



THE REVIEW

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WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT RECEIVES GRANT TO ASSIST ELECTROLUX WORKERS

On August 26th the US Department of Labor announced a \$1,352,000 grant to assist workers affected by the layoffs at Electrolux. The grant is awarded to Iowa Workforce Development and will be administered by Region XII. Dislocated workers in 15 counties, all of whom are eligible for Trade Adjustment Assistance, will be covered by the grant. The grant will provide access to WIA Career Counselors, vocational training, and “wrap-around” services that may include childcare and transportation assistance.

Workers at the following locations and suppliers are covered by the grant:

- Electrolux Major Appliances in Webster City
- Electrolux Home Products in Jefferson
- Kenco Logistic services of Ames and Webster City
- Vantec Inc. of Webster City
- Canteen Cafeteria of Webster City
- Taster Inc. of Webster City

Workers affected by the business closings who are seeking assistance in returning to the workforce should contact Beth Winqvist, Workforce Director, at (712)792-9914.

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PLANNING PROCESS UNDERWAY



In 2009, Region XII received funding to complete Safe Routes to School plans for all 22 school districts within the region. The program aims to enhance health and well-being, ease traffic congestion near schools, and improve air quality by encouraging more children to walk and bicycle to school.

Over the past several months, Casey Mai, Regional Planner, has met with school officials, City Council members, parents, and students from 12 of the school districts to come up with goals and ideas for improvements. After an initial meeting, Casey completes a sidewalk assessment of the entire community and develops a list of potential projects to include with the final plan. The final plan is submitted to the Iowa Department of Transportation for approval. Once a plan is in place, a community is eligible to receive grants to improve infrastructure and non-infrastructure grants. Examples of infrastructure grants include sidewalk repair and installation and signage while non-infrastructure grants fund education and safety programs. Casey recently submitted an infrastructure grant for the City of Coon Rapids and the Coon Rapids-Bayard Community School District to improve sidewalk infrastructure and signage.

If you have any questions or would like to participate in your community’s planning process, please contact Casey Mai at cmai@region12cog.org.

NEW PLANNER JOINS LOCAL ASSISTANCE DEPARTMENT

Karina Ward joined Region XII as a Regional Planner in June. Karina is originally from Milwaukee, WI and holds a Master’s of Community and Regional Planning from Iowa State University. Karina works on grant writing, GIS, and mapping, along with various other projects.



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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 2010 Partners listed below. For more information on the Partnership Program, contact Rick Hunsaker at rhunsaker@region12cog.org.

GOLD MEMBERSHIP—\$1,000

West Central Cooperative, Ralston
POET Biorefining, Coon Rapids

SILVER MEMBERSHIP - \$500

Mid-Iowa Insurance & Real Estate, Carroll
JEO Consulting Group, Inc, Carroll

BRONZE MEMBERSHIP - \$250

Ace Hardware, Audubon
Agri-Drain Corporation, Adair
Aspinwall Cooperative Co, Aspinwall
Audubon State Bank, Audubon
Badding Construction, Carroll
Bank Iowa, Denison
Breda Savings Bank, Breda
Carroll Area Development Corporation, Carroll
Carroll County State Bank, Carroll
Commercial Savings Bank, Carroll
Coon Rapids Municipal Utilities, Coon Rapids
Denison Job Corps Center, Denison
Farmers State Bank, Lake View
Farner Bocken Company, Carroll
The Graphic Edge, Carroll
HGM Associates, Council Bluffs
Iowa Savings Bank, Carroll
Iowa State Bank, Sac City
Landmands National Bank, Audubon
Marne & Elk Horn Telephone Company, Elk Horn
Midland Power Cooperative, Jefferson
Panora Telecommunications, Inc., Panora
Snyder & Associates, Ankeny
Sundquist Engineering, Denison
Templeton Savings Bank, Templeton
Templeton Telephone Company, Templeton
Thermalfab/Hillcrest House & Garden, Denison
Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., Denison
Westside State Bank, Westside

DISASTER RECOVERY PROGRAM RECEIVES INNOVATION AWARD

As part of the disaster recovery program, Region XII received a 2010 Innovation Award from the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) Research Foundation for *Writing Business Disaster Preparedness, Recovery, and Continuity Plans*.



