

# Annual Work Program Completion Report

2023-2024



**SEMCOG**

SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

## **SEMCOG**

### **Mission**

SEMCOG, the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments, is the only organization in Southeast Michigan that brings together all governments to develop regional solutions for both now and in the future. SEMCOG:

- Promotes informed decision making to improve Southeast Michigan and its local governments by providing insightful data analysis and direct assistance to member governments;
- Promotes the efficient use of tax dollars for infrastructure investment and governmental effectiveness;
- Develops regional solutions that go beyond the boundaries of individual local governments; and
- Advocates on behalf of Southeast Michigan in Lansing and Washington.

# Annual Work Program Completion Report 2023-2024

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## Abstract

This document describes the activities and accomplishments of SEMCOG in completing work contained in the 2023-2024 Unified Work Program, as revised. It indicates significant progress in analyzing and resolving regional issues and planning and coordinating facilities and services in Southeast Michigan.

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## Preface

The Annual Work Program Completion Report for 2023-2024 describes activities and accomplishments completed by SEMCOG in this fiscal year. This report is divided into four sections, which together describe significant progress in analyzing and resolving regional issues as well as planning and coordinating facilities and services in Southeast Michigan.

The Overview of Program Area Accomplishments describes in broad terms the progress made in each of SEMCOG's program areas: Data Analysis; Plan and Policy Development; Plan Implementation; and Outreach Activities, Direct Management, and Special Projects. The Grant and Project Table allows access to specific product summaries by SEMCOG grant name and SEMCOG project number. The Product Narratives summarize specific products completed during the fiscal year.

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## Overview of Program Area Accomplishments

### Introduction

This section describes the work accomplished by SEMCOG in fiscal year 2023-2024. The work is summarized by functional element and reflects the increasingly interrelated nature of planning activities and federal requirements as they relate to various programs in which SEMCOG is engaged. The functional elements are:

- Data Analysis
- Plan and Policy Development
- Plan Implementation
- Outreach Activities, Direct Management, and Special Projects

### Data Analysis

#### Data Analysis Objectives

As Southeast Michigan continues to develop and transform, SEMCOG members and regional planning activities require up-to-date information on demographics, socio-economics, housing, land use, transportation, environment, and tools for analyzing and visualizing data. Completing the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and other regional and local plans require a detailed forecast of future characteristics of people, jobs, and land development. SEMCOG's data collection, analysis, forecasting, reporting, and visualization are designed to meet these needs. Data on residential and non-residential development and demographic changes allow current estimates of the region's land use, population, and households. Economic analysis based on national, regional, and local data provides the foundation for developing economic strategies. Delineation of building footprints and adding attributes to the buildings database provide information and tools for planning activities and for improving future forecasts. Transportation and environmental data collection and analysis help understand the region's critical infrastructure needs. Geographic Information System (GIS) database layers, aerial photography, map products, and the results of data collection and analysis are made available to SEMCOG members and data users in many ways, from printed reports, QuickFacts documents, to databases that can be queried, downloaded, or mapped interactively through SEMCOG's website. SEMCOG's data gathering and analysis are very valuable to SEMCOG members, planning partners, business community, and the public.

#### Economic Growth

Southeast Michigan's economy continued to change and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic that began in March 2020. SEMCOG provides timely review and updates on the region's economic changes. We analyze the most recent data available and develop socioeconomic and demographic indicators. In recent years, the economic growth has been led by the restructured domestic automobile industry and diversifying regional economy.

SEMCOG's economic analysis covers a wide range of socioeconomic issues in the region. The number of jobs and income levels are important indicators for measuring regional economic performance. Monitoring the region's changing industrial mix helps to assess the dynamics of the overall economy and the impact of economic development strategies in specific sectors. The effects of demographic trends on economic changes are increasingly significant. A set of economic prosperity indicators is regularly updated

to help create economic development strategies. A few examples of the regional economic trends are as follows:

The region's unemployment rate has been significantly reduced from 16.3% in June 2009 to 4.4% in June 2019. It matches Michigan's unemployment rate and is slightly above the U.S. average (3.8%). The fall of the unemployment rate is undoubtedly good news and an indicator of the region's economic health. However, COVID-19 changed that trend dramatically. Unemployment rate increased suddenly to 22.8% in April 2020. But it has reduced to 5.1% by June 2024.

Total wage and salary jobs in the region increased from 1.97 million in 2010 to 2.34 million in June 2019 – a growth rate of 19%. However, COVID-19 affected many jobs in the region either temporarily or permanently. Continued unemployment claims in Michigan changed suddenly from 75,000 in March 2020 to 996,000 in April 2020. It has decreased to 40,000 by June 2024.

The region's core industry, automobile manufacturing, performed well before the pandemic. U.S. number of vehicle sales was steady at approximately 17 million annually, but dropped sharply to 8.7 million in April 2020. It rebounded after the initial shock of the COVID-19 pandemic to 18.3 million by April 2021. The shortage of computer chips and other parts also significantly affected production and sales. Currently vehicle sales are under 16 million.

To assist in regional economic analysis, SEMCOG maintains a set of economic indicators for each county in the region. SEMCOG and members use the information for economic development, infrastructure planning, and other development activities. More high-frequency data were added to the indicators in response to COVID-19 pandemic.

SEMCOG also keeps up with changes for all employment establishments by working from detailed employment datasets. The work of processing a complete employment dataset continues to be a major project. SEMCOG continued to coordinate with Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) to develop and implement a research methodology on jobs by establishment. Specific industries and establishments were researched and geocoded to locations. This massive employment dataset is used for input into Regional Development Forecasts.

SEMCOG completed the 2050 socio-economic forecast at regional, community, traffic analysis zone, and micro-zone levels, using new data and improved computer models. Additional forecast products for more geographies were produced in this fiscal year. Forecast results were presented to elected officials, planners, and data users throughout the region, and adopted by SEMCOG's policy bodies – the Executive Committee and the General Assembly. 2020 Census results were a critical input dataset for the 2050 forecast.

Understanding how economic growth is shared among various demographic groups is imperative in the rapidly changing economic reality. SEMCOG completed an update to the analysis on shared prosperity this year. The results of economic analysis have been used in planning projects throughout SEMCOG and in the region. For example, regional economic analyses are used to facilitate economic development activities at SEMCOG and MAC (Metropolitan Affairs Coalition). Economic analytical results, as well as the detailed dataset of the Regional Development Forecast, are being used in regional and local planning projects, such as transportation planning, water and sewer planning, regional transit planning, and envisioning the new future of Southeast Michigan.

## Demographic Trends

SEMCOG is a leading source of information about demographic trends in Southeast Michigan, providing timely annual estimates of population and households that are made available on its website. In addition to these estimates, SEMCOG publishes reports that detail the demographic trends influencing population changes in the region. As the U.S. Census Bureau releases additional data such as American Community Survey (ACS), SEMCOG promptly updates its website with the latest data and analyses, ensuring that the most current information is accessible.

As the region continues its recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, Southeast Michigan has seen a

population decline since Census Day on April 1, 2020. The 2020 Census recorded 4,830,489 residents in the area, but by July 1, 2023, this number had decreased to an estimated 4,773,908, representing a 1.2% loss or 56,581 people. Although the region still experiences net out-migration, it's encouraging to note that the rate of out-migration is on a downward trend. An aging population remains a significant demographic factor affecting the region, with declining birth rates and increasing death rates likely continuing to influence population growth in Southeast Michigan.

SEMCOG continuously updates its online tools and maps with the latest data and improvements to webpages, making it easier for users to access a variety of information on the website. The Data and Maps page has been enhanced with user-friendly toolbars, allowing users to easily explore all available data. This page enables communities to quickly and conveniently access essential information. Additionally, SEMCOG regularly updates regional demographic indicators, highlighting the latest and most significant trends in Southeast Michigan, such as educational attainment, income, and poverty rates, with a strong focus on equity issues. SEMCOG also conducts detailed demographic analyses for small geographic areas like census tracts and block groups. Its data tools and maps are continually enhanced with new features and updated data, offering comprehensive summaries and analyses of demographic trends and the geographic distribution of various topics across multiple levels of geography.

Demographic analysis plays a crucial role in SEMCOG's Regional Development Forecast, as understanding the region's population trends is essential for evaluating the constraints on employment growth following the COVID-19 pandemic. Population growth in Southeast Michigan is expected to differ significantly from past patterns. A key factor driving these trends is the dramatic aging of the population. While this trend is observed nationwide, Southeast Michigan has a particularly high proportion of baby boomers compared to the rest of the country. The number of working-age adults (ages 25 to 64) is projected to increase modestly by 90,700 between 2020 and 2050. However, the population of those aged 24 and younger is expected to decline by 74,900 during the same period. In contrast, the region's population of residents aged 65 and older is anticipated to grow by 292,200, representing a 36% increase. Notably, much of this growth will occur among those aged 85 and older, with this group experiencing an increase of more than 130%.

SEMCOG's demographic forecast provides detailed data on population, households, and housing units across various geographies in the region, including seven counties, 232 communities, 2,811 Traffic Analysis Zones (TAZs), seven Intermediate School Districts (ISDs), individual school districts within each ISD, and federal and state legislative districts. This data covers a range of metrics, such as population by age, households by lifecycle, household size, and housing units. The forecast is available through interactive online maps, downloadable data files, and printable reports. These forecast results are integral to regional and local planning efforts, including community master plans, school planning, labor force development, and senior planning by SEMCOG and other regional stakeholders. Additionally, the private sector uses this data for various purposes, such as making informed business location decisions. In addition to the baseline scenario, SEMCOG's forecast also explores alternative scenarios tailored to the specific interests of the Southeast Michigan region. These scenarios result in varying demographic and economic trajectories and outcomes, offering a broader understanding of potential future developments in the area.

## **Land Use, Land Cover, and Building Footprints**

Understanding the region's land and buildings is essential to regional and local planning. SEMCOG continues to collect and process local land use and assessment data, which help set development trends for its forecast work in land use models.

Building footprints represent the outline of every building in Southeast Michigan from the roofline down. Developing the building dataset is important to SEMCOG because we use building data in our planning and forecasting work. SEMCOG produces its regional development forecast by modeling changes over time to individual buildings, and a complete buildings dataset is needed for the computer modeling work. SEMCOG continued to update the buildings GIS database layer by adding new buildings constructed, marking as demolished those buildings that have been removed, and updating the attributes of the building structures, including size, age, and number of housing units. SEMCOG uses this building database in its forecasting work and delivers the updated data to member communities upon request. The buildings database was updated to April 2020 and has been a very valuable resource for SEMCOG members. Buildings permitted

after April 2020 are also linked to the database.

SEMCOG contacted every local community to estimate future development expectations for residential and non-residential projects. A majority of communities provided valuable building-level anticipated development data for this important work. The results were used for 2050 demographic and socio-economic forecast.

### **Tracking Changes**

SEMCOG continues to track changing development events, population dynamics, as well as land use and transportation conditions in the region. Most of the tracking and analytical work has been published and updated on SEMCOG's website in such forms as searchable databases and interactive maps.

Residential construction and demolition permits are collected monthly from Southeast Michigan local governments. SEMCOG reports these data in an annual report and in Community Profiles on SEMCOG's website. The counts of housing units in each community are updated at the land parcel level for analysis. These counts form the basis for population estimates of the current year and for forecasts into the future. The seven-county Southeast Michigan region finished 2023 with a total of 9,345 new residential building permits issued, a 10% decrease from 2022. Since 2020, the region has averaged approximately 10,000 new units per year.

SEMCOG relies on a variety of sources, including the region's local governments, to supply data on nonresidential development monitoring. Included in the nonresidential development data collection are office buildings, retail centers, industrial facilities, government buildings, and other facilities. Nonresidential development is on SEMCOG's website via an online dashboard, which provides an assessment of development throughout the region. This dataset is also used in the socio-economic forecast model to represent known development events along with acquired development expectations data. There were 224 nonresidential projects completed in 2023, accounting for 16.7 million square feet of floor space in the region with a reported construction value of \$3 billion.

### **Local Government Fiscal Capacities**

SEMCOG continues to analyze home price change, State Equalized Value (SEV), and Taxable Value (TxV) data, which assists communities in preparing local government budgets to tackle fiscal challenges. SEMCOG data and analysis show improvements in SEV and TxV in recent years. Overall, the growth in both SEV and taxable value is a welcoming signal for local governments. Local government financing may see a brighter future, as most communities gained property taxable value in Southeast Michigan in recent years. However, the state constitution caps taxable value growth to the rate of inflation or 5%, whichever is less. After dramatic declines in real estate property values during the great recession, along with declines in new construction, which eroded the region's property tax base for years, this limitation applies no matter how much the real estate values increase in a recovery. SEMCOG continues to work with local governments to identify successful mechanisms to improve local government finance, while closely monitoring the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, inflation, and labor shortage.

### **Transportation Data**

SEMCOG continues to monitor the region's transportation infrastructure and traffic conditions. Transportation data is an essential part of the overall data that SEMCOG acquires, maintains, and disseminates. Traffic count data is the foundation for transportation data. SEMCOG maintains the Traffic Count Database System (TCDS) – the online software tool used by local agencies to store, manage, and provide SEMCOG access to count data – as well as the Regional Traffic Count Database (RTCD), SEMCOG's in-house relational database for storing count information. SEMCOG validates existing TCDS/RTCD counts plus new information as it is submitted by TCDS users and others; updates regional Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) trend analysis; and continues to use transportation data to support the travel model and other planning activities. SEMCOG added counts collected by regional partners including the county road commissions, the City of Detroit, and the Michigan Department of Transportation in 2023 to the Regional Traffic Count Database. This database is SEMCOG's central repository for all traffic counts. It has a total of 564,371 counts covering 42,112 count locations, including historical and recent counts. SEMCOG has finished updating all of the online programs to reflect the updates in the Regional Traffic

Count Program. The data can be queried on SEMCOG's website through a database.

SEMCOG coordinates with state and local transportation agencies to collect data on pavement conditions for one-half of the region's federal-aid-eligible roads each year. This promotes the practice of asset management regionally to enhance the productivity of investing in roads and bridges. Through collaboration, asset management provides the highest quality transportation infrastructure that serves the region, its local governments, and business community both economically and for improving quality of life. SEMCOG coordinates the annual condition rating of federal-aid roads in the region, assists local governments to collect road condition data on local streets, and reports on the condition of roads and bridges.

### **Improving Planning Tools**

SEMCOG continues to improve the tools that support its planning work and also provide its members with improved planning resources. SEMCOG's forecast model is reviewed and upgraded to keep current with the latest UrbanSim package and supporting software libraries. SEMCOG also rebuild the modeling workflow and introduce new forecast method such as location choice models, community based demographic forecast. Several model components have been developed or improved including population and household synthesizer, household placement program, demand driven real estate development model, and network-based accessibility model. SEMCOG created its own time-series based method for household forecast. SEMCOG continues to explore and evaluate advanced Machine-learning methods such as Neural Network and Geographic Attention Network Model. In addition, SEMCOG actively documented modeling work on project management and code development platforms and shared its model development efforts and forecast experience with MPOs in other regions.

SEMCOG continues to contract with Nearmap to obtain high-resolution, digital aerial imagery. Nearmap provides imagery as a service. Staff are able to use the current and historic imagery in their daily work via an imagery service within our GIS desktop software. Members can benefit from this flight by acquiring a discount to an annual subscription to Nearmap as well as an offline copy of the imagery from SEMCOG.

SEMCOG continued to update and manage a variety of Geospatial Data. Consolidating and storing the data in Portal to reduce redundancy as some of the data should be accessible externally in our Open Data Portal as well as used for internal purposes. Some GIS layers and many years of aerial imagery will remain in ArcSDE but are accessible through Portal.

### **Meeting the Information Needs of the Region**

SEMCOG continues to meet the information needs of its members, partners, and the public directly or through other channels such as the website, information services, blog articles, and news media. Many user requests were filled for demographic analysis, economic development, land use changes, transportation data, geospatial data, maps, and aerial photography. SEMCOG continues to support planning partners throughout the region by providing mapping and data analysis services, and by actively participating in developing strategies.

SEMCOG continues working with the U.S. Census Bureau to serve the needs of census data users and assist in using Census products, such as American Community Survey (ACS) data. SEMCOG also hosts meetings of the Southeast Michigan GIS User Group regularly. This regional group meets quarterly to discuss technical geospatial topics affecting GIS professionals in Michigan as well as best practices. This meeting also provides a forum for SEMCOG member communities and partners as well as networking opportunities.

SEMCOG participates with other organizations to help coordinate information gathering, analysis, and reporting. These include IMAGIN (Improving Michigan's Access to Geographic Information Networks), MiCAMP (Michigan Communities of Mapping Professionals), the Michigan GIS Users Group, Esri User Conference, Oakland County GIS Steering Committee, Detroit Data Coalition, TRB (Transportation Research Board), Michigan Transportation Planning Association, Federal Reserve Bank's economic round table, APDU (Association of Public Data Users), C2ER (The Council For Community and Economic Research), American Planning Association (APA), Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations GIS working group, and MPO/COG conference on socioeconomic forecasting. SEMCOG also participates in working groups run by AMPO, the Association on Metropolitan Planning Organizations.

SEMCOG's website is a vital component in delivering information to SEMCOG members and the public. Site visitors can perform searches of a number of dynamic databases: building permits, community profiles, forecast, and population estimates, to name a few. During this past year, many additional features and more up-to-date information were added to SEMCOG's website. More data and analysis are also made available to SEMCOG members and partners in a timely manner through QuickFacts on the website. SEMCOG continues to add more data to the website, while maintaining an Open Data Portal, which provides publicly available geospatial data and a variety of map services at no charge to our members and the public. Much of our effort on the web site have included new data visualization in terms of map, dashboard and other applications to provide new and innovative ways to view our data. We have created several new applications as well as updated the content and functionality of existing maps.

## **Plan and Policy Development**

### **Prioritizing and Programming Transportation Investments**

As the region's designated Metropolitan Planning Organization, SEMCOG is responsible for regional transportation planning. Two key SEMCOG responsibilities in transportation planning are development and maintenance of the long-range regional transportation plan (RTP) and the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

SEMCOG published the Vision 2050 RTP as well as the supporting documents: Appendix A, Appendix B, Project List, Air Quality Analysis, Environmental Justice Report, and Systems Performance Report. TO market and promote Vision 2050, SEMCOG created videos and blogs to market Vision 2050 RTP development, as well as prepared charts comparing development schedules for the FY 2023-2026 TIP, FY 2023-2026 CMAQ Call for Projects, 2045 RTP update and the 2050 RTP. SEMCOG gathered information on peer practices, emerging topics, and directions for the 2050 RTP, including resilience, zero emission vehicles, eliminating GHG pollution, Vision Zero, Advanced Aerial Mobility, micro-mobility, public participation centered around Environmental Justice and underserved populations.

The 2023-2026 TIP is a scheduling document establishing regional funding priorities for a period of four fiscal years and is updated every three years. The TIP describes how over \$4.28 billion in revenues will be invested to support our transportation system. SEMCOG began preparation of the FY 26-29 TIP Development process including hosting a series of meetings to educate FACs and other stakeholders on funding sources and targets, programming best practices, enhanced reporting and analyses, coordinate on performance measures, call-for-projects strategy, project prioritization and selection, timelines, etc.

### **A Leader in Air Quality Public Policy**

SEMCOG continues to be a leader in air quality public policy and planning discussions, advocating for national and state programs that foster both clean air and a healthy economy. SEMCOG actively coordinated and engaged in technical discussion to develop cost-effective strategies for attaining and maintaining national air quality standards. Program information is provided on the SEMCOG Air webpage.

SEMCOG also continued to facilitate the Southeast Michigan Air Quality Study group that includes representatives from local, state and federal government in addition to representatives from the region's manufacturing and energy sectors. The seven-county region was redesignated to attainment for ozone in spring of 2023. This follows up on the long process to request redesignation outlined in this section. In late 2021, SEMCOG worked directly with EGLE staff to submit an ozone redesignation request to USEPA Region V. This request was based on the fact that southeast Michigan maintained compliance with the ozone standards for three (3) consecutive years (2018 – 2020). Thus, as the Clean Air Act outlines, a redesignation request was feasible. EGLE formally submitted this request in December 2021.

Throughout the past year, SEMCOG staff met internally and externally with regional partners to ensure Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) Program and Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) projects were programmed and moved towards implementation. This included making sure transit projects that received CMAQ and CRP funding were flexed to Federal Transit Administration to allow for seamless implementation. In total, 13 CMAQ and 17 CRP projects were obligated in FY 2024. SEMCOG

also began preparing schedules and materials to conduct another call for projects for CMAQ and CRP funding for Fall 2024.

To enhance coordination across organizations, SEMCOG met with EGLE in February 2024 to discuss air quality messaging related to ozone and PM2.5 alerts. This dialogue continued with additional meetings over the fiscal year, focusing on air quality messaging for the upcoming season. As a result, SEMCOG developed and updated its air quality messaging, including a new Air Quality tip card and an updated “Keep the Air Clean” webpage, both launched in June 2024.

Moreover, SEMCOG also put significant emphasis on improving their Greenhouse Gas Inventory (GHGI) by working closely with the Transportation team. SEMCOG aimed to find the most efficient way to collect data on Aviation and Waterborne Transportation trips that occur specifically within the SEMCOG boundary, rather than trans-boundary. SEMCOG published the 2019 Southeast Michigan Regional Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory Report for Southeast Michigan, commissioned by the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) for SEMCOG, the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments, provides a summary of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions generated within the region during 2019.

Additionally, SEMCOG published the Southeast Michigan Priority Climate Action Plan and the Healthy Climate Plan Hub. The purpose of this Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP) and Hub is to prioritize measures that will reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and enhance natural areas that capture climate pollution. This plan was developed with the assistance of the Healthy Climate Task Force and regional stakeholders.

### **Creating a Sustainable Regional Infrastructure System (Asset Management)**

SEMCOG continues to coordinate with state and local transportation agencies to collect data on pavement surface conditions of the region's federal-aid-eligible roads. This promotes the practice of asset management regionally to enhance the productivity of investing in roads and bridges. Through collaboration, asset management provides the highest quality transportation infrastructure that serves the region, local governments, and business community both economically and for improving quality of life. Working with the TAMC, MDOT and the Center for Shared Solutions to find better solutions for dissemination of bridge condition information. This includes displaying data on SEMCOG's website and community profiles. SEMCOG also coordinates the annual condition rating of federal-aid roads in the region, assists local governments to collect road condition data on local streets, develops multi-year programs using asset management principles, and provides a forum for disseminating best practices for asset management. SEMCOG worked with the county road agencies and the City of Detroit to collect PASER data on 50 percent of the federal aid road network in 2023. SEMCOG closed out the FY2023 Local Road Rating Grants. These grants supported collection of PASER road surface condition data in the following communities: Ecorse, Grosse Pointe Shores, Grosse Pointe Woods, Harper Woods, the City of St. Clair, Monroe County, Washtenaw County, Beverly Hills, Bingham Farms, Ferndale, Oakland County, Saline, Dearborn Heights, Franklin, Birmingham, Clinton Twp, and the City of Northville.

SEMCOG hosts regular meetings for the underground utilities group. This group brings together public and private partners who have underground utilities or host utilities within their right-of-way. The group is currently developing a data schema for all utilities to report on their assets. They are also partnering with the road and bridge owners to build a comprehensive database of assets.

SEMCOG is working to enhance infrastructure coordination in the region to lead efforts consistent with the goals of the 21st Century Infrastructure Report and the Michigan Infrastructure Council. This effort seeks to institutionalize a process within the existing transportation planning framework that will ensure efficient and strategic investment of resources for project planning and coordination of above and below ground infrastructure, both public and private. Institutionalizing this process includes an online mechanism and strategic planning efforts for sharing infrastructure project capital improvement plans. SEMCOG aims to institutionalize a process for sharing of infrastructure project data for near term (4-5 year) and longer term (20 year) projects.

Over the last fiscal year, SEMCOG has been actively involved in numerous water and infrastructure-related committees and activities, reflecting our dedication to promoting sustainable water management and resilience in Southeast Michigan. Infrastructure coordination and planning were central to SEMCOG's work

throughout the year. Staff collaborated with various committees and groups to address infrastructure development, asset management, and strategic planning. This included ongoing efforts with Oakland County to enhance the post-construction tracking tool for stormwater permit compliance, as well as promoting the MS4 Public Education Program (PEP) through the One Water campaign.

Additionally, SEMCOG has been actively engaged in providing water-quality and infrastructure-related assistance to local governments throughout Southeast Michigan. Staff played a pivotal role in presenting work on climate resiliency and infrastructure coordination at various conferences and seminars. SEMCOG's active participation in green stormwater infrastructure panels further underscored SEMCOG's commitment to enhancing water quality and sustainability in the region. SEMCOG hired a consulting team to develop a Regional Resiliency Framework, which is in progress through 2024. The project workplan included the development of a Climate Resiliency Data Portfolio to compile available relevant information for climate resiliency work, specifically focused on stormwater drainage. The relevant data was compiled, the document is under review internally, and SEMCOG will share the portfolio in 2024.

In an effort to enhance and update the environmental sensitivity analysis for all transportation projects, SEMCOG is working with Highland Economics (HE) and Hubbel, Roth and Clark (HRC) to develop an Environmental and Ecosystem Services Tool. This tool will provide an online planning - level service to local agencies, incorporating more recent environmental data and initiatives to inform project selection. SEMCOG meets with Highland Economics monthly to touch base about necessary data for the tool, as well as who the tool is targeted to and developing an easy user interface. During this fiscal year SEMCOG has sent over needed data to Highland Economics' GIS team.

In addition, SEMCOG actively engaged with multiple stakeholders, including MDOT, NOAA, GLWA, DWSD, ACEC, and the MIC, to institutionalize a regional infrastructure coordination process. This involved conducting meetings and background research to ensure effective coordination and integration of climate resiliency planning into RTP development processes. SEMCOG also prepared and presented updates on the infrastructure coordination workshop and upcoming regional resiliency plan at the Executive Committee meeting, reflecting their commitment to transparency and collaboration with key decision-makers.

### **Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)**

SEMCOG developed and adopted Vision 2050, the Regional Transportation Plan for Southeast Michigan. This plan serves as the guiding framework for transportation investment in the region through the year 2050. It outlines how \$35.7 billion will be strategically allocated to address critical transportation needs, ensuring a more connected and prosperous region. The plan highlights future mobility challenges, including those posed by an aging population, emerging technologies, and funding shortfalls. Regional policies and actions outline strategies to improve education, equity, funding, preservation, resilience, safety, and shared prosperity. Implementing this plan will help improve Southeast Michigan's quality of life. The plan includes regional transportation projects and investment priorities anticipated during the life of the plan.

As part of the development of Vision 2050, SEMCOG developed an interactive hub resource site for the Vision 2050 RTP update geared to providing information to both general public and federal aid committees during the project selection process. This hub site includes an update to the SEMCOG Guide to Transportation Planning. Additionally, SEMCOG participated in trainings about guidance for the USDOT's Justice 40 initiative, which seeks to expand the proportion of resources and benefits directed to areas with high proportions of low-income households and/or historically disadvantaged racial and ethnic groups

In order to obtain public input into Vision 2050, SEMCOG contracted Public Participation Partners (P3) to develop public outreach strategy for the Vision 2050 RTP update activities. SEMCOG conducted stakeholder workshops across the SEMCOG region to assess goals and strategies for the 2050 RTP update and coordinated with the Regional Transit Authority for Southeast Michigan to include the Regional Transit Master Plan into the 2050 RTP.

### **Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**

SEMCOG continued day-to-day management of the FY2023-FY2026 to ensure the flow of transportation funds to needed projects in Southeast Michigan. The projects in the TIP have been selected from the 2045 RTP. The TIP is also a major part of the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). The FY2023-

2026 TIP list contains over 1,000 projects with an estimated cost of \$4.28 billion.

SEMCOG completed amendments to the 2045 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and FY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) in July 2023, August 2023, September 2023, December 2023, February 2024, and April 2024. At the same time, SEMCOG began preparation of the FY 26-29 TIP Development process including hosting a series of meetings to educate FACs and other stakeholders on funding sources and targets, programming best practices, enhanced reporting and analyses, coordinate on performance measures, call-for-projects strategy, project prioritization and selection, timelines

SEMCOG supported the Federal Aid Committees and transit providers through training, technical assistance, coordination, and participation in official meetings as part of SEMCOG's continuing, comprehensive, and cooperative (3C) performance-based multimodal transportation planning process.

SEMCOG continued to work with MDOT to make improvements to MDOT's new JobNet database system, and identified TIP projects that will roll into the 2050 RTP and included them in the 2050 RTP project database.

### **Transportation Accessibility**

SEMCOG conducted several activities that support its commitment to meeting the transportation needs of all citizens, particularly those who have traditionally been underrepresented in the transportation planning process. SEMCOG demonstrated this commitment by utilizing the recently updated environmental justice analysis. This analysis was used to analyze the projects included in the RTP and the TIP.

Environmental justice requires that these impacts be distributed fairly among population groups especially focusing on population groups that have been traditionally disadvantaged. Environmental justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. SEMCOG, in its response to this important challenge, uses an enhanced process in the 2050 RTP to assess the impacts of the transportation planning process on the target populations.

The target populations consist of minorities (African-American, Asian-American, Native American, and Hispanics), low-income households, senior citizens, and households without cars. Information about these populations can be found in the appendix. SEMCOG identified three principles to ensure environmental justice considerations were properly integrated into the transportation planning process:

- Adequate public involvement of target populations in regional transportation decision making,
- Assess (i.e., travel time) whether there were disproportionately high and adverse impacts on the target populations resulting from federal programs, and
- Ensure that the target populations receive an equitable share of benefits of federal transportation investments.

SEMCOG refined and enhanced a regional Equity Emphasis Areas Application, which is a web-based interactive application that provides a detailed summary of key demographic variables at different geographies (regional, county, community, and census tract) across the seven-county region. The tool provides one location where communities, partner organizations, and residents can learn about our current socioeconomic indicators and have a data-driven understanding of community needs to assist in effective planning. This tool was also updated to incorporate the Justice40 identified disadvantaged communities and census tracts. A goal of this new tool is to allow stakeholders, communities, and the public to understand and recognize that Southeast Michigan is home to a diverse population with residents of all ages and abilities, who represent various races and ethnicities, and who speak a number of languages. This diversity makes our region strong, with thousands of neighborhoods, each geographically, demographically, and economically unique. Living in these neighborhoods presents both challenges and opportunities. From a transportation planning perspective, this tool helps to view current and future transportation projects through the lens of diversity, equity, and inclusion and locate projects that may have the biggest impact on populations most in need.

This fiscal year, SEMCOG kicked-off and held three meetings of the Justice40 Communities Task Force. The goal of this task force is to ensure all voices and communities are heard in regional planning and

initiatives, and that support is provided to communities in their path to prosperity. As SEMCOG continues to incorporate equity into regional planning and initiatives, this effort is specifically intended to engage member communities who have received a Justice40 designation. Through this task force, SEMCOG will connect Justice40 communities to resources for which they are eligible and provide a space for collaboration and sharing of opportunities, challenges, and successes.

