



Commission in Review

September 2010

Serving local governments in Muscatine and Scott Counties, Iowa;
Henry, Mercer, and Rock Island Counties, Illinois.

NEXT COMMISSION MEETING:

Wed., Oct. 27, 2010
3:30 p.m.

Bi-State Regional Commission

3rd Floor Conf. Room
1504 Third Avenue
Rock Island, Illinois

APA TRAINING SERIES

“Planning for Signs
and Billboards in a
Digital Age”

Wed., Oct. 13, 2010
3-4:30 p.m.

Third Floor Conf Room
1504 Third Ave., R.I.

Call (309) 793-6302,
Ext. 138 or e-mail
ppearson@bistateonline.org
to register.

CIR VIA E-MAIL

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Mission Statement:

*To serve as a forum
for intergovernmental
cooperation and
delivery of regional
programs and to
assist member local
governments in
planning and project
development.*

Upcoming Air Quality Educational Events

Commissioners were invited to two upcoming air quality related events. The US Environmental Protection Agency is holding an Ozone informational meeting on September 30, 2010 to prepare for changes ahead.

Local, state, and federal officials are being invited.

The national ozone standard (currently 75 parts per billion-ppb) is under review to lower for national health benefits. If lowered to the lowest level proposed, only approximately 20 monitored areas of over 600 would meet the standard (60 ppb). Notice of a revised standard is expected by the end of October. The information meeting will outline the public health issues related to ozone, meaning of nonattainment, tools/resources to reduce emissions, and discussion of local issues. To date, there have been no exceedances of the ozone standard this season in the Quad City Area where the monitors are located for ozone.



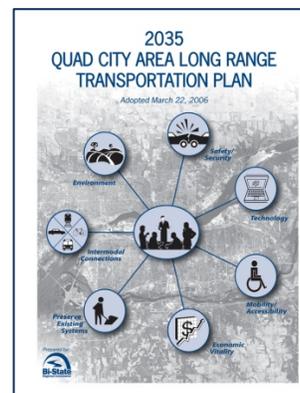
The second event is four commuter challenge workshops for the general public to be held from 5:30-7:00 p.m. at Hy-Vee in Moline, Bettendorf, Davenport, and Rock Island, respectively on October 6th, 20th, and 26th and November 2nd. These workshops are a continuation of the Iowa Clean Air Attainment grant to promote alternative transportation and encourage air emission reduction. Workshops have been successfully held for human services organizations. The upcoming Commuter Challenge will offer an opportunity to learn how to ride the transit buses and interconnect with bicycling and walking as well. Staff also hosted a table at Healthy Families Day on September 18th at Modern Woodman Park and spoke about the need for good air quality with 131 adults and kids. We breath 10 gallons of air every five minutes and over 3,800 gallons per day. Compared to drinking a gallon of water per day, we consume significantly more air. Using this analogy, it points to the need to “Be Aware of Air” and work on multiple emission reduction strategies to maintain good air quality in the Bi-State Region.

Location change for October Commission meeting

Please note that the location for the October Bi-State Regional Commission meeting has been changed from the Scott County Admin Building to Bi-State’s Conference Room. Please meet at 3:30 p.m., Wednesday, October 27th at 1504 Third Avenue, Rock Island, Illinois in the Third Floor Bi-State Regional Commission Conference Room. To RSVP for the meeting or if you have questions, please call Bi-State at (309) 793-6300.

2040 Quad City Urban Long Range Transportation Plan

A status report on the development of the Non-motorized and Intermodal Transportation Network Chapter for the 2040 Quad City Urban Area Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) was presented to the Commission. The chapter addresses the growing interest and acceptance of sustainability, livability, quality of life, safety, accessibility, connectivity, and the many other beneficial components to be derived from a fully integrated, non-motorized and alternative transportation network. The chapter will address developing trends such as Complete Streets, consistent codes for trails, side paths, and sidewalks, active and healthy communities, and bicycle-friendly communities. The multipurpose trails component of the plan identifies the different trail types based on AASHTO classifications. Both existing and planned/proposed trails are shown on the Trails Map included in the Plan. Updates have been made to the pedestrian network section to address new safety and mobility practices and guidelines. The Pedestrian Network Map as well as the Trails and Greenways Map have been updated to reflect progress and changes from the 2035 LRTP. Some of the information from the 2035 LRTP is still useful and applicable to the pedestrian network and is retained in the non-motorized transportation chapter of the 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan. Federal, state, regional, and local plans and initiatives were identified and utilized for the development of the chapter.



Cover of 2035 Quad City Area Long Range Transportation Plan

A status report on the development of the Passenger Transportation and Intermodal Network Chapter for the 2040 Quad City Urban Area Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) was also presented to the Commission. A map of the network, which includes public transit, passenger rail, passenger air, and intercity bus travel, is underway and will display existing and future routes and facilities. In 2009, the three Quad Cities fixed-route transit systems recorded their highest ridership to-date, with a combined total of over 4.3 million rides. Based on 15-year ridership data, the systems are projected to surpass 8 million rides per year by 2040. The chapter will address the importance of investment in vehicles and facilities to meet projected growth. A trend toward technology improvements will likely address rechargeable fare cards, real-time passenger information, advanced video surveillance, and online trip planning resources that are expected to promote safety and ease of access for the rider. The chapter will discuss potential land acquisition, track improvements, and station construction related to passenger rail service along the Chicago-Quad Cities-Iowa City Corridor with future service to Des Moines and Omaha. Airports will continue terminal and runway improvements, and intercity bus companies will expand ADA-accessible fleets to maintain passenger growth.