The Disaster Recovery Program at Region XII is winding down. After the 2008 flood and tornado disasters in Iowa, funds were awarded to the statewide regions for assistance. After initial assistance for crucial projects, Region XII turned its attention to disaster preparedness. Barry Branson, Disaster Recovery Coordinator, spent the past 1 ½ years assisting local businesses in putting disaster preparedness, recovery, and continuity plans in place. With his assistance, a number of businesses throughout the region now have these workable plans in use.

The majority of people believe that they will never be affected by a natural or man-made disaster. Being prepared and knowing what to do afterward are imperative to get your business up and going with as little "down time" as possible. Statistics show that after a disaster, 40% of all businesses do not reopen. Of the 60% who do reopen, 25% close within 2 years. Education and preparation are key.

FUNDING RECEIVED FOR MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLANS

Region XII submitted planning grants to Iowa Homeland Security Emergency Management in April to develop multi-jurisdictional hazard mitigation plans in Audubon, Carroll, Crawford, Greene, Guthrie and Sac Counties. These plans will replace the single jurisdiction plans of the past, which required every city and county to develop their own plan and to update it every five years. Now, each county will develop a plan that will include every city within it, streamlining the process and ensuring that every city is covered by a FEMA approved plan to maintain eligibility for FEMA disaster relief funds.

FEMA has approved funding for the plans for each county in the first week of November. Region XII will be meeting with Iowa Homeland Security on November 23rd to go over the grant terms and conditions. Following that meeting, we will coordinate with County Emergency Managers to develop Hazard Mitigation Committees made up of representatives from each jurisdiction that wants to be included in the plan. Public hearings to allow for public comment on the plan will be provided, and all meetings regarding the plan will be open to the public. Each jurisdiction must also review and adopt the completed plan to be considered covered by FEMA.

If you have any questions or would like to participate in your community's planning process, please contact Chad Schreck at cschreck@region12cog.org.

HUNSAKER SERVES ON SMART PLANNING COMMITTEE

In an attempt to make better land use decisions that can lead to less public liability and private pain, the Iowa Legislature passed SF2389. The catastrophic flooding of 2008 underscored a need for better planning and was the force behind this legislation. Among other things, SF 2389 created the Iowa Smart Planning Task Force. The Task Force is co-chaired by IDOT Director Nancy Richardson and Carlisle Mayor Ruth Randleman. The COG's Rick Hunsaker, as Chair of the Iowa Association of Regional Councils, is one of the 29 voting members. Hunsaker co-chairs one of the Task Force's two committees and heads up the regional planning work group.



The law established ten smart planning principles and stipulated that local government shall consider and may apply these principles. The role of the Task Force, which is chartered for three years, is to provide the legislature with a framework through which smart planning can be accomplished, after a review of current conditions and practices. The Task Force is to provide its recommendations by November 15, 2010.

A series of public meetings were held to vet the five major recommendations of the committee and the framework which accompanies them. The main recommendations are:

- Establish a framework to coordinate planning, geographic information and data systems, and state level investment.
- Require completion of regional comprehensive smart plans within 5 years after legislation is enacted.
- Create financial incentives and offer technical assistance to incent smart planning at both the regional and local levels.
- Develop a watershed planning and coordination program, including goals, and strategies for referencing land use for each of Iowa's nine major river basins.
- Make the definition of "comprehensive plan" uniform throughout the Iowa Code.

Key among the recommendations is a strong commitment to local control and recognition that financial assistance will be required in most areas to create and implement smart plans. More information about the legislation and the Task Force is available on the web at http://www.rio.iowa.gov/smart_planning. The site includes everything from the draft recommendations to information gathered, public feedback, and minutes of the meetings held.