### **Managing the Regional Transportation System**

SEMCOG continues to manage the regional transportation system through maintaining the congestion management process (CMP), analyzing incident and construction information, coordinating regional operation activities, and identifying excess capacity on regional roadways. Real-time data allows SEMCOG to enhance its process for identifying congestion and evaluating possible mitigation strategies, including travel demand management, transportation system management, transit, and capacity expansion, and help keeping people and freight moving more efficiently.

SEMCOG continues to update SEMCOG's traffic counts search page. When a community or interested person searches for traffic volumes, the initial search results will show the most recent Average Annual Daily Traffic (AADT) for the particular location by year. AADT are traffic volumes that are adjusted by a month and day of week factor to account for seasonal variations in traffic. By clicking on the AADT that has a hyperlink, members can view a more detailed report for a location.

SEMCOG consistently revises the traffic counts search page on its website. When a community or individual seeks traffic volume information, the initial search outcomes present the latest Average Annual Daily Traffic (AADT) figures for the specific location, categorized by year. These AADT values are calibrated to accommodate seasonal traffic fluctuations by considering factors like the month and day of the week. By selecting the AADT figure with an embedded hyperlink, users gain access to a more comprehensive report pertaining to that particular location.

Big data emerged as a valuable data source for supplementing expensive and infrequent travel surveys to analyze travel changes quickly, especially after Covid. SEMCOG had discussions with representatives of several big data platforms as well as MDOT. Various types of big data were purchased over the past fiscal year for conducting travel trend analysis, meeting the modeling, and planning needs.

This year, SEMCOG maintained and updated both the regional models - the travel demand forecasting model (TDM) and the dynamic traffic assignment model (DTA). SEMCOG refined the DTA model network with updated posted speed, number of lanes data, signal locations and signal timing data including several geometric configuration changes. Staff performed high level model validation including VMT, VHT, average speed and other performance measures using the latest E8\_LA20 demand tables. Staff also compared the regional travel statistics between Transcad and DTA models for future year 2045 and 2050 using the E8\_LA45\50 demand tables for reasonableness and consistencies checks.

SEMCOG used the base 2025 and future 2045 regional DTA models to evaluate the traffic impact of different geometric layouts for converting I-375 freeway to Boulevard in Detroit downtown. Major steps performed in this study includes coding of network attributes (number of lanes, speed, signal timing etc.), and geometric layouts changes, running base and future DTA models for different scenarios, and finally analyzing the output results. Model output results were processed, analyzed and performance measures were computed for various streets in the downtown area for various alternatives. GIS maps were created for displaying traffic diversions in downtown extended area during AM and PM peak hours due to differences in volumes between build vs. no-build alternatives. Display maps for diverted traffic can be accessed from the files directory and attached with the documents.

During the past fiscal year, SEMCOG continued to be a member of ActivitySim group, to share the cost of developing a common ABM platform - ActivitySim. SEMCOG were engaged with various activities including weekly meetings, document reviews and as needed discussions on particular items regarding ActivitySim development.

Finally, the regional household travel survey (HTS) is an important data item used to estimate and calibrate SEMCOG's regional travel demand models. SEMCOG usually partners with MDOT to conduct a household

travel survey every 10 years for the region. During the past fiscal year, MDOT and SEMCOG worked together on the statewide and SEMCOG's household travel surveys in 2024-2025 (MTC4/STC25). MDOT needs the survey data to update small urban models and SEMCOG will use the new HTS to update both trip-based and activity-based models.

### **Maintaining and Enhancing Freight Movement**

Southeast Michigan's unique geographical position, existing transportation infrastructure, and economic base combine to form an integral gateway to Canada, the Great Lakes/St. Lawrence Seaway, Chicago, the Midwest, Mexico, and the world. The region's transportation system plays a vital role in the movement of both people and goods at the regional, national, and global levels. This system is important to the growth and health of Southeast Michigan's regional economy. Reliable, efficient regional freight movement supports businesses in reducing transportation costs and expanding market reach. While regional freight facilities provide access to local shipping options, the facilities themselves can be incongruent with nearby land uses, such as parks, schools, and residences; sustaining a careful balance between community needs and freight needs is essential. Southeast Michigan's role as the U.S' premier trade gateway with Canada is of singular importance to the regional and national economy. SEMCOG continues to support the development and implementation of border infrastructure projects and policies that increase border security and reliability. SEMCOG integrates freight system planning into its regional transportation planning process, including maintaining a freight system inventory and geodatabases to evaluate its condition, operation, and safety.

SEMCOG continued collecting and updating freight system data. Also prepared for the creation of a Freight Hub with interactive components to display regional freight data. At the same time, SEMCOG, continued to work on acquiring region wide truck route data and updating truck route map and created spreadsheet of all rail-related activities in Southeast Michigan including project status.

### **Economic Development Strategy**

Much of the focus in FY24 was on activities to support implementation of SEMCOG Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, which identifies six strategies, twenty-two policies and ninety-nine actions under three pillars of business, talent, and place. They recognize both traditional economic development needs and COVID related changes. There were six main areas of work:

- **Supporting Broadband Access**
- **Promoting Electric Vehicles**
- **Supporting the Mobility Industry**
- **Downtowns**
- **Talent**
- **Technical Assistance to support community and regional Economic Development efforts**

SEMCOG continues to promote and support implementation of recommendations of the Broadband framework. This includes comprehensively reviewing the recently released Five-Year Action Plan and Digital Equity Plan produced by the Michigan High Speed Internet (MIHI) Office. Initiated the preparation of comments to submit regarding proposed changes and alignment with SEMCOG plans. And maintaining and updating the Southeast Michigan Broadband Navigator, which provides current information about the availability and importance of fast internet services, commonly known as broadband. The Navigator also features information to support digital literacy, equity, inclusion, cybersecurity, funding, and programs. Data and maps found here show availability and usage of broadband services. It has been created as a resource for communities, governments, educators, and all other stakeholders. The Broadband Navigator also serves as part of a wider effort to implement the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments' Broadband Framework, Broadband in Southeast Michigan: Expansion, Engagement, and Equity.

SEMCOG continued to conduct research on the topic of EV in different categories including State and utility EV initiatives and efforts, EV basics, EV charging infrastructure data, Zoning ordinances and local actions,

as well as available EV and EV infrastructure funding opportunities, incentives, and continued to maintain and expand the Southeast Michigan Resource Kit and Planning Hub to address changes in the technologies, the market, grant programs, and respond to requests and recommendations from communities and stakeholders.

Another vital priority of the region's CEDS is the support to the automotive and mobility industry as a driver of innovation and technology. SEMCOG and the Metropolitan Affairs Coalition began an initiative to understand the impact of the transformation of the automobile industry from internal combustion engines (ICE) to Electric Vehicles on the economy, jobs and regional competitiveness. SEMCOG also received funding from the State of Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity (LEO) through the Workforce Intelligence Network (WIN) for the Smart Cities and Community Fleet Collaborative (SC2FC). The goal is to prepare local communities for opportunities in electrifying community fleet vehicles and development of the required charging infrastructure.

SEMCOG's Economic Development webpage was redesigned to bring together the numerous resources available to members and other stakeholders. These include a one-stop shop for maps and data to assist in decision making as well as a number of tools to provide information for planning for Electric Vehicles, broadband, equity, talent, and placemaking.

### **Talent/People Initiatives**

As one of the three pillars of the CEDS, SEMCOG worked on a number of initiatives to promote workforce development, support education initiatives to build the pipeline for in-demand careers, increase labor force participation and address labor force shortages. One of the major initiatives was the development of a scope for a Career Pathways Initiative to address labor force challenges, and development of a campaign to address worker shortages, and labor force participation. As part of this project SEMCOG brought together stakeholders from education, workforce development, government and business to present and discuss labor trends and job openings.

SEMCOG coordinated webinars and workshops related to issues of interest to SEMCOG education members and partners. One of the major products was the coordination of a healthcare workforce symposium as part of the MAC Healthcare Task Force at Macomb Community College. The purpose was to understand and address the shortage of workers in the healthcare field and learn about successful strategies to attract, retain and develop a robust workforce. This half day event included three panel discussions, presentation on healthcare trends, tour of the healthcare training labs and breakout sessions with the purpose of learning about specific challenges facing healthcare stakeholders. More than 70 people were in attendance representing healthcare providers, employers, education and other organizations that serve underrepresented populations.

SEMCOG also developed a brochure Tools and Resources to help Education Members Plan for Success. This was designed by SEMCOG education members outlining the services, programs and opportunities for engagement at SEMCOG. Collected input from different SEMCOG departments on data, maps, grants and plans that could help education institutions with their planning efforts.

### **Performance Measures**

SEMCOG adopted Regional annual traffic safety targets as part of the Transportation Performance Management process, and continued to adopt pavement, bridge, reliability, freight and CMAQ performance targets as part of the TPM process. SEMCOG continues to participate in a collaborative process with MDOT and the Michigan Transportation Planning Association (MTPA) to implement federal Transportation Performance Measures by integrating them into the RTP and TIP, setting targets for performance measures addressing safety, condition, air quality, transit, freight, and system performance. These measures and targets are posted on SEMCOG's Website. SEMCOG worked with MDOT and MTPA to compare results with established targets and evaluate the need to revise targets ahead of the four-year cycle.

## Supporting Bicycle and Pedestrian Travel

Bicycle and pedestrian (non-motorized) travel is a vital part of our region's transportation system. Many communities are clamoring for more bicycle and pedestrian facilities for a variety of reasons, including improving residents' quality of life. Bicycle and pedestrian facilities improve mobility by:

- Enhancing the accessibility of our region's transit system;
- Complementing our region's town centers;
- Giving our residents transportation choices; and
- Empowering those who do not have access or cannot operate private automobiles.

As part of implementation of the 2020 Bicycle and Pedestrian Mobility Plan for Southeast Michigan, SEMCOG worked with 61 communities to help guide them through various aspects of bicycle and pedestrian planning. And continued planning a bicycle and pedestrian count program in urban, suburban and rural communities across the 7-county region. An interactive online map of bicycle and pedestrian counts is online showing all locations.

SEMCOG streamlined LRS tool which assists in creating and maintaining Bicycle and Pedestrian GIS data, updating event table data structures, non-motorized network data structure, updated non-motorized network, and instantiated non-motorized events. In partnership with MDOT, SEMCOG developed and promoted a context-sensitive multi-modal tool. This tool includes multi-modal tool pilots, a mapping tool, spreadsheet tool, and user guide. The project team is now working on developing a web-based version of the tool.

SEMCOG staff also supported bicycle and pedestrian travel by continuing to participate in a wide array of planning partner and local community non-motorized planning activities such as the Southeast Michigan Active Transportation Committee, Governor's Traffic Safety Advisory Committee, and the Detroit Non-Motorized Facilities Quarterly Task Force Meeting.

## Plan Implementation

### Enabling Local Implementation through Technical Assistance

SEMCOG continues to provide both direct technical assistance to member governments and general assistance through workshops and trainings to communities and partners throughout Southeast Michigan. The purpose of this assistance is to enable local implementation of projects, policies, actions, and approaches contained in regional plans. The workshops and trainings provide information on tools, resources, best practices, and funding needed to implement plans and move them from plans to reality.

### Direct Technical Assistance

SEMCOG conducted a series of issue-specific audits (walking, biking, accessibility, road safety, safe routes to schools, corridor redevelopment, green infrastructure, stormwater compliance and trail planning) to help local communities implement regional plans.

In administrating the Transportation Alternative Program (TAP), SEMCOG provided direct technical assistance to 72 communities throughout the region regarding eligibility and competitiveness of funding. SEMCOG awarded over \$9 million to 15 projects during the year for fiscal years 2025-2026. These projects range from providing Safe Routes to School through enhanced safety facilities, to filling critical gaps in the region's trail network, to implementing local regional bicycle routes providing increased access to core services, to improved pedestrian access, safety, and connectivity in the region's downtowns. SEMCOG also continued to support and update our interactive Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Story Map, which allows interested communities and potential applicants to better understand the projects that have been awarded previously as well as photos and before/after images of successfully implemented projects.

SEMCOG advanced recommendations in the *Strategic Framework for Growing our Resiliency, Equity, and Economy with Nature (GREEN)*, which establishes regional metrics, targets, and priority areas to improve the quality, quantity, and connectivity of the region's green infrastructure network. This initiative is driven by the goal to ensure that public benefits of green infrastructure are resilient, equitable, and improve the quality of life in Southeast Michigan communities.

SEMCOG convened two meetings of the GREEN Implementation Team, which collaboratively engages regional stakeholders to coordinate and supports local efforts that can help reach regional targets for green stormwater infrastructure, tree canopy, wetlands, land conservation, and access to nature. Team meetings have included representatives from SEMCOG member communities, along with partner organizations that manage land and implement green infrastructure in Southeast Michigan. Presentations and discussion topics have covered the latest funding opportunities, best practices from local and regional initiatives, and how to demonstrate investment opportunities and track our progress as a region.

To assist in implementing the GREEN Framework, SEMCOG partnered with the EPA to establish a green infrastructure subaward program, funded by the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI). In 2023, this program awarded support to 10 local agencies, enabling them to construct various green stormwater infrastructure techniques that offer multiple community benefits.

SEMCOG also continued to fund and administer the Planning Assistance Program. For fiscal year 2024 this program focused on funding planning projects across five priority topics of regional significance and move plans and priorities forward:

- Transportation and Infrastructure Equity Planning
- Complete Streets and Corridor Safety Planning
- Trails and Greenways Planning
- Stormwater Management Planning
- Corridor and Pedestrian Focused Placemaking Planning

SEMCOG awarded \$480,000 in Planning Assistance Program funding to local communities for a total of 13 projects to be completed in FY2025. SEMCOG provided administrative support and technical assistance for these projects. Highlights of these successful projects were shared at SEMCOG University workshops.

As part of implementing the *Bicycle and Pedestrian Mobility Plan*, SEMCOG maintained and enhanced several interactive mapping tools and resources, including the comprehensive Bicycle and Pedestrian Mobility Maps for Southeast Michigan ArcGIS hub. This "one stop" tool includes detailed and interactive maps and resources across five areas: 1) Bicycle and Pedestrian Mobility Network; 2) Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Corridors; 3) Equity and Demand Analysis; 4) Safety Analysis; and 5) Local Bicycle and Pedestrian Plans. One of the major focuses of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Mobility Plan was the continued need to ensure projects are addressing existing and long-standing equity in transportation challenges.

Implemented recreational trail components of the *Bicycle and Pedestrian Mobility Plan* and *Parks and Recreation Plan*, working in partnership with the Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance, local foundations, MDOT, DNR, and local counties to continue convening the Michigan Trails Southeast Steering Committee (MTSE). MTSE's goals are focused on coordinating regional trail planning initiatives, prioritizing the region's trail network for funding, maintenance, and investment, as well as marketing and promoting the region's trail assets. To support MTSE, SEMCOG continued maintaining a Trail Gap Analysis map and Trail Condition Evaluation project, while facilitating biannual steering committee meetings and maintaining regular coordination with individual committee members. SEMCOG hosted MTSE's first Regional Trails Summit in December, which included an interactive trail planning and prioritization exercise, and a panel discussion with representatives from trail funding agencies.

SEMCOG's Local Government Effectiveness and Collaboration (LGEC) work engaged communities to help them increase their effectiveness. These engagements continued to include assistance to local governments understand project eligibility and reporting compliance associated with state and federal funding streams. SEMCOG's LGEC work also focused on important topics for communities, including: local millage election results and sharing Munetrix fiscal tools and best practices.

In FY2024, SEMCOG continued to contract with Munetrix, a local IT company that provides public sector financials to support transparency, fiscal analysis and comparable data that allows the LGEC team to quickly and efficiently access pertinent information to more readily assist member local governments. Munetrix continues to expand the scope of its services to local governments and in FY2024, SEMCOG engaged in conversations about how to evolve this partnership in the future.

### **Workshops and Trainings**

SEMCOG hosted 30 SEMCOG University workshops and webinars on topics relevant to member governments, local and state agencies, and stakeholders across a wide-range of issue-areas. These included workshops focused on road safety trainings; implementing bicycle and pedestrian facilities, routes, and infrastructure; planning for Transportation Alternative Program (TAP), CMAQ and TIP projects; initiatives and implementation steps for green infrastructure and improving water resources; asset management best practices; economic development resources, advanced air mobility and drone-ready communities planning; planning for electric vehicles; equity emphasis planning tools; local government finance tools; among others.

### **Improving Safety and Multi-Modal Travel in Southeast Michigan**

SEMCOG launched and held three meetings of the Transportation Safety Action Committee, consisting of local and regional partners, to discuss regional traffic crash trends, local and regional accomplishments, strategies, and challenges related to transportation safety and coordinate safety implementation activities for the June 2023 adopted Southeast Michigan Transportation Safety Plan.

SEMCOG worked with MDOT and a consultant team to add proven safety countermeasures to the Multimodal Tool. The project team has completed developing the web-based version of the tool. The Multimodal Tool was prepared with the following objectives:

- Address growing competition between travel modes for limited space within the right-of-way;
- Help local communities understand what is permitted for each project and road jurisdiction; and
- Provide a framework for communities to work with SEMCOG and MDOT to determine the order in which modes may be prioritized on certain corridors or within a district, and to work within operational standards.

The tool is intended to help County and Local jurisdictions in Southeast Michigan, stakeholders and community organizations, SEMCOG staff, and MDOT staff. It can be used for State, County, and Local roads within Southeast Michigan.

In partnership with FHWA SEMCOG worked to finalize the grant agreement for the first Safe Streets for a and Roads for All (SS4A) regional supplemental planning grant. SEMCOG developed and started the Road Safety Audit program, including project selection, vendor selection and other procurement efforts. The first round of RSAs are being completed in FY2025 SEMCOG applied for and was awarded a second SS4A regional grant for vulnerable road user demonstration projects. The FHWA grant agreement for this grant is currently in progress.

SEMCOG rebranded the previously known *Walk.Bike.Drive.Safe* to the *Safe Streets* campaign. SEMCOG promoted and expanded the *Safe Streets* campaign to educate residents on safe walking, biking, and driving, and to assist member governments by providing them with educational resources and tools to educate their own constituencies. SEMCOG ran two multimedia blitzes, in October 2023 and May 2024, including online and TV PSA messaging. SEMCOG also continued to provide safety materials, including tip cards, pamphlets, wristbands, bike lights, and armbands as part of the campaign. These materials were

distributed to hundreds of member communities and partner agencies three times, in September 2023, April 2024, and June 2024.

SEMCOG produced a *Walk.Bike.Drive Safe* implementation report which summarizes campaign activities up to FY2023, including products produced and distributed. The implementation report will be updated to summarize FY2024 activities of the Safe Streets campaign and will continue to be updated annually going forward.

SEMCOG finished processing 2022 traffic crash data and published it online. Updated online safety tools include the Traffic Crash Data portal, Intersection and Road Segment data, High-Frequency Crash Locations, Community Profiles, and an interactive Crash Locations map. SEMCOG also completed the 2022 Traffic Crash Quick Facts report.

As part of implementation of the *Bicycle and Pedestrian Mobility Plan for Southeast Michigan*, SEMCOG launched multiple interactive maps and tools, including dynamic maps on – the Bicycle and Pedestrian Mobility Network (existing bikeways, sidewalks, regional trails, planned infrastructure, and comfortability levels); Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Corridors; Equity and Demand Analysis; Safety Analysis; and Local Plans.

SEMCOG was actively involved in providing ongoing technical assistance and meeting participation for various projects throughout the region, such as I-375, I-96 Flex lane, I-94 Detroit, U.S. 23 Flex Route extension. Washtenaw, Michigan Avenue and Gratiot PEL study and PEL studies in Monroe were also active. A Woodward Corridor Study RFP was released to begin in FY 2024. And SEMCOG continued its work with MDOT on the I-94 Mitigation Project.

### **Infrastructure Coordination and Integrating Climate Resiliency**

SEMCOG is working to enhance infrastructure coordination in the region to lead efforts consistent with the goals of the 21st Century Infrastructure Report and the Michigan Infrastructure Council. This effort seeks to institutionalize a process within the existing transportation planning framework that will ensure efficient and strategic investment of resources for project planning and coordination of above and below ground infrastructure, both public and private. Institutionalizing this process includes an online mechanism and strategic planning efforts for sharing infrastructure project capital improvement plans. SEMCOG aims to institutionalize a process for sharing of infrastructure project data for near term (4-5 year) and longer term (20 year) projects. This project will extend through 2024.

During the last year, the Michigan Infrastructure Council contracted with a firm to develop a CIP coordination tool. SEMCOG and MDOT reviewed the tool and agreed that it is ideal for our region and good to use statewide. SEMCOG has coordinated with the MIC as the tool is developed at the state level. As of August 2024, the MIC was close to completion and launch of the tool.

SEMCOG has coordinated with municipalities and partner agencies to collection CIP data to test the SEMCOG regional connection to the State MIC portal. The next steps to wrap up the data collection are to create an outreach strategy when the MIC portal is live to educate member communities and partner agencies and share instruction on how to participate at the regional and state levels.

In collaboration with various SEMCOG departments, SEMCOG established a regional Healthy Climate Task Force to lead the effort in reducing climate pollution and addressing the future impacts of climate change. The goal is to ensure that communities across the region become more resilient, equitable, and thriving places for future generations. The Task Force engaged regional stakeholders to provide input and guidance on developing priorities, while smaller focus groups were formed to involve subject matter experts in examining specific issues and reporting back to the larger Task Force.

The Task Force is responsible for implementing the Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP). The priorities set forth in the PCAP aim to tackle the region's primary sources of GHG emissions with actionable measures to reduce climate pollution by 2030. These priorities will lay the groundwork for a Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP) to be completed in 2025, which will include both near- and long-term solutions to reduce GHG emissions across all sectors by 2050. With the regional PCAP approved by the U.S. Environmental

Protection Agency (EPA), public entities in Southeast Michigan will be eligible to apply for implementation grant funding through the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) program, supporting the measures outlined in the plan.

Across Southeast Michigan and the nation, local governments are taking the lead in developing plans, adopting policies, and implementing actions to help their communities adapt to the effects of climate change and reduce GHG emissions. SEMCOG's coordinated approach to climate action planning connects and enhances existing local, regional, and State plans. Representatives from all levels of government and partner organizations across various sectors have been engaged in developing this plan, which is designed to build on their experience and integrate with their ongoing work.

### **Planning and Implementing Water Infrastructure and GREEN Projects**

As the designated water quality management agency for Southeast Michigan, as determined under section 208 of the Federal Clean Water Act, SEMCOG continued implementation of the *Water Resources Plan for Southeast Michigan* and published the Water Infrastructure Planning Guide. Through a series of press releases on social media, semcog.org, and other platforms, the SEMCOG highlighted their dedication to promoting sustainable water management practices and advancing regional collaboration.

Over the last fiscal year, SEMCOG was actively engaged in providing water-quality and infrastructure-related assistance to local governments throughout Southeast Michigan. Staff played a pivotal role in presenting work on climate resiliency and infrastructure coordination at various conferences and seminars. SEMCOG's active participation in green stormwater infrastructure panels further underscored SEMCOG's commitment to enhancing water quality and sustainability in the region.

One major achievement was the successful execution of the One Water campaign in June. Following its conclusion, SEMCOG's staff conducted internal meetings to debrief and begin preparations for the comprehensive final report. By September 2023, SEMCOG published the 2023 One Water Implementation Report, which provided an overview of the campaign's messages and detailed data on public engagement throughout its duration.

Throughout the fiscal year, SEMCOG staff held internal and external discussions to develop the 2024 One Water Campaign. To expand the reach of the One Water campaign and connect regional and statewide efforts, SEMCOG collaborated with EGLE to develop key messages for Great Lakes and Fresh Water Week 2024.

Flooding and stormwater management continue to be a challenge in Southeast Michigan, as such, SEMCOG hired a consulting team to develop a *Regional Resiliency Framework*, which is in progress through 2024. The project workplan included the development of a Climate Resiliency Data Portfolio to compile available relevant information for climate resiliency work, specifically focused on stormwater drainage. The relevant data was compiled, the document is under review internally, and SEMCOG will share the portfolio in 2024.

The next task as part of the *Regional Resiliency Framework* workplan was to identify funding strategies related to resiliency planning and implementation. The document gives a 2-page summary of 12 relevant funding strategies ranging from local to federal opportunities. The *Southeast Michigan Climate Resiliency Funding Strategies* document is live.

As part of the *Regional Resiliency Framework* work plan, the consultants also developed a pilot methodology for identifying and quantifying potential large-scale nature-based storage opportunities to help reduce and manage flooding. The methodology developed in this pilot task will inform future SEMCOG development of a Regional Resilience Improvement Plan.

Finally, the consultants developed a *Regional Resiliency Framework* report, summarizing actions to assess, plan, and implement resiliency efforts at the local, county, and regional levels for communities and organizations in Southeast Michigan. This document is under review internally and will be published in 2024.

SEMCOG advanced recommendations in the *Strategic Framework for Growing our Resiliency, Equity, and Economy with Nature (GREEN)*, which establishes regional metrics, targets, and priority areas to improve the quality, quantity, and connectivity of the region's green infrastructure network. This initiative is driven by the goal to ensure that public benefits of green infrastructure are resilient, equitable, and improve the quality of life in Southeast Michigan communities.

SEMCOG convened two meetings of the GREEN Implementation Team, which collaboratively engages regional stakeholders to coordinate and supports local efforts that can help reach regional targets for green stormwater infrastructure, tree canopy, wetlands, land conservation, and access to nature. Team meetings have included representatives from SEMCOG member communities, along with partner organizations that manage land and implement green infrastructure in Southeast Michigan. Presentations and discussion topics have covered the latest funding opportunities, best practices from local and regional initiatives, and how to demonstrate investment opportunities and track our progress as a region.

SEMCOG continued to develop, promote, and apply the GREEN Dashboard, which aims to share SEMCOG's data and resources with its members, while understanding more about project opportunities and needs in the region.

### **Enhancing RideShare, Alternative Commuting, and Electric Vehicles**

SEMCOG continued its pivot in the approach to the Commuter Connect program due to new COVID SEMCOG's Commuter Connect program continued to work to assist commuters in Southeast Michigan by using the program to inform, encourage, incentivize, and help improve how people commute in the region whether using transit, ridesharing, walking, biking, or teleworking. Commuter Connect worked to inform and encourage travelers to maximize the efficiency of our transportation systems leading to improved mobility, reduced congestion, and lower vehicle emissions and provides all people with real transportation options that enable them to travel from their location to a destination in an affordable, efficient, and sustainable way.

The work is done using Commuter Connect Transportation Demand Management software, providing resources, connecting with partners and employers, attending special events, giving presentations and sharing information through a webinar and through the Commuter Challenge.

Southeast Michigan Commuter Connect is promoted collaboratively with our partners. This collaboration is effective because of the creative ideas generated together and the shared resources (both personnel and monetary). Monthly meetings of this Transportation Choices group are held to work collaboratively on projects such as the special events including the Detroit Bike Challenge and the Commuter Challenge.

The SEMCOG Southeast Michigan Electric Vehicle Resource Kit and Planning Hub was updated to create a statewide hub with support from the State of Michigan. SEMCOG was responsible for updating key pages on a regular basis. The State of Michigan EV Toolkit included updates on the EV Jobs Academy Smart Cities and Community Fleet Collaborative (SC2FC) project lead by SEMCOG.

SEMCOG also held three EV and EV Infrastructure Roundtable Workshops with a focus on coordination with utility providers and private sector, EV and EV Infrastructure Funding Opportunities, and Ordinances, Equity, and Accessibility.

### **Improving Mobility and Strengthening Transit**

SEMCOG continued to coordinate with the RTA and political leaders on next steps for transit system development. SEMCOG has provided oversight assistance to the Board of the finances and operations of the RTA during leadership transition. SEMCOG has also provided technical assistance to all eight fixed route operators in the region, including direct assistance to Livingston County and Livingston Essential Transportation Service in regard to their transit services, mobility needs, and effort to develop a county transportation plan. SEMCOG also continued to work with MDOT on the development of a new intermodal station in New Center, Detroit.

Work on SEMCOG's travel demand forecast model (TDFM) development and maintenance was conducted throughout the year. The E8+ model includes updated transit component, a tour-based commercial vehicle model, and new version of 2019 social-economic input data set updated by SEMCOG. The development of E8+ model for year 2020 is now completed.

SEMCOG continued to work and provide technical assistance on several corridor projects such as Gratiot and Michigan Avenues and I-375. Certain transit-related tasks for this work are conducted under 24330 for items that are relevant to SEMCOG's overarching transit responsibilities. This work includes items such as network updates, survey analysis, and model validation and calibration. In partnership with MDOT, coordinated the deployment of the Multimodal Tool for local road agencies to accommodate additional modes, including transit, in street redesign projects.

SEMCOG presented transit accessibility indicators for senior population to various stakeholders and planning entities in Southeast Michigan. The indicators were produced to assess and measure accessibility to core services including hospitals, community health centers, urgent care facilities, grocery stores, and libraries using the transit system.

### **Legislation and Local Government Fiscal Analysis**

SEMCOG depends upon its legislative policy platform for guidance when dealing with legislative issues at the state and federal level. The platform is developed prior to each new legislative session by a task force consisting of local government officials and is approved by the SEMCOG Executive Committee. In FY2024, SEMCOG continued work to implement the policies in the region's 2023-2024 Legislative Policy Platform. The legislative platform focuses on broad policy needs rather than individual pieces of legislation; just like our regional plans focus setting a direction to achieve a desired result. This policy platform references our recently-approved plans to connect our legislative policies to the planning work of the organization. Our plans identify our aspirations and the policy platform highlights issues that need to be addressed to fulfill those aspirations. The platform also includes links to SEMCOG plans and data/mapping resources that may be helpful to legislators as they consider policy impacting the region and its communities.

When SEMCOG visits with legislators or members of congress, especially those newly elected, we spend considerable time reviewing the issues outlined within the document. When SEMCOG visits our region's congressional delegation each February, we highlight specific policies that are most likely to be discussed over the coming year within congress.

During the FY 2024, SEMCOG also began outlining the timeline and scope of work for re-convening the legislative task force to prioritize remaining policy goals included in the 2023-2024 Legislative Policy Platform. These activities included: developing the task force scope and timeline, identifying task force members and chairpersons, and initial policy review.

Our local communities are the foundation upon which much of our region's prosperity rests. Our region has been greatly challenged over the past decade to provide the services and especially infrastructure that is necessary for growth to take place. This situation deteriorated further with challenges associated with the COVID-19 crisis.

SEMCOG remains focused on infrastructure funding and local government operations/fiscal health. SEMCOG works on its own as well as in collaboration with other local government groups to evaluate changes in fiscal issues associated with the new realities of local government operations as well as evaluating the impact of federal relief funds. This work has continued in FY24. This fiscal health analysis is aided through SEMCOG's contract with Munetrix, a private-sector vendor that provides fiscal data for local governments and schools in the Southeast Michigan region.

