



**Southwest Missouri
Council of Governments**

2015 Annual Report

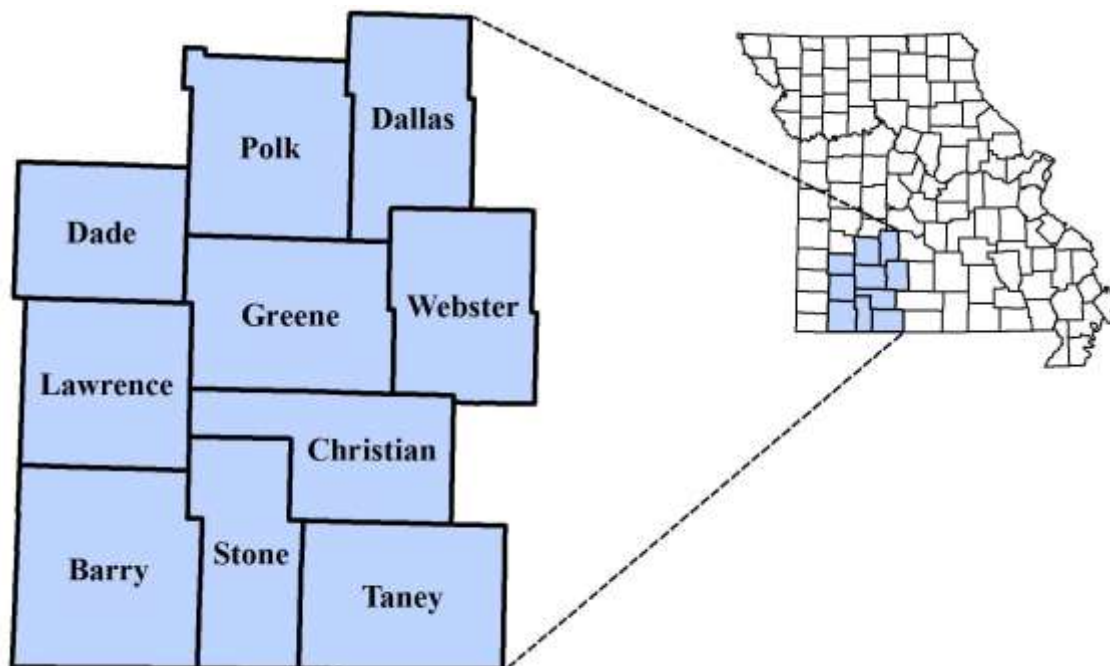
December 2015

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SMCOG Overview

The Southwest Missouri Council of Governments (SMCOG) is a voluntary organization of local governments serving the counties of Barry, Christian, Dade, Dallas, Greene, Lawrence, Polk, Stone, Taney and Webster in southwest Missouri. Organized in 1989 pursuant to Chapter 251 of the Revised Statutes of Missouri, SMCOG is one of the State's active regional planning commissions.



Mission and Governance

Regional planning commissions are extensions of local government, bringing together communities and resources to address issues of mutual concern as well as local needs. Missouri's regional planning commissions are each tailored to meet the needs of the local governments and communities they serve. Missouri's regional planning commissions also work together through a state association, the Missouri Association of Councils of Government, to share experiences and find ways to better serve our local constituencies.

SMCOG'S MISSION

***ENHANCING THE QUALITY OF OUR COMMUNITIES THROUGH
REGIONAL COOPERATION***

We Achieve This By:

**Providing staff expertise in planning and community development
Creating networking opportunities to address issues of common concern
Assisting governments in accessing resources
Advocating for Southwest Missouri**

SMCOG is governed by a Board of Directors with representatives from each member local government and citizens representing private sector business and other public service organizations. The Board directs SMCOG's mission and establishes policy guidance for the organization's operations and services. The Board's Executive Committee is responsible for conducting business on behalf of the Board of Directors as may be necessary.

SMCOG has been administered through a unique public/public sector partnership with Missouri State University's Center for Resource Planning and Management since its organization in 1989. The University provides for staffing, administrative services and program delivery on behalf of SMCOG.

