

Transportation Committee News

During the last Transportation Committee meeting it was reported that the region will be out of money for the rest of the Program Year after the March letting, with the projects already approved and the approval of advanced funding of \$7.9 million. Although the first thought is that of concern, this is a good thing. CMAP has no concerns about running out of money and this activity will assure that there will be no rescissions of funding. The Council of Mayors will meet in March to discuss options to provide the additional funds as they become needed. After the March letting, our Council will have approximately \$7.9 million left for our program year, which would indicate that we have already spent or committed \$6.3 million. We are doing very well in our spending and moving projects forward.

In the past quarter, we have held two TAG (Transportation Advisory Group) Committee meetings with the result of recommendation for approval of 4 new LAPP projects (Chicago Heights, Riverdale, Harvey, South Holland), 7 new FAU road additions and intersection improvements for Calumet City and Glenwood.

All Transportation Committee Meetings are scheduled in advance, and are normally the first Tuesday of each month at 2:00 p.m. in the South Chicago Heights Village Hall.

CMAQ Training

On December 15th SSMMA hosted a CMAQ Training Workshop which was exceptionally well attended and has resulted in our council members submitting 14 projects totaling \$68,251,500 in total cost with a total request of \$35,535,000 in CMAQ funding. Recommended projects will be submitted for review by the Board from the CMAQ Review Committee in July.



Public Safety Committee News



The Public Safety Committee has been meeting regularly for the past several months on the second Thursday of the month. Among the items that have been discussed are the election of the new States Attorney Anita Alvarez, and the recent appointment of a new Presiding Judge at the 6th District Courthouse in Markham. Arrangements are being made to establish a meeting to begin forming a solid working relationship with both leaders.



A second NIMS 700 training class was held on November 15th with Mayor Jack Swan as the instructor. We are looking to continue with these classes and will probably enlist the aid and support of outside sources where available.

Single Family Rehabilitation



The Single Family Rehabilitation Program being operated for thirteen (13) communities under SSMMA, has now received its Notice To Proceed from Cook County. We are finalizing the legal documents to begin rehabilitation on the first four projects. Bids have been received, reviewed and signed off by the homeowners and everyone is ready to begin.

Having successfully completed this process, we are now beginning to put together the next set of potential rehabilitation clients. The list will be reviewed and intake information will be taken to determine eligibility and to continue on with the program.

SSMMA has submitted a CDBG application request for funding for Program Year 2009 to provide funds for the salaries, professional costs, overhead and other incidental costs associated with the program.

Digital TV Conversion & E-Waste

With the upcoming digital TV conversion, televisions are becoming a growing part of our e-waste problem. Electronic circuit boards, batteries and color cathode ray tubes (CRTs) may contain hazardous materials such as lead and mercury, which, if improperly handled or disposed of, can release toxins into the environment through our landfills.

Televisions can be recycled at the following locations.

Office Depot

These locations accept small televisions as a part of the Tech Box Recycling Program. The Tech Box Recycling service costs just \$5, \$10, or \$15 per box, which includes shipping, handling, and recycling. All boxes are made using 100% recycled cardboard.

Calumet City
(708) 862-4900
1370 Torrence

Frankfort
(815) 806-8661
11145 West Lincoln Highway

Best Buy

A \$10 recycling fee per unit will be charged. Recyclers will instantly receive a \$10 Best Buy gift card in exchange for the recycling fee. Check with your local Best Buy Store to see if they participate. The location listed below is a confirmed participant.

Homewood
17800 Halsted St.
(708) 957-9348
Televisions up to 32"

Intercon Solutions

Intercon Solutions charges a small service fee depending on the size of the item. Call for fee charge and drop-off date.

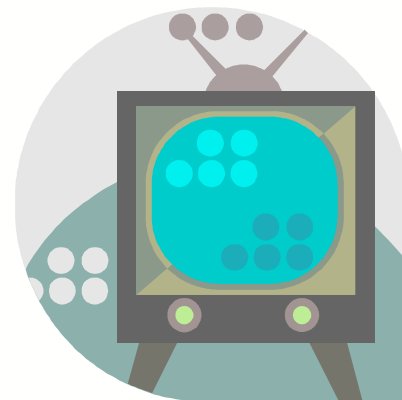
Chicago Heights
1001-59 Washington St.
(708) 756-9838

Kankakee Public Works

401 W. Oak Street
(815) 933-0444
Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday
8 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Bradley Public Works