Roads were not the only infrastructure issue that needed additional funding. Our regions other buried infrastructure and stormwater conveyance are now taking a more prominent place in public discourse, especially in recent years as the severity of rainfall events has increased. Issues related to stormwater separations, stormwater utilities, lead and copper abatement and the emerging issue of PFAS will all take significant financial resources to mitigate these environmental threats. Efforts to minimize costs such as coordinating underground infrastructure replacement with surface level infrastructure projects remain a

method that can be used to utilize our limited fiscal resources. SEMCOG also works to share best practices across the region to increase efficiency and effectiveness of services.

## Outreach Activities, Direct Management, and Special Projects

### Engaging the Public

SEMCOG worked to engage the public to participate in the planning process and to be part of implementing regional plans in a variety of ways. These include opinion surveys; opportunities to provide public comment on regional plans and policies; activities to promote Commuter Connect (the region's alternative commuting initiative), Air Quality, transportation safety, and water resources; a series of media appearances by SEMCOG to share information on regional issues; ongoing social media engagement; as well as announcements in *Regional Update* and timely videos on relevant topics.

Public surveys were conducted in FY 2024 to engage the public in SEMCOG's planning efforts related to Broadband and Vision 2050: the Regional Transportation Plan for Southeast Michigan.

SEMCOG's Commuter Connect program continued to work to assist commuters in Southeast Michigan by using the program to inform, encourage, incentivize, and help improve how people commute in the region whether using transit, ridesharing, walking, biking, or teleworking. Commuter Connect worked to inform and encourage travelers to maximize the efficiency of our transportation systems leading to improved mobility, reduced congestion, and lower vehicle emissions and provides all people with real transportation options that enable them to travel from their location to a destination in an affordable, efficient, and sustainable way.

The work was done by providing resources, connecting with partners and employers, attending special events, giving presentations and sharing information through a webinar and through the Commuter Challenge. SEMCOG staff also assisted with alternative commuting resources by serving on the MDOT Mobility App steering committee, Mobility Wallet Working Group, Regional Transit Authority 5310 Funding Scoring Committee and the Detroit Bike Challenge Coordination Stakeholders Group.

SEMCOG continued two public education initiatives – *Safe Streets* and *One Water*. *Safe Streets* – a campaign focused on traffic safety – was rebranded from its former name: Walk.Bike.Drive. Safe. *Safe Streets* was implemented with a focused campaign in fall 2023. For this iteration of the campaign, SEMCOG produced and distributed a collection of promotional materials to local governments throughout the region. Videos, brochures, tip cards, posters, bike lights, light-up wrist bands, community newsletter articles, and social media infographics were provided to Southeast Michigan local governments, schools, libraries, and partner agencies for distribution to residents. The spring 2024 campaign took place in May with more materials distributed to SEMCOG's member communities and partners as well as a paid promotional media campaign. A bonus distribution of material bundles was implemented to communities in June of 2024. The initiative has its own website.

SEMCOG uses similar tools for the *One Water* campaign. *One Water* educates residents about the interrelatedness of Southeast Michigan's drinking water, stormwater, and wastewater systems and promotes stewardship of these systems. *One Water* campaign giveaways featured pet waste bags, drinking water bottles, and disposable bags for kitchen grease. The *One Water* campaign of spring 2024 included new videos on the connection between actions upstream and water quality downstream as well as the value of rain barrels.

Additionally, the public was notified of public comment periods for amendments to the FY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and 2045 Regional Transportation Plan; SEMCOG's 2024-2025 SEMCOG Work Program; Vision 2050: the Regional Transportation Plan for Southeast Michigan; Southeast Michigan Priority Climate Action Plan; and 2024-2025 SEMCOG Operating Budget and Work Program Summary. SEMCOG's *Public Participation Plan* (2023) was used as a guide for all of these public engagement activities.

## Air Quality (formerly Ozone Action)

In partnership with the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE), SEMCOG transitioned in FY 2024 from Ozone Action Days to a two-tiered system of **Air Quality Advisories** and **Air Quality Alerts**. This new system is based on the EPA's U.S. Air Quality Index (AQI). **Air Quality Advisory**: Issued when Ozone, PM<sub>2.5</sub> or both are expected to reach or exceed the **Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups (USG)** threshold. Those considered in the "USG" threshold include people with lung disease (such as asthma), children, older adults, people who are active outdoors (including outdoor workers), people with certain genetic variants, and people with diets limited in certain nutrients should reduce prolonged or heavy outdoor exertion. This is aimed to provide awareness for poor air quality, encourage people to limit activities that contribute to poor air quality, and to alert those who are especially sensitive to poor air quality. **Air Quality Alert**: Issued when Ozone, PM<sub>2.5</sub>, or both are expected to reach or exceed the **Unhealthy** threshold or worse. This alert indicates a higher level of concern as everyone, not just sensitive groups, can be affected by poor air quality. Advisories and alerts may be issued for PM<sub>2.5</sub> throughout the year and ground-level Ozone from March 1 through October 31.

## Monitoring Legislation

The foundation of SEMCOG is its elected officials. Over the course of the year SEMCOG held six Executive Committee meetings and three General Assembly meetings involving the elected officials of the region. All of these SEMCOG meetings were held in-person and SEMCOG continued its efforts to enhance Open Meetings Act compliance and increase communication about the actions being considered by these public bodies.

SEMCOG's communications and workshop activities are geared towards informing and involving our local elected officials. SEMCOG focuses on insuring that all levels and all areas of the region have elected official representation on SEMCOG committees. SEMCOG also reaches out to include other interest groups within the region to participate on our committees. This is especially true when looking at the joint projects between SEMCOG and the Metropolitan Affairs Coalition. At the heart of SEMCOG is the work to bring all local communities together and to create the environment that will enhance the prospects of local governments working together to create a better region.

This year, efforts continued to implement policies in the SEMCOG 2023-2024 Legislative Policy Platform. SEMCOG continued its efforts to grow a coalition of organizations and stakeholders to build consensus on issues including: pursuing state FY 2024-2025 appropriations for drinking water monitoring equipment along the Huron-Erie Corridor and to offset the costs of state-mandated materials management planning to assist counties, and legislation on safety/distracted driving, stormwater utilities, water affordability, local control of aggregate mining, short term rentals, and local government revenue sharing trust fund.

Discussion of these issues was the basis for several meetings SEMCOG held with state legislative offices, regional stakeholders, and local government leaders. SEMCOG conducted many of these discussions with partner groups from throughout the region and state, sitting on several coalitions to develop priorities and work with receptive legislative champions. SEMCOG also monitored the state's fiscal outlook as an indicator for impacts on the state's ability to allocate resources to local governments.

SEMCOG continued involvement with the Michigan Infrastructure Council, Michigan Water Asset Management Council, and Transportation Asset Management Council. This work coordinates well with SEMCOG's Infrastructure Asset Management and Southeast Michigan GREEN Initiative.

SEMCOG has maintained a presence in Washington D.C. through a contract with Dykema to monitor issues and lobby on behalf of SEMCOG. This contract includes an ongoing relationship between Dykema and the congressional offices. SEMCOG staff and officers met in-person in February 2024 with all Senate and Congressional offices that represent the region. These visits included a meeting with either the elected official or their staff. During these meetings a broad range of topics were discussed, including: the importance of federal assistance to underscore the importance of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) to address issues with the region's above- and below-ground infrastructure. We also shared the region's recent Economic Development District status designation through the Economic Development Administration, and our work to maintain the region's attainment status for air quality. SEMCOG was invited

to provide testimony to the U.S. House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, focused on the IIJA and implications for regional planning. Discussions were often tailored to the interests and committee assignments of the individual members. Talking points that outline SEMCOG's various interests for the meetings are attached.

At the state level SEMCOG maintained a presence in Lansing through the use of staff as well as Dykema. This resulted in numerous contacts, both formally and informally with legislators from the region as well as the rest of the state. As described above, SEMCOG met with the majority of the region's legislators, focusing on key House and Senate appropriators.

The contract work with Dykema included their work identifying issues impacting the region as well as relaying original materials to SEMCOG on specific federal and state legislation or regulation. Written legislative updates were provided at each Executive Committee and General Assembly meeting, outlining current issues at both the state and federal level. Examples of these updates are attached.

SEMCOG staff worked with Dykema in monitoring state issues both at the capitol and out of the SEMCOG office. Agency resources were used to compile and analyze pending legislation and to then disseminate materials to our member communities regarding the potential impacts of the proposals or new laws. SEMCOG used our Regional Update newsletter and Think Regional – Act Local blog to keep our membership informed on both federal and state legislative issues. SEMCOG also issued legislative action alerts to provide local leaders with information on legislative issues of extreme importance when action by the legislature was imminent.

SEMCOG also sent correspondence to our congressional delegation and key state lawmakers on the impact of legislation or rules on member communities on a regular basis.

## Grant and Project Table

Table 1  
**Grant and Project Table**

SEMCOG Grant Name	Project Number	Page Number
CPG224	24206	25
CPG24	24115	33
CPG24	24130	41
CPG24	24142	50
CPG24	24220	52
CPG24	24226	56
CPG24	24289	78
CPG24	24314	85
CPG24	24330	97
CPG24	24344	99
CPG24	24510	102
CPR24	24287	103
DNRS24	24327	105
EDS23	23550	106
EDS24	24550	106
EVH23	23361	117
EVJA23	23360	118
GLRI23	23318	120
IC23	23286	123
IC24	24286	123
LP24	24350	125
LP24	24355	133
LP24	24525	139
MMCE23	23346	141

The following projects are listed in alphabetical order by their SEMCOG grant name and corresponding page number.

Each project in this report describes the products completed and funds expended for fiscal year 2023-2024.

MT23	23345	142
MT24	24345	142
OZ23	23456	143
OZ24	24456	143
PC23	23204	145
PC24	24204	145
RS23	23410	146
RS24	24410	146
SS24	24370	149
TAS23	23160	150
TAS24	24160	150
ZSS24	24908	154
ZSS24	24910	158
ZSS24	24920	159

# Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards

**SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**  
 SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS  
 Year ended June 30, 2024

Federal Agency/Pass-through Agency Program Title	ALN	Federal Grant Name/Number	SEMCOG GRANT #/ID	Federal Expenditures	Pass Thru Expenditures
<b>U.S. Department of Transportation</b>					
Passed through the Michigan Department of Transportation:					
Federal Highway Administration Highway Planning & Construction	20.205	2024-0009_Z1	CPG24	9,898,610	1,948,908
Federal Highway Administration Highway Planning & Construction	20.205	2024-0009_Z2	CPG224	1,319,640	-
Federal Highway Administration Highway Planning & Construction	20.205	2021-0009_Z20	MT23	95,909	-
Federal Highway Administration Highway Planning & Construction	20.205	2021-0009_Z20_R2	MT24	116,377	-
Federal Highway Administration Highway Planning & Construction	20.205	2021-0009_Z19	OZ23	25,424	-
Federal Highway Administration Highway Planning & Construction	20.205	2024-0009_Z3	OZ24	35,957	-
Federal Highway Administration Highway Planning & Construction	20.205	2021-0009_Z18	IC23	76,059	-
Federal Highway Administration Highway Planning & Construction	20.205	2021-0009_Z18_R2	IC24	105,031	-
Federal Highway Administration Highway Planning & Construction	20.205	2021-0009_Z17	PC23	154,697	-
Federal Highway Administration Highway Planning & Construction	20.205	2024-0009_Z4	PC24	195,002	-
Federal Highway Administration Highway Planning & Construction	20.205	2023-0070	RS23	91,887	-
Federal Highway Administration Highway Planning & Construction	20.205	2023-0699	RS24	237,455	-
Total Federal Highway Administration Highway Planning & Construction				12,352,049	1,948,908
Total funds passed through Michigan Department of Transportation				12,352,049	1,948,908
Passed through the Federal Highway Administration Office of Safety:					
Safe Streets and Roads For All Grant Program	20.939	693JJ32340553	SS24	15,223	-
Total funds passed through Federal Highway Administration Office of Safety				15,223	0
<b>American Rescue Plan Act Local Parks and Trails</b>					
Passed through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources					
Michigan Spark Grant	21.027	SLFRP0127	DNRS24	15,681	-
Total funds passed through Michigan Department of Natural Resources				15,681	0
<b>U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - Water Quality:</b>					
Great Lakes Restorative Initiative 2023	66.469	GL-00E03231-0	GLRI23	118,769	76,323
<b>U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - Office of Air and Radiation:</b>					
Climate Pollution Reduction Grants	66.046	00E03475	CPR24	409,982	-
Total U.S. Environmental Protection Agency				528,751	76,323
<b>U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development</b>					
Passed through the Michigan Economic Development Corporation:					
Electric Vehicle Jobs Academy	14.228	EV ACADEMY_2022_SEMCA, MSC 221030-CV	EVJA23	7,481	-
Total funds passed through Michigan Economic Development Corporation:				7,481	0
<b>U.S. Department of Commerce - Economic Development Administration:</b>					
Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for SE MI	11.303	ED22CHI3020043	EDS23	27,352	-
EDA Partnership Planning for Implementing SE Michigan CEDS 2024	11.303	ED24CHIOG0059	EDS24	33,636	-
Total U.S. Department of Commerce				60,989	0
Total Federal Awards Expended				<b>\$ 12,980,173</b>	<b>\$ 2,025,232</b>

## Product Narratives by Project Number

### Project 24206, Travel Management

Grant/Task	Grantor	Local	Total
CPG224, 24206	\$1,319,640.12	\$292,626.38	\$1,612,266.50

### Product 1: Monitor, maintain, evaluate, enhance, and apply travel demand forecast models

#### Operational Travel Model Maintenance and Enhancement

Over the past fiscal year, in addition to the travel model routine operation and application, Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) continued maintaining and enhancing SEMCOG's official travel demand model - trip-based model. These efforts were conducted by SEMCOG staff, with technical assistance from consultants, to finalize the newest product model version – E8Plus.

- Updated the model code of E8Plus - the commercial-vehicle long distance model using only the freight facility centers being built before the scenario year.
- Implemented the static commercial vehicle model (CVM) function into the E8Plus model to simplify model application for WATS transportation policy analysis and project level support when the impact of truck travel is not largely expected. [The user guide](#) was revised to reflect the changes.
- Finalized the documentation of E8Plus model, which includes:
  - Revising Transit Update Report to attach it to the E8Plus documentation as an appendix.
  - Updating the model component documents and process-flowchart of E8Plus model, to reflect the changes made due to the newly developed CVM.
  - Integrating the transit updates and newly developed CVM into [E8Plus model documentation](#).
- Documented high-level description of various transportation models used at SEMCOG, as well as their differences of model features. [The travel forecast website](#) was updated to include the introduction page of these models.
- Finalized the base year of E8Plus model using the final 2019 social-economic input data of 2050 Regional Demographic Forecasts (RDF), the 2019 transit routes, and 2020 highway network, for the development of 2050 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP).
- Completed the input data updates of [traffic forecast volume map](#).
- Presented an overview of the Model and Applications in SEMCOG university, along with other data tools.

SEMCOG also updated the input data for the EPA's Mobile Vehicle Emission Simulator (MOVES) using the available local data. These updated inputs were used with MOVES in performing transportation conformity analysis, developing emission inventory, and supporting other environmental planning activities.

- Analyzed the 2019-2023 vehicle registration data, received from Michigan Department of Secretary (MDOS), as well as the 2018 bus fleet data from MDOT, focusing on the investigation of heavy truck categories, transit, and school bus inventories.
- Processed the 2023 dataset in producing the vehicle population, age distribution, and vehicle fuel usages, which were required as the inputs of the air quality on-road emission model – MOVES.
- Compiled the local temperature data for both Particular Matter (PM) 2.5 and ozone to the format MOVES requires as the input.
- Transitioned to EPA's latest version – MOVES 4 for the transportation conformity analysis of 2050 RTP.

Over the past fiscal year, SEMCOG continued to coordinate with MDOT/WATS and local universities on modeling tasks and related data efforts.

- Shared with WATS of the E8Plus model and the model outputs of 2050 RTP, provided the technique supports to WATS in using SEMCOG's E8Plus model.
- Discussed with WATS on the potential coordination of using the regional model for WATS policy analysis and the enhancement of a few areas (model reporting, subarea, scenarios, UM student travels, etc.).
- Coordinated with Ministry of Transportation of Ontario (MTO) and MDOT in discussing related data items to the travel analysis of the international border crossings including the social economic (SE) growth, travel projects, future surveys.
- Reviewed Ontario SE data projection received from MTO; described the based year bordering crossing traffic data manipulation process to MTO and communicated Ontario's data with MDOT staff.
- Supported University Michigan (UM) faculties in their research project of "representative samples in household travel survey". UM shared their findings on SEMCOG's 2015 HTS and made a few recommendations on revisiting some sensitive questions (gender, race, etc.) for the 2025 HTS.
- Participated in two MDOT research project kickoffs: "End-to-End Learning Framework for Transportation Network" and "Speed Estimation and Post Processing for Air Quality Analysis Using Big Data and Existing Travel Demand Forecasting Methods".

In addition, SEMCOG also made efforts to improve the efficiency of the model applications, explore practical tools for model visualization and innovative modeling methods for active transportation modes.

- Developed an input file comparison tool, which can be applied to any type of model/program in assessing the common and different contents of the input files. The application scope, input parameters and function options were shared with peers.
- Developed a custom program to calculate bus route headway by time period based on the GTFS data and applied it to SEMCOG region transit authorities' data. GTFS data process automation outputs were QAQCed to comfort the specialty of transit authorities.
- Studied and tested Power BI visualization tool as a preliminary work to establish a model data dashboard.
- Explored and practiced Quarto and SimWrapper ABM visualization tools shared from the ActivitySim team and shared the utilization of SimWrapper with the model and mobility team
- Collected a Stockholm bicycle model development paper and shared the findings from the paper with the team.

### **Local Requests and Internal Support**

SEMCOG assisted MDOT, local municipalities and their project consultants in providing travel model data and analyses, air quality model data/MOVES data and analyses and other Air quality related data. These requests vary in complexity from simple traffic volume growth calculations to ongoing involvement and support for project evaluation and analysis.

Below are requests where model data, output files and other data items were prepared, analyzed, and provided for use.

#### ***Gordie Howe Bridge Traffic study***

- In continuation of the previous request for travel model, discussed purpose and project teams' need for additional or disaggregate model input data for this study. Prepared and provided model input data as requested.

***I-75 Corridor project***

- Travel demand model and input files were provided to the project team for I-75 corridor plan (Square Lake Rd into Genesee County).

***I-75/8 Mile Interchange***

- SEMCOG, along with MDOT, assisted the consultant in evaluating several interchange configuration alternatives.
  - Several meetings were held with the project team to discuss modeling needs and scenarios.
  - Provided model data and analyses to develop traffic projections for the study area or the interchange.
  - SEMCOG also provided and helped set up the updated Travel demand model, for MDOT staff to run alternative scenarios.

***US-23***

- Provided model, data and technical support to consultants for US-23 project.

***I-375***

- Completed request for model, input data and analyses, from consultant working on I-375 project update. Further modeling assistance was performed using the Dynamic assignment model.

***Beck Road***

- SEMCOG assisted the communities and consultant working on Beck Road project in Wixom and Novi.
  - Provided traffic growth rates the corridor from standard model runs.
  - Performed an alternatives case model run specifically for the Environmental study. Analyzed and provided results to the study team.

***Wayne State***

- Provided SEMCOG's trip-based model to Wayne State Engineering department working on Electric vehicle project. Staff also provided technical assistance and support for model set up.

Traffic growth and other model data requests:

- Completed request for model growth in the area of Ferry St/ Russell St for a Traffic impact study, requested by consultant.
- Completed request for traffic growth on Mound Rd, requested by consultant.
- Completed traffic growth rate request for Ford Rd and Sheldon Rd in Canton township.
- Completed request for Transit On board survey and model data from City of Ann Arbor. Received request for On-board survey and model boardings from City of Ann Arbor. Met with the City staff to understand data needs. Provided data and analyses as requested.
- Worked with Data Analysis group to fulfill GTFS files request for SEMCOG's project with NOAA/Fernleaf.
- Discussed with City of Birmingham staff, the request for Vehicle miles of travel (VMT) and other information. Performed analysis to calculate city-wide VMT, and provided requested information.

- Completed the data request on the vehicle registration database for City of Ann Arbor.
- Completed request for growth rate on Telegraph Road in Taylor.
- Met with Michigan Tech University staff to talk about potential collaboration on several topics/items such as freight planning.
- Completed the data request on the vehicle registration database for Oakland County.
- Completed request for TAZ level employment by TMACOG.
- Completed request for model output from St. Clair County.
- Completed traffic growth request from consultant working for Wayne County.
- Received request for Transit mode share from Oakland County. Provided 2015 household survey mode share for reference.
- Completed request from WATS for E8plus model data for long range plan.
- Met with consultant working on Climate Action plan, to discuss model data needs. Working with consultant to provide data in desired format.
- Provided background land use information regarding I-94 reconstruction project near DTW, to MDOT.
- Coordinated transit data collection from SMART. Data is needed for Detroit working on SS4A grant application.
- EGLE requested ozone modeling analysis of SEMCOG region using MOVES4 for supporting the 1997 ozone 2<sup>nd</sup> maintenance plan. SEMCOG discussed with EGLE/EPA: two years analysis (2017 and 2031) will be performed for this effort.
- SEMCOG staff prepared and performed the ozone emission analysis of two years (2017 and 2031) requested by EGLE, using MOVES4 for supporting the 1997 ozone 2<sup>nd</sup> maintenance plan.
- Completed request for traffic growth for Hall Rd in Sterling Heights, requested by consultant.
- Completed request for border crossing volumes from TMACOG.

### **Regional Dynamic Traffic Assignment (DTA) Model Development and Implementation**

SEMCOG maintains and updates both the regional models - the travel demand forecasting model (TDM) and the dynamic traffic assignment model (DTA). SEMCOG refined the DTA model network with updated posted speed, number of lanes data, signal locations and signal timing data including several geometric configuration changes. Staff performed high level model validation including VMT, VHT, average speed and other performance measures using the latest E8\_LA20 demand tables. Staff also compared the regional travel statistics between Transcad and DTA models for future year 2045 and 2050 using the E8\_LA45\50 demand tables for reasonableness and consistencies checks.

SEMCOG used the base 2025 and future 2045 regional DTA models to evaluate the traffic impact of different geometric layouts for converting I-375 freeway to Boulevard in Detroit downtown. Major steps performed in this study includes coding of network attributes (number of lanes, speed, signal timing etc.), and geometric layouts changes, running base and future DTA models for different scenarios, and finally analyzing the output results. Model output results were processed, analyzed and performance measures were computed for various streets in the downtown area for various alternatives. GIS maps were created for displaying traffic diversions in downtown extended area during AM and PM peak hours due to differences in volumes between build vs. no-build alternatives. Display maps for diverted traffic can be accessed from the files directory and attached with the documents.

## Activity-Based Travel Model (ABM) Development

During the past fiscal year, SEMCOG worked closely with the RSG ABM support team on the ABM evaluation and continuous enhancements. The following activities were conducted by SEMCOG staff, with the assistance from RSG.

- Made additional improvements to the current ABM version (ActSim1.0) regarding the model usability, addressed the SE input data changes of 2050 RDF, produced the EJ analysis reports and documented the process. This version was used to conduct model runs with the compatible inputs from the 2050 RTP and compared with the model results from E8Plus.
- Finalized the [model description](#), [user guide](#), [model calibration and validation document](#) of ActSim1.0.
- SEMCOG conducted model tests, checked model outputs, reviewed documents, and provided feedback and comments for RSG to address and make improvements.
- Validated SE data of 2050 RDF for the input of ABM, conducted test runs (2020, 2025) of Ann Arbor – Detroit express bus (D2A2) in both E8Plus and ABM. Transit ridership growing in both E8 2025, ABM 2020 and ABM 2025 compared with no build scenarios.
- Enhanced the summary automation procedure by adding D2A2 specific ridership and total transit revenue mile attribute to understand and compare rationale of scenarios. This procedure can be utilized in other modelling analysis.
- Completed the model run of ABM 2050 using the input from 2050 RTP. Transit mode share is a little under expectation; analyzed and found out the potential reasons which brought down transit share in 2050 model run and shared the findings with the team. During the study and analysis on the relation between the SED input and model response, transit trips made by persons who own a transit pass or are subsidized are in a lower proportion.
- Worked with RSG on the continuous ABM improvements to adopt the changes made in ActivitySim and using Sharrow developed by CS through ActivitySim consortium. The version used was ActivitySim pre-release version 1.3 Beta 0 and Sharrow 2.10. Good improvements were noticeable in reducing memory usage and the run-time, but some remaining issues need to be further investigated. A memo delivered by RSG documented these findings and a Github branch of “2-zone-performance” was created for this improvement.
- Verified AAATA transit pass cost compare with regular cash fare cost which is a key component to estimate the transit pass sub module in the ABM
- Started testing SEMCOG PopulationSim model that will be used for transportation planning alternatives/scenarios testing later on.

During the past fiscal year, SEMCOG continued to be a member of ActivitySim group, to share the cost of developing [a common ABM platform - ActivitySim](#). SEMCOG were engaged with various activities including weekly meetings, document reviews and as needed discussions on particular items regarding ActivitySim development.

- SEMCOG participated in [the conference calls](#) with other partners and consultant teams to discuss the project progress, milestones, challenges, and future directions.

- Phase 8 tasks were completed by: WSP on the ActivitySim Roadmap development, the data optimization tasks and 2-zone memory profiling; RSG on the input checker; CS on replacing ORCA, the configuration and component documentation.
- SEMCOG engaged and worked with RSG in testing the ActivitySim Input Checker function that validates input data before a model run starts.
- The three workbench contractors were assigned with a subset of Phase 9 work items, led by CS aiming to resolve existing/known performance issues of ActivitySim, and having a new ActivitySim release version 1.3 working with Sharrow.
- SEMCOG, along with other ActivitySim partners, discussed Phase 9B scope of work, reviewed the proposals from consultants. Each agency ranked the priority of these tasks and their choice of consultants. WSP, CS and RSG were selected to complete the following tasks.
  - Project Management (CS) – ongoing.
  - Work from Home Representation (WSP)
  - Estimation Mode improvement (RSG)

## Professional Development

Continuing education, training and professional development is always an important component in transportation modeling program. It can help SEMCOG to improve professional skills and make work more efficient.

### Product 2: Monitor, Maintain, Evaluate, Enhance and Implement the Congestion Management Plan

SEMCOG continues to maintain/update the congestion management process (CMP) by using either the archived real-time speed data or the updated travel demand model estimated speed and volume over capacity (V/C) data. During the fiscal year 2023-2024, staff updated the transportation system performance measures using the 2023 archived real-time speed data. The updated performance measures include:

- 1) Congested miles and hours by region-wide freeway network
- 2) Congested freeway and NHS arterial locations
- 3) Congested miles and hours by each freeway corridor
- 4) Congestion severity by freeway corridor

Charts and tables were produced as part of the performance measure analysis. SEMCOG also determined the performance measures of arterial NHS (national highway system) corridors by county and produced countywide deficiency map, using the 2023 INRIX NPMRDS (national performance management research data set) speed data. Region and countywide roadway congestion deficiency maps were produced and shared with our planning partners. These maps are also in the process of being uploaded onto SEMCOG webpage.

### Identifying congested/bottleneck locations

During the fiscal year 2023-2024, SEMCOG identified congestion deficiencies and bottleneck locations for freeway and arterial NHS system in SEMCOG region using the archived real-time speed data downloaded from Regional Integrating Transportation Information System (RITIS) platform. Congested/bottleneck locations were identified using the following criteria: speed should be below 35 mph for freeway and 20 mph for arterial for at least 15 minutes or longer during AM (7:00-9:30 am) and PM (3:30 – 6:30 pm) peak periods; and this travel condition occurs 65 days of 260 weekdays (25%) in a year. Identified locations were reported in excel table format and also shown in GIS map. SEMCOG also identified congested locations for NHS arterial corridors using the criterion of average speed below 20 mph during each hour of AM (7:00-

10:00 AM) and PM (3:00-7:00 PM) peak periods. Maps showing the bottleneck locations for major arterial were shared with their respective planning partners.

### **Product 3: Monitor and document activities and performance to promote collaboration and coordination related to travel management**

Over the past fiscal year, SEMCOG conducted the following activities to promote collaboration and coordination.

- Supported the development of regional greenhouse gas emissions inventory to understand the current emissions and future projections for the transportation sector.
- Participated in a survey regarding coordinating transportation services and environmental impacts for the University of Auburn.
- Presented to the Livingston County Transportation Coalition about SEMCOG plans and services related to providing multimodal transportation options in Oakland County.

### **Product 4: Collect and analyze travel data including various surveys or big data solutions to enhance SEMCOG's travel model performance**

Traffic counts continued to be critical in calibrating and validating SEMCOG's regional models, as well as local project studies. Over the past fiscal year, SEMCOG contracted out to DLZ for collecting around 900 traffic counts across the region. These locations are a combination of existing external locations that entering the SEMCOG area, travel model defined cutline locations, and additional freeway and fringe area locations.

Big data emerged as a valuable data source for supplementing expensive and infrequent travel surveys to analyze travel changes quickly, especially after Covid. SEMCOG had discussions with representatives of several big data platforms as well as MDOT. Various types of big data were purchased over the past fiscal year for conducting travel trend analysis, meeting the modeling, and planning needs.

- SEMCOG made the purchase order to get LOCUS 2023 data, and continued access to dashboard to all the years' data. Below are some of the work items regarding LOCUS.
  - Worked with CS to complete the Traffic trends analysis report. CS delivered the final report and data summaries based on SEMCOG's reviews and comments.
  - Worked with CS to set up LOCUS dashboard access for the following entities: Oakland County planning, Commerce township, City of Detroit, HNTB team working for I-375 project, RTA.
  - Summarized and presented key takeaways from LOCUS data trend analysis report which reflected changes in travel pattern before, during and after the Pandemic.
  - Worked with CS to complete the Community level VMT for environment related requests. The final memo and analysis were delivered by CS.
- SEMCOG purchased the ClearGuide safety tool from the Iteris consultant. Safety tools include the drivers speeding and prevailing percentile roadway speed data.
  - Staff performed high-level vehicle speeding data analysis using Iteris ClearGuide Safety Tool for Ypsilanti downtown roadway network as part of the request from Ypsilanti township to investigate the speeding/safety related issues. Based on the high-level vehicle speeding data analysis, more detailed route/corridor-level analyses were performed for 2-mile-long Forest Ave., using the same Iteris ClearGuide Safety route tools. Percent of vehicles over speed limit by 5 & 10 mph, and percentile (50 & 85) speed values were determined for Forest Ave. and displayed in tables and charts formats for different time range – monthly, quarterly, and by time-of-day, day of week or combinations of time-of-day and day of week.

