

Newsletter

South Eastern Council of Governments, Dakota BUSINESS Finance,
and South Eastern Development Foundation

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Director's Corner

I recently returned from Washington, DC where I attended the 2015 NADO Washington Policy Conference "NADO on the Hill." During the conference attendees learned about the latest policy developments and the current political climate on Capitol Hill. The conference included opportunities to network with federal agencies as well as other similar organizations from across the county.



One of the highlights of the conference was the opportunity for NADO's Executive Committee to meet the Honorable Penny Pritzker, the 38th Secretary of the U.S. Department of Commerce. Secretary Pritzker is the first Secretary of Commerce to address NADO attendees. Her message focused on the invaluable partnership between EDA and NADO's members.



Assistant Secretary Jay Williams also addressed the group at a luncheon where he updated attendees on what is happening with EDA including new initiatives at EDA, staffing updates, and his ongoing efforts to de-federalize EDA revolving loan funds after certain criteria have been met.



On March 24th, participants traveled to Capitol Hill to meet with their Congressional Delegations and staff to showcase the work of regional development organizations and the impact these organizations have locally in their regions across the country. South Dakota's Delegation has recently started hosting a joint event entitled "SD Sunrise Constituent Coffee" and meet with Senator Thune, Senator Rounds and Representative Kristi Noem.

Dell Rapids Awarded Transportation Alternatives Program Grant (TAP)



The Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) was authorized by the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21), signed into law July 6, 2012. TAP replaces and reforms the previous Transportation Enhancement Program and merges it with the Safe Routes to School, Scenic Byways and Recreational Trails programs. TAP provides funding for programs and projects defined as transportation alternatives, including on- and off-road pedestrian and bicycle facilities, infrastructure projects for improving non-driver access to public transportation and enhanced mobility, community improvement activities, and environmental mitigation; recreational trail program projects; safe routes to school projects; and projects for planning, designing, or constructing boulevards and other roadways largely in the right-of-way of former Interstate System routes or other divided highways

The City of Dell Rapids recently received a \$263,663 TAP funding award which will be used to fund a recreational trails projects. The grant will assist in paying for the City of Dell Rapids' cost share for the design and construction of a 6,900 foot mile long 10 foot wide shared use path along SD Highway 115.

Canistota Receives HMGP Grant

The City of Canistota has been awarded a \$17,400 Hazard Mitigation Grant Program grant by the South Dakota Department of Emergency Management. The grant will assist in the financing of Canistota's Emergency Siren Replacement project.

Jean Crowe Joins SECOG Staff

Jean Crowe recently joined SECOG as a Planner. In her new position, Jean will be responsible for overseeing the new Drive To Help program, transit travel training, and assisting SECOG's members in the MPO planning area with grant and loan applications and administration.



Jean graduated from Mount Marty College with a Bachelor of Arts degree. For the past eight years, Jean was the VP of Residential Services at LifeScape. Jean was raised on a ranch near Pickstown, SD. She has lived in Sioux Falls the past 30 years, is married and has two grown children.

Lacey Schmeling Joins SECOG Staff

Lacey Schmeling recently joined SECOG's staff as a Planner. In this position Lacey will assist SECOG's members outside of the MPO with grant and loan applications and administration.

Lacey graduated from Bellevue University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Human and Social Services Administration and went on to earn a Master's in Public Administration.

Prior to joining SECOG, she held a director position at a local non-profit. Lacey is originally from rural northeast South Dakota. She has lived in Sioux Falls for over 10 years and has a daughter.



Drive To Help, New Transportation Program, Successfully Funded



The first year of operations for “Drive To Help”, SECOG’s new transportation program, has been successfully funded. “Drive To Help” came to fruition as a result of the efforts the Sioux Falls Metropolitan Planning Organization’s (MPO) Transportation Coordination Committee (TCC), along with various members of the Sioux Falls City Council’s Transit Task Force, to develop and implement work actions to help address the priorities identified in the MPO’s Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan (Coordinated Plan). One activity resulting from this collaboration is a volunteer driver recruitment and training program to provide screened and trained volunteer drivers to expand existing volunteer driver programs. The TCC named this program “Drive To Help.”

