



THE REVIEW

The Region XII Council of Governments Newsletter

December 2015

CALENDAR

January

- 1 - New Year's Day;
Office Closed
- 6 - RDC Loan Review Comm.;;
11:30 AM, COG Training Room
- 7 - Executive Board/COG
12:30 PM, COG Board Room

February

- 10 - RDC Loan Review Comm.;;
11:30 AM, COG Training Room
- 11 - Executive Board Meeting;
5:00 PM, COG Board Room
- 15 - President's Day;
Office Closed
- 18 - RWIB Meeting;
5:30PM, COG Training Room

March

- 9 - RDC Loan Review Comm.;;
11:30 AM, COG Training Room
- 10 - Executive Board Meeting;
Housing;
12:30 PM, COG Board Room
- 25 - Good Friday;
Office Closed

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Marty Danzer, Chair
Carroll Co. Supervisor

Eric Skoog, Vice Chair,
Crawford Co. Supervisor

Jerry Caraher, Secretary
Guthrie Co. Supervisor

Guy Richardson, Treasurer
Greene Co. Supervisor

Duane Deist
Audubon Co. Supervisor

Ranell Drake
Sac Co. Supervisor



WIAD hosted its third Employer-Educator Summit in September, an even that has grown to attract nearly 150 persons from K-12, colleges, corporations, and partner entities. "The Employer-Educator Summit represents one of WIAD's tangible products to grow our incumbent workforce," said Evan Blakely, CDC Executive Director and chair of WIAD. While the vision and impacts are long term, we are witnessing greater partnerships between industries and our educational institutions that are revealing for students and parents all of the rewarding career opportunities available in western Iowa."

The Summit continues to focus on preparing the region's workforce in a partnership between industries and the schools. Of particular interest is promoting, improving, and finding interested persons for the careers and career pathways available in west central Iowa.

"Rural areas across the country are struggling with workforce issues," commented Sarah Gomez, Executive Director of Midwest Partnership. "Our industries have benefitted from the time invested in the Summit, and we are seeing interest in internships, apprenticeships, and other forms of cooperation with our schools."

Aside from keynote speeches from IEDA and IWD, local businesses discussed their perspective of doing business in western Iowa and careers available here. Participants were broken into workgroups to discuss these major issues: how businesses may retain students wishing to create their own path, potential activities that may inspire future workers to move to or remain in the region, methods to connect business to students, and entrepreneurial resources available to students.

Feedback continues to be positive from participants, and small groups will continue the work of the summit, planned to be held again in 2016.

WIAD's Employer-Educator Summit is a winner!

The Employer-Educator Summit received a 2015 Innovation Award from the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO). Also recognized for this event was Iowa Workforce Development (IWD), WIAD's strategic partner in the Summit. NADO is a Washington, DC-based association that promotes programs and policies that strengthen local governments, communities, and economies through regional cooperation, program delivery, and comprehensive strategies. The association's Innovation Awards program recognizes regional development organizations and partnering organizations for improving the economic and community competitiveness of our nation's regions and local communities.

Derelict Building Program Deadline Approaching

Established in 2011, The Iowa Department of Natural Resources Derelict Building Program offers Iowa communities of 5,000 or fewer residents' financial assistance to address neglected structures which been vacant for at least six months. The Program's main focus is landfill diversion through the recycling and reuse of building materials. Since inception, this program has assisted 56 communities, diverted over 35,000 tons of materials and saved over \$1 million in landfill disposal costs. The application deadline for our 2016 round of projects is February 26, 2016. For additional information and application materials visit the program website at www.iowadnr/FABA. For application assistance contact Fred Kesten at Region XII COG at (712) 775-7813 or fkesten@region12cog.org.



New Western Iowa Transit Drivers

Western Iowa Transit System is pleased to announce the hiring of the following new drivers: Tom Madsen of Audubon, Paul Scott of Coon Rapids, James Grace of Guthrie Center and Mike Westering of Carroll. Mike will be working out of our Carroll office, Paul will be providing services primarily in Southern Carroll County and occasionally filling in when needed in Carroll, James will be working in Greene and Guthrie Counties, while Tom will be providing transit services in Audubon County. All four drivers come to us with extensive driving experience and are welcome additions to the Region XII family.



