



THE REVIEW

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BUILDING EXPANSION & REMODELING COMPLETE

After 16 months of work, Region XII COG's Carroll building expansion is complete. The project, which was in part funded by State of Iowa funds for transit facilities and by regional Surface Transportation dollars, doubled the amount of transit space and added 4000 square feet to the COG's offices. The Carroll facility was originally constructed in 1994 and received a small addition in 2000. The transit portion of the project allowed for a large expansion to the vehicle maintenance area, an expanded wash bay, and vehicle storage than can accommodate most of the Carroll fleet. The office expansion and remodeling provided needed records storage, additional office space, a training room, and a larger reception area. The \$1.7 million project was \$100,000 under budget. Those who were unable to make the COG's open house are invited by for a tour.

THE REVIEW IS GOING ELECTRONIC

In an effort to be more "green" and conserve on paper and printing, the Review will move to a strictly electronic newsletter after this edition. **This will be the last issue that is mailed to you-future issues will be sent via e-mail.** We will be entering the e-mail addresses that we have of area officials, but in order to make sure we don't miss anyone, we are encouraging everyone to sign up by going to the Region XII website and clicking on the "Newsletter" button at the top. There you will be able to enter your contact information into our e-newsletter database and read past issues of the newsletter and other funding updates.

JOBJET COMMUTER VANPOOL PROGRAM LAUNCH



Region XII has officially launched its new commuter vanpool program "JobJet". In August, 5 employees at Tyson Foods in Denison began commuting to work via JobJet. JobJet is a carpool taken to the next level. Five to fifteen commuters ride together to and from work in a fully equipped passenger van. Each JobJet van can accommodate one volunteer driver and up to 14 passengers. Each passenger pays one low monthly fare based on mileage and occupancy.

Ridesharing offers an economical, reliable and dependable alternative to driving alone. Vanpooling helps to reduce traffic, helps keep the air clean through reduction in emissions and lessens the demand for gasoline. Region XII assists commuters in organizing groups, providing vans, and maintaining the vanpool.

This program is funded in part by an Iowa Clean Air Attainment Grant through the Iowa Department of Transportation. If you would like more information regarding JobJet, please go to www.jobjet.org or contact Chris, Tom or Jim at the COG.



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1009 EAST ANTHONY STREET
P.O. Box 768
CARROLL, IA 51401
(712) 792-9914
(712) 792-1751 FAX
WWW.REGION12COG.ORG

STAFF COMINGS AND GOINGS-MANY CHANGES IN THE LAST YEAR!

LOCAL ASSISTANCE

In July 2008, **Keri Lane** was hired to fill the planning position left vacant after Kevin Ketelsen left in March, 2008. Keri is originally from Ute, Iowa and graduated from Briar Cliff College with a B.A. in Criminal Justice. Keri worked for the City of Sioux City Planning and Zoning Department for several years before relocating to Cedar Rapids with a private consulting firm. Keri's expertise is in GIS and mapping. Keri enjoys spending time with her two sons, Nolan and Brendan.



Another recent addition to the Local Assistance staff is **Barry Branson**, who is the COG's EDA Disaster Recovery Coordinator. Barry and his wife Vanessa live southeast of Guthrie Center. Barry previously served a term on the Guthrie County Board of Supervisors and the COG's Executive Board. After teaching at several Iowa schools and running his own painting and decorating business for 25 years, he then owned and operated a family fishing resort in Northern Minnesota. After returning to Iowa several years ago, Barry and Vanessa built a new log home in Guthrie County and enjoy being close to their 2 children and 6 grandchildren who all reside in Central Iowa. Barry has been working with businesses and local governments on disaster planning and recovery.



Steve Petersen was hired as a Part-time Housing Inspector in May to assist with the numerous housing projects the COG is administering. Steve has 35+ years of experience in the construction industry, including owning his own construction company and acting as a project manager for a large commercial construction firm. He and his wife live in Carroll and have 2 grown children and several grandchildren.



