



Commission in Review

November 2010

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

NEXT COMMISSION MEETING:

Wed., Dec. 15, 2010
3:30 p.m.

Scott Co. Admin Bldg.
6th Floor Conf. Room
600 West 4th Street
Davenport, Iowa

APA TRAINING SERIES

"Retrofitting Corridors"

Wed., Jan. 19, 2011
3-4:30 p.m.

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

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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.*

Census, Long Range Transportation Plan Updates

Lisa Miller and Gena McCullough provided information on the 2010 Census and Long Range Transportation Plan related to data.

Ms. Miller recapped some of the activities Commission staff were involved in related to Census 2010, including the Participant Statistical Areas Program (PSAP)—the delineation of census tracts and block groups; a Census page on the Bi-State website; coordination of Complete Count Committees; media day(s), releases, and briefings; Census ads, and other Census-related events and activities; and attendance at Iowa-region Census round-table meetings in Des Moines. For these efforts, Bi-State Regional Commission was awarded a plaque from the U.S. Census Bureau, recognizing the Commission as a "valued partner in raising awareness of and inspiring participation in the 2010 Census."

National and state population counts will be delivered to the President by December 31, 2010 for use in Congressional apportionment. By March 31, 2011, more detailed data will be released to help states redraw congressional, state, and local legislative district boundaries (redistricting). Finally, the most detailed data for lower level geographies will be released June - August 2011. Staff will be adding this to the new GreaterQCRegion.org data portal as soon as it is released.

Staff is monitoring two Census data-related designations: the Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) and the Urban/Rural classification for the Quad Cities area. The current MSA consists of Henry, Mercer, and Rock Island Counties, Illinois and Scott County, Iowa. Adjacent counties could be added, based on Census 2010 data related to population and employment/commuting patterns. The Urban Area is delineated using population density and may cross corporate boundaries. According to Census criteria, density contiguity patterns may dictate that some outlying communities be appended to the Urban Area.

Ms. McCullough explained the Urban Area designation in relation to transportation funding. The MPO receives planning and transportation programming dollars for areas within the Urban Area boundary while those outside the boundary receive rural monies. If outlying communities are brought in to the Urban Area, they will have to compete with other more populous cities in the Urban Area for these transportation funds.

She went on to discuss the Long Range Transportation Plan development, noting that several variables are used to predict travel. A travel demand model, a computer program, uses variables and mathematical equations to replicate travel choices made by individuals. A travel model forecasts where people travel to and from and the quantity of trips. Socio-economic data used in the modeling process includes population, housing units, school enrollment, and employment, to name a few. This data is geographically located in the metropolitan area using traffic analysis zones. These zones are generally in equal size, do not cross barriers (e.g. rivers), and represent relatively homogenous land use. Prior to working communities on predicting future population and employment development areas by TAZ, metro area projections are developed to provide growth parameters. These projections provide a range of reasonable growth for population and employment. Ms. McCullough explained the slow and fast growth scenarios and the equidistant value in between. Quad City metro area population for the MPO planning area is projected to be from 297,419 and 450,414 by 2040. Base year 2006 population was 294,501. Employment is projected to be from 164,678 to 169,591 by 2040 with a base year 2006 employment of 138,288. The next step will be utilize the projections to predict future trips for 2020 and 2040.

I-74 Bridge Corridor Project

Denise Bulat reported that elected officials continue to work with the Iowa and Illinois Departments of Transportation (DOT) to move the I-74 Interstate Corridor Project forward. The project is positioned to receive significant additional dollars from both State and Federal sources for construction, especially in the New Transportation Act.

Officials were encouraged to share the project status in various forums in which they participate with key communications including:

- Significant work is ongoing
- The project is shovel ready
- Funding received to date: approximately \$85 million is obligated or programmed
- The project provides redundancy for I-80/280
- The project is an interstate bridge replacement
- The project is part of the National Highway System

Specific elements of the I-74 Project were discussed. Final Design Elements are being prepared and approved by both DOTs including: piers, lighting, railings, retaining walls, sound walls, pavement, hanger and floor beam spacing, etc. The final design contract with Alfred Benesch and Company is underway and is anticipated to be complete by FY 2013. Actual staging of the construction schedule and number of contracts is being developed by the consultant.

Parts of the project have been completed or will be constructed in 2011 including the Lincoln Road Overpass and the I-74/53rd Street Interchange. Right-of-Way (ROW) acquisition is underway, and Iowa DOT has programmed all ROW acquisition by 2015. Illinois DOT has begun to negotiate property acquisition.

It is estimated that the entire I-74 Corridor project will create/retain 12,120 jobs over a seven year period. Not only is the Bridge vital to the continued economic well-being and commerce of the Quad Cities area, but Interstate 74 serves a major corridor of national significance providing an alternate crossing for Interstate 80, one of the nations' greatest east-west commercial corridors. Once reconstructed, the I-74 Bridge will be the most reliable Mississippi River Crossing in the Iowa/Illinois bi-state area. The reconstructed I-74 Bridge corridor will have full shoulders allowing for emergency vehicle access in the event of an incident that currently does not exist. Further, the reconstructed I-74 Bridge will have increased protection for seismic occurrences and barge collisions.

The reconstructed I-74 Bridge will improve the quality of life in the entire Quad City Area with its multi-modal aspects. The Bridge will include a multi-purpose trail for bicyclists and pedestrians to allow for cross river travel in the eastern portion of the Quad Cities where access does not currently exist. The widened structure will provide for improved travel reliability, even during traffic incidents, for transit bus trips across the Mississippi River, the Quad City International Airport, and the Moline Centre Station passenger rail stop.

Major federal project milestones that have been met are the completion of the Draft and Final Environmental Impact Statements and the Record of Decision in April 2009.

\$10 million in 2010 United Way Campaign

Congratulations to all Bi-State staff for completing another successful United Way campaign! This year's goal for United Way of the Quad Cities was \$10 million in 2010. Bi-State's goal for the year was to increase our target giving by 10% from last year. We exceeded that goal and had 100% staff participation.

We raised over \$12,000, amounting to an average level of giving of \$500 per employee. Staff activities included an auction of donated items, a Halloween cubicle decorating contest, a dinner, and participation in the United Way Day of Caring.

Happy Holidays!

The staff of Bi-State Regional Commission extend to you and your families our sincere wishes for a very happy holiday and a joyous new year.

We thank you for your continued support of intergovernmental cooperation. It is our hope you will contact us for assistance.