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 investments made so far this year by the 2015 Partners listed below. For more information on the Partnership Program, [follow this link](#) or contact Rick Hunsaker at rhunsaker@region12cog.org.

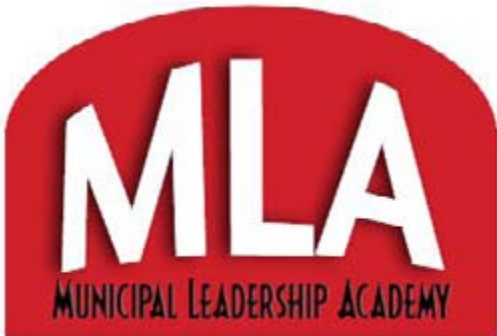
SILVER MEMBERSHIP - \$500

Bank Iowa, Denison
Home State Bank, Jefferson
Iowa Corn Processors, Glidden
Mid-Iowa Insurance & Real Estate, Carroll
Midland Power Cooperative, Jefferson

BRONZE MEMBERSHIP - \$250

Agri-Drain Corporation, Adair
Audubon County Econ. Development, Audubon
Audubon State Bank, Audubon
Badding Construction, Carroll
Bauer Built Manufacturing, Inc., Paton
Bruner, Bruner & Reinhart, 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
Denison Municipal Utilities, Denison
Drees Company, Carroll
Farmers State Bank, Yale
Farner Bocken Company, Carroll
Guthrie County State Bank, Guthrie Center
Holmes Murphy & Associates, West Des Moines
Iowa Savings Bank, Carroll
Iowa State Bank, Sac City
Landmands Bank, Audubon
Marne & Elk Horn Telephone Co., Elk Horn
Panora Telecommunications, Inc., Panora
People's Trust & Savings Bank, Guthrie Center
Principal Fin. Group-Matt Ramaekers, Carroll
Raccoon Valley Bank, Perry
Snyder & Associates, Atlantic
Sundquist Engineering, Denison
Templeton Savings Bank, Templeton
Templeton Telephone Company, Templeton
United Bank of Iowa, Glidden
Western Iowa Networks, Breda
Westside State Bank, Westside

Municipal Leadership Academy Training Opportunities



The Municipal Leadership Academy (MLA) is designed to help municipal officials effectively meet the requirements of their office. The program offers a comprehensive overview of Iowa municipal government and is presented by the Iowa League of Cities, the Institute of Public Affairs at the University of Iowa, and the Office of State and Local Government Programs at Iowa State University Extension and Outreach.

There are two upcoming trainings with the first training (part 2) being released the first week of January 2016. This training can be viewed online at your convenience. View it all at once or separately in order to fit within a city's orientation program for new officials. Cost is \$60. This training will cover the city budget, basics of planning and zoning, and "you got elected, now what?". The second training (part 3) is designed for those looking for more in-depth information on the challenges facing cities. The training costs \$75 and includes the latest information and policy guidance on economic development, community betterment and strategic planning and goal setting.

For more information Contact:

