

SSMMAATTERINGS

Fall 2007

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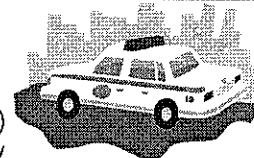
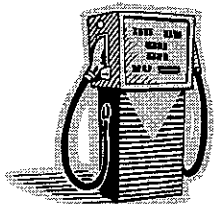
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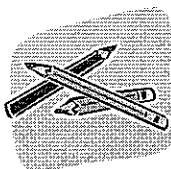
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SUBURBAN PURCHASING COOPERATIVE



The Suburban Purchasing Cooperative (SPC) procures contracts for government agency purchases. It is the objective of the SPC to purchase at the lowest possible cost, consistent with the needs of the SPC membership (123+ communities/townships in the Chicagoland region) to ensure that taxpayers receive the maximum value for each dollar spent. The SPC purchasing of goods and services is in accordance with the SPC Agreement signed by the following councils of government: Northwest Municipal Conference, South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association and the Will County Governmental League and is administered by the Northwest Municipal Conference (NWMC). SSMMA members can go to the SPC section of the NWMC website at <http://www.nwmc-cog.org/jahia/Jahia/op/edit/pid/233> to see products and services available for purchase through the SPC. The SPC exemplifies the benefits of intergovernmental cooperation on a regional basis. The combined purchasing power of the participating members results in lower prices. Please check SPC pricing prior to making purchases. If you have any questions regarding the Suburban Purchasing Cooperative, contact Lerisa Wilkins at NWMC at (847) 296-9200 x 37.



EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Employee Assistance Program has been offered through the Association for the last eight years. Currently there are 21 member communities enrolled in the program. Our vendor is Employee Resource Systems (ERS). ERS has been very responsive to our needs and has provided excellent service. All of the EAP counselors are licensed mental health clinicians with experience in concerns such as substance abuse, psychological, family or relationship issues, and elder care. Information shared with the EAP is completely confidential. Workshops are also available to member municipalities enrolled in the program.

If your municipality is not currently a member of the Employee Assistance Program and you would like more information, please contact Sheila Miller at 922-4679 or via email sheila.miller@ssmma.org.

AUCTION

Although the annual auction, which is usually held in the fall, has been postponed, we are investigating an alternative which may allow an auction to be held yet this year. As information becomes available, notifications will be sent out and the information will be posted on our website (www.ssmma.org).



28TH ANNUAL SSMMA GOLF OUTING

The 28th Annual Golf Outing held on Friday, July 20th at Lincolnshire Country Club was another great success. The attendance was outstanding, as were the sponsorships. We hope that everyone had a wonderful day and enjoyed the camaraderie of friends and business associates.

The South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who sponsored, participated and assisted in making the event a success.

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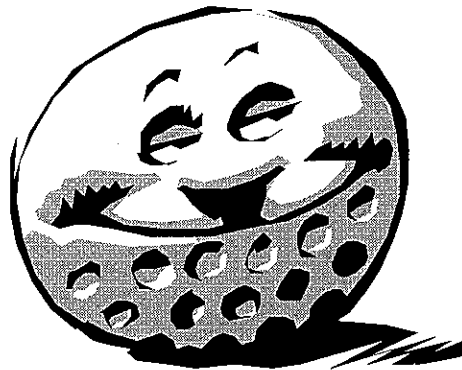
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SILENT AUCTION DONORS

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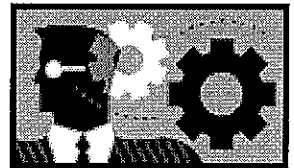
TICKETS

Lighthouse Printing—Sue Kirschner

MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS

City of Country Club Hills
Mayor Dwight Welch
Village of East Hazel Crest
Mayor Thomas A. Brown
Village of Orland Hills
Mayor Kyle Hastings
Village of Orland Park
Mayor Daniel McLaughlin

**The Chicago Southland Economic Development Corporation
Economic Development Strategy:
Southland Global Transportation Center Campaign
Serving distribution warehouses and distribution intensive industries**



The mission of the CHICAGO SOUTHLAND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION is to identify, organize and mobilize public and private resources that will result in the creation and expansion of businesses, thereby providing economic growth, sustainable jobs and development in the Southland. CSEDC objectives are defined through its structure of a Chairman, Executive Committee, and a Board of Directors composed of area business, educational, and elected officials. CSEDC members contribute their ideas and counsel during meetings and in various follow up activities. Subcommittees are comprised of active members and staff from CSEDC, SSMMA, municipal economic development professionals and other agencies working on CSEDC defined projects.

