

# The Mid-MO Current

Mid-Missouri Regional Planning Commission

July 2021

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## Ranken Technical College

Mid-MO RPC has been working with Southern Boone School District, the City of Ashland, the Southern Boone Economic Development Council, and other partners to bring a new Ranken Technical College campus to Mid-Missouri. The Ranken Tech campus in Ashland, several years in the making, is now coming to Ashland with the assistance of a \$4.5 million investment from the Economic Development Administration (EDA).

The Ranken Tech facility in Ashland will be a 21,000 square foot building with focus on healthcare, construction trades, industrial engineering technology, and information technology. It is anticipated that 150 students, including high schoolers and adults from all around mid-Missouri, will have the opportunity to take classes at Ranken Tech each year with the possibility of expanding operations as needed. Ranken will bolster the region's workforce by equipping local businesses with the skilled workers necessary for sustained economic growth. Curriculum development is underway with the assistance of local industry.

The total project cost is \$7.3 million with the gap being covered by a mix of funding streams including \$1.5 million in state matching funds as well as funding from Southern Boone School District, City of Ashland, Boone County, and private partners. Ranken Tech will also have a financial stake in the operation.



## Cooper County Hazard Mitigation Plan Kick-Off Meeting

Mid-MO RPC, in partnership with Cooper County EMD Larry Oerly, will be hosting a kick-off meeting for Cooper County's five-year Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) update on August 11th, 2021 at 5:30pm. The meeting location for the Cooper County HMP kickoff meeting is 16994 Highway 87, Boonville. All cities and school districts in Cooper County are asked to participate in the process along with other stakeholders in the county such as levee districts, water districts, EMS districts, and fire districts.

Hazard mitigation planning is a process of identifying action items that local jurisdictions may undertake in order to mitigate the impact of natural disasters on local populations. FEMA requires hazard mitigation planning to be conducted every five years on a county-wide level in order for local governments and school districts in a given county to remain eligible for FEMA mitigation grant funding. These grants may fund projects like tornado safe rooms, warning sirens, generator purchases, flood buyouts, storm water improvements, and more.

If you have questions about the Cooper County hazard mitigation planning process or would like to participate but cannot attend the kick-off meeting, please contact [MelissaStafford@midmorpc.org](mailto:MelissaStafford@midmorpc.org).

A copy of Cooper County's last hazard mitigation plan can be found at [midmorpc.org/reports-library/hazard-mitigation-reports/](http://midmorpc.org/reports-library/hazard-mitigation-reports/).

## Small Business Revolving Loan Fund

Mid-MO RPC has been awarded \$1.5 million from the Economic Development Administration (EDA) to establish a revolving loan fund (RLF) for small businesses and entrepreneurs in our six-county region. Better access to capital has been a long-standing need in Mid-Missouri and around the country, made more acute by the economic conditions arising out of the pandemic.

EDA recognized this need by making revolving loan fund capitalization a priority for its CARES Act funding. Under the CARES Act, EDA allowed regional planning commissions to capitalize new revolving loan funds with only five percent local match. Mid-MO RPC worked with local partners to raise the local match needed to apply for the RLF funding. Mid-MO RPC, Regional Economic Development, Inc. (REDI), Columbia Chamber of Commerce, Jefferson City Industrial Development Authority, and the Cole County Commission all contributed matching funds.

With EDA funding in place, Mid-MO RPC has entered into a contract with Enterprise Development Corporation (EDC) to help administer the fund and equip the RLF Administration Committee with the information they will need to make loan determinations. EDC has decades of experience with small business lending.

The Revolving Loan Fund is designed to work as a gap financing tool that will partner with traditional lenders to make loans to small businesses that are just outside the risk threshold for a lender to take on. The program will be structured with Mid-MO RPC's RLF taking on 30% of a loan while a traditional lender takes on 60% of a loan, and the borrower contributes 10% capital to the project. This gives small businesses access to capital in circumstances where the traditional lender is not able to take on that 30% of the loan and where traditional SBA loans are not a good option.

Borrowers interested in RLF financing through Mid-MO RPC should contact [LukeDietterle@midmorpc.org](mailto:LukeDietterle@midmorpc.org).