(515) 244-7282

marktomb@iowaleague.org

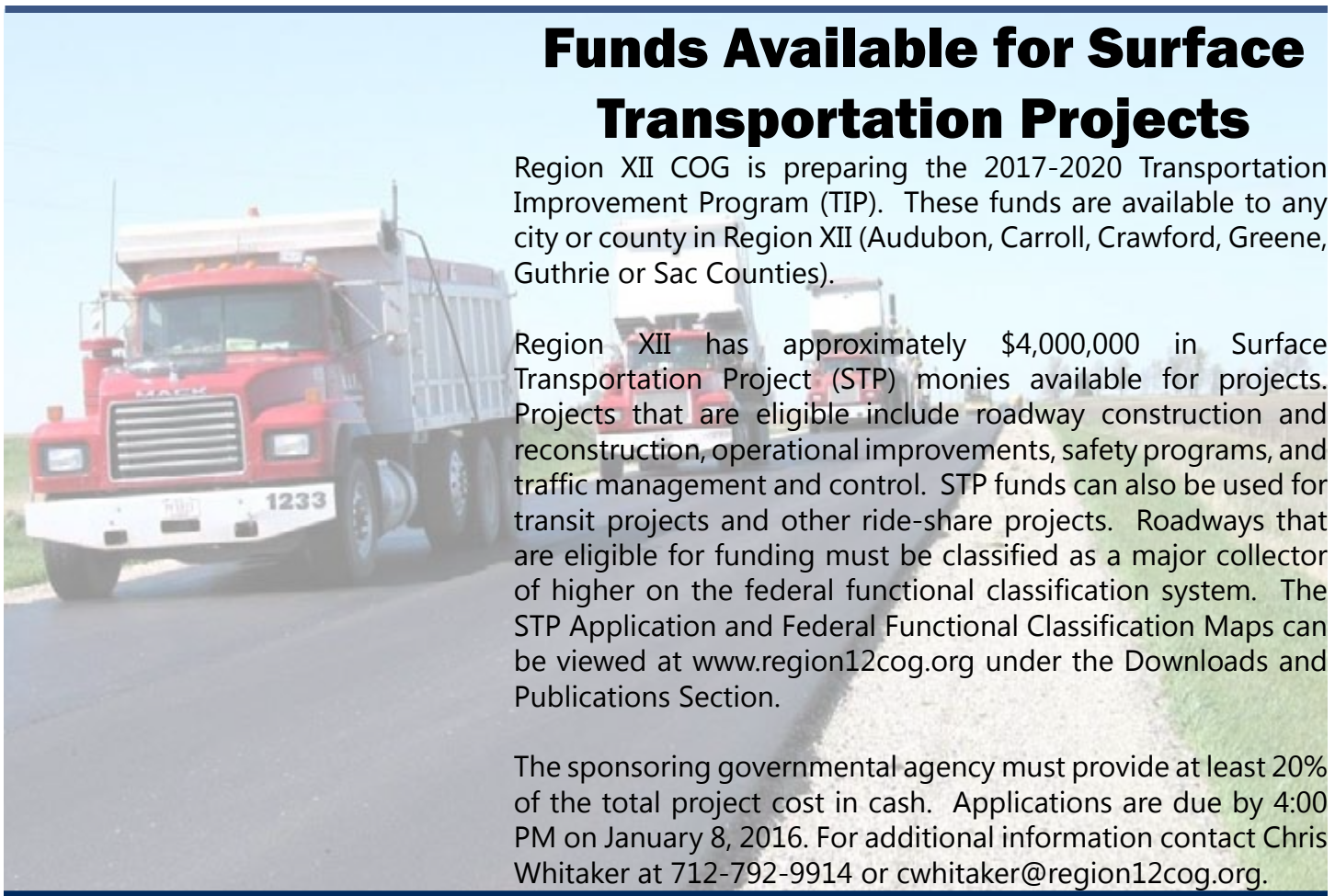
www.iowaleague.org

Funds Available for Surface Transportation Projects

Region XII COG is preparing the 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). These funds are available to any city or county in Region XII (Audubon, Carroll, Crawford, Greene, Guthrie or Sac Counties).

Region XII has approximately \$4,000,000 in Surface Transportation Project (STP) monies available for projects. 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 of higher on the federal functional classification system. The STP Application and Federal Functional Classification Maps can be viewed at www.region12cog.org under the Downloads and Publications Section.

The sponsoring governmental agency must provide at least 20% of the total project cost in cash. Applications are due by 4:00 PM on January 8, 2016. For additional information contact Chris Whitaker at 712-792-9914 or cwhitaker@region12cog.org.