A new face in housing is **Stephanie Fisher**. Stephanie started working at the COG part-time in December, 2008 helping with the Jumpstart program for homeowners affected by the floods and disasters in 2008. Stephanie went to full-time as a Housing Office Assistant in March and will continue to assist with the COG's numerous housing programs. Stephanie is from Glidden and has an Associate's Degree from DMACC. In her spare time, Stephanie enjoys her new puppies, gardening, and playing golf.

Casey Mai (pronounced "may") is a recent graduate of ISU with a Bachelor's degree in Community and Regional Planning. Casey is originally from New Hampton, Iowa and worked as an intern in the Local Assistance Department this past summer along with John Thatcher. After completing his internship in August, Casey was hired as a Regional Planner to work on the Safe Routes to Schools Planning project, which will involve preparation of plans for K-8 schools around the region. Additionally, Casey will work on other various Local Assistance Department projects including grant writing and administration, codification, and GIS.



FISCAL



Tami Lehmann joined Region XII as Fiscal Clerk in November, 2008. Tami grew up on a farm in a small community in Northwest Iowa, and graduated with a Finance degree from Buena Vista University in Storm Lake. Tami comes to the COG after working in the banking industry, and her responsibilities include loan servicing for the COG's every growing housing and business loan portfolio, as well as general assistance in the fiscal department. Her husband, Jerrod and 2 children, Brenna-11 and Korbin-8, moved to Carroll 5 years ago. In her free time she enjoys reading, scrapbooking and knitting.

WORKFORCE

Stephanie Rosonke was originally hired after the departure of Pat Vogl in October 2008 as a Housing Programs Assistant, but Stephanie recently changed departments at the COG and is now working as a Career Development Specialist. Stephanie was born and raised in Manning, Iowa and graduated from DMACC with an Associate Degrees in Business Management and Accounting. After living in Florida and Arizona, Stephanie, her husband Dan, and their two young daughters made their way back to Iowa to be near family and friends last summer. Stephanie previously worked for various housing development companies and enjoys helping people.



Another new Career Development Specialist with the COG is **Lisa Smith**. Many may remember Lisa from her previous time at the COG. Lisa started with Region XII in 1985 and was the COG's JTPA/Promise Jobs Director until 1996. Since leaving the COG in 1996, Lisa worked as a volunteer coordinator for the Carroll Community School District and also with her family's business, Smith Construction. Lisa, her husband Tim, and their two children live in Glidden. Lisa is happy to be back at "home" with the COG, and will be delivering WIA services to clients.



IN ACCORDANCE WITH FEDERAL LAW AND U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE POLICY, REGION XII COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS AND ITS AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS ARE PROHIBITED FROM DISCRIMINATING ON THE BASIS OF RACE, COLOR, NATIONAL ORIGIN, SEX, RELIGION, AGE, DISABILITY, OR MARITAL OR FAMILY STATUS. (NOT ALL PROHIBITED BASES APPLY TO ALL PROGRAMS.)

TO FILE A COMPLAINT OF DISCRIMINATION, WRITE USDA, DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF CIVIL RIGHTS, ROOM 326-W, WHITTEN BUILDING, 1400 INDEPENDENCE AVE., SW, WASHINGTON, DC 20250-9410 OR CALL (202) 720-5964 (VOICE AND TDD). USDA IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER.

COG RECEIVES IDED AND EDA GRANTS FOR BUSINESS RLF PROGRAM

Region XII COG, through its affiliate the Region XII Development Corporation (RDC), has been awarded \$150,000 from the Grow Iowa Values Fund to match \$450,000 in grant money from the Economic Development Administration. These funds will be used to re-capitalize the revolving loan fund (RLF) administered by the COG that makes funds available to business who create jobs in the region. RDC has already approved its first two loans from this new fund and is looking for additional deals. This injection will bring the total capital base for the RLF to nearly \$3 million. Applications can be obtained at county economic development offices or by calling Joe Behrens at the COG.

