



## SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN PLANNING COMMISSION

185 East Main Street, Suite 701, Benton Harbor, MI 49022

Phone: 269-925-1137 • Website: [www.swmpc.org](http://www.swmpc.org)

March 8, 2011

Attention: Local Governments / Asset Management Contacts

### **Re: Reminders of Upcoming Asset Management Activities and Other Transportation Updates**

## Workshops

### **1. Transportation & the Environment workshop**

**Tuesday March 22, 2011**

**1:30 PM – 4:30 PM**

Andrews University, Lincoln Room (2<sup>nd</sup> floor of Campus Center)  
Berrien Springs, MI



**Purpose:** for local government officials, engineers, and anyone with an interest in the environment to come together to discuss the following topics:

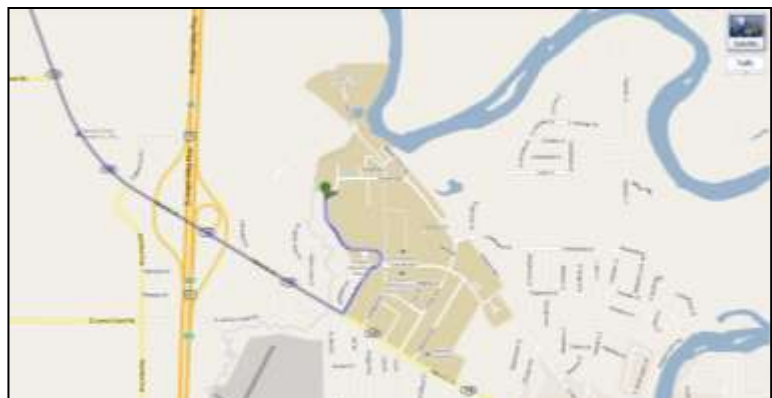
- What impact does the transportation system have on our water resources?
- What approaches and solutions are available to better protect water quality and reduce flooding risk?
- Help identify opportunities and action items for southwest Michigan!

Please distribute the enclosed flyer to encourage others to attend.

RSVP to Anna Rahtz or Trevor Thomas at the contact information below. No cost to attend. Lunch can be purchased prior to the session in the adjacent cafeteria for \$7. The meeting room will be open for eating lunch before the session begins at 1:30 PM.

#### ***Directions to Campus Center:***

From M139, turn onto Campus Boulevard, the main gateway entrance to campus. Go around the



roundabout to turn left onto Westwood Drive. Park in the unrestricted lot on the corner just past the roundabout and walk around to the front entrance of the Campus Center. Lincoln Room is on second floor next to the cafeteria.

[Click here to view the Campus Map.](#) (CC is the Campus Center, and parking is allowed in the blue unrestricted lots.)

## 2. PASER (pavement system evaluation and rating) training

Tuesday March 29, 2011

7:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Kalamazoo County Road Commission  
3801 E. Kilgore Rd, Kalamazoo, MI 49001

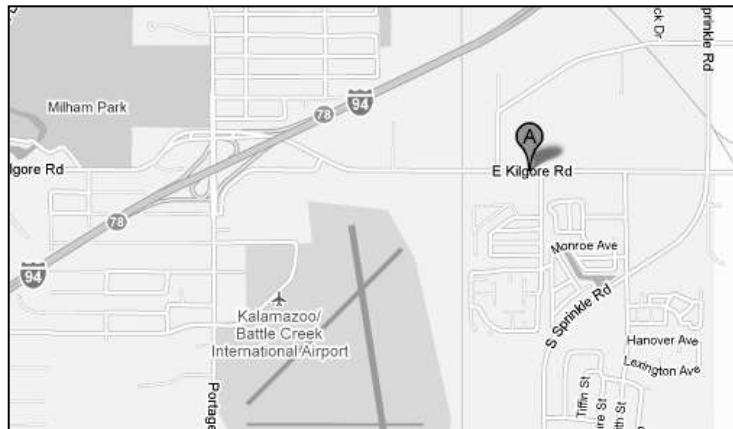
*\*Contact the Center for Technology & Training for the other training dates offered throughout the state.*



**Purpose:** to train those who will be participating in 2011 pavement rating process. Training is mandatory for anyone will be reimbursed for their participation in the rating process.

Cost of attendance - \$10 for Act 51 agencies, \$20 for others. Space is limited. **To register, contact the Center for Technology & Training** at (906) 487-2102 or [ctt@mtu.edu](mailto:ctt@mtu.edu). Refreshments provided.