- Staff exported the over speeding, and percentile speeds data for the entire regional network from 2022 through 2024 based on TMC segments. Staff presented webinar on Iteris ClearGuide safety tool as part of SEMCOG University on Transportation modeling and mobility tools.
- SEMCOG purchased the 2022-2023 ATRI truck data, with an add-on of national O-D for analyzing the long-haul truck travels and the truck parking in the region.
  - Worked with RSG to complete the parking analysis of ATRI truck data, including data and memo review.
  - RSG processed and delivered the revised trip tables of these truck data, the shape file with the parking polygons, and relevant attributes for SEMCOG's further analysis.
  - RSG presented the findings to SEMCOG and delivered the final memo for SEMCOG to review. This memo includes the data process, methodologies used in identifying the parking locations, the statistics of these truck parking at regional level and the top 20 individual parking locations.

Regional household travel survey (HTS) is an important data item used to estimate and calibrate SEMCOG's regional travel demand models. SEMCOG usually partners with MDOT to conduct a household travel survey every 10 years for the region. During the past fiscal year, MDOT and SEMCOG started to plan the next statewide and SEMCOG's household travel surveys in 2024-2025 (MTC4/STC25). MDOT needs the survey data to update small urban models and SEMCOG will use the new HTS to update both trip-based and activity-based models.

- Issued the RFP, reviewed/evaluated the two proposals from RSG and WeStat, interviewed the project team, and tested the survey apps. RSG was selected to award the contract.
- MDOT kicked off the household travel survey contract with RSG. MDOT and SEMCOG worked together to review/comment on the common administrative and work tasks to ensure the survey consistent between both agencies.
- SEMCOG staff reviewed and commented on the following items: questionnaire and code book, sample plan, survey instrument, public communication, the data coding, and quality control memo.
- Staff participated in the HTS pre-survey test and documented experience / things to improve and discussed them to the project team
- MDOT launched the survey and weekly progress/reports being discussed among RSG/MDOT/SEMCOG; SEMCOG staff helped in reviewing the Arabic translations of HT
- Staff presented the project overview/status to the front office, discussed internally and with finance group on SEMCOG's funding options. The contract materials were prepared to get the approval from SEMCOG's executive committees.

## Project 24115, Data Collection, Management, and Distribution

Grant/Task	Grantor	Local	Total
CPG24, 24115	\$1,778,194.04	\$394,309.37	\$2,172,503.41

### Product 1: Management of geospatial technologies and data

- SEMCOG upgraded ArcGIS Enterprise to version 11.1.
- SEMCOG published the 2050 Forecast Explorer.
- SEMCOG published the Then and Now map.
- SEMCOG published the GREEN Dashboard.
- SEMCOG updated the data on the Site Explorer Map Series and Multimodal Tool. SEMCOG also updated the data on the Flood Risk Tool.
- SEMCOG updated the data inputs to the Flood Risk Analysis tool that is used in ArcGIS Pro and ran the tool to update the dashboard.
- SEMCOG performed quality checks on the land cover and tree canopy data received by Ecopia and SEMCOG made the data available to staff and members that request it.
- SEMCOG updated all maps and pages to use the new Google Analytics 4 platform for tracking page views.
- SEMCOG trained staff on Portal and provided them with the information they need to migrate data from ArcGIS Online to Portal where applicable.
- SEMCOG created a new MGF Conversion tool using ArcGIS Pro.
- SEMCOG continued to maintain the production-level GIS feature classes stored in the agency's enterprise geodatabase (often called "SDE").

SEMCOG participates in the Michigan GIS User Group meeting, the Oakland County Steering Committee, and IMAGIN (Improving Michigan's Access to Geographic Information Networks), and MiCAMP (Michigan Communities of Mapping Professionals). SEMCOG also hosts the quarterly meeting of the Southeast Michigan GIS User Group, which discusses new technologies within the industry, best practices within the region, and State, and attendee challenges and solutions. SEMCOG also attended the annual Esri User Conference. These conferences provide opportunities to learn about upcoming GIS software updates as well as new GIS software. A portion of this conference were virtual and free this year which allowed many staff to attend. Five staff members attended the IMAGIN Conference.

SEMCOG fulfilled 113 requests for data from members and the public, in the following categories: Aeria Imagery (7), Bridge Data (1), Census Data (7), Community Development (3), Community Profiles (1), Detailed Travel Model Data (3), Economic Development (3), Employment Estimates (11), Electric Vehicle Data (6), Forecast Data (3), Green Infrastructure (1), Housing (4), Land Data (12), Media (9), Member Benefits (14), Member Participation (3), Nonresidential Development (1), Other (8), Permits (1), Socioeconomic Data (2), Traffic Volumes (1), Transit (1)

The Roads & Highways data includes a GIS layer of all roads and railroads in the state, attributed with many important and frequently used fields, including road name, functional classification, county, community, and a great many more. The data also includes the tables necessary to migrate linearly referenced transportation data back and forth between various versions of Roads & Highways and its predecessor, the original Michigan Geographic Framework (MGF). SEMCOG completed creating a new, easier-to-use migration application to replace the old MS Access-based programs.

After processing Roads & Highways version 22, with SEMCOG's decision to adopt that version as the basis

of a new standard GIS “framework” to use across the agency, replacing the MGF version-16 standard currently in use, several attributes have been updated for SEMCOG planning use. The list of attributes include: MCD codes, road names, ACUB, place codes, roundabout information, and traffic signals. Standard GIS layers (such as road links, intersections, roundabouts, and so-called “federal-aid” highway links) were recreated. SEMCOG loaded new versions of its transportation data based on Roads and Highways version 22 into the production database; the previous versions based on the MGF 16 or 17 road networks have been retained while related products are being updated.

All tasks completed and all significant observations made about the data were thoroughly documented. Suggested corrections to make to Roads and Highway v22 were also documented and provided to MDOT. Additional LRS data such as pavement condition, pavement type, and number of lanes were processed and added to the FALink layer. Staff is still working on an update of latest traffic volume and posted speed for the FALink layer. Crash data for 2022 arrived later than usual from the state, so the processing of crash data will take place in the 23-24 fiscal year; however, many of the scripts and development databases were worked on in anticipation of the data.

In addition to the work completed above, MDOT Roads & Highways v23 data was downloaded second quarter of 2023. Processing of this file involved: extracting regional layers from the statewide network, checking for and correcting certain errors, implementing new standards for spatial precision and the precision of road segments’ milepoint values, and creating the “route” layers needed for staff to generate geographic features via dynamic segmentation. The v23 change transaction file was also downloaded to be added to the updated LRS migration tool.

## **Product 2: Website operation and maintenance**

The existing website was maintained while updated data and maps were loaded throughout the year in the Open Data Portal and the Maps and Apps Gallery online, respectively. The *Map Gallery* was renamed to *Maps and Apps Gallery* to better reflect the growing scope of its contents. The data categories in the Maps and Apps Gallery were reorganized to better highlight SEMCOG’s growing range of Environment-related maps and applications. Distribution via the website continues to be an efficient way to provide resources to SEMCOG members and the general public.

The items in the Open Data Portal received updates to titles and metadata to make data easier to find and use.

The following web pages were updated during the course of the year: GIS, Open Data Portal homepage, Data and Maps, Aerial Imagery, Regional Forecast, County Commissioner Districts, Economic Trends.

The following datasets were added to the SEMCOG Open Data Portal: updated Traffic Volumes, Land Cover Quick Facts, updated Crash Locations, updated Watersheds, Pavement Condition.

The following products were loaded into the SEMCOG Maps and Apps Gallery: Green Infrastructure Assessments for Coastal Resilience, Flood Risk Tool, Broadband Navigator, Areas of Economic Distress, Southeast Michigan Safety Hub.

The following items were removed from the Maps and Apps gallery due to a lack of new and relevant data to use in them: Traffic Congestion, Community Boundaries, and Implemented Transportation Construction Projects, High-Priority Safety Locations.

The following maps in SEMCOG’s Map Gallery received updates to their functionality and/or their data: Road Jurisdiction, Community Explorer, Broadband Availability and Usage, Membership, TIP and RTP Projects, Equity Emphasis Areas, Residential Construction, Nonresidential Development, Planning Assistance Projects, ParkFinder, Employment Density.

## Product 3: Summary of data sets collected, processed, and analyzed

### Demographic data and population estimates by community

SEMCOG is a major source of information on demographic trends in Southeast Michigan. As the region continues to emerge from the global pandemic, reliable and timely information is even more relevant for communities to plan and implement development policies. Data from various sources were collected and analyzed throughout the year to understand the social and demographic trends. Data and reports from these analyses were published online along with updating internal databases.

#### Analyzing data from Census and other sources

Census Bureau's American Community Survey estimates is one of the primary datasets that SEMCOG collects data from and analyzes on a regular basis. Trends in population, households, and housing from single year and multi-year estimates from 2022 were examined. Data from these analyses were used in updating online maps and data tools including [Community Explorer](#), [Equity Emphasis Areas](#), and [Community Profiles](#). Social, demographic, economic, and housing profiles from the American Community Survey were linked to SEMCOG's website.

Data and analyses generated using American Community Survey estimates were used to validate results of SEMCOG's [2050 forecast](#), develop population and household estimates, present the analysis using various tools on [SEMCOG's website](#), help local communities in their planning activities, and for other planning and modeling purposes. Aging of population continues to be one of the defining demographic trends in the region. To address this, SEMCOG hosted a [series of workshops](#) on aging trends and the resources available to communities to help meet the needs of the aging population in the region.

The scripts used to download and collate Census Bureau data for mapping and analysis were updated to be compatible with the latest data format used by the US Census Bureau. The scripts were also combined into fewer files, allowing for the production of several datasets formatted for use in multiple different mapping and analysis tasks in a single script run.

#### Population and Household Estimates

SEMCOG produces estimates of population and households for all communities in the region on an annual basis. The estimates include total population, households, housing units, household size and vacancy data by community along with changes since 2020 census. Data from building permits and demolition monitoring, vacancy rates by tract from United State Postal Service along with births, and deaths data gathered from the State Department of Community Health were utilized to produce the population and household estimates. [Annual estimates for July 2023](#) were produced for all communities in Southeast Michigan and published on SEMCOG's website.

Several presentations were made to members and planning agencies providing further analyses of the population and housing topics in the form of tables, charts, maps, and power point presentations. The presentations provided a comprehensive summary and analysis of the demographic data, trends, and geographic distribution of several elements of regional demography.

#### Residential development (building permits)

SEMCOG continued to collect monthly residential building permit data from all 232 communities in Southeast Michigan. The number of building permits issued, along with address, parcel, and value information for new construction and demolitions of single-family, two-family, condominium and multi-family dwellings were entered in an internal database. Data was checked for accuracy, duplications, and missing information. Missing monthly reports or addresses were requested when necessary. Permit numbers are stored in a MS SQL server table; data is entered through MS Access. Building permit addresses are entered and geocoded in a GIS layer file. An excel database of building permit contacts is maintained. Communities respond to monthly building permit requests through online *SurveyMonkey* survey link emailed to all contacts.

Building permit data is used internally as input in the Regional Development Forecast, population and household estimates, updating building footprints, and overall tracking of changes within communities and counties. Permit data is available and searchable on SEMCOG's website in the community profiles section via the SQL database. Data is available by county, community and year back to 2010 on the website. Permit data from 1969 to 2009 can be provided by request.

A [StoryMap](#) was produced to provide a review of the years' data.

### **Nonresidential development**

SEMCOG continued to monitor nonresidential development occurring in the Southeast Michigan region in 2023/24. Several news sources were checked daily covering the seven counties to find projects completed, under construction or planned. Data was added to postgres database and attributed or existing projects updated. Site plans from community planning commission minutes online were georeferenced, buildings drawn, attributed and added to postgres database. Demolitions projects are also tracked where possible and buildings flagged with demolition date. Scheduled weekly data updates are fed to the Nonresidential Development online dashboard.

Nonresidential project types include retail, office, industrial, warehouse, mixed-use, hotel, institutional, recreational, medical, and transportation related projects. New construction, additions to existing buildings, renovations, and redevelopment projects are tracked by community. Data on size (square feet), location, and construction value are requested.

Nonresidential development data is used in several SEMCOG projects including; regional development forecast, employment estimates, building footprints, and other economic development and transportation planning tasks. The development data is also used by local communities to accurately forecast local conditions, measure economic performance, and to compare growth patterns.

The interactive [Dashboard](#) was updated that provides a review of the years' development projects.

### **Employment and economic data**

The bulk of the 2023-24 fiscal year was spent updating SEMCOG's [Economic Indicators](#) and High-Frequency Socio-Economic Dashboard. The Economic Indicators were completely redesigned into a new, more user-friendly interface. A total of 16 new charts were added to the existing 14 charts. The charts were organized into four categories: Business, Talent, Place, and Prosperity. Updates to the [High-Frequency Socio-Economic Dashboard](#) commenced, but extended into the 2024-25 fiscal year. SEMCOG created a new [Economic Trends](#) page to serve as the gateway to both tools.

SEMCOG prepared for and participated in a several significant presentations, including: University of Michigan's Economic Growth Institute's Elevate Forum, October 24, 2023; the 2024 Macomb County Economic Forecast, February 23, 2024; and the Leadership Macomb meeting on March 20, 2024.

SEMCOG contracted with University of Michigan (U-M) to update the 2020 study on shared prosperity, resulting in the report, [Evaluating Shared Prosperity in Southeast Michigan, 2018-2022](#).

SEMCOG updated the county and regional State Equalized Valuation (SEV) and Taxable Value (TV) trends using the 2023 data from the Michigan State Tax Commission.

SEMCOG updated the [Employment Density](#) map with data from the 2019 estimates, along with creating a new interface that is more dynamic than the previous version.

SEMCOG published a new report, [Historical Population and Employment by Minor Civil Division, Southeast Michigan](#); adding community-level numbers and analysis for years 2010 and 2020 to the historical report written in 2002.

## Updated land use

SEMCOG develops and maintains several data layers tracking changes to development in the region, which are used in local and regional planning work and socioeconomic forecasting. The primary development datasets maintained by SEMCOG are the building footprints and land parcels data layers.

### ***Building Footprints***

The current [2020 building footprints data layer](#) stores the location, shape, and descriptive attributes of each building in the region, with a building defined as any structure containing a housing unit or nonresidential job space. Buildings demolished since the year 2010 are maintained in the data layer to analyze changes to the built environment over time.

During this fiscal year, staff began working on a comprehensive update of the building footprints layer to improve the quality of the data and incorporate new building construction from April 2020 through the end of 2024. The buildings update involves a visual scan of current buildings using 2023/2024 Nearmap imagery to identify and correct several potential issues. This review is being conducted by 2020 Census Block, to track progress over time. Issues being resolved include:

- Search Nearmap imagery data for additional new or previously missed construction.
- Update geometry where the building polygon from Nearmap is better formed.
- Snap building vertices to parcel boundaries in commercial areas.
- Demolish buildings no longer appearing in current imagery.
- Correct house/garage misidentification issues.

To this point, buildings have been reviewed in 29,511 of 79,056 Census blocks in the region, or 37.3%. A summary of the improvements to date include:

- 173,861 geometry updates to existing building footprints.
- 4,159 additional buildings identified as demolished.
- 203 buildings constructed prior to year 2020 were identified and added.

Once the update of 2020 buildings are completed, the separate inventory of buildings constructed from April 2020 through December 2024 will be added to the building footprints dataset and a new buildings data layer current as of the end of 2024 will be published in SEMCOG's open data portal for distribution to the public.

A separate update of units in manufactured housing parks in the region is also underway. Thus far, 81 of the region's 276 manufactured housing parks have been reviewed and updated with 2024 unit counts and locations. When this update is completed, the individual units will be added to the main building footprints dataset.

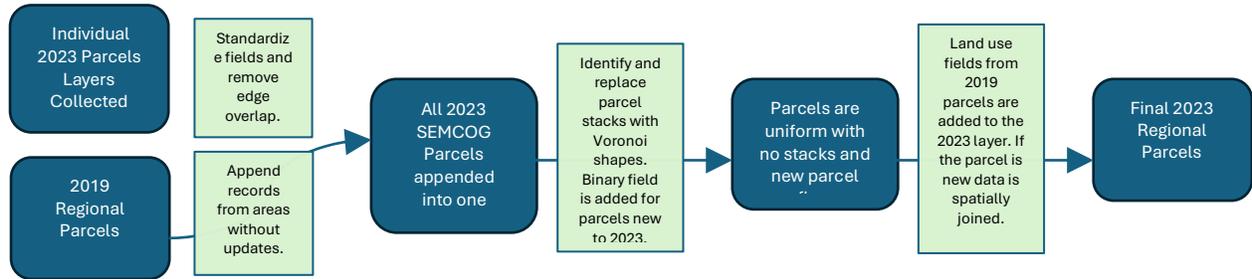
### ***Land Parcels***

The land parcels data layer contains the boundaries of each land parcel in the region, along with the current allowed residential density and future planned land use of each parcel. This data is constructed from county parcel layers in most of the region and community parcel layers in Wayne County.

Staff completed a major update of the land parcels data layer this fiscal year, collecting year 2023 parcel layers from six counties and 13 communities. Further processing of the parcels data included removing overlap when combining county parcel layers into a single regional parcel layer, standardizing fields,

identifying and removing right of way parcels, and identifying stacked parcels to be replaced with Voronoi shapes to preclude parcel overlap.

**2023 Parcel Update Process**

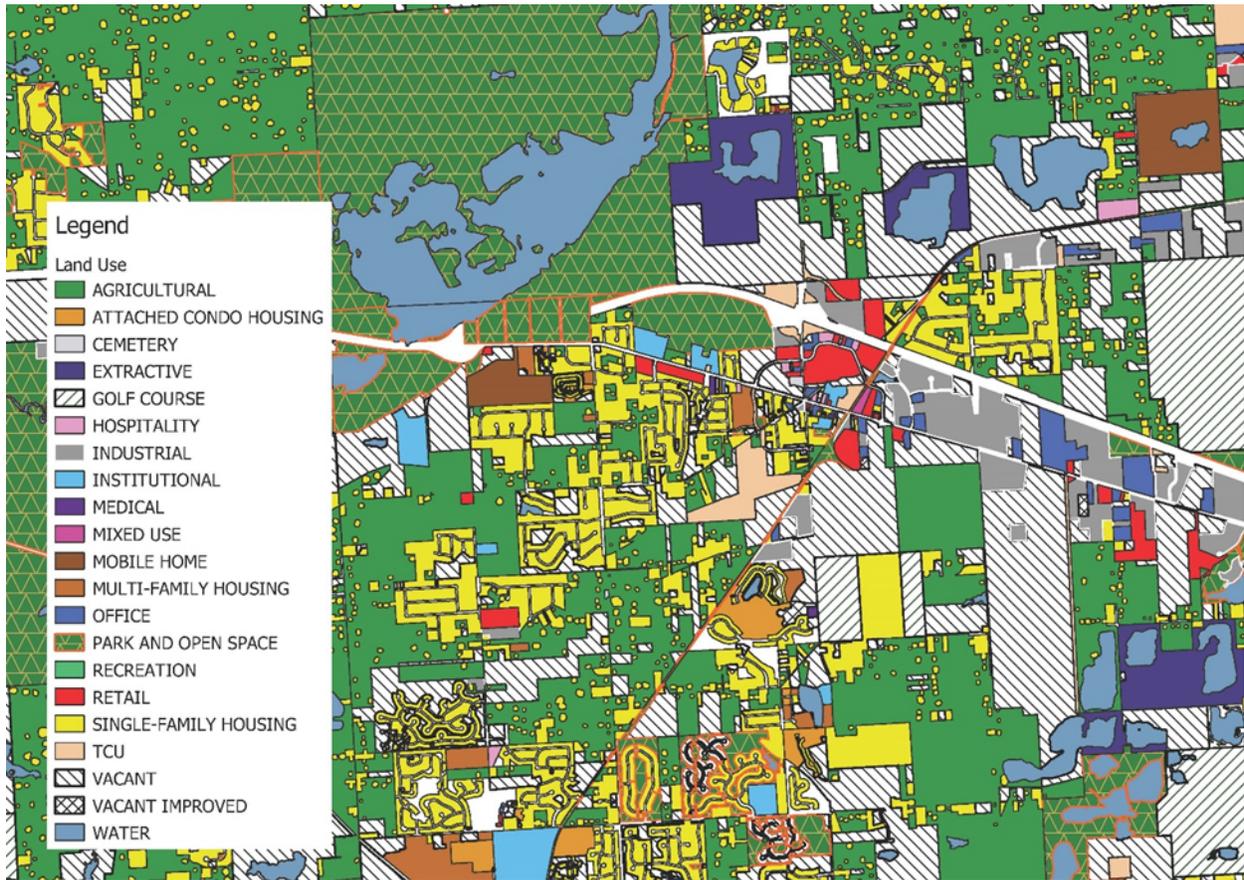


Data fields maintained in the new 2023 parcel layer exactly match those in the year 2019 parcel layer, with the addition of a field indicating where new parcels have been formed due to the combining or splitting of previous parcels. There are 26,074 new parcel identifiers in the 2023 parcel layer, while 15,472 previous parcel identifiers have been retired, for a net increase of 10,602 parcels over the previous land parcel base layer.

**Land Use**

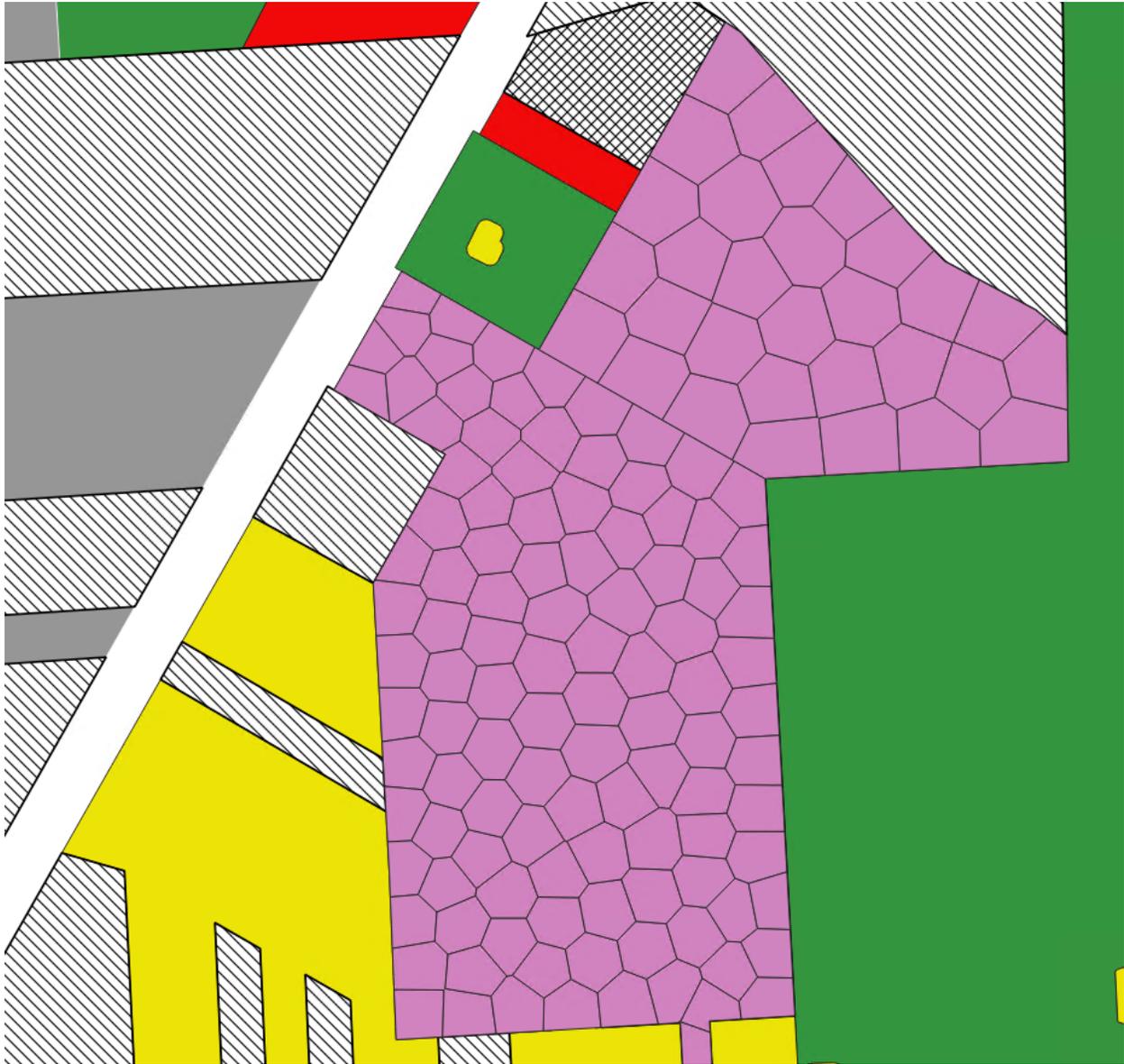
Staff developed updated land use process, including: flattening stacked parcels to better visualize and analyze land use square footage; more precisely assigning water, vacant, and vacant improved land use categories by intersecting land cover data; using Python to programmatically generate land use layers, with the ability to specify year (after 2019); script to produce layer showing land use change between vintages; dissolving on land use type and community to show aggregated data at the community-level. Staff has created a provisional 2023 land use layer to fully evaluate the land use generation process and will be publishing a final 2023 land use layer once the 2024 building footprints update is complete and new building construction and demolition data can be incorporated into the final result.

**Provisional 2023 Parcel Based Land Use Sample**



The process to flatten stacked parcels uses Python and SQL/PostGIS to assign parent-child parcel relationships, creates *n* number of divisions in the parent parcel, and replaces all parent-child parcels in a stack with the new subdivided Voronoi derived Thiessen polygons representing the parcels in the stack, as shown in the image on the next page.

**Example of Flattened Subdivision Parcels as Thiessen Polygons**



**Project 24130, Demographic/Socio-Economic Forecasts**

<b>Grant/Task</b>	<b>Grantor</b>	<b>Local</b>	<b>Total</b>
CPG24, 24130	\$998,855.50	\$221,493.31	\$1,220,348.81

**Product 1: Regional Development Forecast system improvements and documentation**

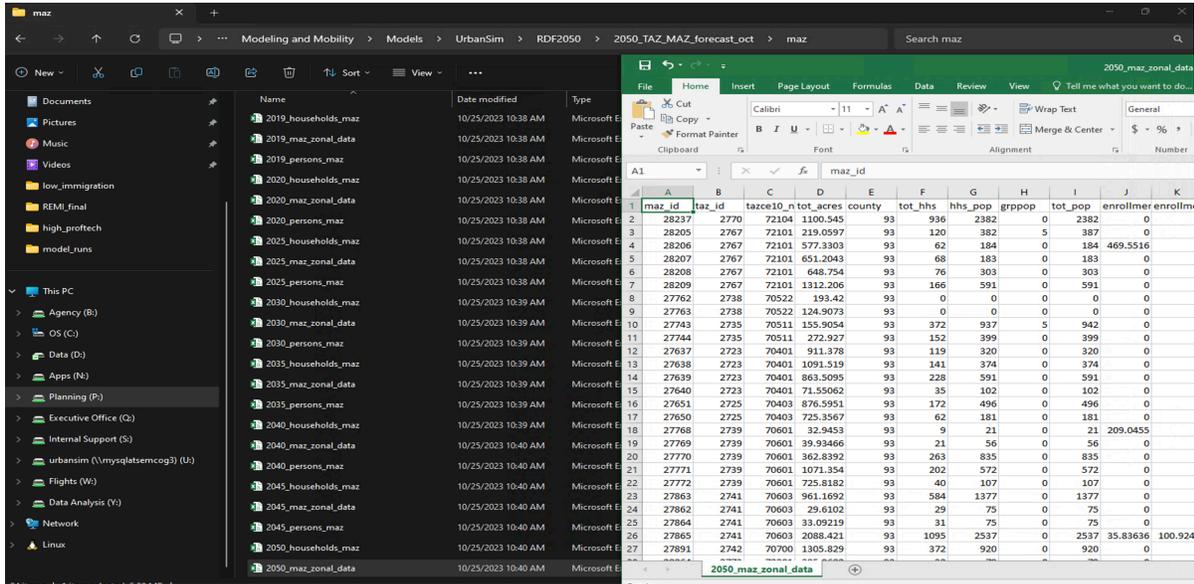
In 2023-2024 fiscal year, SEMCOG finalized the 2050 Traffic Analysis Zone and Micro Analysis Zone forecasts, updated and improved the regional forecast model, initiated the exploration and development of forecast scenarios, enhanced forecasting-related software tools, and actively documented and shared forecast progress.

**2050 TAZ and MAZ forecasts**

SEMCOG completed 2050 Traffic Analysis Zone (TAZ) and Micro Analysis Zone (MAZ) Forecasts and delivered the final products by the end of October, 2023 (<https://www.semcoq.org/regional-forecast>).

SEMCOG conducted a comprehensive review and enhancement of the 2050 Traffic Analysis Zone (TAZ). The review focused on improving the accuracy of household types, group quarter controls, senior population counts, and employment data within specific communities. To align the TAZ forecast with larger area controls, SEMCOG developed specialized scripts, refined household synthesis methodologies, and implemented controlled sampling. Additionally, adjustments were made to household types and group quarters in Detroit neighborhoods. ([https://maps.semcoq.org/forecast/?geoid=8999&geotype=zone&ind=pop\\_change](https://maps.semcoq.org/forecast/?geoid=8999&geotype=zone&ind=pop_change))

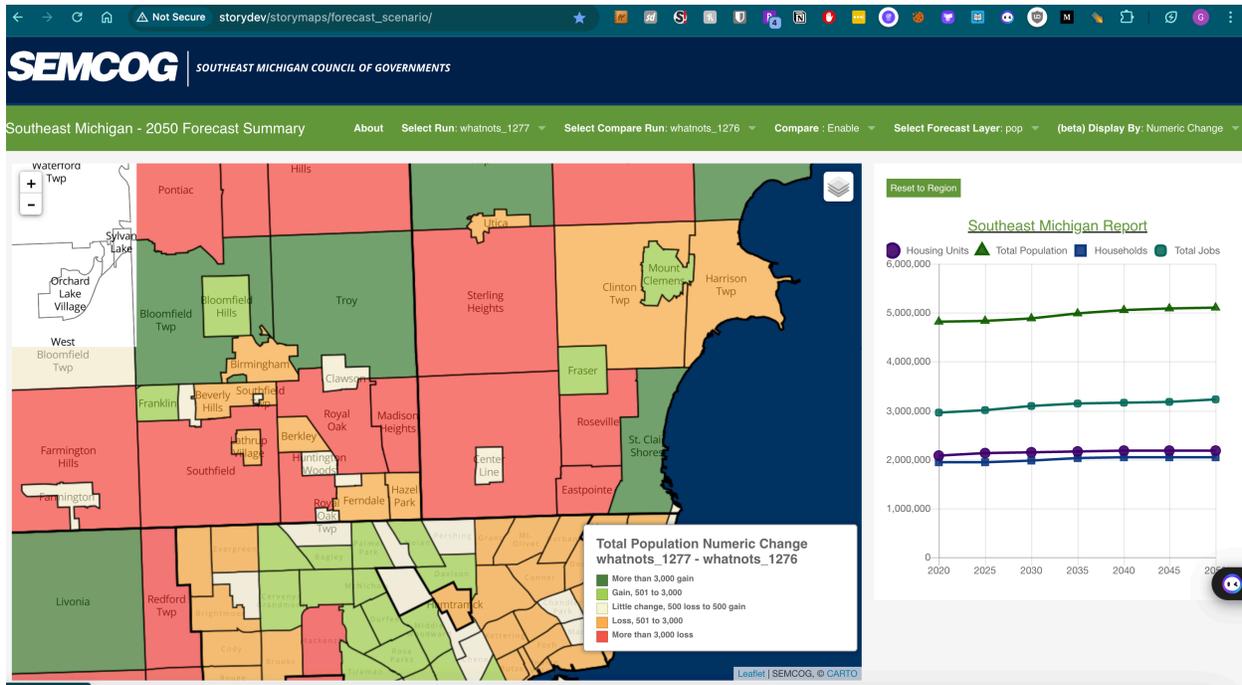
For the MAZ forecast, SEMCOG addressed geographical issues and revised the MAZ structure to establish a clear hierarchical relationship between parcels, MAZs, and TAZs. The regional forecast team collaborated with travel modelers to review TAZ and MAZ datasets, enhancing demographic indicators and updating zonal employment figures for all forecasted years. The finalized MAZ data includes detailed household and person records, along with zonal summaries of critical land use and economic indicators such as land area, building square footage, and employment counts by sector. SEMCOG conducted multiple rounds of data review and revision to ensure high data quality and proper formatting for the SEMCOG Activity-Based Model (ABM). (See the following screenshot of the MAZ dataset.)