210 E. Broadway Street
(815) 933-0444
Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday
8 a.m. – 3 p.m.



Will County Residents Only

Residential Electronic Recycling/Televisions

Washington Township/Beecher
30200 Town Center Road
(off Indiana Ave, 1 mile E. of Dixie Hwy)
(815) 727-8834
Tuesday and Thursday: 9:00 a.m.—3 p.m.
2nd Saturday: 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Sugar Creek Administrative Center
17540 Laraway Rd, Joliet
(between Rt. 52 & Rt. 53)
(815) 727-8834
Monday - Friday 7:30am - 3:30pm



Annual Springfield Legislative Trip

This year's annual SSMMA Legislative Trip to Springfield, in conjunction with the Illinois Municipal League, will be held on April 22, 2009. We use this trip to educate our legislators, as well as representatives of the Governor's office and various state agencies, on our legislative priorities.

We encourage all communities to participate. Information has been sent to all Mayors and Village Managers, but to obtain additional information please contact Ed Paesel at (708) 206-1155.

Southland Business Retention & Expansion Partnership

Although manufacturing jobs in the United States and in the southern suburbs have declined over the past couple decades, manufacturing remains an important sector of our south suburban economy. This is especially true in the metal working, chemical and food processing industries which provide the most manufacturing jobs in our region.

It is critical in this difficult economic time that our region do all that we can to support our existing manufacturers and their tens of thousand of jobs by helping these companies compete in the global economy. As we know, many manufacturing jobs have been lost overseas. There is now evidence that companies have recognized there are costs to extremely long supply chains and some manufacturing jobs are coming back to the Midwest.

To that end, the Chicago Southland Economic Development Corporation, ComEd, the regional Community Colleges, GSU, and the Chicago Southland Chamber of Commerce have formed a partnership to determine how regional agencies can assist our manufacturing firms, the Southland Business Retention and Expansion Partnership. Working with municipal Mayors and other elected officials, as well as community economic development professionals, the team will do site visits to the top manufacturing firms in each of these sectors: metal working, chemicals and food processing.

The visiting teams will discuss what each company feels are the constraints to growth in our region and what services would assist them in growing and expanding into new markets. By learning in more detail the type of products each firm produces and what supply chains they participate in, the Partnership will also help our business recruitment efforts in seeking to bring new businesses to our region. The partners in our Southland BRE Partnership will use the information gleaned from our visits to enhance workforce training programs to upgrade skills of employees as determined by the manufacturer, provide access to public-private financing programs, and invest in regional transportation and rail services.

Another aspect of the visits will be to determine if our existing firms have the capability or interest in exploring opportunities to supply products in the emerging "green" technology field for wind, solar and other alternative energy areas. There seems to be a particular opportunity to create manufacturing jobs building the large wind turbines to power T. Boone Pickens' images of the great U.S. Wind Corridor. Obviously, this will be an area of tremendous job growth potential in the coming years and it is critical that our manufacturing firms that already provide similar products to existing industries take full advantage of this emerging and growing industry.

While we have a comprehensive list of south suburban manufacturing firms, we would welcome any manufacturers reading this article and potentially interested in participating in this effort, to contact Reggie Greenwood at (708) 922-4671. Mr. Greenwood is the Project Coordinator and Director of Economic Development for the South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association.



South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association(SSMMA)/Illinois Finance Authority(IFA) Volume Cap Pool



Attention home-rule communities! The goal of the SSMMA/IFA Volume Cap Pool is to keep any unused Industrial Revenue Bond (IRB) allocation in the southern suburbs in order to foster economic development in the region. For 2009 the total amount of Volume Cap available for use for Industrial Revenue Bonds to our members is \$41,990,760.

Unfortunately, due to the combination of the credit crisis that paralyzed the banking industry in the last half of 2008 and the prolonged recession, the demand for Industrial Revenue Bonds was virtually non-existent last year. As in years past, IFA allocated the unused 2008 Volume Cap as "Carryforward Volume Cap".

Per IRS regulations, Carryforward Volume Cap may be used for up to three additional calendar years to issue Affordable Rental Housing Bonds. Potential projects for this designated purpose include multifamily and senior affordable housing developments. Currently the pool still has \$9.9 million in 2006-2008 Carryforward Volume Cap that is available for use with Affordable Rental Housing Bonds.