UPCOMING GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

| <i>FUNDING PROGRAM</i> | <i>PURPOSE</i> | <i>DEADLINE</i> |
|--|--|--------------------------|
| Region XII Surface Transportation Projects | roadway construction and reconstruction, operational improvements, safety programs, and traffic management and control | December 3rd |
| Region XII Regional Transportation Enhancement | recreational trails, scenic highway programs, scenic beautification, historic highway programs, and historic preservation of transportation related structures | December 3rd |
| Iowa Brownfield Redevelopment Program | purchase and redevelopment of Brownfield sites | December 30th |
| CDBG Community Facilities | child care centers, senior centers, homeless shelters, facilities for physically and mentally challenged, and storm sewer and drainage | January 5th |
| Community Attraction and Tourism (CAT) | museums, recreation centers, aquatic centers, arenas, and other attractions | January 15th |
| River Enhancement Community Attraction and Tourism (RECAT) | recreational opportunities on or near river or lakes and within a city | January 15th |
| Local Development RISE | construct or improve streets and roads for speculative industrial areas | February 1 st |
| Land and Water Conservation Fund (Iowa DNR) | outdoor recreation area development and acquisition | March 15th |

LOW INTEREST LOAN AND GRANT PROGRAMS RECEIVE FUNDING FOR 2010

Region XII started the 2011 fiscal year by receiving over \$849,000 to assist homeowners with home repairs to eliminate health and safety issues and energy conservation methods. Homeowners will be given assistance as low interest loans and grants. The type of assistance provided (loans or grants) is determined by the income level of the applicants. The applicants are then matched up with the program criteria to see if they are eligible for a grant.

Interested persons may request an application by calling Cindy Rae Spaulding (712)775-7824.

NEIGHBORHOOD STABILIZATION PROGRAM

Region XII has been working with five cities on the Neighborhood Stabilization program. The funds are used to acquire foreclosed or abandoned homes. Homes are then repaired to meet state requirements and resold to income eligible homebuyers. Buildings that are deteriorated beyond repair are demolished and the lots are sold. The funds from the resale of the homes or lots can be reused for additional projects.

- Guthrie Center received \$526,815 to demolish 8 buildings, repair 2 homes, and build 1 new home.
- Audubon received \$276,660 to demolish 9 buildings and repair 1 home.
- Jefferson received \$707,589 to demolish 3 buildings, repair 6 homes, and build 1 new home.
- Perry received \$708,604 to demolish 2 buildings and repair 7 homes.
- Boone received \$675,744 to demolish 3 commercial buildings and repair 4 homes.

IOWA WASTE EXCHANGE PARTICIPATES IN TURNING TRASH TO TREASURED ARTWORK

During the Iowa Department of Natural Resources' annual canoe trek and river cleanup effort known as Project AWARE (A Watershed Awareness River Expedition), the Iowa Waste Exchange (IWE) and a host of other partners assist staff and volunteers with logistics in securing markets and handling recyclable materials, and in some cases (such as the floods of 2008) sorting, transporting and even returning materials found to their respective owners.

In addition to this assistance, IWE assists at the annual AWARE event held every Earth Day at the Wallace building on the Capitol Complex and has most recently been involved in another transaction to further support the goals and mission of Project AWARE and more directly AWARE's educational component – a program entitled RiVerse.

Early in the project's existence, an initiative to increase the awareness of AWARE through the creation of an art piece made from volunteer-collected river trash was conceived. This educational offshoot was titled RiVerse. Each year, through this program and during the Iowa State Fair, Ogden artist David Williamson guides everyday citizens as they create unique and symbolic sculptures from trash. This event is held annually (primarily on the weekends) in the orange cone area of the DNR courtyard.

Beginning in 2007, a multiyear project was undertaken to replace the five security gates surrounding the historic DNR building located on the Grand Concourse of the Iowa State Fairgrounds. Unlike the earlier sculptures - which are portable and when not on display at the Wallace Building are on display at various locations throughout the state – these sculptures are or will be attached to the DNR building.