**Forecast Scenario Development**

SEMCOG has initiated the development and exploration of forecast scenarios. This task allows for a better understanding of the region's potential future, enabling SEMCOG to prepare and respond to a range of possible events and trends. Additionally, the scenario-based approach provides an opportunity to delve deeper into the model's functionalities and performance, ultimately contributing to the development of a more robust and solid modeling mechanism.

SEMCOG has selected two scenarios to test - one with lower immigration and another with higher growth in professional and technical jobs. Both scenarios have the potential to significantly impact future job and population changes. To prepare the model for these scenarios, SEMCOG has developed special control totals for households and employment, and has revised the model code and simulation flow to skip the MCD (minor civil division) subregional forecast. Additionally, SEMCOG has rerun the neural network-based Household Location Choice Model (HLCM) estimation to establish appropriate input parameters for the scenario simulations. SEMCOG has completed simulations of the two selected scenarios as well as a new baseline scenario for comparison, and has developed a new forecast explorer tool to facilitate the analysis of different scenario outcomes (see scenario comparison map below).



## Forecast Software tools

SEMCOG has invested significantly in the development of forecast-related software tools to enhance their regional planning capabilities. This toolset improvements covered a range of programs from scenario input preparation, data validation, model refinement, and output review and visualization,

SEMCOG developed a new household control program for scenario testing, addressing important data input changes and adding visualization tools for better control total monitoring ([https://github.com/SEMCOG/forecast\\_data\\_input](https://github.com/SEMCOG/forecast_data_input)). SEMCOG has also restructured the data validation process, replacing the outdated Orca-test based approach with new libraries like Pandera and Pydantic, enabling faster testing procedures and more comprehensive coverage ([https://github.com/SEMCOG/forecast\\_data\\_input/tree/master/data\\_checks](https://github.com/SEMCOG/forecast_data_input/tree/master/data_checks)). Additionally, the forecast refinement programs have been significantly updated, incorporating the weight of household race into the zonal redistribution steps and refining the process of assigning synthesized households to housing units for more accurate and representative allocation ([https://github.com/SEMCOG/forecast\\_outputs/tree/master/zonal\\_redistribution](https://github.com/SEMCOG/forecast_outputs/tree/master/zonal_redistribution)). Furthermore, SEMCOG has enhanced the output review and visualization tools, refreshing the Forecast Explorer with a series of new products, including forecasts for TAZs, MAZs, school districts, US Congress, Michigan House and Senate Districts (<https://maps.semco.org/forecast/>).

## Work sharing and model documentation

SEMCOG has maintained a strong focus on documenting forecast model development and product review process, leveraging various platforms to facilitate collaboration and transparency. Github has been a vital collaborative tool, enabling code development, progress sharing, and timely documentation of model alterations through commit messages. In the past fiscal year, SEMCOG has continued to update program codes and documents in several major forecast modeling repositories, including the Regional Forecast Model ([https://github.com/SEMCOG/semcog\\_urbansim](https://github.com/SEMCOG/semcog_urbansim)), Forecast Data Input ([https://github.com/SEMCOG/forecast\\_data\\_input](https://github.com/SEMCOG/forecast_data_input)), Forecast Outputs ([https://github.com/SEMCOG/forecast\\_outputs](https://github.com/SEMCOG/forecast_outputs)), and Internal Forecast Explorer ([https://github.com/SEMCOG/internal\\_forecast\\_explorer](https://github.com/SEMCOG/internal_forecast_explorer)). Additionally, SEMCOG has added new repositories for project developments, such as Forecast Estimation

([https://github.com/SEMCOG/forecast\\_estimation](https://github.com/SEMCOG/forecast_estimation)), (<https://github.com/SEMCOG/docker-dev-test>), and (<https://github.com/SEMCOG/accessibility>). SEMCOG has also started using Github's project management and issue tracking functions to help manage and facilitate project developments and coordination(<https://github.com/orgs/SEMCOG/projects/3> ).

SEMCOG has maintained ongoing dialogues and information sharing with a range of stakeholders, including internal teams, model consultants, research institutes, MPO modelers, and planners from external regions. Notable examples include assisting the SEMCOG transportation modeling group with data requests and providing documentation for specific projects such as Environmental Justice analysis. The regional forecast team has also collaborated with SEMCOG travel modelers and infrastructure planners to conduct accessibility studies for the regional transportation plan (RTP) and the access-to-core service update. Additionally, the team has supported the travel demand model development by sharing expertise on Census and Land Use data development, as well as the forecast refinement process, to help understand data quality and control adjustment procedures. These collaborative efforts have allowed SEMCOG to enhance the quality and relevance of its forecasting products.

On external interactions, SEMCOG has continued to share forecast progress and experience through platforms like the AMPO socio-economic forecast forum, working with fellow MPOs to provide code review and grant license permissions on specific repositories, such as Population Synthesis codes ([https://github.com/SEMCOG/SEMCOG\\_popsim](https://github.com/SEMCOG/SEMCOG_popsim)). SEMCOG has also actively engaged in conversations with research institutes and the private sector, such as the University of Michigan and Deloitte Consulting firm, to help understand forecast products and share experience on forecast model implementation. These external collaborations have also enabled SEMCOG to stay informed about industry best practices and explore opportunities for enhancing its own forecasting products and services.

## Product 2: Socioeconomic data inputs

### 2050 Regional Forecast Community Outreach

Staff continued to present 2050 forecast results and trends to local units of government and interested stakeholders through the fiscal year. Staff presented 2050 forecast results at the following events:

- City of Sterling Heights city council meeting in Sterling Heights on July 17, 2023.
- Livingston County Planners in Green Oak Township on August 15, 2023.
- SEMCOG Freight Stakeholders workshop in Detroit on September 7, 2023.
- Macomb County Planners in Ray Township on September 19, 2023.
- University of Michigan EGI Elevate Forum in Ann Arbor on October 24, 2023.
- MAC Healthcare Workforce Symposium in Detroit on November 1, 2023.
- Village of Armada village council meeting in Armada on November 14, 2023.
- Oakland County Planners webinar on November 29, 2023.
- Cornell University Graduate Urban Planning Program webinar on December 5, 2023.
- SEMCOG School Age Population webinar on December 13, 2023.
- SEMCOG Transportation Coordinating Council in Detroit on January 18, 2024.
- Macomb County Board of Commissioners meeting in Mount Clemens on February 23, 2024.
- SEMCOG Aging Task Force webinar on March 15, 2024.
- Leadership Macomb event in Mount Clemenson March 20, 2024.
- SEMCOG Aging Task Force webinar on May 21, 2024.

Staff also continued to update [SEMCOG's 2050 Regional Forecast web page](#) with new product announcements and links to presentation materials.

### 2050 Forecast by School District

The 2050 forecast for Intermediate School Districts and individual school districts was completed in November 2024 and published in spreadsheet form on [SEMCOG's forecast webpage](#). Additionally, a quick

facts report titled [SEMCOG's 2050 Forecast of School-Age Population](#) was released, offering an in-depth analysis of the projected changes in the region's school-age population, including past, present, and future trends. The school district forecasts were also integrated into [SEMCOG 2050 Regional Forecast Explorer](#), an interactive web tool.

SEMCOG further engaged stakeholders by conducting an [education roundtable](#), where the forecast results and analyses were presented. This roundtable included discussions on planning and policy, addressing the challenges and opportunities related to the forecasted changes

**2050 Forecast by Legislative District**

The 2050 forecast by federal and state legislative districts was completed in January 2024. These results were summarized in the report [SEMCOG 2050 Regional Forecast by Legislative Districts](#). Forecast change from 2020 to 2050 for population by type, population by age group, households by type, housing units, and employment by sector was prepared for all U.S. Congressional, Michigan State Senate, and Michigan State House districts that are entirely or partially within the seven county Southeast Michigan region. Data for districts that are only partially within the region are limited to the portion of the district within the region's borders. The report was distributed to elected representatives and their staff in February 2024. In addition, the legislative districts forecast was added to [SEMCOG 2050 Regional Forecast Explorer](#) interactive web tool.

**Forecast Database**

Staff began development of a new Postgres database instance to store land use and socioeconomic input data for the 2055 forecast period. This new database instance is designed to work directly with ESRI's ArcGIS Pro software by allowing direct editing of data without having to use an intermediary software product. It also allows us to share data in the database to other users via feature layer services that do not expose the underlying data itself to editing.

SEMCOG collected 2023 March Board of Review property tax assessment data from all seven counties in the region, as well as from 25 individual communities where supplemental data was needed. This data is necessary to provide current value of buildings and land, and recent property sale transactions, to the UrbanSim developer model.

**Table of Tax Assessing Data Collected in 2023**

Counties	MCD	Community Name	MCD	Community Name	MCD	Community Name
Livingston	2005	Addison Township	2170	Novi	4005	Ann Arbor
Monroe	2010	Rochester Hills	2095	Highland Township	4080	Pittsfield Twp
Macomb	2040	Bloomfield Township	2220	Auburn Hills	4100	Scio Township
Oakland	2045	Brandon Twp	2240	Royal Oak	4110	Superior Township
St. Clair	2072	Farmington Hills	2250	Southfield	4135	Ypsilanti Township
Washtenaw	2095	Highland Township	2265	Sylvan Lake		
Wayne	2115	Independence Township	2270	Troy		
	2125	Lake Angelus	2280	Waterford Township		
	2140	Village of Leonard	2285	West Bloomfield Twp		
	2165	Northville (Oakland Part)	2290	White Lake Township		

**Recreational Vehicle Registrations**

SEMCOG obtained an inventory of recreational vehicles registered in the state as of 2023 from the Michigan Secretary of State. This data was analyzed to identify trends in recreational vehicle ownership by small area to determine their utility in socioeconomic forecasting. A quick facts report titled "[Recreation Vehicle Registrations in Southeast Michigan, 2023](#)" was published on the SEMCOG web site. The report includes a summary of recreational vehicle ownership patterns in the region by county and type of recreational vehicle, detailed breakdowns of watercraft registrations, a map of the intensity of registrations by zip code, and a table of recreational vehicle registrations by type by zip code.

### AMPO Socioeconomic Forecasting Interest Group

SEMCOG staff continued to take part in the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (AMPO) [Socioeconomic Forecasting working group](#). This group consists of staff engaged in socioeconomic forecasting at metropolitan planning organizations throughout the country and promotes the advancement of socioeconomic forecasting methods. As part of this effort, Data Analysis staff:

- Was again elected to serve as a committee chairperson for calendar year 2023.
- Attended quarterly committee leadership meetings, and annual AMPO leadership meetings.
- Developed content for [four quarterly webinars](#) in 2023 presenting content of interest to the socioeconomic forecasting community.
- Presented at the 6/11/2024 quarterly webinar on Uses of Socioeconomic Forecasts Beyond Travel Modeling.
- Presented at the 7/26/2023 quarterly webinar on Data Resources and Data Development Work to Feed Modeling.

### Product 3: Model run outputs and analysis

#### Machine-Learning Based Household Location Choice Model and Scenario Test Runs

One of the most significant challenges faced by SEMCOG in regional forecast modeling efforts has been the estimation and simulation of the Household Location Choice Model (HLCM). The existing discrete choice-based model had been plagued by underfitting problem, which resulted in its inability to generate reasonable household distributions for a significant portion of the communities within the region.

To tackle this, SEMCOG embarked on a comprehensive overhaul, transitioning to a machine learning-based approach. This involved:

- [Infrastructure Modernization](#): A new Docker-based modeling environment with GPU-accelerated estimation was implemented, significantly reducing runtime and improving efficiency (<https://github.com/SEMCOG/docker-dev-test>).
- [Enhanced Training Data](#): A more comprehensive training dataset was developed, incorporating all relevant building-level variables from baseline forecast as well as new trend-based indicators (2015-2020 trends in population, households, housing, and non-residential space) to better capture real-world dynamics.
- [Optimization of Estimation Strategies](#): SEMCOG explored various estimation strategies, including new household segmentation dimensions and different neural network loss functions. ([https://github.com/SEMCOG/forecast\\_estimation](https://github.com/SEMCOG/forecast_estimation))

SEMCOG has completed tens of model runs with follow up reviews and updates. Through iterative model testing and incremental refinements, SEMCOG has observed more balanced outcomes from their machine learning-based HLCMs. The model now maintains stable household distributions and realistic community population dynamics. The progress made is evident in the detailed records and review notes available on the project's GitHub page (<https://github.com/orgs/SEMCOG/projects/3>). SEMCOG continues to further refine and optimize the model, aiming to achieve even more accurate and reliable demographic patterns.

SEMCOG further applied its machine-learning-based Household Location Choice Models (HLCMs) in scenario tests, revealing some promising results across various model configurations. While challenges persist—particularly in accurately modeling household size changes in specific communities like Dearborn—the models exhibit more consistent trends with historical data. The model that omits MCD forecasts and controls demonstrated smoother population growth and more stable household sizes in several counties, indicating a solid foundation for the model's core functionality. Additionally, the model with enhanced household size segmentation from HLCM estimation showed a significant increase in household counts in Dearborn, underscoring its potential to tackle specific location-based challenges. These findings suggest that with further refinement and data updates, the model can be effectively utilized to predict and simulate household location choices, offering valuable insights for scenario development (<https://github.com/orgs/SEMCOG/projects/3>).

### **Accessibility Analysis**

SEMCOG has made substantial progress in creating a thorough accessibility analysis framework for the southeast Michigan region. This effort is a result of collaboration between the regional forecast modeling team, travel modelers, and infrastructure planners. The project aims to provide valuable insights for access-to-core service initiative as well as other planning projects such as the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). This process encompasses extensive data acquisition, processing, integration, code development, and enhancement.

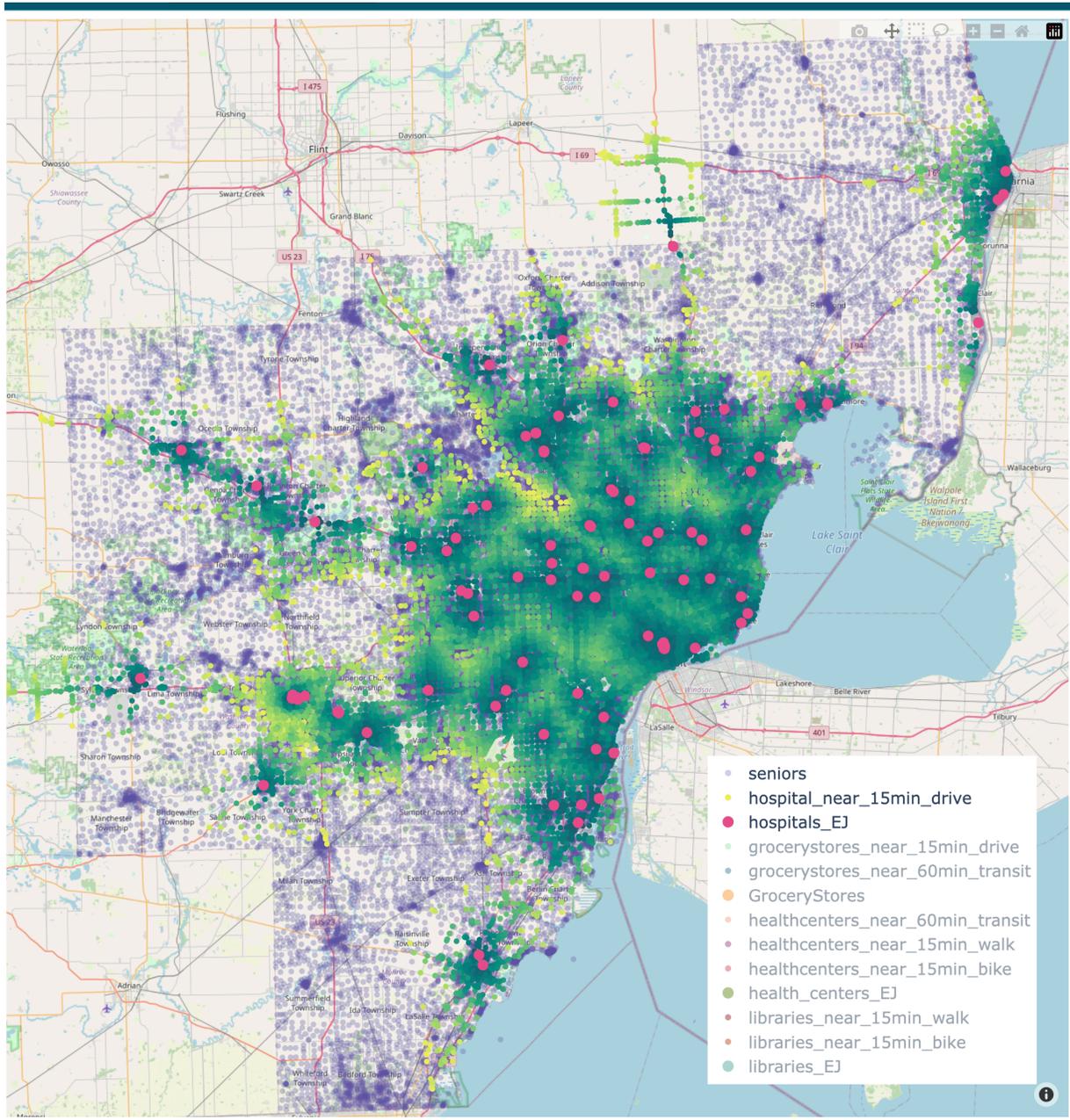
*Data Acquisition and Preparation:* A comprehensive road network dataset for walking, biking, transit, and highways in the Southeast Michigan region and surrounding areas has been developed using various data sources, including Open Street Map (OSM), General Transit Feed Specification (GTFS) data, and SEMCOG travel model highway system. Additionally, SEMCOG has acquired service location data from regional forecast model, GIS database, and third-party sources such as Policymap.

*Code Development and Enhancement:* All accessibility analysis programs from previous years have been refactored to improve functionality, introduce new features, and streamline workflow using centralized YAML configurations. Supporting libraries have been updated to their latest versions, and any incompatible code has been rewritten to address compatibility issues (<https://github.com/SEMCOG/accessibility>). A new visualization tool has been developed to facilitate the rapid review of indicator outputs and help identify analysis issues ([https://github.com/SEMCOG/accessibility/blob/master/plot\\_map\\_custom.py](https://github.com/SEMCOG/accessibility/blob/master/plot_map_custom.py)).

*Accessibility Indicator Analysis and Presentation:* A matrix of accessibility indicators, encompassing various service destinations such as hospitals, urgent cares, community health centers, parks, and libraries across all four travel modes, has been developed to assess the regional transportation accessibility status. Demographic overlays and geographic summaries have been conducted to determine demographic coverage for each service and travel mode.

In-depth analysis of accessibility indicators has been conducted to validate the results and address questions such as travel time gaps between transit stops and local road nodes, and disparities in senior bike service coverage. These insights are being utilized to refine the analyses and ensure accurate reflection of on-the-ground realities. Preliminary results for senior populations have been presented at a SEMCOG University (<https://www.semco.org/semcog-university>) Webinar on "Our Aging Population (Part 2)" featuring interactive maps and accessibility patterns (see below screenshot of the interactive map).

The accessibility indicators and analyses offer valuable insights for regional planning, particularly in addressing the needs of the aging population. Continued refinement of the methodology and data updates will further enhance the accuracy and utility of these analyses in future transportation planning initiatives.

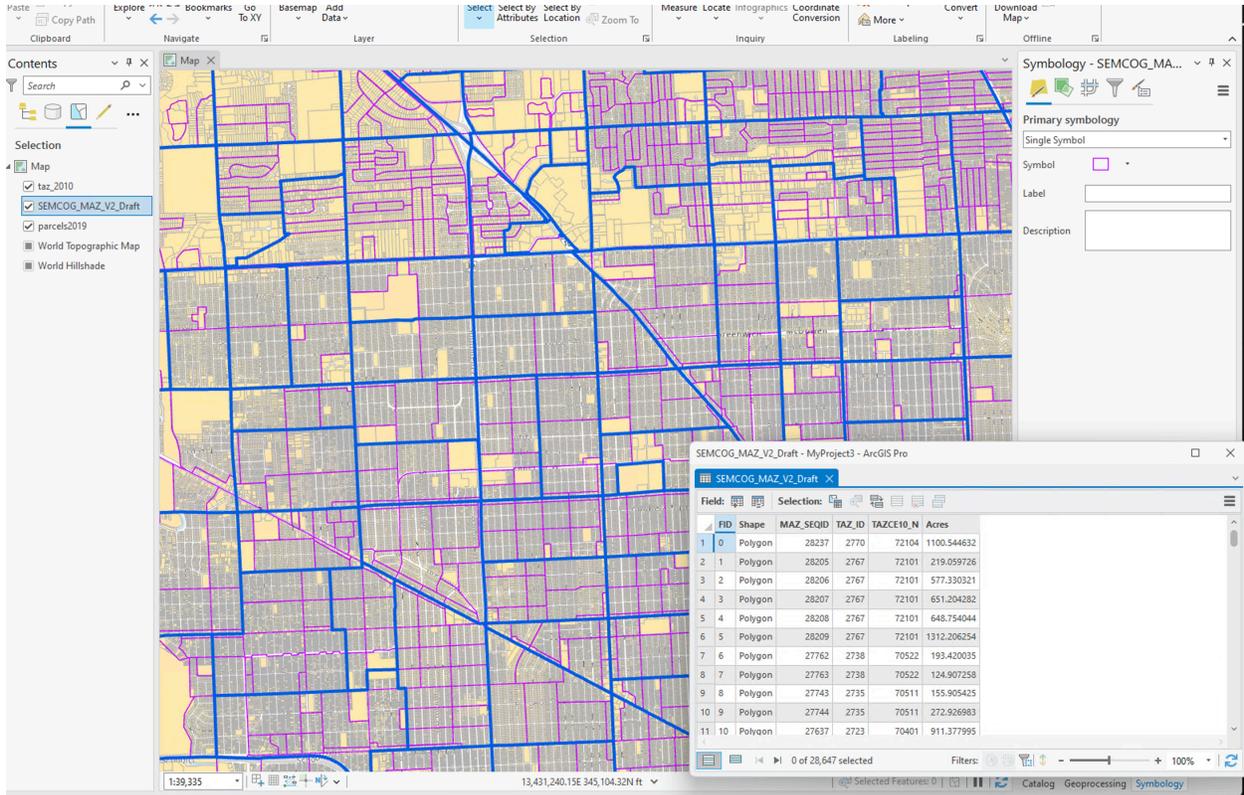


**Micro Analysis Zone Geography Updates**

SEMCOG's initial attempts to produce regional forecasts at the Micro Analysis Zone (MAZ) level revealed significant discrepancies between the MAZ-level indicators and their corresponding Transportation Analysis Zone (TAZ) forecasts. These data differences between MAZ and TAZ posed a serious challenge not only to the ongoing travel demand forecast, but also threatened to hinder the progress on the development of SEMCOG's Activity-Based Model (ABM).

A joint investigation by the regional forecast team and travel modelers on the MAZ geographies uncovered a range of issues, including misaligned boundaries, mislabeled identifiers, and the presence of unnecessary multipart polygons. A closer scrutiny also uncovered substantial misalignment between the underlying parcel connections and the MAZ delineations, compromising the integrity and reliability of the forecast data.

To resolve these challenges, SEMCOG decided to fully inspect and manually correct the MAZ geographies. This comprehensive effort focused on eliminating boundary conflicts and realigning the parcels with both the MAZ and TAZ boundaries, ensuring a well-nested and coherent zonal framework for the regional forecasting models. The finalized Micro Analysis Zone polygon layer was then thoroughly reviewed and validated by both regional forecast and travel demand forecast teams, further solidifying the quality and usability of the data. The end result is a significantly improved MAZ feature layer and new parcel-MAZ-TAZ crosswalk table, which now serves as a foundation for developing high-quality zonal inputs for SEMCOG's regional forecasting models, particularly the ABM model.



**Project 24142, Monitoring Regional Performance and Reliability**

Grant/Task	Grantor	Local	Total
CPG24, 24142	\$503,803.13	\$111,716.88	\$615,520.01

**Product 1: Web content updates and additions**

SEMCOG is actively engaged in the ongoing process of enhancing and updating the [Traffic Volume interactive map](#) featured on its official website.

SEMCOG continues to update SEMCOG’s [traffic counts search page](#). When a community or interested person searches for traffic volumes, the initial search results will show the most recent Average Annual Daily Traffic (AADT) for the particular location by year. AADT are traffic volumes that are adjusted by a month and day of week factor to account for seasonal variations in traffic. By clicking on the AADT that has a hyperlink, members can view a more detailed report for a location.

SEMCOG consistently revises the traffic counts search page on its website. When a community or individual seeks traffic volume information, the initial search outcomes present the latest Average Annual Daily Traffic (AADT) figures for the specific location, categorized by year. These AADT values are calibrated to accommodate seasonal traffic fluctuations by considering factors like the month and day of the week. By selecting the AADT figure with an embedded hyperlink, users gain access to a more comprehensive report pertaining to that particular location.

Updated road and bridge condition data were uploaded to the website as new information was collected or made available. Web site updates include updates to road conditions by community for [Community Profiles](#) and the development of a dynamic map of [road and pavement conditions](#) that shows the change in road conditions over time. The pavement dynamic map has improved functionality including automatic updates of the mileage (and lane mileage) in good, fair, or poor condition based on filtering. Also updated the dynamic map of [bridge conditions](#) in the region.

Updated a [dynamic road map](#) that allows users to determine the location and ownership of maps of roads throughout the region. The map will be updated as changes are made to the Michigan Geographic Framework.

Updated an [Electric Vehicle Hub](#) that will help local elected officials, planners, and the general public learn about issues that impact the development and use of electric vehicles. The hub has information about EV deployment, local ordinances, and examples of how local governments are planning for EV charging. SEMCOG also hosted webinars to help people navigate the hub.

SEMCOG is developing tools to migrate and perform analysis on the road network. The tools are being developed to perform analysis on the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) road network, Roads & Highways version 22. The improvements include a new FALink analysis network, a new tRoads road network, and migration tools to move data from year to year.

Reviewed projects entered into SEMCOG’s TIP amendments and compared them to information entered into the Investment Reporting Tool website.

Created an ArcGIS Online hub (<https://vision-southeast-michigan-semcog.hub.arcgis.com/>) for displaying information about SEMCOG’s long range transportation plan Vision 2050.

Meeting with the Michigan Department of Transportation to develop a process for updating the 2020 federal

aid urban boundary (FAUB). SEMCOG will work with MDOT and partner agencies to develop a new FAUB based on the 2020 Census urban areas in the region. SEMCOG also attended webinars and workshops to learn about the ACUB adjustment process.

SEMCOG adopted an updated 2020 ACUB. After the adoption, the Executive Committee action item was sent to MDOT and FHWA for approval.

Reviewed and integrated the High Injury Network (HIN) into SEMCOG's safety plan.

## **Product 2: Updated traffic count file**

### **Regional Traffic Count Database**

SEMCOG continues its management of the Traffic Count Database System (TCDS), hosted at MS2 in Ann Arbor. The TCDS serves as an online gateway for the collection of traffic count data by county road commissions and the City of Detroit throughout the year. SEMCOG annually retrieves this data to update the Regional Traffic Count Database (RTCD), an essential resource for model validation, traffic volume mapping, and various planning and modeling efforts.

In keeping with its commitment to accurate records, SEMCOG engaged in the process of updating the 2023 traffic count data. This required acquiring data from the TCDS and collaborating closely with MDOT to merge traffic count data that conforms to MDOT's new data format, also managed through the TCDS.

### **Highway Performance Monitoring System**

Each year, the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) is responsible for updating the Highway Performance Monitoring System (HPMS) samples for non-trunk-line roads in Southeast Michigan. Working closely with road commissions and local communities, SEMCOG updates more than 400 samples with current traffic counts and other relevant data. Thanks to their efforts, the 2023 submission to the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) was completed successfully and on time.

## Project 24220, Guiding Regional Investment

Grant/Task	Grantor	Local	Total
CPG24, 24220	\$1,225,109.64	\$224,331.48	\$1,449,441.12

### Product 1: Maintain and implement 2045 Regional Transportation Plan, including periodic amendments

- SEMCOG completed amendments to the 2045 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and FY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) in July 2023, [August 2023](#), [September 2023](#), [December 2023](#), February 2024, and April 2024.
- SEMCOG monitored Regional annual traffic safety targets as part of the Transportation Performance Management process and [adopted new regional safety targets](#) for 2024 in January.
- SEMCOG monitored pavement, bridge, reliability, freight and CMAQ performance targets as part of the TPM process.

### Product 2: Develop the 2050 RTP

- SEMCOG published the Vision 2050 RTP as well as the supporting documents: [Appendix A](#), [Appendix B](#), Project List, [Air Quality Analysis](#), [Environmental Justice Report](#), and [Systems Performance Report](#).
- SEMCOG created [videos](#) and [blogs](#) to market Vision 2050 RTP development.
- SEMCOG prepared charts comparing development schedules for the FY 2023-2026 TIP, FY 2023-2026 CMAQ Call for Projects, 2045 RTP update and the 2050 RTP
- SEMCOG gathered information on peer practices, emerging topics, and directions for the 2050 RTP, including resilience, zero emission vehicles, eliminating GHG pollution, Vision Zero, Advanced Aerial Mobility, micro-mobility, public participation centered around Environmental Justice and underserved populations.
- SEMCOG developed an [interactive hub resource site](#) for the Vision 2050 RTP update geared to providing information to both general public and federal aid committees during the project selection process. This hub site includes an update to the SEMCOG Guide to Transportation Planning.
- SEMCOG participated in trainings about guidance for the USDOT's Justice 40 initiative, which seeks to expand the proportion of resources and benefits directed to areas with high proportions of low-income households and/or historically disadvantaged racial and ethnic groups
- SEMCOG conducted webinars to promote the [Vision 2050 RTP Southeast Michigan Hub](#).
- SEMCOG contracted Public Participation Partners (P3) to develop public outreach strategy for the Vision 2050 RTP update activities.
- SEMCOG conducted stakeholder workshops across the SEMCOG region to assess goals and strategies for the 2050 RTP update.
- SEMCOG coordinated with the Regional Transit Authority for Southeast Michigan to include the Regional Transit Master Plan into the 2050 RTP.