VIRTUAL SPEC BUILDING VIDEOS NOW ONLINE

With a lack of vacant industrial buildings to lure companies to locate to the Western Iowa Advantage (WIAD) region, the region's economic developers came up with a novel solution: the Virtual Spec Building program. The Virtual Spec Building is a computer-aided design of how an actual building might look on a particular parcel of property in any of the eight counties that make up the Western Iowa Advantage region. In association with Ayars & Ayars, LLC, a design/build firm with offices in Omaha and Lincoln, NE, and funded through a grant provided by the Iowa Department of Economic Development, development of the program has taken almost a year. The idea behind the Virtual Spec Building program is simple: by placing the virtual spec building on a specific parcel of property and animating the computer renderings of the building (both inside and out), a prospective company can see how the building might fit into their overall plans. By viewing the computer renderings of the building, a company can also determine if modifications to the design would better suit their needs. Buildings can be constructed in as little as 6 months, from design to completion of construction, depending on several factors including weather. The animated Virtual Spec Building designs will be placed on the Western Iowa Advantage website, as well as the websites for each of the counties in the region. As technology continues to drive innovation, the Western Iowa Advantage partners continue to work on the cutting edge.



2009 IOWA RECYCLER OF THE YEAR: SHELENE CODNER

The Recycler of the Year Award is the Iowa Recycling Association's highest honor and is awarded to an individual whose career is a reflection of the recipient's impassioned and numerous contributions to the advancement of reducing, reusing, recycling and renewing in Iowa. This year the distinction of Recycler of the Year went to the COG's very own Shelene Codner, Area Resource Specialist for the Iowa Waste Exchange Program which is operated statewide by Region XII either directly or through our partners.



Codner received the Recycler of the Year Award on October 7, 2009 at the Annual Iowa Recycling Association and Iowa Society of Solid Waste Operations annual Awards Banquet held in conjunction with their annual Solid Waste Management Conference at the Five Sullivan Brothers Convention Center in Waterloo.

Throughout her career, Codner has made a variety of innovative partnerships that have not only resulted in a significant diversion of land filled waste but have substantially contributed to economic development and in more recent years, disaster recovery efforts. Some her most noteworthy projects have included finding a homes for such products as Spanish-written bibles (missionaries in Cuba), Lambchop puppets (hospitals, churches, & day care centers), Scholastic reader text books (schools in Iowa and New Orleans following the hurricanes), and 50,000 square feet of carpeting distributed to residents in Parkersburg and the surrounding areas following the tornadoes and floods in 2008. In addition, Codner has spearheaded several other projects including a vermicomposting program at Blank Park Zoo in Des Moines to handle food and animal waste; an art project at the Davis Brown Towers using recycled washing machine

windows; and *Recycling at the Race* for the Susan G. Komen's Race for the Cure held annually in Des Moines - the single largest event of its kind with participants outnumbering both Chicago and New York (approximately 26,000 annually).

In her spare time, Codner spreads the sustainability message in other ways. She is a published author whose articles and reports have appeared in countless national publications including *BioCycle*, *InBusiness*, *MSW Management*, *Erosion Control*, *Recycling Today*, *Land and Water* and others. She is also a volunteer regional editor for *Green Teacher Magazine* and a volunteer contributor to *Iowa Outdoors*. "I am honored, humbled and just a little speechless - which is unusual for me - by this award," stated Codner. "Sustainability is a team effort, and I have a great team, including my colleagues at Region XII, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, the other Area Resource Specialists located throughout the state and all of my clients - if it weren't for these folks none of these projects would have been possible."

Codner lives in rural Butler County and serves north Central Iowa and the Des Moines metropolitan area for the IWE program. For more information regarding the Iowa Waste Exchange program please visit <http://www.iowadnr.gov/waste/iwe/index.html>.