Funding for SMCOG's operation and program delivery comes from a variety of sources. City and county members contribute annual dues and some planning funds are provided by state and federal government grants. SMCOG also receives funding from local, state and federal governments for contract services provided to individual communities and the region.

Services

SMCOG serves as a forum for local elected officials and community stakeholders to discuss issues of common concern. The Council provides for coordination of programs addressing issues and needs that cross political boundaries and that are of regional significance, such as economic development, transportation, and emergency management. SMCOG provides staff support that

enables its members to access technical assistance, grant writing and administration, research, planning services, and linkages to funding and other resources for local project needs. Services available through SMCOG include:

Technical Assistance Services	Information Services
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grant writing and administration • Comprehensive plan development and updates • Specialty planning studies • Subdivision ordinances • Zoning regulations • Community surveys • Geographic Information Systems and custom mapping • Transportation Planning • Parking studies, Traffic counts • Hazard mitigation planning • Economic development planning • Environmental assessments • Benefit-cost analysis • Homeland security regionalization services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State Census Data Center affiliate-provide census data and specialty reports • Workshops and training sessions on topics of local/regional interest and state and federal programs • Disseminate information on federal and state programs and funding opportunities • Planning & Zoning Commission training sessions • Data gathering and research • Planning library • Research on prospective funding for local projects • Other services available on request

2015 Program Highlights

Community and Economic Development

Marshfield Senior Center

During the prior year, a \$250,000 Community Development Block Grant application and a Neighborhood Assistance Program (NAP) tax credits application were prepared by SMCOG for the construction of a new Marshfield Senior Center. Both applications were

approved and SMCOG is providing CDBG administration services for the project. Release of Funding for the project is scheduled for July 2015.



Future Site of the Marshfield Senior Center

Chadwick R-1 Early Childhood Education Center

During FY2014 SMCOG also assisted the Chadwick R-1 School District with their Community Development Block Grant Start Smart application for the building of a new early childhood education center. The project received a \$937,500 CDBG award from the Missouri Department of Economic Development in August 2014 and SMCOG was selected to provide administration services for the project. The Release of Funds for the project was issued by MoDED in March 2015 and construction is scheduled to start in July.



Future site of the Chadwick R-1 Early Childhood Learning Center

Hidden Waters Nature Park Visitor Center

An application for Neighborhood Assistance Program (NAP) tax credits through the Missouri Department of Economic Development was prepared by SMCOG during the year for the Friends of Hidden Waters Inc., located in Marshfield. The proposed project is the purchase and renovation of a residence to convert it to an education and visitors center for Hidden Waters Nature Park. The tax credit request was for \$131,855; an award decision on this application is expected in FY2016.

Economic Development Planning

SMCOG provides technical and advisory assistance on economic development planning to its member communities and area organizations. During the year some of the activities undertaken in support of promoting economic development opportunities in the region included:

- SMCOG continued its agreement with the Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce to collect field data, 3 times per year for the Cost of Living Index Price Reports which in turn the Chamber provides to the National Council for Community & Economic Research. This information is used to attract new residents and businesses to the area.
- SMCOG continued a working partnership with the Ozarks Workforce Investment Board and staff is a member of the WIB's Planning and Oversight Committee.
- SMCOG routinely distributed information via email to the membership on funding opportunities, program changes and training/educational opportunities related to economic and community development.
- SMCOG maintained and actively participated in the Missouri Association of Council of Governments (MACOG) to support all economic development efforts and legislation.
- SMCOG maintained and actively participated in the Missouri Economic Development Council (MEDC) which provides information, training and networking to economic development professionals.

Homeland Security Regionalization

SMCOG serves as the administrative and fiscal agent for the Region D Homeland Security Regionalization Program for the 18 counties of Barry, Barton, Cedar, Christian, Dade, Dallas, Greene, Hickory, Jasper, Lawrence, McDonald, Newton, Polk, St. Clair, Stone, Taney, Vernon, and Webster. SMCOG continues to provide administrative services to the Region D RHSOC and procurement services for the Homeland Security Regional Grants awarded to jurisdictions in Region D.

