

# 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.

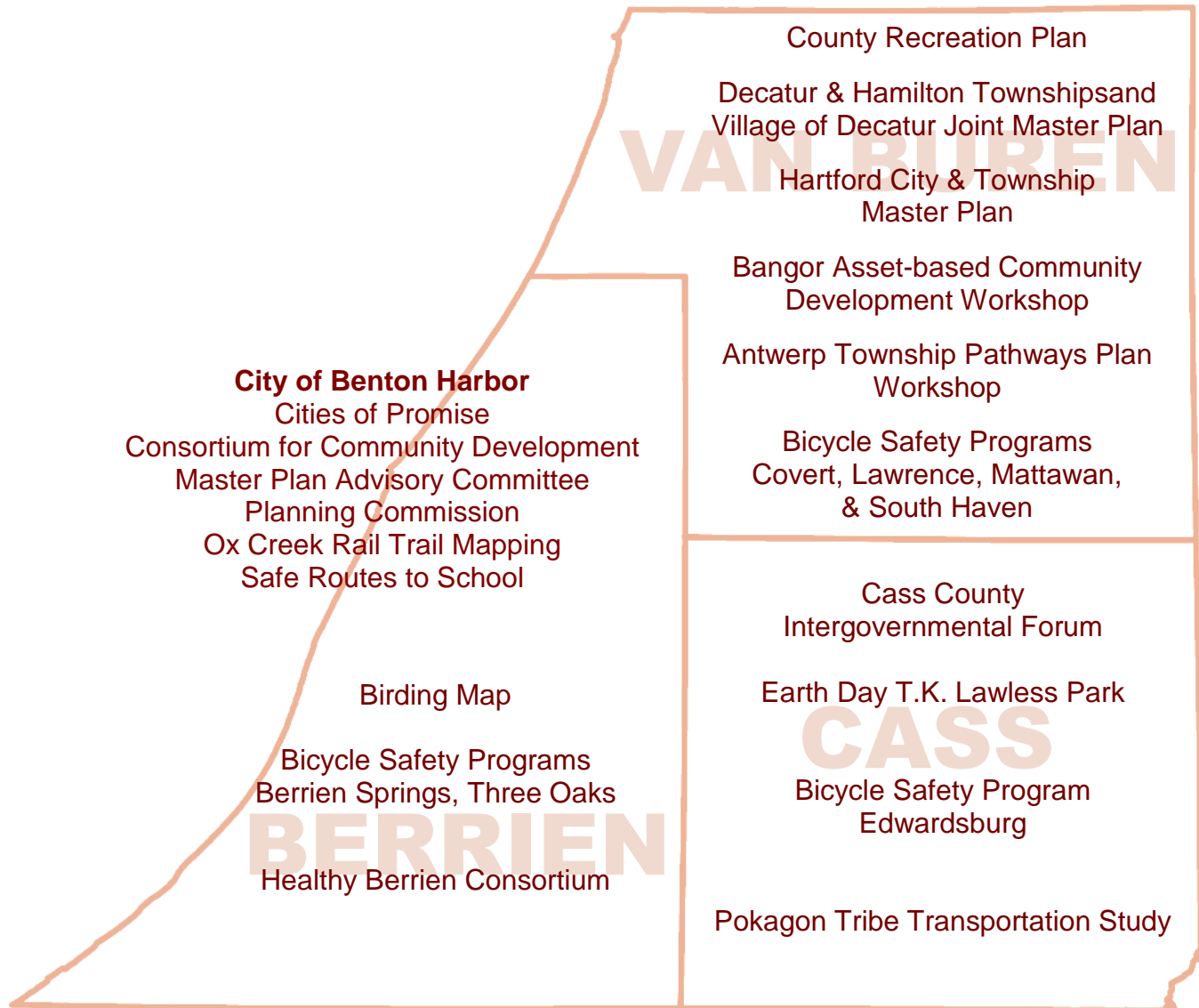
In addition to serving public and private entities within Berrien, Cass, and Van Buren Counties by providing technical or management assistance, the SWMPC acts as an intergovernmental forum to discuss regional concerns. The SWMPC addresses issues and administers programs that its membership deems appropriate 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](http://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

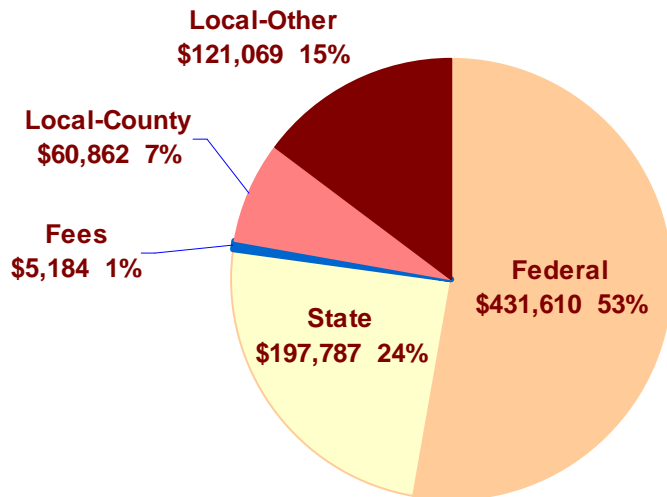
Michigan Economic Development Corporation  
 Michigan State University  
 University of Michigan

## 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.

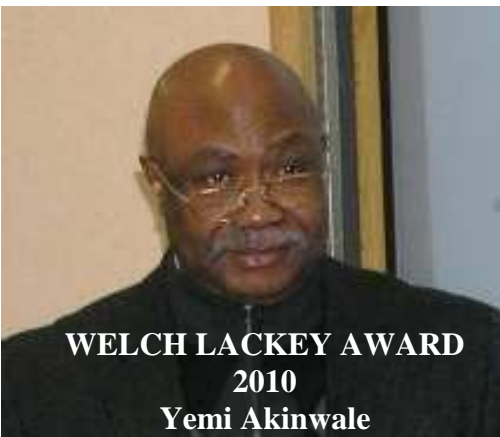
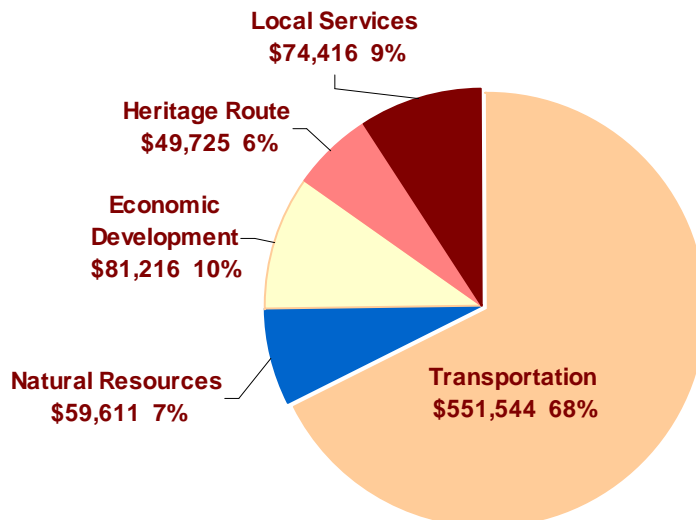
### Revenue By Source



### 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