Over 75 people attended the July CSEDC Membership/Board meeting held at the Lansing Airport. This attendance and the diverse program presented at the meeting demonstrated there is an opportunity for SSMMA and CSEDC to work together to do regionally significant economic development projects.

The Southland has significant economic development activity based on location advantages, infrastructure, and labor force to spur the development and job creation. Although each municipality has its own economic development program, an overriding objective of the CSEDC work program is to work as a region to develop relationships with the greater Chicagoland Development Community. This may encourage developers to look more closely at our region.

To this end, an upcoming initiative is co-sponsoring the Land Development Conference that will be held at the Odyssey Country Club in Tinley Park on September 27th. To prepare for this conference, CSEDC is developing information to present through exhibits describing development opportunities in the Southland region.

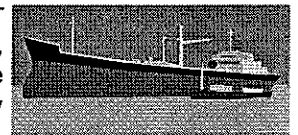
Showcasing the work being done on the Southland Freight Study (in progress), the Broadband Analysis (in progress), the proposed South Suburban Airport and the I-294/I-57 interchange, CSEDC is using this conference as an opportunity to launch its Southland Global Transportation Center Campaign to capture Midwest distribution center development and investment.



The potential of the Southland Global Transportation Center Campaign is reflected in the recent investments in logistic operations in Sauk Village, Crete, and Alsip. "Greenfield" sites, such as the Sauk Village-based LogistiCenter, exemplify the diversity in location possibilities. The Southland also has the most class one rail lines of any midwest region – reinforcing the potential of distribution centers. CSEDC is creating relationships and working with companies such as DP Partners, CenterPoint, ProLogis, NAI Hiffman, CB Richard Ellis, Grubb and Ellis, Burns Real Estate, and Paine/Wetzel to work together to determine how to best respond to the water-borne (barge) traffic, rail lines, and interstate access assets to become the Southland Global Transportation Center.

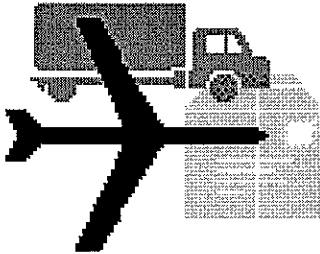
These logistics assets not only provide us with the opportunity for warehousing distribution projects, but also industrial development for which transportation is essential and that can leverage other regional industrial resources such as automotive, steel, and energy. Our region has a location advantage being in close proximity to the Ford Assembly Complex, as well as the home of a Ford Stamping Plant. The price of steel has stabilized recently and our region is finding that our transportation assets and trained labor force is enabling steel related businesses to prosper or relocate to the Southland. Companies such as Esmark, Chicago Heights Steel, and Mittal Steel and other related steel operations are prospering. Furthermore, the Southland has the Calumet Sag Waterway, a distribution petroleum facility owned by Valero Energy Corporation, a biomass power generating plant (Robbins Community Power), and a specialty storage company (Westway Terminals). These companies, with the river and connecting railroads, make the region a viable location for producing, storing, and distributing ethanol and biodiesel fuels.

CSEDC and SSMMA seek to build upon this work in logistics, steel, automotive and renewable energy to prepare a comprehensive Southland Economic Development Strategy. The Southland and Suburban Cook County need to position themselves as a leader in targeted business segments and fashion an investment plan for limited public resources that will contribute to the development of those segments. In the hyper competitive global economy, the City of Chicago and the Chicago Metropolitan Agency

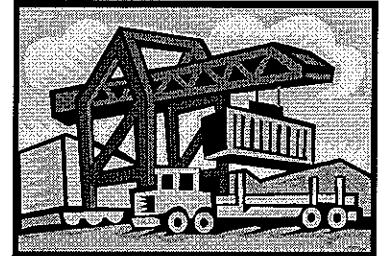


for Planning are preparing economic development strategies for Chicago and the seven county Chicagoland region. The Southland must forcefully position itself to show its strategic value to these planning efforts to ensure the Southland receives needed public investments and recognition by the private sector.

CSEDC is a not-for-profit 501(c)3 organization, funded by member dues, contracts and contributions. Investing in a membership, at any of the various levels, provides for active participation and supports this public-private partnership. All members are listed on the CSEDC webpage and can vote on all member activities including nominating Board members. Contributing, Sustaining, and Premier members may also display their logo on the CSEDC web page and CSEDC advertising. Premier members will be listed, or have their logo printed, on CSEDC stationery. Please consider participating and investing in CSEDC. Please contact Reggie Greenwood at reggie.greenwood@ssmma.org for more information about one of the following memberships. CSEDC is committed to raising \$20,000 to support the Freight Study and we need the participation of every interested party.