The FY12 Homeland Security Regionalization Grant of \$230,392.00 was closed out at the end of August, 2014. During the majority of the year, activity focused on FY13 grant procurement which will be completed in August 2015. The Region D FY14 Grant award in the amount of \$504,936 was received in September 2014 with procurement of services for regional jurisdictions starting in December.

The FY14 projects are similar to those funded through the FY13 Regional Grant: to continue communications sustainment; Chemical, Bomb, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosive (CBRNE) sustainment; and Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), Incident Support Team and Structural Collapse training. The RHSOC met several times throughout the year to discuss various issues within the Region and the State, be advised of the purchasing status, re-appropriate funding and determine the projects for the FY14 grant application.



Robot purchased for Bomb Squad responding to an event during year

The following table summarizes the Region D Homeland Security Regionalization Grant Program funds that have been allocated to the region and administered by SMCOG.

	SHSP Funding	Funds Remaining	Funds Expended	Percent Expended	M&A	Total Funding
FY06	\$1,645,383.37	-	\$1,645,383.37	100%	\$50,886.96	\$1,696,270.33
FY07	\$895,559.29	-	\$895,559.29	100%	\$27,697.71	\$923,257.00
FY08	\$1,085,240.90	-	\$1,085,240.90	100%	\$30,434.28	\$1,115,675.18
FY09	\$895,559.29	-	\$895,559.29	100%	\$27,643.13	\$923,202.42
FY10	\$842,666.97	-	\$842,666.97	100%	\$35,110.48	\$877,777.45
FY11	\$307,105.17	-	\$307,105.17	100%	\$12,796.05	\$319,901.22
FY12	\$221,176.85	-	\$221,176.85	100%	\$9,215.15	\$230,392.00
FY13	\$269,178.07	\$63,656.14	\$205,521.93	76%	\$14,094.35	\$219,616.28
FY14	\$479,689.57	\$263,428.03	\$216,261.54	45%	\$5,696.95	\$221,958.49
Totals	\$6,641,559.48	\$327,084.17	\$6,314,475.31		\$213,575.06	\$6,528,050.37

Transportation Planning Program

SMCOG’s transportation planning program is conducted through a cooperative agreement with the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT). Each year SMCOG provides transportation planning coordination for the areas within its ten-county area outside of the Springfield metropolitan area which is served by the Ozarks Transportation Organization. The transportation planning program conducted by SMCOG includes the development and maintenance of the jurisdiction’s regional transportation plan, identification and prioritization of transportation system needs, coordination with MoDOT and dissemination of information on transportation issues to the SMCOG membership, and technical and advisory assistance to local governments. Work program activities completed during FY15 are listed below.

Regional Transportation Plan

- The TAC prioritized and approved the Multi-Modal Transportation Needs list for inclusion in the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP).
- The TAC approved updated goals and objectives including infrastructure resilience which were incorporated into the RTP.
- Updated census data and maps depicting shared tracker information including signalized intersections, functional classification, and bridge and road conditions were incorporated into the RTP.

Planning Support Activities

- Participated in Planning Partners meetings for the Southwest District.
- Participated in Statewide Planning meeting.
- SMCOG staff facilitated Board/TAC meetings where members were informed of the pertinent federal and state legislation dealing with transportation issues and services including initiative petitions and ballot measures.
- Met with County/City officials in the SMCOG area to develop applications for potential TAP and LWCF projects.
- Staff provided information to TAC members and the public on projects to be funded by the proposed Amendment 7 Transportation Sales Tax.
- Staff attended meetings with communities and MoDOT to gather public input on possible transportation solutions.
- Developed a proposal and scope of work for and economic development/transportation study along US 60 in Webster County.