If you are a home-rule community, please consider ceding your unused volume cap for 2009 to our pool. The more unused volume cap we have ceded to the pool, the better the chances we have of attracting some substantial investors. Ideally, we would like to use the 2009 pool to finance qualified industrial projects within our region before the end of the year. If we are unable to produce any viable projects, we will once again carry the pool forward. Historically, home rule communities that ceded their Volume Cap to the pool received 1% of the amount ceded upon use for either Industrial Revenue Bonds or Affordable Rental Housing Bonds. Information on how to go about ceding to the pool will be mailed out in early March. The deadline to cede is April 30, 2009. In the meantime, if you have any questions regarding the Volume Cap Pool, Industrial Revenue Bonds or Affordable Rental Housing Bonds, or know of potential qualifying projects, please contact Eileen Santschi at (708) 922-4676.



DIVERSITY, INC. NEWS



Partnerships Pay Off Harris Bank and the Federal Reserve Work with Diversity, Inc.

Diversity, Inc. is providing services that we have previously been unable to according to Joe Martin, Executive Director of Diversity, Inc. Last year we worked with the Regional Fair Housing Center to bring to the area much need "Homeownership Preservation Seminars". We also partnered with the Illinois State Treasurer's Office on Mortgage Foreclosure Prevention efforts.

This year we will present a one-day seminar, in cooperation with Harris Bank and the Federal Reserve Bank on April 25th at the offices of Diversity, Inc., 1906 W. 174th Street, East Hazel Crest. The Federal Reserve will assist by making available representatives from both banks, as well as bank servicers to assist distressed homeowners.

More information will be become available as the details are worked out.

Section 8 Housing Still Concentrated; Diversity, Inc. to Try Another Approach

Diversity, Inc. is joining with the Housing Choice Partners of Illinois Inc. to offer mobility counseling in the southern suburbs. The Program will target families that already have a Housing Assistance Voucher and are residing in the southern Cook County area. These families, invited to mobility counseling prior to renewing their existing lease, will receive information on such things as employment opportunities, school statistics, low crime/low poverty communities, housing search assistance, visits to potential dwellings and the importance of credit reports. Participant will also learn housekeeping tips and home care planning. The most important thing they learn is that housing is available in areas with greater opportunities. Counselors stress the importance of how to approach your prospective property owner; how to recognize discrimination and tenant's rights and property owner's responsibilities.

Diversity, Inc. is scheduling HCP's counselors to be available on the third Thursday of the month from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. at Diversity, Inc., 1906 W. 174th Street in East Hazel Crest. The program will begin in March.

If you have any questions please contact Joe Martin at (708) 206-1204 or joseph.martin@ssmma.org.



Fostering Transit Oriented Development in Chicago's South Suburbs

This report presents the preliminary findings of the Center for Neighborhood Technology's (CNT) Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Selector Analysis for the 33 Metra stations in Chicago's south suburbs. CNT has partnered with South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association (SSMMA) and consulted with the Metropolitan Planning Council (MPC), the Urban Land Institute (ULI) and the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) to complete this TOD analysis so as to develop an objective assessment about the current state of and potential for further TOD in the Southland.

The goal of this project is to build TOD at the most intense level consistent with local community desires and market demand. Such development will increase the supply of quality mixed-income housing, revitalize local commercial districts, generate a significant number of jobs, build the local tax base, increase transit usage, create viable alternatives to automobile use, and so improve the quality of life and the natural environment in the southern suburbs in particular and the metropolitan area in general.

Optimum TOD in the south suburbs will be more readily achieved if the public agencies, local governments and not-for-profit organizations that are working to bring it about share a common vision and strategy. To provide part of the empirical basis for this strategy, the Center for Neighborhood Technology (CNT) has performed the following analysis of base line conditions and opportunities for TOD in the south suburbs.

The Selector Analysis Approach

CNT introduced its Selector Analysis tool in 2003 and has been refining it over the last five years in collaboration with its partners at the Center for Transit Oriented Development, Reconnecting America and Strategic Economics, and through its pilot projects in metropolitan Chicago and other cities. The Selector Analysis relies on a GIS-based statistical tool that calibrates different variables such as level of transit service and usage, land use, socioeconomic data, housing characteristics and market potential to describe an "ideal" development type, in this case different TOD typologies. The ideal for each TOD type is derived by tailoring similar TOD typologies discussed in the planning literature to conditions of the built environment in the south suburbs. When applied to individual station areas, the TOD Selector rank orders stations based upon how well each one matches the criteria of the TOD type against which it is compared from the perspective of both existing conditions as well as prospective development potential.

For example, a Town Center TOD that serves as the commercial center of a suburban town is typically characterized by high levels of transit service and transit ridership, fairly dense residential development, a varied mix of retail and service businesses, and a higher than usual amount of pedestrian traffic. A station area would rate highly in a Selector Analysis geared to a suburban downtown TOD if it currently incorporates all of these characteristics or excels in some and moderately in others. Similarly, a station area could be deemed a good prospect for developing as this type of TOD if the potential exists for putting these fundamental features in place.

