

NIACOG NEWS

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NORTH IOWA AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Oct—Nov 2015

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CITY ACCOUNTING TRAINING

The Iowa
Municipal
Professionals
Institute is
**ON-THE-
ROAD** bring-

ing training to the area. They understand that not everyone had the opportunity to travel to Ames in July to get training so training is offered in the following locations:



- **October 1, Spencer City Hall, Spencer IA**
- **October 10, Best Western Holiday Lodge, Clear Lake, IA**

This training is provided in the evening or on Saturday morning to accommodate those that may not be able to attend a day time training.

Topics covered include the value of a chart of accounts; understanding fund accounting and how budgets, financial reports and regular reconciliations can lead to good audits and examinations that are newly required by state law.

For more information and to register for these sessions, please use this link:

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/communities/OSLGP/> where more information is available concerning the 2015 OTR: Budget, Examinations & Accounting for Municipalities.

If you have any questions please contact Cindy Kendall at ckendall@iastate.edu (515-294-1844).

BUILDING EXPANSION GRANT

Iowa Transportation Commission approves Public Transit Infrastructure Grant Program funding August 11, 2015

BURLINGTON, Iowa – Aug. 11, 2015 – The Iowa Transportation Commission (Commission) approved more than \$1.6 million in funding to support five public transit projects during its Aug. 11 meeting held in Burlington. The projects are funded under the state Public Transit Infrastructure Grant Fund. The Public Transit Infrastructure Grant Fund provides state funding assistance to Iowa's public transit systems for new or improved facilities to support their public transit services. State participation is limited to 80 percent and the balance must be matched from local sources. The Iowa General Assembly appropriates funding to this program on an annual basis.



BUILDING EXPANSION GRANT CONTINUED

The five projects approved by the Commission are:

Construction of indoor bus parking facility (Region 2: North Iowa Area Regional Transit System based in Mason City): \$600,000

Roof mounted solar array (Region 8: Delaware, Dubuque, and Jackson County Regional Transit Authority based in Dubuque): \$84,000

Building improvements (Burlington Urban Service): \$480,000

Rehabilitate facility (Des Moines Area Regional Transit Authority): \$369,007

Maintenance, repairs, and replacement of bus shelters (Sioux City Transit) \$110,800

“The Public Transit Infrastructure Grant Fund is an important source of funding for public transit systems. This program enables transit systems to construct and maintain facilities that are critical to the operation of the system and maintenance of the vehicles,” said Michelle McEnany, director of the Office of Public Transit for the Iowa Department of Transportation.

TRANSPORTATION HAPPENINGS

The RPA 2 Transportation Policy Board recently approved the FY 2016-FY2019 Transportation Improvement Program for the RPA 2/NIACOG Region. The document is the programming document for roads, bridges, trails, transit, and planning.



RPA 2, over the course of its existence, has programmed nearly \$70,000,000 in Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds. These funds are typically used for roads, bridges, transit and planning projects. RPA 2 has programmed nearly \$6,000,000 in Enhancement and Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) funds. These projects have been trails, beautification and historic projects.

LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

The Policy Board of the Regional Planning Affiliation 2 has recently approved the RPA Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). The Plan is a twenty (20) year planning document that guides local decision making in regards to transportation projects in the Region. The major focus of the RPA 2 LRTP is maintenance of the existing facilities currently in place.

The RPA 2 LRTP is available at the NIACOG website at www.niacog.org. Look on the left hand side of the homepage and click the RPA 2 Transportation link to get there. While there, you will also notice other items that may interest you including the agenda and minutes of various transportation committees. Feel free to check out the site and if you have any questions, please contact Chris at the NIACOG office.

The RPA 2 LRTP is available for public comment for a period of approximately 45 days. If you have any comments or suggestions of items to include in the Plan please email Chris at cdiggins@niacog.org or call at 641-423-0491 ext. 15. At the October 14th meeting of the Policy Board, it is expected that the Policy Board will give final approval to the document following review of any written or oral comments.

Calendar

October

8th - TAG Meeting – NIACOG 8:30 am

12th — Exec. Board

14th - HazMat Meeting – NIACOG 1:00 pm

14th – Transportation Policy Brd Mtg – NIACOG 2:30 pm

November

8rd - Election Day

9th—Exec. Board Mtg.—Bennigan’s Restaurant, Clear Lake, 6:00 pm Dinner, 7:00 pm Mtg.