General Transportation Planning Activities

- Worked with the TAC and other local stakeholders to continue to provide information on MoDOT's transportation planning activities, including keeping the SMCOG board informed of regional issues such as the Missouri Freight Plan and Initiative Petition.
- Worked with the OTO on the LCB (Local Coordination Board) and the BPAC (Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee) and attended Technical Committee meetings.
- Attended ADA transition roundtable at the Springfield/Branson Regional Airport hosted by OTO and Ozarks Clean Air Alliance.
- Performed traffic counts in the City of Aurora.
- SMCOG informed member communities of MoDOT's programs and other Transportation funding opportunities such as TA, TEAP, and LWCF.
- Assisted communities in planning for interchange improvements with MoDOT, and advised communities on funding/financing options for local roads.

Hazard Mitigation Planning

Hazard mitigation planning is a proactive effort to assess risks and identify actions that can be undertaken to mitigate the impacts of disaster events on life and property. Federal statute requires that local governments develop and adopt hazard mitigation plans to be eligible for certain federal disaster mitigation funding programs and it is required that these plans be updated every five years. During the year, SMCOG submitted the Dade County Hazard Mitigation Plan to FEMA for approval and began the next round of five-year plan updates, commencing with the startup for updating the Webster County Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Financial Statement

Southwest Missouri Council of Governments
July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015

Revenues	
Project Revenue	\$ 116,667.50
SMCOG Membership Dues	\$ 30,485.00
Cash Receipts	\$ 6,041.20
Indirect Revenue	\$ 28,223.24
State Grants	\$ 10,157.43
Total Revenues	\$ 191,547.37
 Expenses	
Salaries & Wages-permanent FT	\$ 102,377.18
Fringe Benefits	\$ 35,476.38
Part-Time/Student Wages	\$ 25,373.18
Fringe Benefits	\$ 1,873.14
Total Personnel Expense	\$ 165,099.88
 <i>Operating Expenses</i>	
Equipment Purchase	\$ 1,505.90
Equipment Repair/Maintenance	\$ 316.00
Total Travel	\$ 7,036.58
Supplies	\$ 1,482.91
Printing, Binding & Photos	\$ 14.07
Advertising & Promotions	\$ 715.40
Telephone	\$ 3,395.70
Postage	\$ 326.20
Dues & Subscriptions	\$ 3,314.00
Facility Rental	\$ 70.00
Food Service & Supplies	\$ 548.18
Other Professional Services	\$ 4,568.70
Indirect Transfer to MSU	\$ 40,317.51
Sup-Income Revenue	\$ (5,000.00)
Total Operating Expenses	\$ 58,611.15
 Total Expenses	 \$ 223,711.03
Interfund Transfers	\$ (800.00)
Fiscal Year Net Income/Loss	\$ (31,363.66)

Board of Directors
Southwest Missouri Council of Governments
2014-2015

Chair – Brian Bingle
Vice-Chair – Steve Childers
Secretary/Treasurer – Cindy Stephens

Barry County

Cherry Warren, Presiding Commissioner
John Tiedeman, Mayor, Washburn

Christian County

Todd Wiesehan, Commission Representative
Chris Hopkins, Treasurer, Billings
Ed Westerman, Board Representative, Clever
Tom Tobin, Mayor, Fremont Hills
Brian Bingle, City Administrator, Nixa
Steve Childers, City Administrator, Ozark

Dade County

Randy Daniel, Presiding Commissioner
Homer Ellis, Mayor, Lockwood

Dallas County

Rex "Pete" Barclay, Commissioner

Green e County

Chris Coulter, Resource Mgmt Dir., Greene County
Jan Lehmkuhl, Mayor, Ash Grove
Dana Louderbaugh, City Clerk, Fair Grove
Gail Noggle, Plng & Development Dir., Republic
Steve Bodenhamer, City Administrator, Strafford
J. Everett Mitchell, City Administrator, Willard

Lawrence County

Mike Randall, City Administrator, Aurora
Doris Rapp, Mayor, Marionville
Max Springer, City Administrator, Mt. Vernon
Julie Ruscha, City Clerk, Verona

