



PLAN NEWS

Volume 14, Issue 3

Fall 2009

2010 CENSUS

Now is the time to start planning for the 2010 Census. If you attended the Delaware County Fair and walked through the merchant's building you probably saw a display promoting the 2010 Census. During the Delaware County Fair DMMPC staff worked a booth giving out information and answering questions about the 2010 Census which will take place April 1 of next year. This time everyone will receive the short census form which is only ten easy questions. Information provided to the Census is completely confidential. Information gathered by the census is used by the Federal government to allocate over \$300 billion annually. The data are also used to plan transportation improvements, education, healthcare, social services and housing needs and for legislature redistricting. Businesses also use census data in determining where to locate and how to market. The census is easy, it's safe and it's important. An accurate census count is necessary for each community to receive their fair share of resources and investment. It is very important that everyone be counted. The goal of the 2010 Census is for every household to completely fill out the census form April 1, 2010 and return it immediately.

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CONGESTION MITIGATION AND AIR QUALITY (CMAQ)

In the past, CMAQ funds have been committed toward: 1) setting up the County's biodiesel fueling system, 2) constructing a portion of the White River Greenway Trail, 3) designing a portion of the White River Trail in Yorktown, 4) purchasing ten pieces of heavy equipment run on biodiesel for City and County, 4) purchasing 29 vehicles for local government to run on biodiesel, 5) purchasing 12 hybrid vehicles for local government, 6) purchasing a hybrid bus, and 7) constructing a sidewalk.

A new transportation CMAQ subcommittee will soon be considering what we want to include in a four-year CMAQ Program of Projects. They will develop a program of CMAQ improvements that reflect a wider range of options to upgrade air quality in Delaware County. Additional projects could include an air quality education program, signal system improvements, roundabouts, bicycle/pedestrian improvements, and other items.

TRANSIT VOUCHERS

Delaware County has disabled accessible transit service available 24 hours per day, 365 days per year at a cost of \$10 per trip using Eaton EMTs. The purpose of this service is to provide transit service for times when MITS Plus and the New Interurban are not available or for same day trips that normally would be denied. A transit grant was secured to offset the cost of these trips and now those who have been certified by MITS or the New InterUrban as disabled can have the fares covered by \$5-per-trip vouchers available for purchase at the offices of MITS or LifeStream Services. The price of fares for regular public transit service is still enough below \$5 to encourage its use when possible, but now supplemental transit service is more affordable.

The Journey to Work/Reverse Commute (JARC) transit service has returned to the Muncie area, but now it covers all of Delaware County as well as the City and a voucher program can cover half the cost. The work-related trips through JARC must begin and end within Delaware County and occur outside the service times of local public transit. Those who want to be included in JARC must apply through MITS. Eaton EMTs provides one-way trips with a fare a \$10 for the first ten miles and \$1.25 for each additional mile. Half-fare (\$5+) JARC trip vouchers can be purchased at MITS by those registered in the JARC Program. All trips are scheduled through Eaton EMTs.

ADA TRANSITION PLANS

The 2009-2010 Unified Planning Work Program includes an activity which states, in part, that the DMMPC will assist the City and/or County with the development of ADA Transition Plans. The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 called for each unit of government, with 50 or more employees, to prepare transition plan setting forth action steps to ensure accessibility. The City and the DMMPC will be working together over the next several months to develop Muncie's ADA Transition Plan, with an approved plan to be completed by June, 2010.

CULTURAL DISTRICT

This year the Delaware-Muncie Planning Commission is excited to have Evan Winkler as their graduate assistant from Ball State. Evan is an Ohio native, with a Bachelor's Degree from Virginia Tech, in Landscape Architecture. Currently, he is working with fellow student Jennifer Gerdorn and MURA: the Muncie Urban Revitalization Association (Student Organization of Ball State) on the Muncie Arts and Cultural Trail.

The Arts and Cultural Trail is a project which developed over the summer through a partnership between Ball State faculty, students, city representatives, and concerned individuals. The collaboration identified four cultural districts to be connected via bike route: Minnetrista, Downtown, Ball State and Heekin Park. As a means to help fund cultural district identification, future bike trails, and pedestrian safety improvements a Tiger Grant was submitted on September 15th. The Arts and Cultural Trail is a part of Muncie's vision to promote downtown as a sustainable and active living environment.

Earlier this fall, during Minnetrista's Living Lightly Fair, MURA partnered with Professor Scott Truex, third year planning students, and graduate landscape architecture students in a two day Charrette (design exercise), to establish potential design themes within identified cultural zones. These themes reveal the specific character of each cultural district as can be expressed through the artistic design of bike racks, signage, and so forth. Results have been displayed during the Governor's Arts Walk and more recently during the Muncie Music Fest. In addition, a temporary window has been set up in the Muncie Building on Walnut and Charles to exhibit the student boards.