Sponsorship Member \$500 to \$2,500
 Individual Member \$200
 Member at Large \$500
 Contributing Member \$1,000
 Sustaining Member \$2,500
 Premier Member \$5,000



DIVERSITY, INC. NEWS



Diversity, Inc. will host our 12th Annual Dinner and Awards Program on September 27, 2007 at the historic Olympia Fields Country Club in Olympia Fields. An annual event, the Dinner for Diversity celebrates the success of the organization and honors all who have supported Diversity, Inc. and its mission over the past year. We will also recognize our accomplishments and achievements over the past 25 years.

We are proud to honor Janis Kearney, the first presidential diarist in U.S. history, chronicling

President Clinton's day-to-day life, as our featured speaker. Ms. Kearney is the author of two books. "From Hope to Harlem, Conversations With William Jefferson Clinton" includes rare and unheard voices of black Americans speaking about America's 42nd President; their memories, stories and thoughts on Clinton, the man and his message. Ms. Kearney's new book, "Cotton Field of Dreams," is an autobiography of hard lessons learned from under-educated parents, and the slow realization that their dire impoverishment was balanced by

the familial, love, trust and friendship of her family.

The reception begins with cocktails and an exciting Diversity Elephant Raffle. The highlight of the dinner is our Diversity, Inc. Awards Program sponsored by AT&T. Recognition is given to those individuals or entities that have made a significant contribution to the mission of Diversity, Inc. to create and sustain racially, ethnically and culturally diverse environments in our region.

Call Diversity, Inc. at (708) 206-1203 to reserve seating or for more information.

Seeking Nominations for Diversity Awards

Diversity, Inc is actively seeking nominees for their annual Awards Program. An intergovernmental organization, Diversity, Inc. recognizes individuals, organizations or businesses having contributed to the diversity and vitality of the Chicago Southland region. Sponsored by AT&T, there are four award categories:

The **Diversity 2007 Award** recognizes an exceptional initiative of an individual, business or organization that

has positively impacted the Chicago Southland, and furthered the mission of racial, ethnic, religious or economic diversity

The **Diversity Achievement Award** is presented to an individual, business or organization in honor of lifetime contributions to the communities of the Chicago Southland that have contributed to the advancement of a culturally and economically diverse region.

The **Community Spirit Award** honors an individual, business or organization whose philanthropic contribution aids the perpetual enhancement of Chicago's Southland communities and improves the quality of life.

The **David A. Janke Community Vitality Award** acknowledges the selfless contributions of an individual who has impacted the social, economic and cultural vitality of Chicago's Southland, and thereby demonstrates respect and appreciation for diversity.

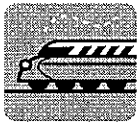
Nomination forms are currently available and being accepted by Diversity, Inc. at 1904 West 174th Street, East Hazel Crest. If you would like a nomination form faxed to you, contact Holly Campbell at (708) 922-4603

The awards are presented to the selected nominees at the organization's Annual Dinner for Diversity, Inc., which this year will also mark Diversity, Inc.'s 25th anniversary and will be held on September 27th at Olympia Fields Country Club in Olympia Fields, Illinois.

Cocktails will begin at 6:00 p.m. with dinner starting at 7:00 pm. Tickets are \$65.00 each, tables of ten (10) are available for \$600.00.

Residents, business representatives, community leaders, real estate agents, lenders, and school representatives are encouraged to come to this event!

For more information about the dinner or to reserve your space, please contact Diversity, Inc. at (708) 922-4603.



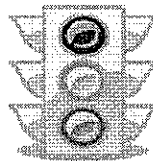
Transportation News



The South Council Transportation Committee last met on June 5, 2007. Now that the summer break is finished, meetings will resume with the next meeting scheduled for September 11, 2007 at 2:00 p.m. at the Matteson Village Hall located at 4900 Village Commons.

Traffic Signal Emergency Vehicle Pre-emption (EVP)

The Program is moving forward to provide signaling control installation and upgrades in 18 member municipalities at approximately 133 intersections. Administration agreements are being prepared and processed.



Standardized format of project design will allow for all of the consultants to work together. A pre-final plan submittal is anticipated to be done in November, with final plans to IDOT in January, 2008.

With all of the construction and engineering agreements completed, an IDOT bid letting is expected about the beginning of May, 2008 with construction and construction engineering to be concluded between June and November, 2008.

This project is an 80/20 match project and is MFT eligible for the municipalities participating.