Polk County

Denzil Roberts, Presiding Commissioner
Darrin K. Chappell, City Administrator, Bolivar
Richard Harralson, Mayor, Pleasant Hope

Stone County

Dennis Wood, Presiding Commissioner
Jerry Kerns, Chairman, Blue Eye
Ken Smith, City Administrator, Branson West
Collin Brannan, Mayor, Crane
Dan Cline, Chairman, Indian Point

Taney County

Ron Houseman, Presiding Commissioner
Garrett Anderson, Economic Development Dir., Branson
Eddie Coleman, Mayor, Forsyth
Rick Ziegenfuss, City Administrator, Hollister
Harriet Leenerts, Rockaway Beach

Webster County

Stan Whitehurst, County Clerk
Sam Rost, City Administrator, Marshfield
Nancy Edson, City Administrator, Rogersville

Non-Government Representatives

Chris Berndt, Southwest MO Emergency Support Org.
Lisa Bernet, Bernet Investments
Brian Daugherty, Mid-Missouri Bank
Dwayne Falk, O'Bannon Bank
J. Howard Fisk, J. Howard Fisk Limousines
Michelle Garand, Community Partnership of the Ozarks
Starr Kohler, Southwest Missouri Office on Aging
Allen Kunkel, Missouri State University
Yolanda Lorge, Grupo Latinoamericano
Cy Murray, White River Valley Electric
Jeff Seifried, Springfield Regional Economic Partnership
Cindy Stephens, Ozarks Technical Community College

Executive Committee

Brian Bingle, Chair
Steve Childers, Vice-Chair
Cindy Stephens, Secretary/Treasurer
Chris Coulter
Steve Bodenhamer
Pete "Rex" Barclay
Starr Kohler
Allen Kunkel

**Transportation Advisory Committee
2014-2015**

Dennis Wood, Chair
Todd Wiesehan, Vice-Chair

Barry County

Dayton Mackey
Cherry Warren

Christian County

Todd Wiesehan
Mike Younker

Dade County

Randy Daniel
Bob Jackson

Dallas County

Rex "Pete" Barclay
Kenneth Bacon

Greene County

J. Howard Fisk
Joel Keller

Lawrence County

Dan Broyles
Max Springer

Polk County

Rick Davis
Tracy Slagle

Stone County

Collin Brannan
Dennis Wood

Taney County

David Miller
Buddy Roberts

Webster County

Nancy Edson
Stan Whitehurst

Region D Homeland Security Oversight Committee 2014-2015

Chair, Rance Duffy

Discipline	Primary	1st Alternate
Emergency Management	Bill Sexton	Ted Martin
Police	Matt Stewart	Steve Lisby
County Sheriff	Randee Kaiser	Mike Hall
Fire	David Hall	Michael White
County Health	Jeanne Beas	Kermit Hargis
HSRRS	Chris Berndt	Travis Trent
Public Works	Ron Bailey	Eric Walters
Mayor/City Administrator	Rick Hess	Bob Stephens
County Commissioner	Randy Daniel	Dennis Wood
Industry/LEPC	Ryan Martin	Gregg Sweeten
Utilities	Tim McCracken	Kavan Stull
EMS	Bob Patterson	David Compton
911	Bonnie Witt-Schulte	Lori Sneed
Volunteer Groups	Greg Gaines	Linda Barger
Schools	Curtis Chesick	Darrell Rader
Agriculture	Michael Pfander	Mark Sconce
Hospitals	Russ Conroy	Morgan Young

SMCOG Staff

Diane May, Executive Director
Jane Hood, Associate Director
Dave Faucett, Community Planner
Jason Ray, Planner
Dorothy Wittorff-Sandgren, Community Development Coordinator
Shuo-Sheng Wu, Geospatial Information Technician

Visit our websites for information on programs and services, upcoming meetings, current news items, regional data and contact information for SMCOG members.

SMCOG Website

<http://smcog.missouristate.edu>

Region D Homeland Security Oversight Committee (RHSOC) Website

<http://rhsoc-d.missouristate.edu>

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