In the near future, MURA will be identifying specific locations for trail signage and bike racks. In order to help finance these trail identifiers, MURA is looking into possible fundraisers or contests for those interested in supporting/designing unique signs and bike racks. In addition, MURA is interested in supporting bicycle educational programs for Muncie citizens and bicycle enthusiasts. MURA's future projects tie into the goals and activities set forth in the DMMPC's Transportation Plan and Unified Planning Work Program which provides planning support for the use of federal dollars to help implement these projects.

Please feel free to copy and share the Cultural District insert included in this edition of the PlanNews.

COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE AND TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE

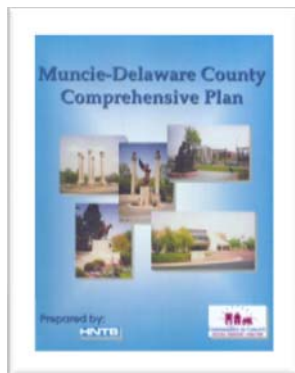
The dual role of the DMMPC as a plan commission and an MPO (Metropolitan Planning Organization) provides an ideal setting for preparation of a coordinated comprehensive land use plan (comp plan) and long range transportation plan. State law defines required components for a comp plan that guides local planning and zoning with a typical 20 year time frame. Federal law defines required components of a long range transportation plan which also has a 20 year planning horizon. Many of those required components coincide with each other and federal guidelines continue to promote this type of coordination.

The timing for this plan update coincides with other planning initiatives at the local and state level that will feed into the 2010-2035 Comprehensive Land Use and Transportation Plan update:

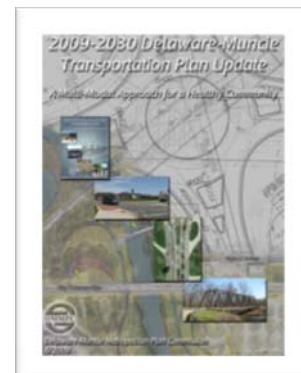
The City of Muncie has a strategic planning initiative underway to create a Muncie Action Plan (MAP) that will include detailed information regarding housing, downtown development, economic development and other areas of importance to the City.

The Indiana Department of Transportation will be updating the State Long Range Transportation Plan over the next several months and this will provide necessary input into our transportation plan.

ADA Transition Plans will be developed through a partnership between the City and the DMMPC with a particular focus on sidewalks. This information will be used to expand the Bike/Ped Plan segment of the existing Transportation Plan.



The DMMPC website will be used along with PLAN NEWS and other resources to provide updates, information, and participation opportunities as the Plan Update continues.



FALL TRAFFIC COUNTS

Planners MaryAnn Gervolino and Cheryl McGairk began doing the Fall traffic counts in September and it is anticipated that they will be completed by November 2009. It is estimated that approximately 88 counts will be documented on the count list. To view all of the current traffic counts please log onto the Plan Commission's website: www.dmmpc.org

MONTHLY MEETING SCHEDULE

November 2009

6SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5 MPC	6	7
8	9	10	11 Office Closed	12 TAC	13	14
15	16	17	18 ADMIN	19 BZA	20	21
22	23	24	25	26 Office Closed	27 Office Closed	28
29	30					

December 2009

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10 TAC	11	12
13	14	15	16 ADMIN	17 BZA	18	19
20	21	22	23	24 Office Closed	25 Office Closed	26
27	28	29	30	31		

January 2010

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 Office Closed	2
3	4	5	6	7 MPC	7	9
10	11	12	13	14 TAC	15	16
17	18 Office Closed	19	20 ADMIN	21 BZA	22	23
24 31	25	26	27	28	29	30

February 2010

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4 MPC	5	6
7	8	9	10	11 TAC	12	13
14	15 Office Closed	16	17 ADMIN	18 BZA	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

ADMIN

Administrative Committee
Mayor's Office, City Hall
1:30 p.m.

BZA

Board of Zoning Appeals
Commissioner's Court Room,
County Building
6:30 p.m.

MPC

Metropolitan Plan Commission
Commissioner's Court Room,
County Building
6:30 p.m.

TAC

Technical Advisory Committee
Plan Commission, County
Building
10:00 a.m.

DELAWARE-MUNCIE METROPOLITAN PLAN COMMISSION

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MUNCIE TIGER GRANT 2009

CULTURAL TRAIL ROUTES