## CDBG COVID Funding Now Available

The Missouri Department of Economic Development (DED) has announced a \$43 million Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding round to assist with the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic utilizing CARES Act CDBG funds. The CDBG-CV program is designed to help Missouri communities, prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19. The program can fund a variety of projects that address unmet needs related to public services, infrastructure, economic assistance, and planning. Projects must also meet traditional CDBG eligibility requirements such as low-to-moderate income thresholds.

The program has a rolling application cycle and will continue until all available funding has been expended. CDBG-CV funding guidelines and informational videos can be found at <https://ded2.mo.gov/programs/cdbg/covid19>.

Mid-MO RPC staff is available to discuss CDBG-CV requirements with interested communities in order to gauge whether a project will be competitive for this funding round. Our staff can also assist with grant applications and grant administration if funding is awarded.

## Entrepreneurship Coach

As part of Mid-MO RPC's pandemic response, Mid-MO RPC has engaged Regional Economic Development Inc. (REDI) in Columbia to work with established and budding entrepreneurs of both businesses and non-profits in the region to help foster the growth of their enterprises.



Jay Sparks, the Entrepreneurship Coordinator at REDI, has been working directly with clients in Boone County to map out a series of benchmarks and milestones spanning weeks, months, or years designed to create actionable steps for each venture to scale. Mid-MO RPC's partnership with REDI allows Jay to expand his reach to

serve our entire six-county region. Jay also partners with the Missouri Women's Business Center at Central Missouri Community Action to identify and work with clients throughout the region.

In addition to the personalized approach, Jay's clients at REDI have access to a network of other aspiring entrepreneurs through the Hub providing insight and connections to aid in the development and growth of their businesses. The Hub offers regular meetings which provide professional development and learning opportunities for clients to share their knowledge with each other. With Jay's assistance, the next generation of business and non-profit leaders in the region are poised to emerge strong from the pandemic. Jay works out of the REDI office and can be reached at [jay.sparks@como.gov](mailto:jay.sparks@como.gov).

## Jefferson City Awarded EDA Funding for MSP Redevelopment

Jefferson City has been awarded \$1.5 million in grant funding from the Economic Development Administration (EDA) to support the commercial redevelopment of the historic Missouri State Penitentiary site. This EDA funding was made available to communities impacted by the flooding and tornado events that occurred in 2019. Jefferson City will be providing \$1.6 million in local matching funds and the project is anticipated to create 67 jobs and generate nearly \$28 million in private investment.



Mid-MO RPC supported the city throughout the grant application process, including coordination with EDA staff to maximize project competitiveness for this funding.

## Sturgeon and Blackwater Awarded CDBG Grants

Mid-MO RPC assisted Sturgeon and Blackwater with three successful Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) applications which were announced in May.

Sturgeon was awarded two grants from separate CDBG programs. The residential demolition project was funded through the annual CDBG program and will receive \$128,643 to assist in the demolition of nine vacant and dangerous residential structures within city limits.

Sturgeon was also awarded \$495,000 in funding through a new CDBG Hazard Mitigation program that provides resources to communities recovering from and preparing for dangerous natural and manmade hazards. The Sturgeon CDBG mitigation grant will allow the community to upgrade its stormwater capacity throughout the community, which will reduce the likelihood and severity of damage from flooding during extreme rain events. Construction will include installing new box culverts, realigning channels, placing rock and other erosion control structures, and widening the channel of Saling Creek east of the City's wastewater treatment facility to create a natural holding basin for floodwaters.

Blackwater was awarded \$304,050 in funding for their road, stormwater, and ADA accessibility public infrastructure project. This will include resurfacing or reconstructing Trigg Avenue from Main Street to the Dodderidge Avenue intersection and continuing north on Dodderidge to County Hwy Avenue. Also along this route, new storm sewer infrastructure will be added and the existing stormwater structures will be upsized or repaired. Finally, ADA accessibility will be improved with new sidewalks, crossings, ramps and on street parking at the elementary school and at the Main Street and Trigg Avenue intersection.

Mid-MO RPC will continue to assist Sturgeon and Blackwater with these projects by completing the required environmental reviews and administering the grants.



City of Blackwater awarded \$304,050 in CDBG funding for road, stormwater, and ADA accessibility public infrastructure.