Earlier this year, in addressing these logistical challenges and ensuring that future venues would share and enjoy the total AWARE and RiVerse experience, Williamson and IOWATER staff members conceived of the creation of a portable, scale model of the gates. Williamson had some of the metals needed from AWARE cleanups, but the amount of brass exceeded the available quantities. Interestingly enough, a short-time later Williamson received a call from Shelene Codner, Area Resource Specialist for the Iowa Waste Exchange, looking for an alternative home for various metal materials including brass and other miscellaneous metals – exactly the materials needed to complete the replica model. Codner collected the materials and delivered them to staff members of the Boone County landfill, who later redirected the materials to Williamson.

Williamson melted and cast the metal into a scale model replica of the gates. This replica was unveiled at the 2010 AWARE educational event held on Earth Day and the 2010 Iowa State Fair and will be used for future educational events and displayed at various venues throughout the state. Additional and generous support for the project was provided by Community State Bank in Ankeny.

For more information regarding the Iowa Waste Exchange visit www.iowadnr.gov/waste/iwe/index.html.

For more information regarding Project AWARE visit www.iowaprojectaware.com



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.

JOBJET COMMUTER VANPOOL PROGRAM UPDATE



Region XII received an award for the website development for the JobJet Commuter Vanpool Program from the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) at their annual meeting held in St. Louis, Missouri. Region XII has also developed English and Spanish brochures and driver and rider agreements. JobJet, the first rural vanpool system in Iowa, provides an important alternative mode of transportation for commuters within the six county service area.

Riders pay a monthly fare based on the commuting distance from home to the worksite and the number of riders in the vanpool. The driver does not pay a monthly fare but is responsible for the van. Rideshares must originate or terminate within the six county Region XII service area of Audubon, Carroll, Crawford, Greene, Guthrie and Sac counties. A rider can save hundreds or even thousands of dollars per year by using JobJet. Users of the service can help reduce our nation's dependence on foreign oil and can enjoy a quiet conversation with their fellow riders, read a book, or even take a quick nap on the way to and from work.

Region XII has a JobJet van operating in Crawford County providing service from Schleswig to the Tyson Plant at Denison. JobJet has more vans available and a new vanpool can be set up in a relatively short time. More information is available on the web at www.jobjet.org or by contacting Jim Burns at (712)775-7830 or Chris Whitaker at (712)775-7811.



REGION XII TRANSPORTATION PROJECT FUNDS AVAILABLE

Surface Transportation Projects

Region XII is preparing the 2012-2015 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and has approximately \$4,000,000 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. STP funds can also be used for transit projects and other ride-share projects. Roadways that are eligible for funding must be classified as a "Major Collector" or higher on the Federal Functional Classification System. 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 3, 2010.

Regional Transportation Enhancement Projects

Region XII has approximately \$400,000 in regional enhancement funds available for projects. Funding for these projects may not be available until federal fiscal year 2012 or later depending upon the amount requested. These projects may include recreational trails, scenic highway programs, landscaping and other scenic beautification along roadways, historic highway programs, and historic preservation of transportation related structures. The sponsoring governmental agency must provide at least 20% of the total project cost. Applications will be accepted through December 3 until 4:00 PM.

If you have questions regarding these programs, please contact Christ Whitaker at cwhitaker@region12cog.org.

U.S. HIGHWAY 30 CORRIDOR STUDY COMPLETED

Region XII recently completed the U.S. Highway 30 Corridor Study. This study provides a compilation of past trends, existing conditions, and future projects in the areas of population, housing, and economic conditions along the route. Additionally, existing conditions of U.S. Highway 30 itself have been collected and evaluated including traffic counts, truck traffic, safety, surface width, shoulder width, surface condition, trip generation, and structures. The study was completed jointly by six regional planning affiliations that are bisected by the U.S. 30 Corridor: Region XII, Metropolitan Area Planning Agency – RPA 18, Central Iowa Regional Transportation Planning Alliance, Region 6 Planning Commission, East Central Iowa Council of Governments and East Central Intergovernmental Association. The information from this study will be used to justify and prioritize improvements along U.S. Highway 30.

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