 424) and a summary of the goals and scope of the proposed project to the appropriate regional planning agency, an applicant has the opportunity to notify concerned parties. The applicant's contact information and project summary are made available for further inquiry to neighboring communities and related agencies by the regional clearinghouse which collects comments and questions.

The planning regions conducting these reviews do not have any authority to approve or deny funds as part of the process. Only the grantors select the awards. The clearinghouse process is intended to promote coordination of effort. If you have further questions about the SPOC system, contact Terri Moore at [mooret@swmpc.org](mailto:mooret@swmpc.org) or (269) 925-1137 x 20.

### SPOC at SWMPC

1. Requests for clearinghouse review are received by mail, fax, or email.
2. File number assigned and confirmation sent
3. Informational letter sent to appropriate interested parties
4. Collected comments and questions are sent to the applicant and Grantor
5. The SWMPC Full Board or Administration Committee "clear" projects

### Michigan's Planning and Development Regions



### Michigan Association of Regions

The Michigan Association of Regions (MAR) is a statewide group comprised of 14 planning and development regions. MAR consists of a policy board of local elected and appointed officials that meets periodically to discuss regional policy issues and programs, and adopts legislative positions. The Executive Director's group carries out MAR's mission:

- To provide a strong, unified voice for all regions in communicating their positions to state and federal agencies on issues of common concern
- To provide a network for the sharing of information and mutual support among the regions
- To ensure equitable treatment from state and federal agencies for the regions based on local needs and concerns

# REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION

## Bicycle Safety Events Scheduled for Berrien and Cass Counties

The SWMPC Bicycle Safety Program has partnered with the Village of Baroda and the Cass County Parks Department to provide a bicycle safety rodeo at Safety Day in Baroda, October 11, 2009 from 2-4pm in downtown Baroda and at the 4th Annual Harvest Festival, October 3, 2009 from 4-7pm at Dr. T.K. Lawless Park in Vandalia.

A Bicycle Rodeo gives students and adults the opportunity to learn how to become a safe bicyclist. There will be several obstacle courses, discussions on bicycle and helmet fit, learning the rules of the road, and bicycle registrations at both events. For more information about these events go to [www.swmpc.org](http://www.swmpc.org)

Let's work together and learn how bicycles and cars can **SHARE THE ROAD.**



## Citizen Input Needed For Non-Motorized Transportation

The SWMPC is holding county input meetings the month of October for Barry, Cass, and Van Buren Counties. Anyone interested in trails, bike lanes and non-motorized facilities are encouraged to attend. These meetings will:

- Discuss progress of the 9-County Non-Motorized Plan for Southwest Michigan
- Draw on county maps to show where existing and planned non-motorized facilities are located
- Test the usability of the existing southwest Michigan bike map

### October Meeting Schedule

**October 8, 2009-Barry County-6:30-8:30 p.m.**

Barry County Commission on Aging (Hastings)

**October 15, 2009-Van Buren County-6:30-8:30 p.m.**

Van Buren Conference Center (Lawrence)

**October 22, 2009-Cass County-6:30-8:30 p.m.**

Cass County Road Commission (Cassopolis)

Information about this project can be found by visiting [www.swmpc.org/smart\\_plan.asp](http://www.swmpc.org/smart_plan.asp).

## Southern Michigan Heritage Route Summit

October 29, 2009 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.  
Coldwater, MI

If you are interested in learning how to take advantage of your community's cultural, historical and scenic heritage resources to help fuel your community's economy, then you must attend the **Southern Michigan Heritage Route Summit** presented by the US 12 Heritage Trail Council.

People attending the summit represent heritage advocates, community leaders, entrepreneurs, business owners, students, educators and politicians, and anyone who cares about creating thriving communities.

If you would like more information about the summit contact Kim Gallagher or visit [www.US12HeritageTrail.org](http://www.US12HeritageTrail.org).



### **I-94 Business Loop Construction Update**

Beginning of the roundabout at the intersection of Main Street and 5th Street in downtown Benton Harbor.

Southwest Michigan Planning Commission  
185 E. Main St., Suite 701  
Benton Harbor, MI 49022  
www.swmpc.org  
(269) 925-1137  
Fax: (269) 925-0288

## RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

*Planning that is Credible, Credentialed, and Connected*



**Save Paper By Receiving Our Newsletter Electronically**  
mooret@swmpc.org

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### October

**11<sup>th</sup>** 2:00 p.m. Safety Day and Bike Rodeo (Baroda)  
**13<sup>th</sup>** 8:30 a.m. MDNR Grant Workshop (Van Buren Conference Center)  
**14<sup>th</sup>** 7:00 p.m. Two Rivers Coalition (Geneva Township Hall)  
**15<sup>th</sup>** 6:30 p.m. Van Buren County Trail Meeting (Lawrence)  
**19<sup>th</sup>** 9:00 a.m. TwinCATS  
**22<sup>nd</sup>** 6:30 p.m. Cass County Trail Meeting (Cassopolis)  
**25<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>** Mid America Trails and Greenways Conference (Kalamazoo)  
**27<sup>th</sup>** 1:30 p.m. NATS  
**29<sup>th</sup>** Southern Michigan Heritage Route Summit (Coldwater)

### November

**3<sup>rd</sup>** Election Day  
**4<sup>th</sup>** 7:00 p.m. Ox Creek Water Quality Stakeholder Meeting (Benton Charter Township Hall)  
**11<sup>th</sup>** SWMPC Offices Closed  
**11<sup>th</sup>** 7:00 p.m. Two Rivers Coalition (Geneva Township Hall)  
**16<sup>th</sup>** 9:00 a.m. TwinCATS  
**16<sup>th</sup>** 10:00 a.m. Galien River Watershed Steering Committee (Chikaming Township Public Safety Bldg)  
**17<sup>th</sup>** 1:30 p.m. NATS  
**26<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>** SWMPC Offices Closed

### December

**1<sup>st</sup>** G. Woodhouse nominations due  
**9<sup>th</sup>** 6:30 p.m. Two Rivers Coalition Annual Meeting (Van Buren Conference Center)  
**15<sup>th</sup>** 1:30 p.m. NATS  
**21<sup>st</sup>** 9:00 a.m. TwinCATS  
**24<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>** SWMPC Offices Closed  
**31<sup>st</sup>** SWMPC Offices Close at Noon

### January

**1<sup>st</sup>** SWMPC Offices Closed

**NATS**=Niles-Buchanan-Cass Area Transportation Study meets in Niles  
**TwinCATS**=Twin Cities Area Transportation Study meets in Benton Harbor

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

### 2009 Board Meeting Schedule

#### SWMPC Full Commission Meeting

Location: Van Buren Conference Center-Lawrence, MI  
October 20, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.

#### SWMPC Administrative Committee Meeting

Location: Vincent Place Conference Room-Benton Harbor, MI  
December 15, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.