- SEMCOG produced a [SEMCOG University \(SEMU\) educational workshop on transportation funding](#).
- SEMCOG and P3 conducted a regional survey about transportation preferences for the Vision 2050 RTP development.

**Product 3: Maintain and implement the FY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program, including periodic amendments**

- SEMCOG completed amendments to the 2045 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and FY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) in July 2023, [August 2023](#), [September 2023](#), [December 2023](#), February 2024, and April 2024.
- SEMCOG began preparation of the FY 26-29 TIP Development process including hosting a series of meetings to educate FACs and other stakeholders on funding sources and targets, programming best practices, enhanced reporting and analyses, coordinate on performance measures, call-for-projects strategy, project prioritization and selection, timelines, etc.
- SEMCOG published a [blog](#) regarding the FY 26-29 TIP Development.
- SEMCOG worked with MDOT to develop a [virtual JobNet training/refresher course](#).
- SEMCOG supported the Federal Aid Committees and transit providers through training, technical assistance, coordination, and participation in official meetings as part of SEMCOG's continuing, comprehensive, and cooperative (3C) performance-based multimodal transportation planning process.
- SEMCOG held 2 meetings for [Rural Task Force #1](#) reviewing project lists for FY 23-26. (.pdf)
- SEMCOG and MDOT held quarterly major project coordination and general coordination meetings.
- SEMCOG participated in MTPA Finance Committee meetings to coordinate and learn alongside other Michigan MPOs, MDOT, and federal transportation agencies.
- SEMCOG led meetings of the Michigan Transportation Conformity – Interagency Working Group to review project changes for possible air quality conformity effects ahead of the three TIP amendments in FY2024. Refer to TIP amendments aforementioned.
- Met with several MPOs nationwide to discuss TIP project selection and analyze best practices.

**Product 4 Maintain [RTP and TIP project information](#) on a publicly-available web site**

- SEMCOG prepared and displayed interactive map project data for both projects already adopted in the TIP/RTP and projects proposed for amendments.
- SEMCOG generated mapping and geographic evaluation data for projects recommended for adoption in the FY 2023-2026 TIP.

**Product 5: Documentation of planning activities to improve regional infrastructure, active transportation, equity initiatives, mobility coordination and collaboration, transportation safety, and climate resiliency integration**

- SEMCOG had two staff on the planning board for the Annual Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) Workshop.

- SEMCOG published a [blog](#) regarding the Annual ITS Workshop.
- SEMCOG actively participated in the Michigan Infrastructure Council, Water Asset Management Council, and the transportation Asset Management Council meetings to apply influence on processes and policies that uphold regional efforts.
- SEMCOG coordinated with the Michigan Infrastructure Council and MDOT to develop an infrastructure coordination framework for the transportation planning process.
- SEMCOG coordinated with the Michigan Infrastructure Council to collect capital improvement projects for the upcoming MIC Project Portal tool.
- SEMCOG developed a Regional Resiliency Framework to serve as the baseline to the upcoming Regional Resilience Improvement Plan and published a [blog](#) on the topic.
- SEMCOG applied for and received FHWA PROTECT funding to develop a Regional Resilience Improvement Plan.
- SEMCOG coordinated with regional partners for development of the [Southeast Michigan Healthy Climate Plan](#) including regular presentations to the Transportation Coordinating Council.
- SEMCOG held internal meetings focused on finalizing the new non-motorized data structure that is under development.
- SEMCOG tested and improved a new link between the legacy non-motorized GIS layer and the Regional Trail Network GIS layer, pulled together all road-related attributes, transitioned them into the event-table format described in the new non-motorized data structure, and migrated the data from version 16 of the Michigan Geographic Framework to the current version 22 of Roads & Highways. New data was added to this new database structure.
- SEMCOG coordinates with agencies receiving FY 2024 CMAQ/CRP funding to verify projects are on schedule/obligated and providing assistance as requested.
- SEMCOG staff developed the four part Southeast Michigan Electric Vehicle (EV) Infrastructure Roundtable Series. [Roundtable #1](#) highlighted existing resources, best practices, and lessons learned related to EV infrastructure planning. [Roundtable #2](#) highlighted coordination with utility providers and the private sector. [Roundtable #3](#) highlighted EV & EV infrastructure funding opportunities. [Roundtable #4](#) highlighted navigating EV readiness with a focus on ordinances, equity, and accessibility.
- SEMCOG provided many letters of support for various project applications across the region.

#### **Product 6: Develop and maintain funding targets and other financial information as needed**

- SEMCOG posted the [FY 2023 List of Obligated Projects](#) on the SEMCOG website. (.pdf)
- SEMCOG continued to update resources on the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, and distributed information to constituents on what to expect as a result of the new law.
- SEMCOG monitored Regional annual traffic safety targets as part of the Transportation Performance Management process and adopted new regional safety targets for 2024 in [January](#).
- SEMCOG monitored pavement, bridge, reliability, freight and CMAQ performance targets as part of the TPM process.
- FHWA/FTA SEMCOG Certification meeting July 23 and 24

**List of Attached Files:**

1. 24220 – Product 2 – 2050 Vision RTP
2. 24220 – Product 2 – 2050 Vision RTP Executive Summary
3. 24220 – Product 2 – 2050 Vision RTP Project List
4. 24220 – Product 2 – 2050 Vision RTP Air Quality Analysis
5. 24220 – Product 2 – 2050 Vision RTP Environmental Justice Report
6. 24220 – Product 2 – 2050 Vision RTP Systems Performance Report
7. 24220 – Product 3 – FY 26-29 TIP Development Timeline
8. 24220 – Product 3 – FY 27-29 CMAQ/CRP Call-for-Projects Timeline
9. 24220 – Product 3 – July 2023 Summer Amendment Materials
10. 24220 – Product 3 – August 2023 Special GPA Amendment Materials
11. 24220 – Product 3 – September 2023 GPA Amendment materials
12. 24220 – Product 3 – December 2023 Fall Amendment materials
13. 24220 – Product 3 – 23/26 TIP Amendment 24-1 (Cost-Only/GPA) Amendment Materials
14. 24220 – Product 3 – 23/26 TIP Amendment 24-2 (Full) Amendment Materials
15. 24220 – Product 3 – 23/26 TIP Amendment 24-3 (Full) Amendment Materials
16. 24220 – Product 3 – October 2023 RTF-1 Meeting Materials
17. 24220 – Product 3 – March 2024 RTF-1 Meeting Materials
18. 24220 – Product 6 – FY 2023 List of Obligated Projects

**Project 24226, Economic Vitality**

<b>Grant/Task</b>	<b>Grantor</b>	<b>Local</b>	<b>Total</b>
CPG24, 24226	\$570,998.57	\$126,617.26	\$697,615.83

**Product 1: Activities that implement the Economic Development Strategy.**

1. EDA Economic Development District / EDA Supportive Activities

- Attended EDA webinar on the Recompete Program on July 7, 2023.
- Met regularly with EDA representative Lee Shirey and other EDA staff regarding grant opportunities for communities, and reporting requirements for grants.
  - Met with Lee Shirey on July 18, 2023, to discuss updates on EDA programs and EDA reporting requirements.
  - Attended EDA Quarterly Meeting for Economic Development Districts on July 28, 2023.
  - Communicated with Lee Shirey related to scheduling a SEMCOG University on EDA programs for September 21, 2023.
  - Provided information to eligible County planning departments on the EDA Disaster Recovery program funding following discussion with Lee Shirey.
  - Participated in the EDA’s EDD Quarterly virtual meeting on October 25.
  - Met with Lee Shirey on November 28, 2023, to discuss data and mapping.
  - Met with Lee Shirey on February 1, 2024, to get updates on EDA initiatives, to share the latest on the formation of the SEMCOG Economic Development Council, and to demonstrate SEMCOG’s efforts to map Areas of Economic Distress throughout the region.
  - Met with Lee Shirey, Michelle Velazquez, and Lesley Craig from EDA on March 15, 2024, to discuss the finalization of SEMCOG’s Partnership Planning Grant application.
  - Attended the EDA’s Economic Development Districts Quarterly Meeting on April 24, 2024.
- Held the monthly SEMCOG Economic Development Team meeting to provide updates on the Economic Development Council, EDA programs, and other economic development-related items.
  - September 18, 2023
  - October 9, 2023
  - November 28, 2023
  - December 11, 2023
  - January 8, 2024

- February 12, 2024
- March 13, 2024
- April 8, 2024
- May 13, 2024
- June 10, 2024
- Hosted a SEMCOG University Webinar on EDA Programs for Economic Development on September 21, 2023. Guest speakers included Lee Shirey with the EDA, Carmen Wells-Quigg with the University of Michigan Economic Growth Institute, and Jazmine Danci with the Downriver Community Conference.
- Submitted EDA Partnership Planning grant application on November 10, 2023. The main areas of work are shared prosperity, labor force participation, promoting and marketing Southeast Michigan, and establishing an Economic Development District Committee.
- Prepared and submitted annual and semi-annual reports to EDA for Partnership Planning Grant that ended on September 30, 2023.
- Attended the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) Annual Training Conference (ATC) in Cleveland from November 7-10, 2023. Sessions attended included measuring and reporting on data, wealth creation, CEDS content guidelines, EDA investment in workforce development.
- Attended Fall Conference of the Michigan Economic Developers Association (MEDA) in Lansing, MI on November 17, 2023. Sessions included Grow Michigan Together council, housing, hydrogen, and downtowns.
- Developed draft structure and initial roster for Economic Development District Committee in December 2023.
- Developed draft timeline for the upcoming update of the SEMCOG Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, including an outline for public and partner engagement in December 2023.
- Met with Padmini-Roy Dixon, Economic Development Director at the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Council (MORPC) in Columbus in December to share information on progress on developing an EDD Committee. MORPC is the newest EDD having been designated in October 2023.
- Met with SEMCOG data analysts on December 18, 2023, to discuss development of maps to show EDA Areas of Economic Distress in the region.
- Presented an overview of the EDD process to the MAC Board on December 5, 2023, and invited members to contact SEMCOG with any questions or interest in participating in the Committee.
- Presented updated EDD/CEDS process to SEMCOG planning managers on January 18, 2024, and the internal coordination group on January 22, 2024.
- Attended “Building Innovation and Entrepreneurship into the CEDS” webinar hosted by SSTI and the NADO Research Foundation on January 18, 2024.
- Presented an update about the new Southeast Michigan Economic Development Council to the MAC Board on February 20, 2024.

- Met with Padmini Roy-Dixon and Aubrey Hauter from the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) on February 22, 2024, to share notes and ideas on the establishment of a new Economic Development District committee. MORPC was recently designated an EDD by the EDA, so it was a good opportunity to hear how another region was setting up their new EDD committee.
- Met internally with Data/Mapping team on March 1, 2024, to discuss mapping of areas of economic distress. Finalized public facing map of economically distressed areas, which is available on SEMCOG website.
- Presented an overview of the new SEMCOG Economic Development Council, Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, and EDA programs to the Justice40 Communities Task Force meeting on March 8, 2024.
- Completed a one-pager introducing the new Economic Development Council and providing an overview of what SEMCOG's Economic Development District designation means for the region. The one-pager was distributed at the March 21 General Assembly meeting.
- Attended the Michigan Economic Development Association (MEDA) Capitol Day Annual Legislative Conference in Lansing on March 5, 2024.
- Met internally on April 2, 2024, to finalize Economic Development Council roster and plan for May 20, 2024, EDC meeting.
- Met with the National Association of Regional Councils on April 4, 2024, to discuss the proposed EDA Reauthorization legislation.
- Developed a charge sheet for the Economic Development Council, which outlines the scope of work and objectives of the new council.
- Attended the National Economic Resilience Forum at the Argonne National Laboratory in Lemont, Illinois from April 30-May 2, 2024.
- Met with Madison Heights Mayor Roslyn Grafstein, co-chair of the Economic Development Council, on May 7, 2024, to provide an overview of the EDC and discuss the roles and responsibilities of serving as the public sector co-chair.
- Gave presentation about the new Economic Development Council on May 8, 2024, at the SEMCOG Staff Forum, to introduce the EDC to the organization.
- Met with DTE Director of Economic Development, Khalil Rahal, co-chair of the Economic Development Council, on May 9, 2024, to provide an overview of the EDC and discuss the roles and responsibilities of serving as the private sector co-chair.
- Hosted and facilitated the inaugural meeting of the Economic Development Council on May 20, 2024, which included a presentation from Lee Shirey at the EDA, a demonstration of SEMCOG's new Economic Indicators tool by SEMCOG Economist Brian Parthum, and a facilitated discussion about the three pillars of the region's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS): Place, Talent, and Business.
- Interviewed with Ed Clemente for the Michigan Opportunity podcast about the Economic Development Council. Joined by EDC co-chair Khalil Rahal for the recording on May 30, 2024, during the 2024 Mackinac Policy Conference.
- Met with Finance department on June 4, 2024, to discuss the EDGE system user assignments and EDA Partnership Planning Grant reporting.
- Met with Communications department on June 11, 2024, to discuss ongoing Economic

Development Council work and brainstorm concepts for a SEMCOG publication highlighting the organization's economic development work.

- Began planning for three interactive stakeholder engagement and planning forums for the update of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). The Place Forum will be held on August 7, 2024; the Talent Forum will be held on August 27, 2024; and the Business Forum will be held on September 24, 2024. These forums will be critical drivers of identifying issues and priorities for the updated CEDS that the Economic Development Council will develop.
- Attended a SEMCOG workshop called "From Conflict to Conversation" on June 20, 2024, which focused on using the SOAR strategic planning tool. This will be useful when developing the CEDS next year.
- Attended Rural Readiness Network virtual launch on June 12, 2024. The discussion is based on network opportunities and will include access to regular peer connections, targeted training and technical assistance, and connections to resource providers.
- Attended Part 2 Rural Readiness Network held June 18, 2024. The discussion was a deeper dive into what the network will offer. Partners were introduced and will be part of the next meeting.
- Met internally on June 14, 2024, to discuss the Economic and Community Vitality department goals and proposed work program for FY 2024.
- Attended Michigan Poverty Task Force webinar discussing updates to the ALICE report on June 26, 2024. This was presented by Bobby Dorigo Jones, Director of ALICE & Public Policy with Michigan Association of United Ways.
- Attended an onboarding and training meeting with Placer.ai on June 28, 2024, to learn the features and tools available to create data reports and analyze various economic impacts on communities, special districts, and places.
- Attended the SEMCOG Legislative Priorities Meeting with Midwest Strategy Group and Dykema on June 28, 2024. SEMCOG reported on key issues related to economic development.

## 2. Supporting Broadband Access

SEMCOG continues to promote and support implementation of recommendations of the Broadband framework:

- In July 2023, SEMCOG began drafting a section of the 2050 Regional Transportation Plan concerning broadband as it applies to telecommuting, infrastructure, and its importance in making intelligent transportation systems (ITS), connected vehicles (CVs), and autonomous vehicles (AVs) safer and more effective.
- Attended the ESRI User Conference from July 10 to July 14, 2023. The Conference covered a wide spectrum of GIS topics, and there were two broadband discussions held:
  - SEMCOG presented to the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations GIS User Meetup on July 11, 2023. The presentation discussed broadband generally, its role for planning in a regional framework, and a demonstration of the Southeast Michigan Broadband navigator.
  - SEMCOG attended a presentation on July 12, 2023, that discussed GIS and the Digital Divide.

- Selected to present at the 2023 Planning Michigan Conference on Broadband Planning. The presentation team will also include Lisa Waskin of Superior District Library and Jeff Hagen of Eastern Upper Peninsula Planning and Development Region (EUPPDR).
- Comprehensively reviewed the recently released Five-Year Action Plan and Digital Equity Plan produced by the Michigan High Speed Internet (MIHI) Office. Initiated the preparation of comments to submit regarding proposed changes and alignment with SEMCOG plans.
- Attended the MIHI Partnership Roundtable meeting discussing the draft Digital Equity Plan and BEAD Five-Year Action Plan on July 26, 2023.
- Presented on updates to the BEAD Program release, Broadband Navigator updates, and Community Broadband Profiles at the July 27, 2023, Executive Committee meeting.
  - Met with City of Farmington Mayor Pro Tem Joe LaRussa, who requested Community Broadband Profiles for Oakland County, the City of Farmington, and the City of Farmington Hills.
- Convened Broadband Internal Group Meetings on:
  - July 28, 2023
  - August 25, 2023
  - November 17, 2023
  - December 6, 2023
  - January 19, 2024
  - February 20, 2024
  - March 19, 2024
  - April 16, 2024
  - May 21, 2024
  - June 18, 2024
- Continued development of a Community Engagement Toolkit as a resource for information and guidance for communities and organizations to interact with stakeholders on various broadband and digital equity issues.
- Met with Geoff Donaldson and David Struck from St. Clair County to discuss development of a broadband plan and resources available from SEMCOG on August 3, 2023.
- Drafted a section of the 2050 Regional Transportation Plan concerning broadband as it applies to telecommuting, infrastructure, and its importance in making intelligent transportation systems (ITS), connected vehicles (CVs), and autonomous vehicles (AVs) safer and more effective.
- Attended meetings as part of the MI Connected Future Tour that reviewed the draft BEAD Five-Year Action Plan and draft Digital Equity Plan.
  - Attended a review meeting held in Howell on August 9, 2023.
  - Attended a review meeting held in Detroit on August 10, 2023.
- Developed Community Broadband Profiles for Oakland County, the City of Farmington, and the City of Farmington Hills in September 2023.

- Met with City of Detroit CIO Art Thompson and Director of Federal Affairs Mike Klotz on September 15, 2023. Discussed opportunities for increasing connectivity in the city and committed to developing a Community Broadband Profile for Detroit. Also connected with the city's director of digital equity and inclusion, Christine Burkette.
- Provided slides on broadband and opportunities for BEAD, as well as previous broadband work with the City of River Rouge, for a presentation to the Downriver Community Conference.
- Attended a webinar held by the National Association of Regional Councils on the opportunities for BEAD and collaboration for regional governments on September 26, 2023.
- Presented on rural broadband access and opportunities under the BEAD Program at a meeting of the Monroe County chapter of the Michigan Townships Association at Monroe Charter Township Hall on September 28, 2023.
- Attended COMCAST tour at the Taylor facility on September 28, 2023, with members of the Oakland County Commission – Gwen Markham, David Woodward and Yolanda Charles.
- Attended the 2023 Planning Michigan Conference in Acme Township from October 4-6, 2023. Delivered a presentation along with Superior District Library Director Lisa Waskin that discussed broadband planning, showcased the Southeast Michigan Broadband Navigator, and introduced the important role played by libraries in increasing digital access and equity.
- Met with MDOT Mobility Innovations Specialist Janet Geissler on October 11, 2023, about SEMCOG participating in late November “Tech Talk” to discuss the role broadband and digital equity in transit access.
- Held the in-person Broadband Roundtable Discussion – *Let's Talk Broadband* on October 17, 2023. The Roundtable included discussions with MIHI Chief Connectivity Officer Eric Federick, NTIA Federal Program Officer Ben Fineman, and representatives from internet service providers including Merit Network (Roger Blake), Comcast (Craig D'Agostini) and Verizon (Brianna Ellison). The event included facilitated panels and conversations with roundtable attendees representing industry, nonprofit, and government organizations on specific needs and the future of broadband within Southeast Michigan.
- Completed a work form proposing the Broadband Community Engagement Toolkit as a resource for public engagement and advancing digital equity initiatives within the region.
- Met with representatives of Monroe County on October 25, 2023, to discuss county broadband needs and challenges and opportunities to access funding, acquire data and assist local communities. Attendees included County Administrator Mike Bosanac; Planning Director, Jeff McBee; IT Director Jake Perry; and Economic Development Council Lead Tim Lake.
- Held the SEMCOG University Webinar, Cybersecurity Series Part 2 – *Bringing the Message Home*, on October 30, 2023, with SEMCOG ECV and IT staff, as well as U.S. Secret Service Network Intrusion Forensic Analyst, on how to communicate cybersecurity tools and cyber awareness to the public.
- Attended the 2023 Michigan Broadband Summit, held by Merit Network, in East Lansing from November 2-3, 2023. Spoke on a panel that discussed different broadband-related data and spatial data visualization tools alongside Eastern Upper Peninsula ISD Director of Technology Jason Kronemeyer and Macomb County Planner John Culcasi.
  - Provided information regarding the invitation to the Connected America 2024 Conference.
- Summarized notes and discussions from October 17, 2023, Broadband Roundtable.
- Presented at the MDOT Office of Passenger Transportation “Tech Talk” on November 29, 2023,

discussing both SEMCOG's efforts in the broadband space and the implications that broadband and digital access have for public transportation.

- Drafted and submitted comments for the BEAD Initial Proposal Volume II Public Comment Draft.
- Developed a Broadband Affiliated Group in the SEMConnect database, which includes different stakeholders and authorities on broadband at local, state, federal, and private/nonprofit levels.
- Updated the GIS Internal Group on progress with different GIS-based broadband products at the group's meeting on December 6, 2023.
- Discussed broadband-related issues, including details on the BEAD Program and Merit's Tri-County Survey efforts, at the internal Economic Development Team meeting on December 11, 2023.
- Met with Data Analysis staff on December 18, 2023, to discuss how to visualize and interpret the Ookla speed test data, as well as how it can be incorporated into broadband-related GIS products.
- Met with a group of stakeholders convened by Merit Network regarding the results of the Tri-County Broadband Survey on December 20, 2023.
- Reviewed the Roadmap to Rural Prosperity and identified the importance of broadband internet access in addressing rural socioeconomic disparities.
- Drafted comments for the FCC regarding the proposed official adoption of the broadband benchmark as 100 Mbps download and 20 Mbps upload.
- Attended a Broadband Town Hall meeting held at the Washington Township Hall in Washington Charter Township, Macomb County on January 16, 2024. Participated in the discussion along with Township Supervisor Sebastian Previti, Macomb County Board of Commissioners Chairman Don Brown, and Comcast staff.
- Published a blog post about the Washington Township Broadband Town Hall and resources for local governments on January 23, 2024.
- Spoke with Lisa Lothringer with the City of Woodhaven on February 2, 2024, regarding how the City can receive funding or assistance to install public Wi-Fi within one of their parks. Reached out to Mark Vanderpool with the City of Sterling Heights via email to request a sample RFP for Woodhaven to solicit bids for a project.
- Met with Joe LaRussa, Mayor of the City of Farmington, on February 23, 2024, to discuss the Digital Navigator Program and how to maximize the usability of funding from BEAD and the Digital Equity Act programs.
- Attended the Connecting America conference in Dallas, TX on March 11 – 14, 2024; SEMCOG presented on rural broadband in Southeast Michigan as part of a panel discussion.
- Met with Eric Woody from Comcast to discuss the BEAD challenge and rebuttal process.
- Researched legislative and policy perspectives on the Affordable Connectivity Plan (ACP) which will be terminated at the end of May 2024 unless reauthorized and funded by Congress.
- Talked to Eric Woody from Comcast and Mayor Joe LaRussa from Farmington Hills about the BEAD and digital equity programs and future funding. Connected them to public officials from Washtenaw County, St. Clair County and the City of Port Huron to discuss opportunities to expand broadband and digital literacy in both counties.
- Spoke to Senator Gary Peters about a possible Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) extension.

- SEMCOG met with Joe La Russa, Mayor of Farmington and broadband consultant on June 18, 2024, regarding opportunities for SEMCOG to apply for State funding for digital literacy.
- Attended a webinar on June 27, 2024, hosted by the Michigan High Speed Internet (MIHI) office focused on updates on two grant programs: Michigan's Broadband, Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) program and Michigan's Inclusive Training, Technology and Equity Network (MITTEN).
- Attended MIHI webinar on June 28, 2024, specifically discussing the MITTEN grant.
- SEMCOG met with Joe LaRussa about developing a coalition in Southeast Michigan to develop a regional application for the MITTEN program.

### 3. Supporting Southeast Michigan's Mobility Industry

- SEMCOG hosted the EV Expo and Ride and Drive Event on August 17, 2023, in Canton Township.
- Participated in a meeting on July 17, 2023, on how to develop messages to maximize interest and attendance.
- Participated in a meeting on July 25, 2023, to develop questions for the panel discussion with local government early adopters.
- Attended the Detroit Regional Partnership's Investors reception recognizing progress in moving the EDA funded Global Epicenter of Mobility (GEM) project forward on August 9, 2023.
- SEMCOG held the EV Expo and Ride and Drive Event on August 17, 2023, in Canton Township. The purpose was to educate, expose and connect with local communities interested in hearing more about opportunities to transition community fleets to electric vehicles.
  - Attended several planning meetings on logistics, messaging, questions for the panel discussion
  - The event was attended by over 150 local government representatives and stakeholders.
  - Communicated with many exhibitors related to their work on promoting the EV industry.
- Attended the MI EV Summit 2023 on September 8, 2023, sponsored by MIeFleet, at the M1 Concourse. This event provided state and local governments, universities and other public sector entities the opportunity to learn about and drive electric vehicles.
- Attended the "Energizing a Sustainable EV & Mobility Workforce Ecosystem" presentation during the Detroit Auto Show on Thursday, September 14, 2023, This was a celebration of the EV Jobs Academy which SEMCOG has been supporting through leadership of the Smart Cities and Community Fleet Collaborative project to expose local governments to the opportunities in electrification of community fleets.
- Participated in a meeting on September 26, 2023, convened by the office of State Senator Mallory McMorrow to get input on proposed legislation related to an update of the Strategic Outreach Attraction Reserve (SOAR) called the Make It Michigan Fund. This meeting was also attended by representatives of the Michigan Municipal League, DTE, Ford Motor Company, Stellantis and Bedrock.
- Met with Laurie Huber, Project Manager for the Electric vehicle Jobs Academy (EVJA), on October 10, 2023, to discuss plans for the Smart Cities and Community Fleet Collaborative (SC2FC) project in 2024. The very successful EV Summit held in August was the culmination of the project. Future work to support the electrification of community fleets is likely to be less structured and focused on workforce issues.

- Presented strategies for working with the Electric Vehicle Jobs Academy in 2024 at the EVJA meeting on November 16, 2023. Indicated that SEMCOG would support the development of charging infrastructure and provide updates on efforts related to electrification of community fleets where appropriate.
- Discussed the future sustainment of the Smart Cities and Community Fleet Collaborative (SC2FC) with Workforce Intelligence Network (WIN) staff on December 15, 2023.
- Monitored SEMCOG's Transportation Planning Department's work on the Electric Vehicle Infrastructure efforts including Steering Committee and roundtable series. The second EV Roundtable was held on January 11, 2024.
- Met with local entrepreneur Brian Coon on February 28, 2024, to hear about his new startup in the electric vehicle charging space and how to better connect with local communities, downtown business groups, and statewide organizations.
- SEMCOG was invited to participate in an Electric Vehicle Workforce Task Force convened by the National League of Cities and the National Governors Association.
- SEMCOG participated in an Electric Vehicle Workforce Task Force convened by the National League of Cities and the National Governors Association in Washington DC on April 3-5, 2024. Presented on SEMCOG's work in raising awareness and resources for local governments on April 5, 2024.
- Met with Jeannine Gant, Christine Roeder, Bernard Swiecki, and Justin Robinson from Detroit Regional Partnership on May 17, 2024, to discuss the Global Epicenter of Mobility (GEM) initiative, DRP/GEM's equity initiatives, and SEMCOG's work in mobility and equity.
- Attended the Electric Vehicle Steering Committee meeting on May 21, 2024. The main goal was to plan the fourth of four roundtable discussions for the Tri-County EV Phase 2 project that would take place on June 12, 2024.
- Participated in the fourth of four EV Infrastructure Roundtable series on June 12, 2024.
- Met with Beheshteh Makari on June 21, 2024, to discuss the range of current and future SEMCOG's activities related to electric vehicles, EV workforce, and new opportunities.

#### 4. Michigan State University Regional Economic Innovation Initiative

- Participated in the Regional Economic Innovation Consultative Panel meeting on July 12, 2023. Provided updates on SEMCOG's Economic Development District Designation.
- Helped promote the REI 2023 Innovate Michigan! Summit by including in SEMCOG's newsletter.
- Participated in the Regional Economic Innovation Consultative Panel meeting on September 20, 2023, to discuss priority research topics for the 2024 REI Summit.
- Participated in the Regional Economic Innovation Consultative Panel meeting on January 10, 2024, to discuss regional innovation grants, the EDA Tech Hubs program, and other economic development initiatives across the state.
- Met with Jenan Jondy, the REI Coordinator at Michigan State University's Center for Community and Economic Development, on March 19, 2024, to talk about SEMCOG economic development initiatives and the latest projects from REI.

## 5. Placemaking

- Attended a training program on placemaking held by the Project for Public Spaces on September 5, 7, 12, 14, 19, and 21.
- Attended a training on using a new service, Policy Map, for spatial information across different ECV areas of interest, including placemaking, broadband, and housing.
- Hosted the SEMCOG General Assembly meeting on October 26, 2023, at Oakland University. The theme of the meeting was placemaking and the agenda featured many different panels and speakers to discuss local placemaking efforts.
  - Among the plenary sessions was a panel made up of State of Michigan Economic development representatives including Hillary Doe, Chief Growth Officer; Zach Kolodin, Director of the Michigan Infrastructure Office; Tim Klont from MSHDA; and Kelly Watkins from Michigan Economic Development Corporation.
  - Another session brought together more than ten individuals to share placemaking projects in their communities. This included representatives from:
    - Oakland County
    - Northville
    - Wyandotte
    - Eastpointe
    - Port Huron
    - Oak Park
- Presented to SEMCOG's internal Economic Development Team on November 28, 2023, on the Project for Public Spaces Placemaking training, including implications and recommendations for how to take on the work across the region and particularly in smaller or non-urban areas.
- Met with representatives from Macomb Township on December 15, 2023 – including township supervisor Frank Viviano, deputy supervisor Jodie Claycomb, and treasurer Leon Drolet – to discuss various placemaking initiatives and plans the township is pursuing, including the development of the long-planned Macomb Town Center.
- Attended Congress for New Urbanism webinar “Planning for Physical Activity” on December 19, 2023, which presented a deep dive into the update of the Lake Wales, Florida master plan that encourages active living, promotes mobility and walkability, and plans for more connectivity between neighborhoods with complete streets and open space corridors.
- Conducted a departmental brainstorming session on placemaking on December 20, 2023, to explore potential strategies and initiatives to further SEMCOG's work in the placemaking space. This session was a follow-up to the Economic and Community Vitality department retreat held at the end of November.
- Met with John Bry from Oakland County Main Street on January 19, 2024, to brainstorm ideas for a future downtown convening workshop.
- Attended Outdoor Recreation Roundtable (ORR) webinar on January 24, 2024, for the unveiling of the second edition of its widely regarded rural economic development toolkit to support communities from around the United States looking to diversify their economies through outdoor recreation.