Congratulations QC Marathon Participants

A big congratulations to all of those who participated in this year's Quad City Marathon! Bi-State Regional Commission had 15 members who ran, walked or volunteered in the September 26th event.

Bi-State Regional Commission recently started a healthy living initiative called Bi-Staters on the Move. This initiative is to bring awareness of healthy living and working practices through diet and exercise. Bi-State conducted a survey to evaluate soft drink choices options for the pop machine, and there have been healthy food options offered at meetings. Employees have also participated in various activities such as the CDI Bike Ride, sharing produce from personal gardens, and sharing information upcoming events and health tips.



If you're interested in starting a healthy workplace initiative in your workplace, please contact:

- Denise Bulat, (309) 793-6302 ext. 140, dbulat@bistateonline.org
- Sarah Grabowski, (309) 793-6302 ext. 136, sgrabowski@bistateonline.org
- Chelsey Waterman, (309) 793-6302 ext. 124, cwaterman@bistateonline.org

APA “Making Great Communities Happen” Audio Conferences for 2010-11

For the ninth year, the Bi-State Regional Commission will host a series of audio/visual-conferences sponsored by the American Planning Association (APA). The dates and topics are listed below. These audio conferences vary from one hour up to two hours in length.

All conferences will be held on the Third Floor of Rock Island County Office Building, 1504 Third Avenue, Rock Island. The public entrance is from Third Avenue.

All planning staff, planning and zoning commissions/boards, and board of adjustment members are encouraged to attend as part of Bi-State membership.

Session descriptions are as follows:

October 13, 2010 – 3:00-4:30 p.m.

Planning for Signs and Billboards in a Digital Age – The challenges to sign regulation are vigorous and ever evolving. So too, digital technology has introduced an entirely new layer of complexity. Learn what the federal study on digital signs and safety concluded. Gain insight into how communities are regulating signs to maintain character, meet contemporary needs, ensure safety, and meet legal standards.

November 10, 2010 – 3:00-4:30 p.m.

Regulating Controversial Uses – As work and life change, planning and regulation need to be revised or even reconsidered to accommodate this change. Among the most challenging issues is permitted uses – what is and is not allowed. This program examines controversial uses, such as tattoo parlors, new uses such as mixed use, and unanticipated uses. Learn how to address these legally, sustain community, and accommodate appropriately the ever-evolving needs of residents, businesses, and visitors.

January 19, 2011 – 3:00-4:30 p.m.

Retrofitting Corridors – Streets are the building blocks of a community. Many communities are redesigning corridors for multiple modes of transportation, better connections to adjacent neighborhoods, and addressing contemporary commercial needs. How can you revitalize an important asset in your community and adapt successfully to changing demands? Join urban designers, planners, and economic developers to learn how.

March 16, 2011 – 3:00-4:30 p.m.

Mitigating Hazards through Planning – As more communities are affected by natural disasters from flood, fire, or earthquakes, the need for planning increases. Federal standards and programs are increasingly emphasizing the links between planning and hazard mitigation. In addition, some communities are using green recovery strategies and rethinking what rebuilding should be in light of a changing environment. Get your community ready and explore funding, tools, and unexpected opportunities.

May 11, 2011 – 3:00-4:30 p.m.

Renewable Local Energy – Today's emerging energy crisis means that many individuals and communities are increasing locally produced energy. Explore which plans and codes enable and encourage infrastructure for renewable energy such as wind and solar power. Find out what role neighborhood-scale utilities can play in improving community sustainability.

June 8, 2011 – 3:00-4:30 p.m.

Sustainability Planning for Officials – Sustainability is a term that covers a wide range of ideas and initiatives, but what does it mean in terms of planning? Most communities accept the three-pronged definition defined in the 1983 Brundtland Commission report, but are they really planning for the environment, social needs, and the economy in a coordinated fashion? Learn what sustainability means and how it is being carried out in plans, projects, and discretionary review. Examine successful case studies. Cosponsor: Lincoln Institute of Land Policy.

June 29, 2011 – 3:00-4:30 p.m.

2010 Planning Law Review – New judges on the U.S Supreme court and an active docket are reshaping constitutional law. The states continue to take the lead on climate change, but a backlash is mounting against voter referenda in a recessionary economy. Property rights and fairness, first amendment issues, and the proper role of government are examined in this up-to-the-minute review of the courts and legislations during the past year. Keep current, and join our legal panel for this important discussion.

Participants can register by contacting Bi-State prior to the conference date at 1-888-BISTATE (toll free), (309) 793-6302, Ext. 138, or via e-mail at ppearson@bistateonline.org. Participants will be provided copies of materials, including agendas and presentation handouts. Please arrive by 2:45 p.m.



Grants Training in Davenport, IA November 15-16, 2010

Scott Community College and Grant Writing USA will present a two-day grants workshop in Davenport, November 15-16, 2010. In this class you'll learn how to find grants and write winning grant proposals. This training is applicable to grant seekers across all disciplines.

More information including learning objectives, class location, graduate testimonials and online registration is available here:

<http://GrantsTraining.com/DavenportIA>

Multi-enrollment discounts and discounts for Grant Writing USA returning alumni are available. Tuition payment is not required at the time of enrollment.

Tuition is \$425 and includes all materials: workbook and accompanying 420MB resource CD that's packed full of tools and more than 200 sample grant proposals. Seating is limited, online reservations are necessary.

Contacts:

Cathy Rittenhouse
Grant Writing USA
800.814.8191
cathy@grantwritingusa.com

Gale Roeder
Scott Community College
800.850.5440
groeder@eicc.edu

More than 10,000 agencies across America have turned to Grant Writing USA for grant writing and grant management training.