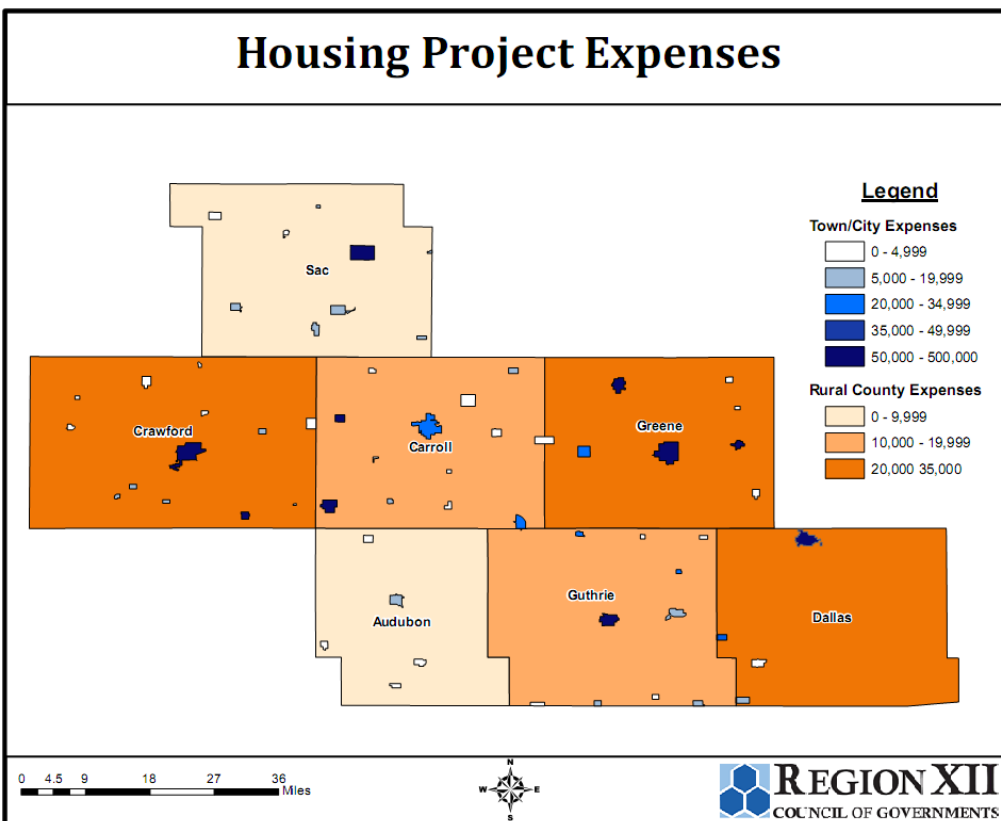
REGION XII TRANSPORTATION PROJECT FUNDS AVAILABLE

Region XII COG is preparing the 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and has approximately \$2,100,000 in Surface Transportation Project (STP) monies available for projects. These funds are available to any city or county in Region XII (Audubon, Carroll, Crawford, Greene, Guthrie or Sac Counties) for projects on certain designated roads and streets. Projects that are eligible include roadway construction and reconstruction, operational improvements, safety programs, and traffic management and control. Highway, road or street projects must be classified as a "Major Collector" or above on the Federal Functional Classification System. Street projects within an urban area (cities with a population over 5,000) must be classified as a "Collector" or above. STP funds can also be used for transit projects and other ride-share projects such as park-and-ride facilities. The sponsoring governmental agency must provide at least 20% of the total project cost in cash.

Applications are due by 4:00 PM on December 4, 2009. Surface Transportation Project applications are available to be downloaded at www.region12cog.org under the "Downloads & Publications" section. Due to the limited amount of funding available and the uncertainty regarding the reauthorization of SAFETEA-LU (the federal transportation bill), regional transportation enhancement applications will not be accepted at this time. If you have questions regarding these programs please contact Chris Whitaker at the COG at 712-775-7811 or via email at cwhitaker@region12cog.org.