- Attended the Congress for New Urbanism’s webinar highlighting “Human Transit” on February 6, 2024.
- Attended a demonstration of the Placer.AI big data platform on February 7, 2024, to understand the capabilities and usability of the platform’s tools for analyzing metrics in downtowns, commercial districts, parks, and other community geographies.
- Met with David Mieksztyn, Dan Rochon, and Jeff Schroeder from Macomb County Planning and Economic Development on February 8, 2024, to talk about how Macomb County uses Placer.AI to analyze economic impacts from downtown areas, community events, and recreation amenities.
- Attended the “Top Ten Ways to Build a Successful and Vibrant Downtown” webinar on February 29, 2024, sponsored by Polco and Downtown Colorado, Inc. The webinar focused on actionable insights and proven strategies to establish or transform downtowns into thriving hubs. Speakers/panelists included data scientists, experts in downtown vibrancy, and local government officials who have successfully revitalized their downtowns.
- Met internally on February 13, 2024, to discuss materials and messages about the impact of events on local and regional economies for an upcoming SEMCOG event celebrating the NFL draft in April 2024.
- Met internally on March 13, 2024, to further plan SEMCOG’s NFL Draft Open House event that will focus on community events and their impacts on placemaking and economic development.
- Coordinated with communities throughout the region to gather photos and economic impact information related to local community events.
- Finalized the speakers and agenda for a future SEMCOG University workshop on “*Community Events: Driving Placemaking and Economic Development*,” which will be held on May 16, 2024.
- Attended the Main Street Oakland County Summit on March 19, 2024. The Summit focused on the successes, challenges, and priorities of the Main Street communities in Oakland County.
- Attended the Oakland County Planners Gathering on March 27, 2024, which focused on partnering to build transit-friendly communities.
- Hosted the SEMCOG University workshop “Community Events: Driving Placemaking and Economic Development” on May 16, 2024, which included multiple presentations and a panel discussion with downtown development managers.
- Attended the SEMCOG Member Meetup in Oak Park on May 17, 2024, which included a walking tour of the Nine Mile Redesign Project. The project featured placemaking, nonmotorized, parks and recreation, and accessibility improvements along the corridor.
- Met with Ross Boelke and Sam Boelke from the Village of Armada on Thursday, May 30, 2024, to discuss parking management issues, walkability, and signage/wayfinding in the downtown.
- Reviewed applications in three categories for the Main Street Oakland County program in preparation for “The Main Event” award ceremony scheduled for June 6, 2024. Categories included Mobility, Beautification and Historic Preservation.
- Attended the American Planning Association sponsored webinar “Reconnecting Stadiums to Communities” on June 21, 2024. The focus of the webinar was on how carefully planning new sports facilities with their surroundings offers the opportunity to revitalize communities, promote economic development, and create great places.
- Attended the Oakland County Planners Gathering workshop “When Regional Malls and Big Box Stores Go Dark,” on June 26, 2024. The workshop highlighted the planning and adaptive reuse of

the Southland Mall and a big-box strip mall in Waterford Township.

- Attended Congress for New Urbanism webinar entitled “Mitigating Harm Through Community-Based Ideas” on June 11, 2024.

## 6. Experience Southeast Michigan Video Production

The Experience Southeast Michigan program replaces the Shop Local video series and focuses on unique characteristics of the community including housing, business, parks and trails, and community events. Projects that implement regional plans are highlighted.

- Met internally to develop expectations and focus areas on August 3, 2023.
- Met internally to discuss the scope of the videos on August 10, 2023.
- Met internally to discuss community-focused videos and theme-based videos on August 25, 2023.
- Met with the City of Eastpointe to discuss unique areas in the city to highlight on August 31, 2023.
- Met with Brownstown Township DDA Director Sue Trussel on September 13, 2023, to discuss development of an Experience Brownstown Township video.
- Met with City of Southgate officials – Mayor Kuspa, city Manager Dan Marsh, DDA Director Kaylee Mondrella – on September 19, 2023, to discuss development of an Experience Southgate video.
- Prepared for opportunities to film education events including healthcare programs and labs at Macomb Community College on November 1, 2023, and MiCareerQuest Southeast at the Suburban Collection in Novi on November 14, 2023.
- Recorded video of students learning about high demand careers at MiCareerQuest Southeast at the Suburban Collection in Novi on November 14, 2023. Interviewed Jennifer Llewellyn, Director of Oakland County Michigan Works, Susan Corbin, Director of the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity and Stephanie Beckhorn, Director of the Michigan Office of Training for future video on regional workforce and talent initiatives.
- Recorded panel discussions at the Healthcare Workforce Symposium on November 1, 2023, at Macomb Community College. This event focused on addressing shortages in the healthcare workforce and pipeline. This included a tour of Macomb Community College labs and technology programs for healthcare.
- Met with representatives from the City of Dearborn on December 11, 2023, to plan a future Experience Dearborn video.
- Met with Destination Downriver on December 14, 2023, to discuss potential options for a video highlighting the Downriver area.
- Met with representatives from Commerce Township on January 9, 2024, to plan a future Experience Commerce Township video.
- Met with representatives from Armada on January 17, 2024, to discuss potential options for videos highlighting the Village of Armada and Armada Township.
- Met with Downriver Community Conference on January 29, 2024, to discuss a future Experience Southeast Michigan video showcasing the five riverfront communities of Ecorse, Riverview, River Rouge, Wyandotte, and Trenton.
- Met with the City of Brighton on January 30, 2024, to discuss options for a future Experience Brighton video.

- Met with Patty Campbell, Councilwoman from the City of River Rouge regarding her experience working with SEMCOG and the Experience Southeast Michigan video on February 15
- Provided an overview about the Experience Southeast Michigan videos to the Main Street Oakland County Summit on March 19, 2024.
- Met with Annette Sturdy from the City of St. Clair on April 11, 2024, to discuss the Experience Southeast Michigan program.
- Met with Mayor Joe LaRussa and Melissa Andrade from the City of Farmington on April 12, 2024, to provide an overview of the Experience Southeast Michigan program for the city.
- Met with the City of Belleville on May 28, 2024, to discuss the Experience Southeast Michigan program.
- Met with the City of Wayne on May 2, 2024, to discuss an Experience Southeast Michigan. video.

## 7. Transportation and Housing

- SEMCOG scheduled a Webinar on housing within the long range Regional Transportation Plan – Vision 2050 for September 14, 2023. SEMCOG reached out to the Detroit Office of the U.S. Department of Housing Urban Development (HUD), MSHDA, regional housing plan leads for Southeast Michigan and CDBG entitlement communities in the region.
- Participated in the SEMCOG webinar on housing and transportation focused on getting input related to housing concerns for the Regional Transportation Plan – Vision 2050 on September 14, 2023.
  - Communicated with the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) regarding participating in the webinar.
  - Provided input into draft neighborhood stability maps developed by SEMCOG to measure neighborhood change over time.
- Invited Tim Klont from MSHDA to participate in a panel discussion on the role of housing in placemaking and creating vibrant communities at the SEMCOG General Assembly on October 26.
- Attended a conference held by the Urban Land Institute regarding the future of the state and regional real estate market on November 8, 2023. Conversations examined the post-pandemic housing and office markets, community land trusts, and other challenges and solutions to maintaining and growing a healthy real estate market.
- Attended the Sustainable Urban Design Summit held on November 9, 2023, at Newlab Detroit. The topics of discussion were sustainable land use and housing. Many futuristic ideas were revealed as well as housing design that is being developed in the Netherlands and plans that are being developed for Detroit.
- Met with Tim Klont, Chief Strategy & Engagement Officer with MSHDA on February 1, 2024, to discuss CDBG and the Housing and Community Development Fund and how both will be leveraged to expand housing development and rehabilitation.
- Attended the “Rural Housing Solutions: EDDs as Regional Housing Changemakers” webinar hosted by NADO on February 6, 2024.
- Drafted more detailed housing-related language for Chapter 5 – Equity of the Vision 2050 Regional Transportation Plan.
- Attend the Detroit Regional Housing Partnership meeting on April 29, 2024. Participants explored

the state housing plan and had small group discussions about the DRHP plan that will coincide with the state plan.

#### 8. Aging in Southeast Michigan

- Met internally to discuss the “Our Aging Region SEMCOG University Series” on December 6, 2023, which included discussions on what the different topics would be for the series and how they would be approached in four different SEMCOG University webinars and workshops.
- Developed one-pager about the “Our Aging Region SEMCOG University Series.”
- Developed an Aging Resource Guide, which provides information on the locations and contact information for various agencies and organizations that provide support and resources for aging residents.
- Met internally to discuss the “Our Aging Region SEMCOG University Series” on January 18, 2024.
- Developed a New Work Form for the Our Aging Region series.
- Met internally to discuss the “Our Aging Region SEMCOG University Series” on February 1, 15, and 29, 2024. Consolidated the series from four workshops to three workshops.
- Held part 1 of the “Our Aging Region Series” that focused on resources for communities on March 15, 2024. The workshop focused on aging in place and services needed for aging communities. We had a panel discussion with speakers from around the region with expertise on aging seniors.
- Held aging team meeting on March 14, 2024, discussed the run of show for SEMCOG University and began brainstorming for the 3rd meeting in the series on transportation and mobility.
- Held Part 2 of the “Our Aging Region Series” on April 18, 2024, that focused on housing options and resources for seniors. Invited speakers were Roger Myers from Presbyterian Villages of Michigan, Taylor Eberhart of Community Housing Network, and Renee Rise City of Auburn Hills. The discussion was based around various senior living options and how to assist seniors who would like to age in place.
- Held aging team meeting on April 11 and 23, 2024, to discuss the run of show for SEMCOG University and began brainstorming for the 3rd meeting in the series on transportation and mobility options and resources for seniors.
- Attended the Age Ways breakfast on May 3, 2024, celebrating 50 years of service to the community. The breakfast was well attended with representatives from various aging agencies. The agenda included an awards ceremony to recognize outstanding partnerships in aging. SEMCOG promoted the SEMCOG University on aging that was held on May 23, 2024.
- Attended the Senior Alliance Area Agency on Aging luncheon on May 3, 2024. This meeting was part award ceremony and part executive update on the many things that are going on in the Wayne County area.
- Held aging team meeting on May 9, 2024, and the speaker rehearsal on May 21, 2024, discussed the run of show for SEMCOG University on transportation and mobility option and resources for seniors.
- Held Part 3 of the “Our Aging Region Series” on May 23, 2024, that focused on mobility options and resources for seniors. Invited speakers were LaVonna Howard from MyRide2, Leslie Verstraete and Lezette Morgan from SMART. The discussion was based around various senior transportation options and how to assist seniors who would like to leave their home for various reasons and needs.

## 9. Talent

### A. Career Pathways Initiative

- Spoke to Shannell Shelby at Oakland County Michigan Works! about support for transportation for job seekers on August 22, 2023.
- Volunteered at the MI Construction Career Day event at the Operating Engineers 324 training center in Howell on May 1, 2024. Spoke to students, apprentices, employers and workforce development agencies to gather perspectives for a future blog.
- Attended the Industry and Inclusion National Convening Conference on June 5, 2024. The focus was building regional connections that center equity in manufacturing investments. Industry partners from around the country gathered in small group discussions to strategize how to retain and attract talent in manufacturing from marginalized and disadvantaged groups.

### B. Healthcare Task Force

- The Metropolitan Affairs Coalition Healthcare Task Force was established to identify opportunities to improve access, equity and workforce pathways in the healthcare industry. SEMCOG coordinated four task force meetings and one healthcare workforce symposium on November 2023. Updates on discussion were presented to the MAC Board in August 2023, December 2023, February 2024 and May 2024.
- Meetings of the Healthcare Task Force
  - Coordinated the meeting of the MAC Healthcare Task force focused on developing a more equitable healthcare ecosystem for Southeast Michigan on August 9, 2023. Speakers included:
  - Coordinated the MAC Healthcare Task Force Workforce Symposium on November 1, 2023, at Macomb Community College. The purpose was to understand and address the shortage of workers in the healthcare field and learn about successful strategies to attract, retain and develop a robust workforce. This half day event included three panel discussions, a presentation on healthcare trends, a tour of the healthcare training labs, and breakout sessions with the purpose of learning about specific challenges facing healthcare stakeholders. More than 70 people were in attendance representing healthcare providers, employers, education and other organizations that serve underrepresented populations.
  - Coordinated the meeting of the MAC Healthcare Task force on January 25, 2024. The focus was on enhancing affordability and access through technology. Speakers included:
  - Reached out to partners for case studies to include in the Healthcare Task Force report. These include conversations with Jan Karazim on February 8, 2024, regarding the SEMCA/WIN
  - Convened a fourth meeting of the MAC Healthcare Task Force on April 12, 2024, to review and discuss updated information on policies and additional data related to the healthcare workforce. Members of two labor organizations – Michigan Nurses Association and the United Physician Assistants of Michigan Medicine (AFT Michigan) provided input from a worker perspective.
  - Finalized and presented the final report of the Healthcare Task force to the MAC Board on May 14, 2024. This was approved by the board.

### C. Water Infrastructure Careers Project

- The overarching goal of the Water Infrastructure Careers project is to expand and increase interest in skilled trade careers, including water infrastructure occupations, to fill current and projected openings to support economic development and community services. The project will also help create a pipeline of qualified workers for Public Works departments in local communities in Southeast Michigan.
- Held an initial planning meeting for the Annual Michigan Works! Conference on July 12, 2023. The purpose of the meeting was to identify speakers and their roles for the session on water infrastructure careers. SEMCOG will highlight ongoing water initiatives, as well as career options.
- The Annual Michigan Works Conference was held on September 12, 2023. SEMCOG held a session focused on water infrastructure careers. SEMCOG provided an overview of workforce challenges and career options and SEMCOG's One Water Campaign. Jordie Kramer from EGLE presented on creating a pipeline to water careers. Attended sessions during the conference on in demand careers, trends in the labor force, and assisting people with disabilities in getting into the workforce.

### D. Manufacturing Day

- Attended the monthly Manufacturing Day meeting on July 19, 2023. The discussion was based around recruiting more manufacturers and schools to participate in the event. A video was created to help with the effort and will be pushed to all media outlets.
- Attended a planning committee meeting on August 17, 2023. The agenda included preparing for the Match-Up Logistic Meeting held on August 31, 2023, and planning the Meet & Greet Orientation Match-Up Breakfast scheduled for September 21, 2023 at Henry Ford College.
- Attended the Meet & Greet Orientation Match-Up Breakfast on September 21, 2023, at Henry Ford College. The breakfast featured speakers from local school districts and world class sponsors. The purpose of the breakfast orientation was to engage sponsors, community partners, business/post-secondary site hosts, and school representatives in a communal relationship to ensure an exchange of contact information between the matched parties and assigned ambassadors.
- Participated in Wayne County's Manufacturing Day events on October 4, 2023. More than 1,000 students from various school districts in Wayne County participated in touring 26 manufacturing sites and 12 post-secondary institutions.
- Developed a blog on the experience of participating in the Wayne County planning team, one of the tours, and follow up at Wayne County Community College.

### E. MI Career Quest Southeast

- MiCareer Quest in is its third year. It provides students, teachers and career counselors with a clear understanding of the rewarding, in-demand career options available in southeast Michigan. It also exposes young people to exciting career paths for the future and establishes a talent pipeline for the region's employers with in-demand jobs.
  - Participated in the virtual volunteer team meeting on October 26, 2023, with about 100 other volunteers. Focused on individual roles on the day of the event.
  - Participated at MiCareerQuest Southeast on November 14, 2023, at the Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi. 7,000 high school students, 500 teachers and counselors,

1,000 exhibitor volunteers, 200 MiCareerQuest volunteers, and 100 special guests were in attendance. SEMCOG's role was helping to market the event and volunteer with students during the event.

#### 8. Economic Development Activities and Assistance

- Provided letter of support for the City of River Rouge for a Small-Scale Housing Accessibility Renovation Enhancements (SHARE) grant application to MSHDA for home renovations that contain an accessibility activity on August 11, 2023.
- Provided a letter of support for City of Eastpointe's Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan (CFSEM) General Grant Application, "Eastpointe Small Business Support Grants and Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) on August 14, 2023.
- Provided letter of support for the City of Wyandotte's application for the State Capital Improvements and Renovations grant program for the Wyandotte Arts Center, home of the Downriver Council for the Arts on September 6, 2023.
- Held a webinar on School Age Population Forecast on December 13, 2023. The focus of the webinar was to inform educators on changing school age population trends in Southeast Michigan. This information is helpful to educators for informational and planning purposes. SEMCOG presented the forecast and engaged in a facilitated discussion with attendees with questions based on issues related to the school age population.
- Provided a letter of support for the Village of Milford for their application to EDA for a Disaster Supplemental Assistance program for a disinfection system in its wastewater treatment plant.
- Analyzed and presented an overview and comparison of the Growing Michigan Together Council final report and recommended strategies to the SEMCOG Executive Committee on January 26, 2024.
- Met with Jeffry Henze and Chris Uhl from IFF Detroit on January 8, 2024, to discuss IFF's regional childcare planning grant and potential stakeholders to engage in the planning process.
- Met with representatives from the City of Romulus on January 9, 2024, to discuss a variety of topics, including economic development in the city.
- Met with Kevin Krause from the City of Romulus on January 29, 2024, to discuss Census population issues as it relates to CDBG eligibility and requirements for HUD entitlement community status for housing and community development funding.
- Attended Coal Countries: Transition Strategies from Coal Communities Across the Globe webinar sponsored by the National Association of Counties on February 1, 2024.
- Met with Elaine Leven, City Manager of Fraser, on February 7, 2024, to discuss economic development projects, the Experience Southeast Michigan program, and issues with funding local roads within the City's industrial park. Talked to the Transportation group to identify possible funding options for Fraser's specific road infrastructure needs.
- Met with John Krauss from the City of Eastpointe on June 20, 2024, to discuss the city's Civic Pointe project and explore potential funding programs to help with planning and implementation of the project.

## 9. Meetings with Economic Development Stakeholders

- Participated in the Downriver Community Conference (DCC) Riverfront Communities Strategy Team meeting on August 4, 2023.
- Met with the University of Michigan Economic Growth Institute on September 7, 2023, to discuss a SEMCOG presentation on Using Data to inform Community decisions.
- Met with Tupac Hunter and Susan Proctor from the MEDC to discuss priorities and resources for local communities on October 5, 2023.
- Met with Hassan Sheikh, Wayne County Economic Development Director on October 6, 2023, to discuss ways in which SEMCOG and Wayne County can collaborate.
- Met with Heidi Reijm, Senior Advisor for Community and Economic Development at the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago. Discussed data and community development/housing opportunities in Southeast Michigan.
- Participated in a meeting of Macomb County communities on December 12, 2023, to discuss a childcare study identifying zoning barriers to the development of additional childcare facilities. This was coordinated by Macomb County Planning and Economic Development to identify strategies to increase childcare resources to support economic development in the county.
- Attended the quarterly Macomb County Partners meeting on December 12, 2023. The meeting focused on county resources to support community economic development. This included a talent attraction campaign, mapping and data services, broadband and parks and recreation projects.
- Attended the 2024 Michigan Economic Outlook at the Detroit Economic Club on January 16, 2024. The focus was on Growing Michigan Together Council recommendations and implementation.
- Attended Downriver Riverfront Strategy Team meeting hosted by the Downriver Community Conference on February 2, 2024. This meeting was focused on the results of DCC's Small Business Technical Assistance Grants, updates from project sub-teams, and other activities associated with their EDA-funded, multi-community revitalization grant.
- Presented an overview of SEMCOG's economic development work at the SEMCOG 101 workshop held on February 7, 2024.
- Met with Elle Cole from the City of Saline regarding SEMCOG grant services on February 8, 2024.
- Presented an overview of SEMCOG's economic development activities, the 2050 regional forecast and the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy to the Michigan State University Humphrey Fellows on February 23, 2024.
- Attended the Macomb County Partners meeting on March 12, 2024, to hear the latest updates from the Macomb County Department of Planning and Economic Development, as well as community partners throughout the county.
- Attended the Detroit Regional Partnership (DRP) Annual Meeting on March 14, 2024, to hear updates from DRP on their activities over the past year, as well as priorities for 2024 and beyond.
- Attended the Wayne County State of the State event on March 12, 2024. The County Executive discussed large scale economic development projects.
- Attended the Wayne County Economic Development Briefing on April 10, 2024, hearing updates from County Executive Warren Evans, the Wayne County Economic Development Department, MEDC, and Detroit Regional Partnership.

- Met with the leadership from the Wayne County Economic Development team on April 17, 2024, to talk about ongoing projects and the potential for collaboration.
- Attended the St. Clair County “State of the County” event on Friday, May 10, 2024, to hear about economic development and county government accomplishments over the past year.
- Spoke to Larry Molnar and Toinu Reeves from the University of Michigan on May 14, 2024. Reeves is a PhD student researching the creation of a Residents’ Investment Fund to enable low-income households to build wealth by investing in local businesses. Building Equity is the goal.
  - SEMCOG connected them to Kimberly Faison at Detroit Future City and Hector Hernandez from MiWealth to discuss opportunities for collaboration.
- Attended the Michigan Avenue Innovation Network (M.A.I.N) Steering Committee meeting on May 15, 2024, to hear updates from the project team and participating communities along the corridor on asset inventories, community engagement, strategic planning goals, and targeted economic investments along the corridor.
- Attended the 50th anniversary of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program hosted by the Detroit Office of HUD on May 22, 2024.
  - Connected with representatives from Wayne, Macomb and Oakland Counties and several entitlement communities.
  - Collected information on how Southeast Michigan communities use it to revitalize communities, improve infrastructure and provide essential services.
- Participated in the quarterly meeting with Oakland County on May 15, 2024. Provided updates on economic development activities at SEMCOG – including the Economic Development Council meeting on May 20, 2024, and the SEMCOG University on the Economic Impact of Events on May 16, 2024.
- Attended the *Future Proof the Economy* event at Lawrence Technical University on May 21, 2024, moderated by Ed Clemente of the MEDC. Panelists Maureen Krause of the Detroit Regional Partnership and Cynthia Hutchinson from the World Economic Forum discussed strategies to build Michigan’s economy and workforce.
- Attended the Mackinac Policy conference from May 28-31, 2024. Participated in sessions related to economic development, education, talent, workforce development. Connected with many SEMCOG and MAC members and partners. Significant conversations included:
- Held quarterly catch-up meeting with the Wayne County Economic Development leadership team on June 5, 2024, to discuss ongoing economic development initiatives and potential areas for collaboration.
- Attended the annual Main Street Oakland County Main Event celebration of downtowns in Oakland County in the city of Rochester on June 6, 2024.
- SEMCOG served as a judge for the award program in three different categories – historic preservation, mobility and beautification.
- Attended the Macomb County Partners meeting on June 26, 2024, to hear about ongoing initiatives at the Macomb County Planning and Economic Development department and partner communities and agencies throughout Macomb County.
- Attended the Detroit Future City webinar “State of Micro and Small Businesses in the Detroit Region” on June 26, 2024. The webinar highlighted critical findings from the “State of Micro and Small Businesses in the Detroit Region” report. Detroit Future City’s research team and New

Economy Initiative (NEI) leadership shared findings from their recently released report and what the conclusions mean for entrepreneurs and small businesses in the region.

**Product 2: Activities for Infrastructure and Environmental coordination, including complete and green Streets and corridor revitalization.**

No activity

**Product 3: Engage in freight planning activities that support economic development initiatives with local, regional, state, national, and/or bi-national partners**

- Held monthly internal freight planning meetings.
- Attended monthly freight advisory meetings with TMACOG.
- Attended the 2023 Mid-West Rail Conference in Toledo, OH.
- Attended monthly TMACOG Rail Committee meetings.
- SEMCOG hosted a Freight Stakeholder Workshop on September 7, 2023, to gather input from community members, including public and private sector stakeholders. Feedback from stakeholders was summarized and integrated into the Freight section of the Vision 2050 Regional Transportation Plan.
- Attended passenger rail workshop in Toledo, OH, hosted by Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur, which included private rail owners and other rail stakeholders.
- Attended the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Clean Ports webinar on October 31, 2023.
- Attended meeting with Kresge Foundation with state and local partners to discuss trucking issues in Southwest Detroit.
- Toured Southwest Detroit with local partners to better understand issues of freight movement in community neighborhoods.
- Met with Michigan Infrastructure Office to discuss the status of Michigan Freight Forward Plan.
- Attended the National Coalition of Truck Parking webinar on December 5, 2023. About 302 participants attended the meeting, which comprised 158 State and local agency representatives, 86 private sector representatives, 45 Federal agency representatives, and 13 representatives from academia. Participants heard from leaders from FHWA, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA), and Maritime Administration (MARAD); select State agencies, and core Coalition members on the status of truck parking needs, research, planning, and project development. Presentations and discussion centered on implementation of new truck parking requirements and projects funded as part of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL).
- Researched the freight planning work at other MPOs around the country.
- Attended TMACOG freight advisory committee meetings.
- Attended the US Department of Transportation's Talking Freight series in February 2024.
- Attended the AMPO webinar on freight data visualization in March 2024.
- Attended a coordination meeting with FHWA on freight planning activities in March 2024.
- Attended weekly Clean Ports meetings to support state and local partners on EPA grant application in April 2024.
- Attended the FHWA Freight Equity webinar on April 9, 2024.
- Met with two vendors for technical assistance on the freight plan.
- Provided letters of support for City of Detroit CRISI and EPA Clean Ports grants.
- Attended the kickoff meeting for the FHWA Freight Peer Exchange Program in May 2024.
- Attended USDOT/FHWA/EPA meeting, "Centering Community Vision in Infrastructure Implementation" on May 21-22, 2024.
- Attended the FHWA Freight Analysis Framework webinar on June 25, 2024.
- Supported the Michigan Rail Conference Advisory Committee.

**Product 4: Update freight system data, inventory, and analysis.**

- Continued collecting and updating freight system data. Also prepared for the creation of a Freight Hub with interactive components to display regional freight data.
- Continued to work on acquiring region wide truck route data and updating truck route map.
- Developed Overlay Pavement Condition data with regional truck routes.
- Produced updated SEMCOG region rail ownership map
- Updated Freight Map for Vision 2050 Regional Transportation Plan.
- Created spreadsheet of all rail-related activities in Southeast Michigan including project status.
- Created and published a regional warehouse facilities layer on the SEMCOG GIS Portal.

**Products Produced:****General**

- Blog – [Investing in our Healthcare System](#), October 6, 2023.
- Blog – [Being the New Kid on the Block](#), November 7, 2023.
- Podcast – [Michigan Opportunity Podcast: Naheed Huq and Khalil Rahal on the SEMCOG Economic Development Council](#), May 2024.
- Blog – [Celebrating Economic Development Week: SEMCOG's New Economic Development Council](#), May 10, 2024.
- Blog: [Our Aging Region: https://www.semco.org/blog/our-aging-region](https://www.semco.org/blog/our-aging-region), April 24, 2024
- Blog: [Exploring Diverse Living Options: https://www.semco.org/blog/exploring-diverse-senior-living-options](https://www.semco.org/blog/exploring-diverse-senior-living-options), June 17, 2024

**Broadband**

Blog – [It Takes a Village: Community Approaches for Broadband Access](#), January 23, 2024.

**Placemaking**

- Blog – [Experience Southeast Michigan: Shop Local video series has expanded to highlight more of life in Southeast Michigan](#), August 8, 2023.
- Blog – [Placemaking in Sterling Heights: Recreating Recreation](#), October 11, 2023.
- Blog – [Community Events: SEMCOG's Takeaway from the NFL Draft and Beyond](#), May 3, 2024.

**Talent/Education**

- Blog – [Wayne County Manufacturing Day 2023](#), October 24, 2023.
- Video – [MiCareerQuest Southeast 2023](#)
- Blog – [CTE Programs Boost Graduation Rates Nearly 15%](#), February 12, 2024.
- Blog – [Don Hubler: Passionate Advocate for Students](#), April 16, 2024.
- Blog – [The State of Education Today](#), March 22, 2024.

**Healthcare Industry**

- Report: [MAC Healthcare Task Force Report: The Future of Healthcare in Southeast Michigan: Enhancing Equity](#), Access and Service Delivery, May 2024.

**Our Aging Region**

- Blog – [Our Aging Region](#), April 24, 2024.
- Blog – [Exploring Diverse Senior Living Options](#), June 17, 2024.

**Mobility Industry**

- Blog – [Southeast Michigan Communities Plug into Electric Vehicle \(EV\) Fleet Expo and Ride & Drive](#), September 13, 2023.

**Freight**

- Blog – [Unlocking the Future of Freight: SEMCOG Freight Stakeholder Workshop Highlights and Insights](#), October 10, 2023.

## Project 24289, Environmental Sustainability

Grant/Task	Grantor	Local	Total
CPG24, 24289	\$831,538.46	\$184,391.22	\$1,015,929.68

### Product 1: Updated emission inventories and local requests

Throughout the fiscal year, SEMCOG staff demonstrated their dedication to the Greenhouse Gas Inventory (GHGI) project through weekly internal check-ins and regular meetings with Public Sector Consultants (PSC) and Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI) to review project status. SEMCOG actively collaborated with PSC and ICLEI to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and enhance climate resilience in Michigan. These efforts culminated in the 2019 Southeast Michigan Regional Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory Report, commissioned by the Michigan Department of Transportation. This report provides a comprehensive summary of GHG emissions generated in the region during 2019 and adheres to the Global Protocol for Community-scale GHG Inventories BASIC requirements.

The GHGI report covered the seven-county region, including Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, St. Clair, Washtenaw, and Wayne Counties, and provided specific emissions data for the City of Detroit, which has its own GHG emissions inventory. The report featured newly developed emission estimates for 2019 and detailed the methodology for calculating emissions from three key sectors: stationary energy, transportation, and waste.

The inventory, identifying stationary energy, transportation, and waste as the main sources of emissions, serves as the foundation for developing a regional climate action plan and empowering communities to engage in emission reduction efforts. The project team's extensive data collection and analysis led to the development of recommended mitigation strategies, which were refined during the climate action planning process to suit the unique needs of each community.

These efforts culminated in the Southeast Michigan Healthy Climate Plan: Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP), which prioritizes measures to reduce GHG emissions and enhance natural areas that sequester climate pollution. Achieving these goals involves extensive stakeholder outreach, community engagement, and cross-sector coordination, with a strong focus on equity and environmental justice to ensure the benefits are distributed across the region.