Meeting with Cook County Department Of Highways

Cook County Highway Department Director, Mr Rupert Graham, and members of his staff met with us to discuss topics of mutual interest. The meeting centered around how our Association and the County can improve our working relationship and to establish a better line of communication to address the highway needs of our region. The meeting was very positive and should provide a start to sharing information and working together.



PUBLIC WORKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE



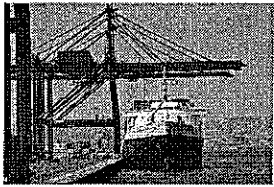
Monthly meetings of the Public Works Advisory Committee will begin anew after the summer break, on Thursday, September 27, at 9:30 a.m. at the Hazel Crest Village Hall

located at 3300 West 170th Place.

Surveys have been sent out to Public Works Directors/Supervisors, Police Chiefs and Fire Chiefs asking for

potential interest and participation in various topics for training. The results of these surveys will determine the scheduling of training throughout the coming year.

For additional information on transportation or public works issues, contact Deputy Executive Director Bud Fleming at (708) 922-4677 or bud.fleming@ssmma.org



SOUTH SUBURBAN FREIGHT STUDY



South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association (SSMMA), in conjunction with the Chicago Southland Economic Development Corporation (CSEDC), is currently undertaking the South Suburban Freight Study, a major study of freight infrastructure, movement, issues and opportunities in the Southland. The team of Cambridge Systematics and Chicago Metropolis 2020 has been engaged by these two agencies to perform the study which will result in recommendations for capital and operational improvements, along with policies and strategies to achieve maximum economic benefits for the Southland, while minimizing negative impacts. The study is being funded by a grant from the Illinois Department of Transportation, along with contributions from the CSEDC.

Southland Transportation Assets

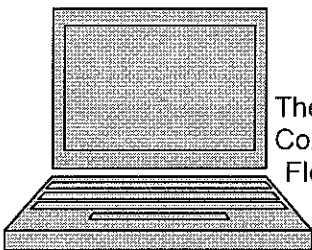
The South Suburban Freight Study, which began in April, will be approximately nine months in duration, during which time four tasks will be completed:

- Task 1 will include a comprehensive inventory and profile of the region's freight infrastructure, freight patterns, purchasers and users, as well as land use and demographic patterns;
- Task 2, which will continue throughout the duration of the project, will include the study's public outreach component;
- During Task 3, the region's freight-related assets, needs and opportunities will be identified; and
- Task 4 will involve the development of an implementation plan which will identify and prioritize projects, funding mechanisms, schedule and next steps.

The Study's public outreach component is built around the establishment of a public-private partnership forum, the Freight Advisory Committee. This group, which includes public officials, agency representatives, freight industry representatives and business owners, will meet formally three times during the nine-month study, and informally, as needed. The first meeting was held in April, during which committee members had a chance to discuss common issues, concerns and opportunities related to the movement of freight in the Southland. The committee will meet again in September and November. The goal of the public outreach component of the project is to create a sustainable forum which will continue to address the region's freight issues into the future, after the study is completed.

The study's public outreach activities will also include two stakeholder workshops, the first of which was held in early August with an attendance of nearly 40. Following an overview of the study and a presentation on the freight assets within the study area, the participants were divided into breakout groups to discuss freight-related issues and opportunities within the Southland. A second stakeholder workshop will be held in the Fall to discuss development of the study's implementation plan.

For more information about the South Suburban Freight Study, please contact Reggie Greenwood Director of Economic Development at reggie.greenwood@ssmma.org or 708 922 4671.



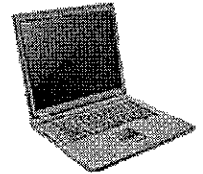
WiFi Technology

The project described in this article is being coordinated by the Management and Finance Committee's Technology Subcommittee consisting of Village Manager Bridget Wachtel of Flossmoor, Village Manager Mark Franz of Homewood, Village Manager Tom Mick of Park Forest and Village Administrator Jim Downing of Thornton.

The South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association (SSMMA) is working with member communities to develop and implement strategies for improved access to broadband connectivity. As part of the development activity, SSMMA has committed to working with the Broadband Development Group, Regional Development Institute of Northern Illinois University, to research and develop a business plan that will ultimately build a regional network to use for enhancing municipal and other government services, including public safety services, and provide an economic development resource for our private sector partners. Components of the research project include:

- Surveying the needs and existing costs of member communication services;
- Providing steps that can be taken to use technology to enhance the services provided by local taxing agencies while improving efficiency within government;
- Documenting the infrastructure that already exists;
- Outlining avenues to leverage the value of any work that has already been accomplished;
- Generating initiatives to boost economic development;
- Outlining concrete steps that can be taken to identify and mitigate issues that may cause local digital divide across our region..