Upcoming Grants

Funding Program	Purpose	Deadline	Eligible Applicants
Solid Waste Alternatives Program (SWAP)	Emphasis for selected projects is placed on tonnage avoided or reduced, sustainability and ability to replicate.	January 1, 2016	Local governments, public or private groups
Alliant Energy Foundation Community Grant	Project focus areas include: Human needs: must address community human service needs; Education: must provide educational programming that fosters innovation, utilizes technology, and develops future leaders; Culture and art: must enhance knowledge/appreciation of and expand access to fine arts and humanities; Civic: must improve community quality of living by conducting community/economic improvements, increasing the affordability of housing, and providing job-related opportunities; Environment: must provide environmental education on issues with the potential to improve community environmental conditions.	January 1, 2016 May 15, 2016 September 15, 2016	Local governments, private non-profits
Regional Surface Transportation Program	Highway and roadway improvements on the federal aid system, highway safety improvements, park and ride areas, and public transit projects.	January 8, 2016	Cities and Counties
Water Recreation Access Cost-Share Program	Constructing or improving boat access facilities to Iowa's lakes and streams. Projects can include boat launching ramps, loading/off-loading docks and other structures to enhance use by the public.	January 30, 2016	Cities and Counties
Iowa West Foundation	Community development, economic development, education and human needs projects	February 1, 2016	Local governments and non-profit organizations in Audubon, Carroll and Crawford Counties.
RISE Local Development Grant Program	Funding to provide road/stree access to expand business parks and development areas	February 1, 2016 September 1, 2016	Local governments
Land and Water Conservation Fund (Iowa DNR)	Conservation and recreation projects and land acquisition	March 15, 2016	Local governments
Keep Iowa Beautiful Grant	Beautification programs – flower, tree and shrub planting, painting & fix-up and general landscaping; public nuisance abatement; litter prevention and recycling education, implementation, and public awareness	March 15, 2016	Local governments and non-profit organizations in communities of less than 5,000 residents
Build With Bags	Up to \$2,000 for the purchase of benches, tables, or playground equipment made of recycled plastic	March 30, 2016	Local governments, non-profit organizations, service clubs
Peter Kiewitt Foundation	Comunity development and recreation projects	April 15, 2016 July 15, 2016 October 15, 2016	Local governments and non-profit organizations within a 100 mile radius of Omaha Nebraska.
State Historical Society of Iowa-County School Grant Program	Provides up to \$5,000 per applicant for the preservation and maintenance of Iowa's one and two-room country schools. The funds may also be used for interpreting the history of country schools or for educational activities taking place in a country school.	April 25, 2016	Local governments, private non-profits
Iowa Community Cultural Grant	Staffing support for wide array of cultural organizations and projects	May 1, 2016	Local governments, tax exempt nonprofits, others with a willing fiscal agent
Iowa Community Cultural Grant	Project Grants create opportunities for the arts to flourish in Iowa by investing in projects that positively impact the vitality of the arts in the state, demonstrate public value, and support Iowa Arts Council funding priorities. Job Creation Grants provide funds to support the creation of quality jobs for Iowans that contribute to the cultural vitality of Iowa.	May 1, 2016	Local governments, private non-profits
Small Town Sign Replacement Program	The program will provide up to \$5,000 of signs and signposts per applying community of a first-come first-served basis	Ongoing	Cities

Recently Awarded Grants

Funding Program	Recipient	Amount	Project
RISE	City of Denison	\$138,513	Quality Food Processors Expansion
USDA Housing Preservation Grant	Region XII COG	\$23,140	Housing Preservation Grant
EDSA	City of Denison	\$1,000,000	Quality Food Processors Expansion
REAP	City of Manning	\$45,811	Hospital Park Connector Trail
State Rec Trails Fund	City of Manning	\$222,300	Hospital Park Connector Trail
USDA	Denison Municipal Utilites	\$500,000	Water Wells
Housing Trust Fund	COG Housing Inc.	\$243,399	Homeowner repairs, down-payment assistance and preservation of foreclosure

Additional grants are available through private foundations and ongoing programs. If you are looking for funding for a specific project, please contact Chris Whitaker, cwhitaker@region12cog.org or 712-775-7811, for assistance in locating funding opportunities.

STAFF

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