A Selector Analysis necessarily includes three elements:

- Data variables that describe the critical characteristics associated with development and redevelopment;
- A typology representing points along the development spectrum that vary by scale, density, mix of uses and the requisite community characteristics necessary to support each category of development; and
- Comparison areas to be considered.

Variables: Characteristics That Shape TOD

This analysis uses 38 variables for which public data are available to describe characteristics of the ideal typologies as well as actual conditions surrounding each of the station areas. These variables are organized into five categories that provide indications of:

- o Levels of Transit Service and Usage
- o Land Use and Scale of Developable Land
- o Demographics
- o Housing Characteristics
- o Retail/Service Business Sector

The 38 variables are summarized in the "TOD Selector Analysis Variables and Typologies Summary" chart, which also shows how these variables apply to the fit of a particular station to each of the three TOD typologies, whether from the perspective of existing conditions or development potential.

Our report will be on line at the end of February. www.chicagosouthlandedc.org

SAVE THE DATE

SOUTH SUBURBAN MAYORS AND MANAGERS ASSOCIATION

**30TH ANNUAL GOLF OUTING
FRIDAY, JULY 17, 2008**

**LINCOLNSHIRE COUNTRY CLUB/
LINCOLN OAKS GOLF COURSE
CRETE, ILLINOIS**



IMET FUND PROVIDES SAFETY, LIQUIDITY, AND YIELD

You may have read more than a few articles recently related to liquidity issues, mortgage foreclosures, and other market meltdowns. In response, we would like to provide an assurance to IMET members that IMET is not at risk in either of IMET's investment portfolios. We continue to provide a safe alternative amid this market volatility and uncertainty swirling around the sub-prime lending issues and financial company failures. We often see our 1-3 Year Fund perform strongly during periods of "flight to quality" market reactions as Treasury and Agency prices increase in response to demand. This is evidenced by our strong returns for the month of December.

IMET's 1-3 Year Fund has performed exceptionally well over the last 12 months providing a net return to IMET members of **6.36%** for the latest one-year period ending December 31, 2008. IMET's Convenience Fund has provided a strong return over the last 12 months as well with a net return to IMET members of **2.10%** for the latest one-year period ending December 31, 2008.

Rest assured that IMET's 1-3 Year Fund investments are exclusively in U.S. government-backed securities including Treasuries, Agencies, and Agency mortgage backed securities. IMET is proud to maintain a triple A rating from Standard & Poor's rating service, and we will continue to offer our members the highest level of safety and liquidity to meet member's investment needs.

IMET's Convenience Fund is fully collateralized at 110% and is indexed to the Fed Funds rate. The Convenience Fund collateral consists of U.S. Government Securities with a market value of over 110% of the fund, and because of its stability, one-day liquidity, and safety it remains a very good investment option for a diverse investment portfolio.

Important Dates

March 3	Transportation Committee Meeting (South Chicago Heights Village Hall)
March 12	Public Safety Committee Meeting (Association Offices)
March 17	Diversity, Inc. Meeting (Association Offices)
March 19	SSMMA Dinner Meeting (Scrementi's Contempo Banquets, 104 W. Sauk Trail, South Chicago Heights) - Associate Member Appreciation
March 26	Public Works Advisory Committee (Association Offices)
APRIL	Fair Housing Month
April 9	Public Safety Committee Meeting (Association Offices)
April 14	Transportation Committee Meeting (South Chicago Heights Village Hall)
April 16	SSMMA Business Meeting (Association Offices)
April 23	Public Works Advisory Committee (Association Offices)
May 5	Transportation Committee Meeting (South Chicago Heights Village Hall)
May 14	Public Safety Committee Meeting (Association Offices)
May 19	Diversity, Inc. Meeting (Association Offices)
May 21	SSMMA Dinner Meeting (Glenwood Oaks Restaurant, 106 N. Main, Glenwood, IL) Election of 2009-10 Officers
May 25	SSMMA Offices Closed (Memorial Day Holiday)
May 28	Public Works Advisory Committee (Association Offices)

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

SSMMATTERINGS Editor: Rita Kueny

Printed on recycled paper

April is Fair Housing
Month



Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit #185
Homewood, IL 60430

South Suburban Mayors & Managers Association
1904 W. 174th Street
East Hazel Crest, IL 60429