

ECICOG EXPRESS

SERVING LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN BENTON, IOWA, JONES, JOHNSON, LINN AND WASHINGTON COUNTIES FOR MORE THAN 30 YEARS

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



Emphasizing the community spirit of the project, future patrons of the Parkside Activities Center participate in the groundbreaking ceremony.

Wellman breaks ground with additional IDED funding

When the City of Wellman first received CDBG funding for a new day care center in 2005, the plan was a single-purpose, stand alone facility. But through local initiatives, the day care center became one function of a larger community center, the Wellman Parkside Activities Center, which also will include meeting capacity for 300 and the community's first fitness center.

In addition to \$338,175 CDBG funding, the project had also secured \$800,000 from the Community Attractions and Tourism program and a \$2 million grant from the Washington County Riverboat Foundation. Yet, in spite of this impressive effort, the winning construction bid of \$4.8 million left the project short.

With assistance from ECICOG, the City of Wellman was able to negotiate \$100,000 in supplemental CDBG funding to support the increased costs for the day care portion of the project. This additional funding allowed the project to move forward, and a groundbreaking ceremony was held on May 22, 2008.

ECICOG congratulates the community of Wellman as it begins to make this long-held community dream a reality.

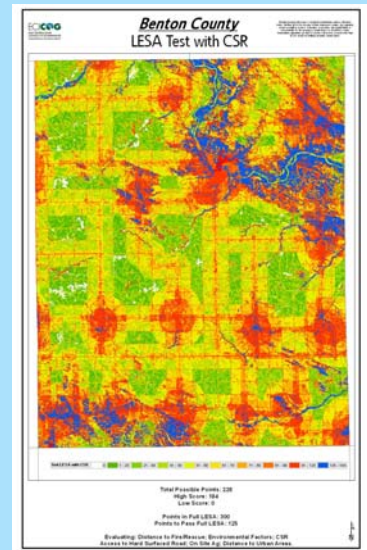
GIS Services at ECICOG

Earlier this spring, ECICOG added Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to the array of services we provide to our member governments. Since January, ECICOG's member governments have used GIS to create a LESA base map (pictured), update zoning maps, study annexation areas, map and locate addresses for grant applications, and delineate land use areas.

In Benton County, GIS has helped evaluate the proposed LESA model to determine if the scoring mechanism suggested is appropriate for the County. Additionally, the GIS base layer created by ECICOG provides developers and decision makers with a tool that can both guide land use decisions and facilitate the application evaluation process. The LESA base GIS layer provides a preliminary score to all areas within Benton County, meaning that determining the full LESA score using development specific information will be less time consuming for County staff.

Smaller projects include land use maps for an annexation study to assist city staff in determining what nearby unincorporated areas could be served by city infrastructure, as well as flood zone and address mapping for grant applications processed by ECICOG.

GIS is also assisting the Hazard Mitigation Plans by spatially identifying a variety of risks, such as: areas prone to flooding; areas with steep slopes or unstable landforms; mapping pipelines, underground storage tanks, air permit facilities and manure management plans; population data such as density and age of residents.



Small city workshops

Once again, Iowa's Councils of Governments and the Iowa League of Cities (ILC) are partnering to present a statewide, educational workshop series for small communities. ECICOG, ILC, and the East Central Intergovernmental Association (ECIA), are cosponsoring the workshop in Mechanicsville, Iowa, on **June 10, 2008**. The workshop begins at 6:00 p.m., and will be held at the Memorial Building, 102 N. John Street.

Topics to be covered include conducting effective open meetings, small city budgeting, and an open time for questions and answers. Registration is \$20/person for ILC members and \$30/person for non-members. For more information, contact **Chad Sands** (ext. 27) at ECICOG.

ECICOG surveys city clerks

Based on member requests, ECICOG is investigating the benefit of facilitating regular meetings for city clerks in the six-county region. Among the purposes of such meetings would be to allow a regular, convenient opportunity for clerks to network and to address topics of shared interest in a timely manner.

As a first step in this pursuit, ECICOG recently distributed a brief survey to city clerks to gauge interest, determine preferred meeting times and locations, and to recruit individuals to help plan the program.

ECICOG requests that surveys be returned by **Friday, June 13, 2008**. Responses can be directed to emily.gesing@ecicog.org, or faxed or mailed to the ECICOG offices.

TRANSPORTATION

Mobility management centerpiece of forum

On May 7, 2008, more than eighty individuals participated in a community transportation forum held in Cedar Rapids. Representatives from local and state government, human service and transportation agencies, the private transportation industry, and interested citizens were among those attending. The meeting was organized and sponsored by the Human Services Transportation Advisory Committee, a body advising the Region 10 Regional Planning Affiliation, the Corridor MPO, and the United Way of East Central Iowa. Some members of the advisory committee also participated in a day-long training session on May 6, in preparation for the forum.

The primary focus of both the training and the forum was mobility management and how it might be used to improve transportation coordination in the region. Mobility management is a strategic approach to managing transportation resources that emphasizes moving people instead of vehicles. It also takes into account the discrete travel needs of individual consumers and making visible improvements to the effectiveness, efficiency, and quality of the travel services delivered.

It was the consensus of those attending that the region should further investigate the benefits of mobility management. The Human Services Transportation Advisory Committee will meet in June to further review the results of the forum and consider possible implementation strategies. For more information, contact **Mary Rump** (ext. 28) at ECICOG.

STAFF NOTES

Hilary Copeland, ECICOG planner, recently won the American Institute of Certified Planners Outstanding Student Award for the University of Iowa. Copeland began part-time at ECICOG in January while finishing her MS in Urban and Regional Planning at the University of Iowa. Having graduated from the program in May, she is now working full-time. The ECICOG board of directors and staff congratulate her on this distinguished award.

Emily Gesing is completing a community development planning internship this summer at ECICOG. Gesing will be a senior at Bradley University in Peoria, Illinois, majoring in political science. During her internship, she'll assist with a variety of projects in housing and community development.

Calendar

- June 12** ECICOG Transit Operators Group, Johnson County SEATS, 2000 James Street, Coralville, 10:00 a.m.
- ECICOG SWTAC Meeting, Cedar Rapids/Linn County Solid Waste Agency Site #2, 1954 County Home Road, Marion, 1:00 p.m.
- June 26** ECICOG Board of Directors Meeting, ECICOG offices, 700 16th Street NE, Cedar Rapids, 1:00 p.m.
- Housing Fund for Linn County Board of Directors Meeting, ECICOG offices, 700 16th Street NE, Cedar Rapids, 4:30 p.m.
- July 4** ECICOG offices closed in observance of Independence Day holiday

The ECICOG Executive Committee traditionally meets in lieu of the Board of Directors to conduct the agency's business in the month of July. Authorization to meet and a meeting date will most likely be set at the June 26 Board of Directors meeting.

ECICOG was established in 1973 to promote regional cooperation and provide professional planning services to local governments in Benton, Iowa, Johnson, Jones, Linn and Washington Counties. ECICOG also provides solid waste planning services to Tama County and transportation planning services to Cedar County.

Members of the ECICOG

Board of Directors:

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Leo Cook	Don Magdefrau
Amy Correia	Charles Montross
Bill Daily	Randy Payne
Gary Edwards	David Plyman
Don Gray	Ed Raber
Dennis Hansen	Justin Shields
Pat Harney	David Vermedahl
Ann Hearn	Larry Wilson
Henry Herwig (Chair)	Linda Yoder

ECICOG Staff

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Doug Elliott, <i>Executive Director</i>	22
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COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
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Express is a bimonthly electronic publication of the East Central Iowa Council of Governments.