Project CAR and Active Generations’ Workers-On-Wheels (WOW) are existing organizations that provide

transportation services to seniors and persons with disabilities utilizing volunteer drivers, primarily for medical/health appointments and grocery shopping. Rather than duplicate efforts by creating a new transportation program, “Drive To Help” will be a more efficient use of resources by expanding the capacity of these existing programs. In order to accomplish this, Jean Crowe has been hired to serve as the manager and coordinator of the Drive To Help program. In this new position, she will run marketing campaigns to recruit volunteers, distribute and screen volunteer applications, run background and driver records checks, arrange for the screened volunteers to be trained, and transition the screened and trained volunteer drivers to Project CAR and WOW. This person will also be responsible for coordinating with Project CAR and WOW to track the benefits of the program. The following organizations provided funding to make this a successful endeavor: Avera, Sanford Health, United Way, City of Sioux Falls, and SECOG.



Sioux Falls MPO Kicks Off Go Sioux Falls



The Sioux Falls Metropolitan Plan Organization (MPO) will kick off *Go Sioux Falls*, the MPO’s 2040 Long-Range Transportation Plan, with an open house on Thursday, April 16th, from 5:00 – 7:00 PM at the Downtown Holiday Inn in Sioux Falls (100 W. 8th Street). *Go Sioux Falls* will establish goals and priorities that will guide how future transportation investments are made to help shape the region’s transportation network through the year 2040. The open house will include information about existing infrastructure, future traffic projections, and prior market research input for all forms of transportation including streets and highways, transit, bicycling, pedestrians, freight, rail, and air. The public is encouraged to attend anytime between 5 and 7 PM to provide input at this open house through various activities and surveys. There will be no formal presentation. Input may also be submitted through the project website at www.gosiouxfalls.org.

The participants of the Sioux Falls MPO include: the Cities of Brandon, Crooks, Harrisburg, Hartford, Sioux Falls and Tea; Lincoln and Minnehaha Counties; South Eastern Council of Governments (SECOG); South Dakota Department of Transportation; Federal Highway Administration; and Federal Transit Administration.

Upon request, accommodations for this meeting will be provided for persons with disabilities. Please contact SECOG at 605-367-5390, or Relay 1-800-877-1113 ext. 367-5390, during regular business hours at least 48 hours in advance.

SECOG Selected to Participate in New National AARP Program

The South Eastern Council of Governments (SECOG) was selected to participate as one of two local nonprofits that will be beneficiaries of the new AARP Member to Member Local Offer Program contributions. According to the award letter from AARP: "The AARP Member to Member Local Offers Program, helps local small businesses, owned by AARP members, provide offers and discounts to other AARP members, while giving back to their community."

Sioux Falls is one of 11 cities selected for the launch of this program beginning in March 2015. The other selected cities include Los Angeles, CA; Miami, FL; Jacksonville, FL; Manchester, NH; Cincinnati, OH; Seattle, WA; San Antonio, TX; Nassau/Suffolk Counties, NY; Phoenix, AZ; and St. Louis, MO.

Local small businesses can help make this program successful by participating. Learn more at: <http://www.aarp.org/benefits-discounts/member-to-member/>.

SECOG will utilize contributions from the AARP program fund the Drive To Help program. Drive To Help is a volunteer driver recruitment and training program that was developed as a collaborative effort of the Sioux Falls Metropolitan Planning Organization's

(MPO) Transportation Coordination Committee (TCC), and members of the Sioux Falls City Council's Transit Task Force, to develop and implement work actions to address the priorities identified in the MPO's Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan (Coordinated Plan).

Project CAR and Active Generations' Workers-On-Wheels (WOW) are existing organizations that provide transportation services to seniors and persons with disabilities utilizing volunteer drivers, primarily for medical/health appointments and grocery shopping. Drive To Help will expand the capacity of these organizations by providing them with screened and trained volunteer drivers resulting in additional transportation services in the Sioux Falls area.

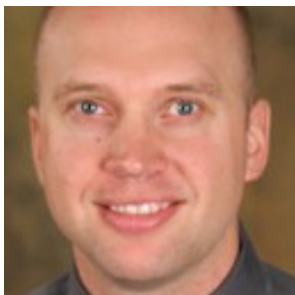


Recent Funding in SECOG Region

Project Sponsor	DWSRF Loan	DWSRF Principal Forgiveness	CWSRF Loan	CWFCP Grant	SWM Grant
Brandon			\$3,000,000		
Brandon	\$12,425,000	\$500,000			
Canton	\$1,550,000				
Humboldt			\$417,200	\$1,668,800	
Lennox			\$1,873,000	\$560,000	
SEDF					\$500,000
Sioux Falls			\$11,979,457		
Sioux Falls			\$19,475,025		
Total	\$13,975,000	\$500,000	\$36,744,682	\$2,228,800	\$500,000

O'Neil Joins SECOG Board

Mayor Mike Huether has appointed Brent O'Neil to represent the City of Sioux Falls on the South Eastern Council of Governments Board and the Urbanized Development Commission.