11th - Veterans Day— Office Closed

12th - TAG Meeting—NIACOG 8:30 am

20th - City Clerk’s Association Mtg.— NIACOG, 9:30 am





MULTI—FAMILY HOUSING RESOURCES

Leaders in North Iowa are becoming increasingly interested in multi-family housing especially as we see large employers, such as Valent Bioscience and McKesson, creating great demand for workers and the need for more quality workforce housing. The purpose of this article is to present a few resources that may be of interest to owners and potential developers of multi-family housing.

homes and have overseen about \$200 million in housing development statewide. Contacts: Doug LaBounty (515) 288-0832 or Sam Erickson (515) 262-4932.

- MetroPlains – MetroPlains is one of the Midwest’s largest providers of property development, acquisition and management support. They are based out of Minneapolis and can be reached at 651-523-1241 or lskoy@metroplains.com.

FINANCIAL INCENTIVES: Financial incentives are available for people to construct or rehabilitate multi-family housing. They come in a variety of forms, and, of course, they also come with a variety of strings attached – strings that should be considered in determining whether a respective program is right for a project. The programs include: Federal Home Loan Bank, USDA Rural Development, Workforce Housing Tax Incentive Program, Historic Tax Credits (State & Federal), Low Income Housing Tax Credits, New Market Tax Credits, and HOME. In subsequent newsletters, you will find details on these programs such as the maximum grant amount, rent limits, renter income limits, special requirements, etc., as well as, the positive and negative attributes of the respective programs.

WORKFORCE HOUSING LOAN PROGRAM FOR CITIES - The Iowa Finance Authority (IFA) is now accepting applications for the new Workforce Housing Loan Program. The application and details can be found at the following link: <http://www.iowafinanceauthority.gov/Public/Links/PC217>

The Workforce Housing Loan Program will provide a *repayable loan* to cities and counties that demonstrate a need for additional workforce rental housing for Iowans as a result of employment growth within the local unit of government’s jurisdictional boundaries. Applications for the Workforce Housing Loan Program can be submitted to IFA until **4:30 PM on November 2, 2015**.

ESSENTIAL EXPERTISE: Navigating and packaging multi-family housing incentive programs can require a considerable level of experience/expertise from deal packaging to managing ongoing income verification for tenants. If Low-Income Housing (or New Market Tax Credits) are considered, an experienced firm is absolutely essential. The firms tend to assist projects that renovate large buildings in communities of at least 1,000 people. The buildings are generally historic and multi-story with substantial window space on all four sides. A couple of well qualified firms that have completed projects in North Iowa include:

ENERGY EFFICIENCY: Any affordable multifamily rental property in Iowa that is a customer of Alliant, Black Hills or Mid-American is eligible to participate in an enhanced energy efficiency program that includes:

- FREE materials and installation of Direct Installs
- FREE comprehensive energy analysis
- Enhanced rebates up to 40% of installed cost
- FREE professional energy management consultation

For more information contact Linda Truong at 800.318.8915.

- Community Housing Initiatives - Community Housing Initiatives is one of Iowa’s largest nonprofit providers of affordable housing. They serve 31 communities with 1,400 apartment



Mary Lee Rochleau –RSVP Volunteer to NIACOG for the past 25 years



Mary Lee enjoying a luncheon celebration with NIACOG staff. (Jodi Wyborny, Mary Lee, and Steve Wendt are pictured)



Grant

Deadline

Solid Waste Alternatives Program (Quarterly)	January 2, 2016
CDBG ~ Water/Sewer	January 8, 2016
CDBG Housing	January 15, 2016
CDBG ~ Community Facilities	January 22, 2016
CDBG ~ Downtown Revitalization	February 5, 2016
RPA 13 TAP	February 2016
Keep Iowa Beautiful ~ Paint Iowa	February 2016
DNR Derelict Building Program	February 26, 2016
Keep Iowa Beautiful ~ Beautification	March 2016
Land and Water Conservation Fund	March 2016
Keep Iowa Beautiful ~ Build with Bags	March 30, 2016
REAP ~ Roadside Vegetation	June 1, 2016
REAP ~ City Parks & Open Spaces	August 15, 2016
REAP ~ Private/Public Open Space Acquisition	August 15, 2016
REAP ~ County Conservation	August 15, 2016
Revitalize Iowa's Sound Economy	September 1, 2016
Statewide Transportation Alternatives	October 1, 2016
Federal Recreational Trails	October 1, 2016
Vision Iowa (CAT)	October 15, 2016
REAP ~ Conservation Education	November 1, 2016
Economic Development Set Aside	On-going
IFA Project Based Housing	On-going
Hazard Mitigation Grant Program	Contact NIACOG