DISASTER RECOVERY PROGRAM UPDATE

As a result of the flooding and natural disasters experienced across Iowa in 2008, many COG's in Iowa (including Region XII) received funding from the Economic Development Administration (EDA) to fund Disaster Recovery Coordinator Positions. Barry Branson was hired earlier this year to fill the position at Region XII, which assists counties, cities, and businesses in the region with planning, preparation, and recovery from natural and manmade disasters. Barry has worked with county Emergency Managers to see where he can assist them to make our region safer and more prepared. Another main goal of the department is to make recovery as quick and thorough as possible after a disaster. The individual county emergency managers do a great job in working with all response units within the counties, and this position provides a boost to these officials in the business sector. A business preparedness and continuity plan template has been assembled and is available to interested businesses in the region. The plans take a minimal amount of time to put in place, and this service is available to businesses at no charge. Many businesses don't think that a fire, tornado, or flood will happen to them but, unfortunately, it does, and businesses should plan for the unexpected. The U.S. Department of Labor statistics show that 40% of all businesses that go through a disaster never reopen. Of those that do, another 25% will close within 2 years. Having plans in place can reduce these risks. No business is too small or large to be exempt from a disaster. Currently, Barry is working with several businesses throughout the region to organize critical information and make employees aware of procedures to follow in case of disaster. Contact Barry Branson at the COG with any questions.



The map at the left represents investments in the COG's cities and counties through housing programs between July 1, 2008 and June 30, 2009. The investment is made as a result of various housing programs administered by the COG including those for homeownership assistance, owner-occupied rehabilitation, disaster recovery assistance, and other programs. Assistance is provided as loans, forgivable loans, grants, and combinations of the above to homeowners and landlords. The total investment throughout the six-county region and the four associate member cities in Dallas County during the period was nearly \$1.1 million. For more information, contact Laurie Gilbert at the COG.

**2009 REGION XII
PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM**

The COG's Partnership Program is an opportunity for private, non-government businesses and organizations to become a part of the COG's mission to provide various needed services to the region's cities and counties. The Partnership Program philosophy is that all groups making up a community, including non-government entities like local businesses, are essential to promoting, advancing, and developing the community. The COG appreciates the investment made by 2009 Partners listed below.

GOLD PARTNERSHIP - \$1,000

West Central Cooperative, Ralston

SILVER PARTNERSHIP - \$500

Chamber and Development Council, Denison
Drees Company, Carroll
Mid-Iowa Insurance & Real Estate, Carroll

BRONZE PARTNERSHIP - \$250

Ace Hardware, Audubon
Agri-Drain Corporation, Adair
Audubon State Bank, Audubon
Badding Construction, Carroll
Bank Iowa, Denison
Bruner & Bruner Law Office, Carroll
Carroll Area Development Corp., Carroll
Carroll County State Bank, Carroll
Commercial Savings Bank, Carroll
Coon Rapids Municipal Utilities, Coon Rapids
Denison Job Corps Center, Denison
ET Video, Coon Rapids
Farmers State Bank, Lake View
Farmers State Bank, Yale
Farner Bocken Company, Carroll
Glidden REC, Glidden
The Graphic Edge, Carroll
HGM Associates, Council Bluffs
Hy-Vee, Carroll
Iowa State Bank, Sac City
Landmands Bank, Audubon
Marne & Elk Horn Telephone Co., Elk Horn
Panora Telecommunications, Inc., Panora
Sac County REC, Sac City
Saint Anthony Regional Hospital, Carroll
Snyder & Associates, Atlantic
Sundquist Engineering, Denison
Templeton Telephone Company, Templeton
Thermalfab/Hillcrest H & G, Denison
Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., Denison
Westside State Bank, Westside