Part of this effort involves identifying the current business case for connectivity within the SSMMA member communities. Researchers are asking that regional agencies and companies describe, in general terms, the types of telecommunications services that are needed, in what locations and at what cost. With this information, the combined requirements of the SSMMA membership can be taken into consideration as areas for improvement in cost and performance are considered.

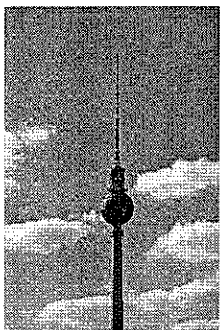


There are numerous technical aspects to be taken into account as NIU's Broadband Development Group develops strategies for SSMMA.

1. Discussions about telecommunications requirements always include questions about transmission speeds. How much speed is needed, and how can you acquire it? And, is the bandwidth affordable to keep existing businesses needing to expand or to attract new businesses to locate in your community or region?
2. What broadband access exists today in terms of communications infrastructure? Who is offering broadband connectivity services in the region? Are those services available across industrial parks, retail spaces and key development areas? And, are these services being offered to meet the needs outlined in the previous section?
3. What technology should be implemented? Available technologies include options such as:
 - Fiber backbone facilities
 - Fiber to the premises (FTTP)
 - Fiber to the development or industrial park node
 - Hybrid fiber coax
 - Wi-Fi
 - Other wireless (WiMAX, point-to-point wireless, Free Space Optics)
 - Broadband over power line (BPL)

In the promotion of broadband development by municipalities and local governments, wireless services, specifically WiFi, are receiving the most attention at this point in time. The reasons for this are several:

- WiFi is relatively inexpensive
- In some cases, vendors have installed WiFi at no cost to the municipality
- WiFi is a relatively painless route to provide Internet access to all income groups, in the quest to eliminate digital divide



However, the question arises: Is WiFi technology the answer to meet the need for high speed broadband? Does WiFi provide the communications boost that is needed for economic development?

The SSMMA Broadband Connectivity Study will help to provide significant insight into the current resources and methods of broadband connectivity and provide steps that can be taken to insure that broadband availability is one more reason for a business to locate in the SSMMA region!

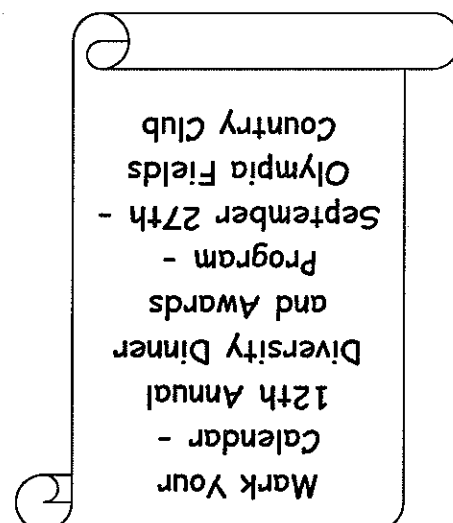
Important Dates

September 3	Labor Day Holiday—SSMMA Offices Closed
September 7	Calumet River Council (Blue Island Village Hall Annex)
September 11	Transportation Committee Meeting (Matteson Village Hall)
September 14	Land Development Committee (Association Offices)
September 18	Diversity, Inc. Monthly Meeting (Association Offices)
September 20	SSMMA Dinner Meeting (Midlothian Country Club, 5000 W. 147th Street, Midlothian, IL)
September 27	Land Development Conference (Odyssey Country Club, Tinley Park, IL)
September 27	Public Works Advisory Committee (Hazel Crest Village Hall)
September 27	Diversity Dinner & Awards Program (Olympia Fields Country Club)
October 2	Transportation Committee Meeting (Matteson Village Hall)
October 16	Diversity, Inc. Monthly Meeting (Association Offices)
October 25	Public Works Advisory Committee (Hazel Crest Village Hall)
October 25	SSMMA Business Meeting—4th Thursday due to IML Conference (Association Offices)
November 6	Transportation Committee Meeting (Matteson Village Hall)
November 20	Diversity, Inc. Monthly Meeting (Association Offices)
November TBD	Public Works Advisory Committee
December 6	SSMMA Holiday Dinner Meeting (Odyssey Country Club, Tinley Park)

For more information on these events please contact
SSMMA at 708-206-1155 or info@ssmma.org

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