## Transportation Moves In Mid-MO

As part of Mid-MO RPC's role within MoDOT's planning framework, each year Mid-MO RPC convenes meetings in each of our counties seeking road and bridge projects to add to our Regional Transportation Needs List. This list is compiled and the top five regional needs are voted on by our Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) and sent to MoDOT for consideration in their Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). For the last two years TAC's top priorities have been:

- I-70/63 interchange in Columbia
- I-70/54 interchange in Kingdom City
- 3-lane extension east of MO River Bridge
- 4-lane expansion of Hwy 50 California to Sedalia
- Reconfiguring Rex Whitton Expressway

Starting in 2019 MoDOT began putting together an unfunded needs list with the assistance of regional planning commissions and metropolitan planning organizations from around the state. This is a list of highly important projects that would have significant impacts on safety and economic development for the State of Missouri if they were to be funded. The unfunded needs list has served as a valuable tool for infrastructure funding discussions at the legislative level.

The last year has proven productive for Mid-MO and the planning process. All of our top five projects have progressed onto either MoDOT's STIP - meaning they will be constructed in the next five years - or MoDOT's unfunded needs list. The I-70/54 interchange at Kingdom City has moved into scoping to be placed on the STIP. The 3-lane extension east of the Missouri River Bridge has been programmed into the STIP. The I-70/63 interchange in Columbia is the sole Tier I project for Central District on the unfunded needs list. Rex Whitton and 4-lane expansion of Hwy 50 from California to Sedalia were selected as Tier II unfunded needs.

With the success of Tier I and II unfunded needs lists MoDOT has asked Mid-MO RPC and other planning partners to revisit our regional needs list and produce a Tier III road and bridge list, as well as a multimodal unfunded needs list.

Mid-MO RPC's TAC will be meeting August 11th to discuss and prioritize multimodal needs in the region. Multimodal needs include all transportation needs other than road and bridge projects. Port, rail, airport, and sidewalk projects are all considered multimodal needs. Mid-MO RPC's current multimodal needs list for the region may be found on the Transportation Planning section of Mid-MO RPC's website, and Mid-MO RPC is actively seeking new multimodal projects to add to our multimodal needs list ahead of the August 11th TAC meeting.

Please contact [JenniferBowden@midmorpc.org](mailto:JenniferBowden@midmorpc.org) with multimodal project recommendations.



# Region F- Homeland Security Grant Program Funding Awards for FY20

Region F Regional Homeland Security Oversight Committee (RHSOC) has made its decisions for how FY20 State Homeland Security Grant Program funding will be spent.

The following projects were awarded FY20 funding and will be procured and monitored by Mid-MO RPC.

- \$76,670.00 - Cole County Homeland Security Response Team (HSRT)
- \$28,000.00 - Light towers for Boone and Camden counties
- \$11,497.50 - Boone County Incident Support Team (IST) supplies project
- \$11,000.00 - Cole County Mobile Emergency Operations Center (MEOC)
- \$10,300.00 - Generator load testing for Audrain, Boone, Callaway, Camden, Cole, Cooper, Gasconade, Moniteau, Montgomery, and Osage counties
- \$7,920.00 - Osage County Badging
- \$6,995.82 - Electronic message board batteries for Camden, Cooper, Howard, Montgomery, and Osage counties
- \$4,668.00 - Boone County IST Trailer Sustainment
- \$2,931.10 - Cooper County Badging
- \$2,697.00 - Cole County PPE
- \$2,225.00 - Camden County Generator Cables



Drive cautiously as summer roadway improvements are underway.

## Mid-MO RPC's Newest Regional Planner



Luke Dietterle joined the Mid-MO RPC staff in November 2020. He is responsible for coordinating several Economic Development Administration (EDA) projects including Ranken Technical College and launching the new Small Business Revolving Loan Fund. He also assists in developing CDBG and EDA

projects and serves as the RPC's representative on the Columbia Broadband Business Planning Task Force.

He has lived and worked in mid-Missouri for thirteen years, including two years of service with AmeriCorps at non-profits in the region. He brings experience working for the State of Missouri on legislative and budgetary issues, and a background in GIS mapping to the organization.

Luke holds a bachelor's degree in English and a master's degree in Public Affairs from the University of Missouri.

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