**REGION XII AMERICAN REINVESTMENT AND RECOVERY ACT
PROJECT UPDATE**



Under the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA), Region XII was allocated \$3,285,000 in funding to program towards regional transportation projects. These projects had to be "shovel-ready" (let by February 2010) and meet the eligibility requirements of the Surface Transportation Project (STP) program. After public input and



recommendations by the Region XII Technical Advisory Committee, the Region XII Policy Council awarded 4 projects ARRA funding in February of 2009. Carroll County was awarded \$1,000,000 in ARRA funding to resurface 9.5 miles of N41 from Glidden to Lanesboro, and the project was completed in August. The City of Carroll received \$1,000,000 in ARRA funding to rehabilitate Clark Street, which was bid October 20 through the IDOT letting. Crawford County received \$1,200,000 in ARRA funding for rehabilitation of M55 and E53 near Manilla. This project is 7 miles in length and is currently under construction. Region XII COG was awarded \$85,000 in STP ARRA funds to replace transit vehicles in the WITS fleet including: a standard mini-van, an ADA mini-van and the COG's service truck. All vehicles have been ordered and the service truck (pictured above) has been delivered.



Above Left: The COG's Executive Board meets in the new board room during the COG's open house.

Above Right: The new training room being used during the COG's open house.

Left: COG Staff welcome guests for the COG's open house at the new reception area.



Below Left: The newly expanded and remodeled shop provides adequate space for vehicle repair, equipment, and supplies.

Below Right: The new mail center and corridor to the west office addition.





ADMINISTRATION

Rick Hunsaker, Executive Director..... rhunsaker@region12cog.org
Kathy Pauli, Fiscal Officer..... kpauli@region12cog.org
JoAnn Olberding, Executive Secretary..... JoAnn.Olberding@iwd,iowa.gov
Tami Lehmann, Fiscal Clerk..... tlehmann@region12cog.org

LOCAL ASSISTANCE

Joe Behrens, Local Assistance Director..... jbehrens@region12cog.org
Chris Whitaker, Transportation Planner..... cwhitaker@region12cog.org
Chad Schreck, Regional Planner..... cschreck@region12cog.org
Keri Lane, Regional Planner..... klane@region12cog.org
Casey Mai, Regional Planner..... cmai@region12cog.org
Barry Branson, EDA Disaster Recovery Coordinator..... bbranson@region12cog.org
Fred Kesten, Iowa Waste Exchange Program Manager..... fkesten@region12cog.org
Shelly Codner, Iowa Waste Exchange Area Specialist..... scodner@region12cog.org
Laurie Gilbert, Housing Programs Manager..... lgilbert@region12cog.org
Nancy Muhlbauer, Housing Inspector..... nmuhlbauer@region12cog.org
Stephanie Fisher, Housing Program Assistant..... sfisher@region12cog.org
Connie Hoffman, EPJ Housing Disaster Program Asst..... choffman@region12cog.org
Jean Blum, Housing Office Assistant..... jblum@region12cog.org

WESTERN IOWA TRANSIT SYSTEM

Jim Burns, Transit Director..... jburns@region12cog.org
Tom Feldman, Transit Manager..... tfeldman@region12cog.org
Mike Rath, Service Manager..... mrath@region12cog.org

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Beth Winquist, Workforce Director..... Beth.Winquist@iwd,iowa.gov
Suzanne Kippley, Career Development Specialist..... Suzanne.Kippley@iwd,iowa.gov
Lisa Smith, Career Development Specialist..... Lisa.Smith@iwd,iowa.gov
Stephanie Rosonke, Career Development Specialist..... Stephanie.Rosonke@iwd,iowa.gov
Sue Way, Promise Jobs Specialist..... Sue.Way@iwd,iowa.gov
Julie Schaal, Promise Jobs Specialist..... Julie.Schaal@iwd,iowa.gov



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Region XII Council of Governments
1009 East Anthony Street, PO Box 768
Carroll, IA 51401
Phone (712) 792-9914

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