Brent O'Neil currently serves as the Economic Development Manager for the City of Sioux Falls. In this role, Brent facilitates many development activities within the city, including downtown development, industrial projects, and business growth in Sioux Falls. While Brent maintains a passion for economic development, he previously worked in the planning and transportation fields.

Langer Joins SECOG Board

Representative Kris Langer was recently appointed to serve on SECOG's board. She is a realtor for LandMark Realty and Auction in Dell Rapids. She served four terms on the Dell Rapids City Council, including service as Council President. Langer has also served on the Minnehaha Economic Development Association and the Dell Rapids Economic Development Board.



Langer was born and raised on a family farm between Toronto and White, and is a graduate of South Dakota State University. She and her husband, Tracy, have two sons, Cole and Grant. Langer is a member of Lutheran Church of Dell Rapids and is active in the Dell Rapids Baseball Association and the Dell Rapids Athletic Booster Club.

Does Your Community Have the Right Tools to Grow?

Does your community want to grow? Seems like a simple question and when posed to most elected officials they might pause for a second, but the majority would probably respond "yes". However, how does the average citizen of your community view change and future development or growth? The reality is that everyone views change differently. The terms "Not In My Backyard (NIMBY)" and "Build Absolutely Nothing Anywhere Near Anyone (BANANA)" are not new. They seem to be more prevalent in the news media, but the reality is that people have, and always will, care about their property and the impacts to it. The answer is, and always has been, that the only way for a community to address change and growth is to **PLAN**.

A Comprehensive Plan outlines goals and aspirations for community development, a Zoning Ordinance accommodates differing land uses, a Subdivision Ordinance standardizes development, and Municipal Ordinances keep the character and civility of the community. Below are some questions your community can discuss in order to evaluate the effectiveness of your development tools, policies, and goals.

Comprehensive Plan - Is it **THE** guide for development and does it reflect the partnership between the community leaders and its citizens? Does it realistically look at infrastructure availability and define the timing of future infrastructure expansion?

Zoning Regulations - Is the community developing in a manner that is consistent with its vision? Is the document too lengthy and complicated for the average citizen?

Subdivision Regulations - Are the developer's responsibilities clearly spelled out? Does growth pay its own way or is it paid by current citizens?

Municipal Ordinances - Are minimum standards for the health, safety and welfare of the community defined? Does the community enforce those minimum standards effectively?

Capital Improvements Planning - Does the community have a five year plan for the expenditure of funds? If not, why doesn't it?

Like any rule or regulation, the tools listed above may need to be reviewed or updated, but they should serve as the foundation for a community's goals and vision. In good times or bad, when a community flounders it is because they forget the tools that are already in place. Community development is not complicated and the most important attraction for a community can be opportunity. Opportunity comes when a community identifies a long-range strategy and commits itself to developing that strategy. If you have any questions about planning documents or their implementation, please contact Toby Brown at 367-5390.

Dakota BUSINESS Finance and SEDF Approve Additional Loans

Addy Disposal

Financing Source: South Eastern Development Foundation

Purpose: Purchase garbage truck

Community: Canistota

Participating Lender: Matt Smith with Dacotah Bank



MJ's Sinclair

Financing Source: Dakota BUSINESS Finance

Purpose: Purchase existing gas station

Community: Groton

Participating Lender: Rachelle Carrels with Plains Commerce Bank



Motel 6 Hot Springs

Financing Source: Dakota BUSINESS Finance

Purpose: Purchase existing motel

Community: Hot Springs

Participating Lender: Tim Rustand with MetaBank



Kut & Kill, Inc.

Financing Source: Dakota BUSINESS Finance

Purpose: Purchase building

Community: Harrisburg

Participating Lender: Rocky Rehfeldt with First Bank & Trust





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SECOG Calendar

DBF Board Meeting May 13

SEDF Board Meeting May 13

CAC Meeting May 20

TAC & UDC Meeting May 21

SECOG Board Meeting June 10

DBF Board Meeting June 17

SEDF Board Meeting June 17

BWNR Meeting June 25

BWNR-Board of Water & Natural Resources

CAC-Citizens Advisory Committee

DBF-Dakota BUSINESS Finance

DOT-Department of Transportation

MPO - Metropolitan Planning Organization

SECOG-South Eastern Council of Governments

SEDF-South Eastern Development Foundation

TAC-Technical Advisory Committee

UDC-Urbanized Development Commission