New raters or others who did not actively rate in 2009 or 2010 must attend a PASER webinar prior on April 6<sup>th</sup> from 9:00-11:30am. To register for the webinar call (906) 487-2102. An additional PASER training session and webinar for new employees will be scheduled in late May.



### **Directions to Kalamazoo County Road Commission:**

From I-94 East:  
Take exit 78 for Portage Rd toward Kilgore Rd.  
Turn left at Portage Rd.  
Take the first right onto E Kilgore Rd.  
Cross under I-94. Destination is 1.0 mile ahead on left.

## 3. Michigan Asset Management Conference



## **“Guiding Change”**

**May 11-12, 2011**

**8:00 AM – 4:00 PM**

GVSU Eberhard Center, Grand Rapids, MI

Registration now open – see enclosed brochure. Cost to attend - \$30 for first participant and \$20 for additional participant from each public agency, \$100 for private companies. To register contact Michigan’s Local Technical Assistance Program at (906) 487-2101.

## **Announcements & Reminders**

### **1. Funding available for pavement rating of local (non-federal aid eligible) roads**

Funding is available in fiscal 2011 for all Act 51 (road-owning) agencies to rate the pavement condition of 100% of their local roads. The Southwest Michigan Planning Commission can also conduct the road rating on behalf of Act 51 agencies. The Michigan Transportation Asset Management Council must be notified as soon as possible with the number of miles that will be rated. Please contact Trevor Thomas or Anna Rahtz at the contact information below for more details.

### **2. Investment Reporting deadline – April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011**

Under Act 51, the State of Michigan collects data from communities on their road and bridge projects from the previous year, using the Investment Reporting Tool (IRT). The report is due to the Michigan Transportation Asset Management Council by April 1, 2011. Log in to the investment reporting tool website at <http://tamc.mcgi.state.mi.us/tamc/> to fill out your community’s investment report. The instruction packet that was provided at the investment reporting tool training is also available on the website. Contact Dave Jennett at (517) 373-7910 / [JennettD@michigan.gov](mailto:JennettD@michigan.gov) with questions. You can also contact Trevor Thomas for assistance in completing you IRT submission (see contact information at bottom).

### **3. Traffic Counting services available**

Every summer the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission conducts traffic counts on roads throughout Berrien, Cass, and Van Buren counties. Requests are taken first come, first serve. In 2010 there were 185 traffic counts conducted. The request form for traffic counts is available online at [http://swmpc.org/traffic\\_counts.asp](http://swmpc.org/traffic_counts.asp). All requests should be e-mailed to [Douglasl@swmpc.org](mailto:Douglasl@swmpc.org), faxed to (269) 925-0288, c/o Linda Douglas, or mailed to SWMPC, 185 E. Main St - Suite 701, Benton Harbor MI 49022, c/o Linda Douglas.

## 4. Transportation Funding 201 workshop - postponed

The sequel to the November 22, 2010 Transportation 101 workshop had previously been advertised for March 28, 2011 but is being indefinitely postponed. More information will follow.



## Other Related Announcements

### 1. Complete Streets workshop

May 3, 2011

6:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Berrien County Extension Main Office, Benton Harbor MI



**Purpose of workshop:** to train local officials and interested citizens on the following topics:

- Key components of Michigan's new Complete Streets legislation that every elected and appointed officials should know;
- An overview of Complete Streets concepts and practice;
- Best practices and Michigan examples;
- The 10 key principles to develop a local ordinance;
- Tools and resources that can be used to implement Complete Streets in a community; and
- Funding opportunities.

Cost to register - \$55, or \$45 for Michigan Citizen Planners.

To register, visit <http://citizenplanner.msu.edu/>. For more information contact Jessica McFarland by email at [mcfarland@landpolicy.msu.edu](mailto:mcfarland@landpolicy.msu.edu) or call 517.884.3957.

### 2. New Resources in Online Library

Please visit [http://swmpc.org/trans\\_library.asp](http://swmpc.org/trans_library.asp) for a comprehensive listing of resources and best practices tools related to transportation planning and transportation funding. The **Transportation 101 guide** (in the Transportation Planning section of the library) was recently released by Transportation 4 America to help citizens navigate federal transportation policies, through past, present, and future. There are also multiple resources in the Transportation Funding section related to the current funding situation for roads and transit.

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Please feel free to contact us for more information about any of the above events.

Sincerely,

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