



BAY-LAKE

REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Brown•Door•Florence•Kewaunee•Manitowoc•Marinette•Oconto•Sheboygan



Serving Northeast Wisconsin since 1972

A Regional Center of Excellence (*National Association of Regional Councils, 2009*)

E-Newsletter

January 2013

EMSI Analyst

Commission staff has recently finished training on Economic Modeling Specialist International (EMSI) software. This software is a comprehensive web-based tool that puts in-depth, local employment data and analysis in the hands of local economic and community development practitioners that enables them to make clear, data-driven decisions. Analyst draws on EMSI's labor market data that is used by hundreds of organizations across the United States for business attraction site searches, strategic public investments in infrastructure and training, and long-term economic planning. The data is automatically updated four times a year, so users can be assured the information they are accessing is current and relevant to their region of analysis.



The Commission is working with staff from the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation to schedule EMSI software trainings for local economic development practitioners during the month of February.

In the meantime, Commission staff is accepting requests for information utilizing EMSI software, so please contact [Richard Heath](#) for more information.

An Economic Development District & Metropolitan Planning Organization serving Northeast Wisconsin for over 40 years.

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Draft 2013 - 2016 Sheboygan Metropolitan Planning Area Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Available for Public Review

The draft 2013 - 2016 Sheboygan Metropolitan Planning Area Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) has been released for a 30 day public comment period that runs through February 27, 2013. The TIP contains a program of transit operational funding and capital projects, elderly and disabled transportation operating expenses and capital projects, bicycle and pedestrian transportation projects, and street and highway improvement projects which are eligible for federal funds in calendar years

ANNOUNCEMENTS

February 13-15, 2013
WLIA Annual Conference,

2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016. An air quality conformity analysis is also included as part of the TIP. The *2013 - 2016 TIP* implements the update to the *Year 2035 Sheboygan Area Transportation Plan (SATP)*. Copies of the draft *2013 - 2016 TIP* have been distributed to five locations in the Sheboygan area for public review through February 27, 2013. In addition, the draft *2013 - 2016 TIP* can be accessed [here](#).

A public hearing on the draft *2013 - 2016 TIP* is scheduled for February 12, 2013. The Sheboygan MPO Technical and Policy Advisory Committees are scheduled to review and recommend approval of the *2013 - 2016 TIP* to the Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission on February 21, 2013. The Commission will be taking action on the *2013 - 2016 TIP* at a meeting of its Executive Committee on February 27, 2013.

For additional information regarding the *2013 - 2016 TIP*, please contact [Jeff Agee-Aguayo](#).

Legislation to Address Harbor Dredging Needs

Recent legislation in Congress aims to permanently fix the nation's dysfunctional funding program to maintain ports and harbors. Once enacted, the Realize America's Maritime Promise (RAMP) Act, H.R. 335, will immediately help to put Americans to work on improving ports and harbors, while representing a long-term investment to enhance both the nation's and the region's global economic competitiveness.

The Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund was created in 1986 to establish a dedicated funding source for dredging and other required maintenance of the nation's coastal harbors. Cargo vessels are assessed a user fee on imported and domestic cargo arriving at U.S. ports and harbors. Recent annual revenue from these fees has totaled about \$1.5 billion, but only about half of that amount has been spent on its intended purpose. This trend has led to inadequate dredging of harbors and ports, which forces ships to carry lighter cargo loads and increases the cost per ton to move cargo. As the Great Lakes water levels reach historic lows, this problem has been exacerbated and hindered job creation, economic growth and competitiveness.

The President's FFY 2013 budget includes \$31 million for dredging Great Lakes harbors but the federal government estimates that about twice this amount is needed in this year alone. Further, the total backlog of dredging needs for Great Lakes harbors totals approximately \$200 million. Failure to address these needs jeopardizes our region's ports, particularly smaller ports that provide the livelihood of many smaller cities and towns.



This legislation will ensure that all funds deposited into the trust fund in a given fiscal year are fully expended. A broad, national coalition supports this long-term solution to more closely tie trust fund expenditures to revenues, maintain the nation's ports and

Lake Geneva, WI

February 27, 2013, 10AM
Commission Executive
Committee Meeting
(teleconference)

March 5th & 6th, 2013
Fox-Wolf Watershed
Alliance 14th Annual
Conference, Neenah, WI

March 8, 2013, 10AM
Full Commission Meeting,
Green Bay

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harbors, and bolster the American economy.

(Source: Adapted from a press release by the Council of Great Lakes Governors)

Available Grant Opportunities



The following is a list of upcoming grant opportunities and their due dates. Please contact the [Commission](#) if you need assistance with preparing or administering a grant, or if you are interested in partnering with the Commission on a project.

- [Urban Waters Restoration Program](#), February 7, 2013
- [Sustain Our Great Lakes](#), February 14, 2013
- [The Joyce Foundation](#), February 25, 2013
- [NOAA Great Lakes Habitat Restoration Project Funding](#), February 27, 2013
- [Freshwater Future - Climate Grant Program](#), June 3, 2013

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