### Product 2: Maintenance of the air quality modeling system (MOVES)

SEMCOG prepared and performed the MOVES runs for estimating the mobile vehicle emissions of 2017 and 2023 for each of SEMCOG's seven counties as part of the analysis required by the ozone SIP attainment demonstration. Staff drafted the document on its methodologies and shared it with EGLE, MDOT and EPA for their review. MOVES3 has since been used in SEMCOG's transportation conformity analysis, as well as ozone redesignation and greenhouse gas scenario tests.

In addition, SEMCOG started to process the 2019-2021 vehicle registration data for evaluating the trend of vehicle population changes during the COVID and how to update the local inputs of MOVES3 for 2050 RTP development.

### Product 3: Air quality conformity analysis for the Regional Transportation Plan and the Transportation Improvement Program

Staff facilitated the IAWG meetings over this past fiscal year for the stakeholders to discuss the project list and determine if a new transportation conformity analysis is needed for 2045 RTP amendments and new TIP development. SEMCOG conducted the conformity analysis for two of these amendments and the new

TIP FY23-FY26 adoption. Meeting summary and conformity analysis document were shared with the group and public for review and comments. (These being reported under 23206 as well)

SEMCOG staff had internal meetings with their Transportation staff on multiple occasions. The discussions revolved around the Greenhouse Gas Inventory (GHGI) and its integration with the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Additionally, there were internal meetings to coordinate the inclusion of relevant information in the RTP's public outreach, vision & goals, and plan development. Another meeting focused on outlining the Environmental chapter for the 2050 RTP.

#### **Product 4: Documentation of planning and coordination of activities/actions necessary for Southeast Michigan to attain and maintain national air quality standards**

The seven-county region was redesignated to attainment for ozone in spring of 2023. This follows up on the long process to request redesignation outlined in this section. In late 2021, SEMCOG worked directly with EGLE staff to submit an ozone redesignation request to USEPA Region V. This request was based on the fact that southeast Michigan maintained compliance with the ozone standards for three (3) consecutive years (2018 – 2020). Thus, as the Clean Air Act outlines, a redesignation request was feasible. EGLE formally submitted this request in December 2021.

Throughout the past year, SEMCOG staff met internally and externally with regional partners to ensure Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) Program and Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) projects were programmed and moved towards implementation. This included making sure transit projects that received CMAQ and CRP funding were flexed to Federal Transit Administration to allow for seamless implementation. In total, 13 CMAQ and 17 CRP projects were obligated in FY 2024. SEMCOG also began preparing schedules and materials to conduct another call for projects for CMAQ and CRP funding for Fall 2024.

SEMCOG attended the State of Michigan Air Advisory Council quarterly meetings. Among the topics discussed in these meetings are:

- NAAQS Planning including sulfur dioxide and ozone
- Wildfire messaging
- Air monitoring network plan
- Air quality forecasting
- Michigan-Ontario Ozone Source Experiment
- MiEnviro Portal

SEMCOG has been actively advancing its air quality initiatives and communication strategies. In November 2023, SEMCOG published the Healthy Climate Plan Hub and began evaluating how to align its efforts with regional air quality priorities.

To enhance coordination across organizations, SEMCOG met with EGLE in February 2024 to discuss air quality messaging related to ozone and PM2.5 alerts. This dialogue continued with additional meetings over the fiscal year, focusing on air quality messaging for the upcoming season. As a result, SEMCOG developed and updated its air quality messaging, including a new [Air Quality tip card](#) and [an updated "Keep the Air Clean" webpage](#), both launched in June 2024.

In addition to these efforts, SEMCOG participated in a podcast with the Michigan Chamber on the topic of ozone attainment in Southeast Michigan. This provided a platform to discuss the region's progress and challenges in achieving ozone standards.

The Ozone Action season, running from March 1 through September 30, includes SEMCOG's communication efforts such as electronic mailings and social media posts. In 2023, there were 17 Ozone

Action Days, 17 PM2.5 Action Days, and 3 days with both advisories in Southeast Michigan. In collaboration with EGLE, SEMCOG is transitioning from Action Days to a two-tiered system of Air Quality Advisories and Air Quality Alerts, based on the EPA's U.S. Air Quality Index (AQI).

This new system is reflected in SEMCOG's updated "[Keep the Air Clean](#)" webpage, the new [tip card](#), and air quality alert mailings. These initiatives are crucial for refining strategies to improve air quality and address environmental challenges, ensuring a healthier environment for the region.

One of the key highlights was the continuous efforts to stay updated with the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) on the status of the Ozone State Implementation Plan (SIP) and Ozone nonconformity in the region. SEMCOG has been coordinating with EGLE on updated air quality messaging and ozone attainment. Additionally, SEMCOG is facilitating monthly meetings regarding PM2.5 via a Technical Workgroup to establish a process for data review and coordination on attainment analysis.

Moreover, SEMCOG also put significant emphasis on improving their Greenhouse Gas Inventory (GHGI) by working closely with the Transportation team. SEMCOG aimed to find the most efficient way to collect data on Aviation and Waterborne Transportation trips that occur specifically within the SEMCOG boundary, rather than trans-boundary. SEMCOG published the 2019 Southeast Michigan Regional Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory Report for [Southeast Michigan, commissioned by the Michigan Department of Transportation \(MDOT\)](#) for SEMCOG, the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments, provides a summary of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions generated within the region during 2019.

Additionally, SEMCOG published the [Southeast Michigan Priority Climate Action Plan and the Healthy Climate Plan Hub](#). The purpose of this Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP) and Hub is to prioritize measures that will reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and enhance natural areas that capture climate pollution. This plan was developed with the assistance of the Healthy Climate Task Force and regional stakeholders.

#### **Product 5: Documentation of activities to implement the regional asset management framework, including infrastructure coordination and asset management planning**

Throughout this fiscal year, SEMCOG collaborated with MDOT staff to devise a workplan for this project that encompasses data collection, surveys, and workshops. Additionally, SEMCOG played a role in facilitating the water infrastructure task force. SEMCOG actively participated in the Michigan Infrastructure Council, Water Asset Management Council, and the transportation Asset Management Council meetings to apply influence on processes and policies that uphold regional efforts.

SEMCOG forged active partnerships with both internal and external stakeholders in preparation for the Infrastructure Coordination Webinar. This entailed coordination with entities such as the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) and the Metropolitan Infrastructure Council (MIC). In addition to the webinar, SEMCOG facilitated a workshop which served as a platform for presenting findings, insights, and feedback gathered from the collaborative endeavors. The primary emphasis was on establishing a more structured and efficient process for disseminating CIP data, along with enhancing coordination concerning project timing, funding requests, and loan applications.

SEMCOG presented the Infrastructure Coordination Framework at several events including:

- EGLE Water Infrastructure Conference
- South Oakland County Municipal Engineers meeting
- Partners for Clean Water meetings
- GIS User Group meeting
- Transportation Improvement Program develop meeting
- Ohio Stormwater Conference

- MWEA Annual Conference
- GLWA One Water Partnership meeting

SEMCOG also hosted an Infrastructure Coordination Framework webinar to share the MIC project portal status, share the coordination framework and solicit feedback, and prepare partners for participation in late 2024 for the CIP portal.

**Product 6: Documentation of activities integrating environmental priorities into the transportation planning process from the *Water Resources Plan for Southeast Michigan* and the *Southeast Michigan Green Infrastructure Vision***

**GREEN Initiative**

SEMCOG advanced recommendations in the [Strategic Framework for Growing our Resiliency, Equity, and Economy with Nature \(GREEN\)](#), which establishes regional metrics, targets, and priority areas to improve the quality, quantity, and connectivity of the region's green infrastructure network. This initiative is driven by the goal to ensure that public benefits of green infrastructure are resilient, equitable, and improve the quality of life in Southeast Michigan communities. SEMCOG convened two meetings of the GREEN Implementation Team, which collaboratively engages regional stakeholders to coordinate and supports local efforts that can help reach regional targets for green stormwater infrastructure, tree canopy, wetlands, land conservation, and access to nature. Team meetings have included representatives from SEMCOG member communities, along with partner organizations that manage land and implement green infrastructure in Southeast Michigan. Presentations and discussion topics have covered the latest funding opportunities, best practices from local and regional initiatives, and how to demonstrate investment opportunities and track our progress as a region.

SEMCOG continued to develop, promote, and apply the [GREEN Dashboard](#), which aims to share SEMCOG's data and resources with its members, while understanding more about project opportunities and needs in the region.

**Infrastructure**

Throughout this fiscal year, SEMCOG collaborated with MDOT staff to devise a workplan for this project that encompasses data collection, surveys, and workshops. Additionally, SEMCOG played a role in facilitating the water infrastructure task force. SEMCOG actively participated in the Michigan Infrastructure Council, Water Asset Management Council, and the transportation Asset Management Council meetings to apply influence on processes and policies that uphold regional efforts.

Additionally, SEMCOG has been working to develop a wetlands mapper designed to illustrate the different wetland functions and types across the region. This comprehensive tool will provide detailed visualizations of wetlands, highlighting their ecological roles and classifications.

**Product 7: Development of Environmental & Ecosystem Services Tool**

To enhance and update the environmental sensitivity analysis for all transportation projects, SEMCOG is working with Highland Economics (HE) to develop an Environmental and Ecosystem Services Tool. This tool will provide an online planning - level service to local agencies, incorporating more recent environmental data and initiatives to inform project selection. SEMCOG meets with Highland Economics monthly to touch base about necessary data for the tool, as well as who the tool is targeted to and developing an easy user interface. During this fiscal year SEMCOG has sent over needed data to Highland Economics' GIS team.

Additionally, SEMCOG worked with Hubbel, Roth, and Clark (HRC) on the development of a Water Quality Tool (WQT). This WQT will be used to better understand how green infrastructure and conservation projects impact water quality through stormwater runoff and pollutant loading. It will connect to the EEST, by providing the runoff and stormwater calculations for projects, and for the best management practices.

**Product 8: Engage in activities that address invasive species management in the region.**

SEMCOG actively participated in meetings organized by the Lake St. Clair Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (CISMA) during the reporting period. The goal of these meetings was to combat the spread of invasive species in the Lake St. Clair watershed, ensuring environmental protection and community well-being.

During the meetings, SEMCOG contributed its expertise in invasive species management, sharing best practices and data-driven solutions. SEMCOG's active involvement in Lake St. Clair CISMA meetings exemplified its dedication to environmental stewardship and regional cooperation, setting a model for effective collaboration in promoting sustainable development and safeguarding natural resources.

**Product 9: Documentation of activities and actions to address climate priorities across air, water and natural resources.****Climate**

In collaboration with various SEMCOG departments, SEMCOG established a regional Healthy Climate Task Force to lead the effort in reducing climate pollution and addressing the future impacts of climate change. The goal is to ensure that communities across the region become more resilient, equitable, and thriving places for future generations. The Task Force engaged regional stakeholders to provide input and guidance on developing priorities, while smaller focus groups were formed to involve subject matter experts in examining specific issues and reporting back to the larger Task Force.

The Task Force is responsible for implementing the Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP). The priorities set forth in the PCAP aim to tackle the region's primary sources of GHG emissions with actionable measures to reduce climate pollution by 2030. These priorities will lay the groundwork for a Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP) to be completed in 2025, which will include both near- and long-term solutions to reduce GHG emissions across all sectors by 2050. With the regional PCAP approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), public entities in Southeast Michigan will be eligible to apply for implementation grant funding through the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) program, supporting the measures outlined in the plan.

Across Southeast Michigan and the nation, local governments are taking the lead in developing plans, adopting policies, and implementing actions to help their communities adapt to the effects of climate change and reduce GHG emissions. SEMCOG's coordinated approach to climate action planning connects and enhances existing local, regional, and State plans. Representatives from all levels of government and partner organizations across various sectors have been engaged in developing this plan, which is designed to build on their experience and integrate with their ongoing work.

**Flooding and Stormwater**

SEMCOG hired a consulting team to develop a *Regional Resiliency Framework*, which is in progress through 2024. The project workplan included the development of a Climate Resiliency Data Portfolio to compile available relevant information for climate resiliency work, specifically focused on stormwater drainage. The relevant data was compiled, the document is under review internally, and SEMCOG will share the portfolio in 2024.

The next task as part of the *Regional Resiliency Framework* workplan was to identify funding strategies related to resiliency planning and implementation. The document gives a 2-page summary of 12 relevant funding strategies ranging from local to federal opportunities. The [Southeast Michigan Climate Resiliency Funding Strategies](#) document is live.

As part of the *Regional Resiliency Framework* work plan, the consultants also developed a pilot methodology for identifying and quantifying potential large-scale nature-based storage opportunities to help reduce and manage flooding. The methodology developed in this pilot task will inform future SEMCOG development of a Regional Resilience Improvement Plan.

Finally, the consultants developed a *Regional Resiliency Framework* report, summarizing actions to assess, plan, and implement resiliency efforts at the local, county, and regional levels for communities and organizations in Southeast Michigan. This document is under review internally and will be published in 2024.

The *Regional Resiliency Framework* created a baseline for SEMCOG to apply for the FHWA PROTECT grant opportunity. SEMCOG was awarded the PROTECT funding, and work to develop a Southeast Michigan Regional Resilience Improvement Plan will begin in 2025.

Additionally, this work was discussed in a SEMCOG interview with *Hour Detroit*. SEMCOG was also invited to provide feedback on NCHRP national stormwater resilience performance measures through this work.

The year saw SEMCOG's active involvement in several advisory and committee meetings, such as Rouge River Advisory Council, Middle Huron Partners, and Stormwater Hub Quarterly Advisory Group, where we discussed a wide range of topics related to resiliency and water management. SEMCOG's also made significant contributions to the Detroit River Watershed Management Plan by attending Steering Committee meetings and the Technical Advisory Team, acting as a technical resource.

Additionally, Staff facilitated bimonthly Partners for Clean Water meetings with regional partners. The Southeast Michigan Partners for Clean Water group is comprised of SEMCOG members, including representatives from local communities and counties, in addition to representatives from watershed councils, not-for-profit agencies, the private sector, and water resource professionals. The purpose of the group is to facilitate information sharing, to coordinate public education, and to leverage resources on water quality, stormwater management, and green infrastructure implementation.

SEMCOG also met with MSU SeaGrant and MSU Extension, to discuss the plan's integration into transportation planning work and Water School initiatives. The Water School initiative will be free, self-paced, online courses about water infrastructure through the Michigan State University Desire2Learn (D2L) platform. These courses will provide municipal elected and appointed officials in Michigan with content, scenarios and techniques to support water infrastructure decision-making and communications. The plan is to launch the course in early 2025.

### **GREEN Initiative**

SEMCOG advanced recommendations in the [Strategic Framework for Growing our Resiliency, Equity, and Economy with Nature \(GREEN\)](#), which establishes regional metrics, targets, and priority areas to improve the quality, quantity, and connectivity of the region's green infrastructure network. This initiative is driven by the goal to ensure that public benefits of green infrastructure are resilient, equitable, and improve the quality of life in Southeast Michigan communities.

SEMCOG convened two meetings of the GREEN Implementation Team, which collaboratively engages regional stakeholders to coordinate and supports local efforts that can help reach regional targets for green stormwater infrastructure, tree canopy, wetlands, land conservation, and access to nature. Team meetings have included representatives from SEMCOG member communities, along with partner organizations that manage land and implement green infrastructure in Southeast Michigan. Presentations and discussion topics have covered the latest funding opportunities, best practices from local and regional initiatives, and how to demonstrate investment opportunities and track our progress as a region.

SEMCOG continued to develop, promote, and apply the [GREEN Dashboard](#), which aims to share SEMCOG's data and resources with its members, while understanding more about project opportunities and needs in the region.

## NOAA Climate Equity

As part of the NOAA-USDOT partnership, SEMCOG's Flood Risk Tool is setting the stage as a demonstration project to incorporate an equity analysis in response to the flood risk scores to highlight the impacts to underserved communities. Specifically, NOAA is developing a methodology that uses SEMCOG's *Access to Core Services* analysis, which measures and benchmarks accessibility for seven core services: fixed-route transit, jobs, health care facilities, supermarkets, parks, schools, and libraries. These core services are major destinations that residents need to access on a regular basis. Coupled with the assets at high-risk of flooding, NOAA is working to understand how a flood event may impact access for underserved and disadvantaged populations or communities, especially as these communities may experience a disproportionate impact from a natural disaster like flooding. Understanding how flooding impacts people reaching their desired destinations—like work, school, or health care facilities—safely, affordably, and efficiently will allow for targeted policies and actions in the short- and long-term planning efforts in the region.

As of August 2024, this project is complete and a final report summarizing the methodology is in progress. This work was presented at the following local, regional, state, and federal events:

- GLWA One Water Partnership Meetings
- Transportation Research Board Resilience Conference
- Southeast Michigan Partners for Clean Water meetings
- Transportation Improvement Program development meeting
- FEMA Region 5 Flooding Summit
- MWEA Asset Management Seminar
- Ohio Stormwater Conference
- MWEA Annual Conference

Additionally, this work was discussed in a SEMCOG interview with *Hour Detroit*.

**Project 24314, Local and Public Capacity Building**

<b>Grant/Task</b>	<b>Grantor</b>	<b>Local</b>	<b>Total</b>
CPG24, 24314	\$1,261,035.26	\$152,917.97	\$1,413,953.23

**Product 1: Documentation of training programs provided**

Held 30 educational webinars and in-person training events:

- **Adjusted Urban Boundary (ACUB) Workshop**
  - Held on August 2, this workshop provide a review of the ACUB process used to create the updated boundaries in the region and to seek input.
- **Regional Resources for GREEN: Growing our Resilience, Equity, and Economy**
  - Held on August 15, this webinar provided an overview of SEMCOG’s GREEN Dashboard and recreation data and planning tools, and how they can be used in funding applications and planning processes, and how recently updated tools can support emerging opportunities, including tree planting, greenways, stormwater mitigation, and parks and natural area restoration.
- **Michigan Matters: Community Water Legislation Forum**
  - Held on August 30, this workshop provided updates on the Statewide Water Affordability and Shut-off Protection Bill Package as well as the Stormwater Utility Bill.
- **Funding for Economic Development: Programs and Initiatives**
  - Held on September 21, this webinar provided information on EDA programs such as Public Works Assistance, Economic Adjustment Assistance as well as newer initiatives including the Recompete Pilot Program and the Disaster Impacted Communities program.
- **IDEP Alert Observer Training**
  - Three trainings were held on October 10 and 11 on stormwater permit training opportunities
- **Southeast Michigan EV Infrastructure Roundtable Series, Workshop 1**
  - Held on October 11, this workshop was focused on painting a holistic picture for communities planning for and interested in EV charging infrastructure deployment, best practices and examples of EV Infrastructure plans.
- **MIO Technical Assistance Lunch and Learn**
  - Held on October 12, this workshop was on the Michigan Infrastructure Office’s technical assistance and grant writing for discretionary federal infrastructure funding.

- **Pollution Prevention and Good Housekeeping**
  - Held on October 17, this webinar covered procedures for municipal facilities (i.e. fleet maintenance, public works) for proper stormwater management and permit compliance.
- **Let's Talk Broadband: Opportunities for Collaboration**
  - Held on October 17, this roundtable session included leading public and private stakeholders discussing opportunities for partnering to expand broadband infrastructure and improve digital literacy in Southeast Michigan.
- **Cybersecurity – Bringing the Message Home**
  - Held on October 30, this webinar included IT leaders from state and local governments will be sharing their perspectives on municipal cybersecurity awareness and concerns, best practices and resources for Michigan municipalities, and best practices for .gov domains.
- **SEMCOG Data 101**
  - Held on November 7, this holistic workshop guided participants in accessing and utilizing SEMCOG data for their local and regional projects.
- **Transportation Analysis Tools**
  - Held on November 15, this workshop guided participants through the many the tools SEMCOG uses in its regional transportation modeling and planning activities can be used at the local level. These include: Travel Demand Models; LOCUS: Location-based Services Data and Big Data Analytics; Iteris ClearGuide: Speeding Map; Multimodal Tool; and Commuter Connec
- **Roundtable Discussion: Education Member Priorities**
  - Hold on November 16, a roundtable discussion on crucial issues educators are facing today. Join us for an interactive discussion to identify strategies and education priorities
- **Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Workshop**
  - Held on December 7, this webinar covered the process, eligibility, competitiveness, and successes of SEMCOG's Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)
- **School Age Population Forecast**
  - Held on December 13, this webinar provided participants with Southeast Michigan's School Age Forecast, and how different audiences may utilize and benefit.
- **SEMCOG Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Roundtable Series – Working with Utility Providers and the Private Sector**
  - Held on January 11, the second Roundtable is focused on coordination with the utility providers. At this roundtable representatives from utility providers (including DTE and Consumers Energy) will highlight their EV resources and programs. Through a

collaboration session, attendees will identify priority locations for EV infrastructure deployment throughout the region

- **Infrastructure Coordination in Southeast Michigan**
  - Held on February 6, SEMCOG shared an update on the infrastructure coordination framework for the region, the Michigan Infrastructure Council will provide an update on the capital improvement project portal, and we'll have time for your feedback and suggestions.
- **SEMCOG 101**
  - Held on February 7, this workshop provided the basics of utilizing SEMCOG resources at this orientation session which is designed for new elected officials and those wishing to become more engaged with SEMCOG
- **Southeast Michigan EV Infrastructure Roundtable Series – Session 3**
  - Held on March 13, this roundtable session focused on Federal, State, and regional EV and EV Infrastructure funding opportunities. Through a collaboration session attendees will utilize available resources and tools to identify potential EV funding opportunities that meet their community priorities
- **Our Aging Region Part 1: Resources for Communities**
  - Held on March 15, a webinar focusing on housing and mobility to improving public services and community planning, this series aims to share case studies, best practices, and expert opinions to help stakeholders make aging in place for Southeast Michigan residents an achievable and enjoyable prospect
- **Rethinking Budgeting – Strategies**
  - Held on April 17, a workshop focused on evolving the approach to public finance by updating local government budgeting practices to take advantage of new ways of thinking, new technologies, and to better meet the changing needs of communities
- **Our Aging Region Part 2: Housing Options and Resources**
  - Held on April 18, this webinar explored resources for housing issues centered around these questions: How do we provide affordable, enjoyable, and accessible housing for our aging

population? How do we ensure that people can age in place and remain close to different services and opportunities.

- **Community Events: Driving Placemaking & Economic Development**
  - Held on May 16, this workshop shared topics such as coordination, planning, marketing, and measuring impacts. Additionally, we'll hear from experienced event managers and marketing pros about pitfalls to avoid and lessons learned along the way
- **Utilizing the One Water Campaign in Your Community**
  - Held on May 22, this webinar showcased how local governments can help educate their residents about Southeast Michigan's Water resources by participating in the [One Water](#) campaign
- **Our Aging Region Part 3: Mobility Options and Resources**
  - Held on May 23, a workshop on housing and mobility to improving public services and community planning, this series aims to share case studies, best practices, and expert opinions to help stakeholders make aging in place
- **Multimodal Tool Workshop**
  - Held on May 29, a workshop where SEMCOG shared the new interactive web version of the Multimodal Tool developed by SEMCOG in partnership with MDOT to help communities prioritize safety for travelers and their contextual needs along a street
- **Fostering Connections to Michigan's Water Wonderland for Wellness and Stewardship**
  - Held on June 6, included a series of speakers highlighting the benefits and connections between spending time outdoors in Michigan surrounded by the Great Lakes and the state's abundant water resources and improved health and wellness, both physical and mental
- **Southeast Michigan EV Roundtable Series – Roundtable 4**
  - Held on June 12, this roundtable focused on Navigating EV Readiness, with a focus on EV ordinances, EV equity, and accessibility considerations
- **AI Best Practices in Graphic Design – Uses and Risks**
  - Held on June 12, this webinar shared best practices on tools and applications to assist in web and content development using AI.
- **From Conflict to Conversation – Workshop for Local Leaders**
  - Held on June 20 this session offers practical insights on the importance of cooperation and civility and offers practical tools to empower local government leaders to fuel productive and meaningful conversations.

## **Product 2: Summary of capacity-building activities**

### **Documentation of regional reviews and actions of the Regional Review Committee**

SEMCOG reviewed 31 recreation grant Notices of Intent consistent with DNR practice. Reviews provided comments, when appropriate and applicable, on the grant submissions for consistency with regional plans, programs, and policies.

The Regional Review Committee met three times during the year.

- [November 9, 2023](#)
- [April 2, 2024](#)
- [June 27, 2024](#)

The November 2023 meeting included approving the three TAP project awards for FY2024, competitive criteria for SEMCOG’s Safe Streets for All Road Safety Audit program, and approval of an updated process for funding for the FY2024 Local Road Rating Program.

The April 2024 meeting included the approval of eight Safe Streets for All safety audit awards, approval of seven TAP awards for FY2023, and approval of competitiveness and selection criteria for the FY25 Planning Assistance Program.

The June 2024 meeting included the approval of 14 Planning Assistance Program awards for a total of \$482,000 and two TAP awards for a total of \$3.15 million.

**Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)**

Provided technical assistance and coordination to 72 communities/counties throughout the region regarding eligibility and competitiveness and/or LAP implementation of TAP funding, including:

- |                       |                      |                       |
|-----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| • Armada              | • East Pointe        | • Madsion Heights     |
| • Armada Township     | • Erie Township      | • Marine City         |
| • Brownstown Township | • Farmington         | • Marysville          |
| • Birmingham          | • Farmington Hills   | • Macomb Township     |
| • Bellville           | • Ferndale           | • Monroe              |
| • Beverly Hills       | • Flat Rock          | • Monroe County       |
| • Bloomfield Township | • Grosse Ile         | • Mt Clemens          |
| • Brighton            | • Grosse Pointe Park | • Northville          |
| • Chelsea             | • Hamtramck          | • Northville Township |
| • Chesterfield Twp    | • Harper Woods       | • Novi                |
| • Clinton Township    | • Harrison Township  | • Oakland County      |
| • Dearborn            | • Inkster            | • Pinkney             |
| • Dearborn Heights    | • Keego Harbor       | • Pittsfield Township |
| • Detroit             | • Lima Township      | • Pleasant Ridge      |
| • Ecorse              | • Lincoln Park       | • Pontiac             |
| • East China township | • Livingston County  | • Rochester           |
|                       | • Macomb County      | • Rochester Hills     |

- Romeo
- Romulus
- Roseville
- Port Huron
- Scio Township
- Shelby Township
- Southfield
- St Clair
- St Clair Shores
- Sterling Heights
- Superior Township
- Troy
- Van Buren Township
- Washington Township
- Washtenaw County
- Waterford Township
- Wayne County
- West Bloomfield Township
- Wayne
- Westland
- Wyandotte
- Ypsilanti

SEMCOG staff held internal weekly meetings to discuss TAP projects.

SEMCOG attended MDOT TAP and Safe Routes to School quarterly selection team meetings, TAP reporting meetings, and monthly project status meetings to keep abreast of all projects and future of TAP.

SEMCOG maintained materials and guidance on the program on SEMCOG’s [TAP webpage](#).

SEMCOG awarded approximately \$9 million funding 15 projects

- August 18 - [SEMCOG announces \\$2 million in funding awards for walking and biking projects in Southeast Michigan](#)
- December 12 - [SEMCOG announces \\$2.3 million in funding awards for walking and biking projects in Southeast Michigan](#)
- May 2 - [SEMCOG announces \\$4.4 million in funding awards for walking and biking projects in Southeast Michigan](#)

**Bicycle and pedestrian planning technical assistance**

Worked with 61 communities to help guide them through various aspects of bicycle and pedestrian planning.

- Livingston County
  - Brighton
  - Green Oak
  - Livingston County
  - Pinckney
- Monroe County
  - Berlin township
  - Bedford Township
  - Erie Township
  - Frenchtown Township
  - Luna Pier
  - Monroe
  - Monroe Township
  - Monroe County

- Macomb County
  - Armada
  - Armada Township
  - Chesterfield Township
  - Clinton Township
  - East Ponte
  - Harrision Township
  - Romeo
  - St Clair Shores
  - Sterling Heights
- Oakland County
  - Clarkston
  - Clawson
  - Commerce Township
  - Ferndale
  - Farmington
  - Keego Harbor
  - Lathrup Village
  - Lyon Township
  - Oakland County
  - Orion Township
  - Oxford Township
  - Rochester Hills
  - Rose Township
  - Sylvan Lake
  - Walled Lake
  - Waterford Township
  - Wixom
- St Clair County
  - Fort Gratiot
  - Marine City
  - Marysville
- Washtenaw County
  - Ann Arbor
  - Chelsea
  - Lyndon Township
  - Washtenaw County
  - York township
  - Ypsilanti
- Wayne County
  - Belleville
  - Canton Township
  - Dearborn
  - Detroit
  - Flat Rock
  - Gibraltar
  - Grosse Ile
  - Inkster
  - Lincoln Park
  - Romulus
  - Trenton
  - Wayne
  - Wayne County
  - Wyandotte

SEMCOG staff continued a bicycle and pedestrian count program in urban, suburban and rural communities across the 7-county region. [An interactive online map of bicycle and pedestrian counts](#) is online showing all locations

SEMCOG continued work on a Linear Referencing System (LRS) tool which assists in creating and maintaining Bicycle and Pedestrian GIS data, updating event table data structures, non-motorized network data structure, updated non-motorized network, and instantiated non-motorized events. Staff began data entry on the new Bicycle and Pedestrian database.

### Planning Assistance Program grants

SEMCOG administered the Planning Assistance Program to fund Planning projects across five priority topics of regional significance and move plans and priorities forward:

- Transportation and Infrastructure Equity Planning
- Complete Streets and Corridor Safety Planning
- Trails and Greenways Planning
- Stormwater Management Planning
- Corridor and Pedestrian Focused Placemaking Planning

SEMCOG [awarded \\$480,000 in Planning Assistance Program funding to local communities for a total of 14 projects](#) to be completed in FY2025. SEMCOG provided administrative support and technical assistance for these projects. Highlights of these successful projects were shared at SEMCOG University workshops.

### Green Infrastructure GLRI Sub-Grants

SEMCOG partnered with the EPA to establish a green infrastructure subaward program, funded by the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI). In 2023, this program awarded support to 10 local agencies, enabling them to construct various green stormwater infrastructure techniques that offer multiple community benefits.

Through the SEMCOG Green Stormwater Infrastructure Program, there is \$900,000 available for competitive subawards of up to \$100,000 per project. The program's primary goal is to provide funding to counties, cities, villages, townships, intermediate school districts, and community colleges for constructing green infrastructure techniques that yield environmental benefits, with a primary focus on reducing stormwater runoff volume. The SEMCOG Green Stormwater Infrastructure Program plays a vital role in implementing small-scale green infrastructure techniques, contributing to both regional and local stormwater management goals. Additionally, it aims to build capacity within several disadvantaged communities at the local level.

The status of each project as of June 2024 can be seen in the table below:

No.	Local Subawardee	Agency	Project Name / Description	Award Amount	Project Status
1	City of Center Line		Memorial Park Improvements - Permeable Pavers & Native Prairie	\$80,000	In progress; delayed due to environmental assessment of park
2	Clinton Township		Joy Park Parking Lot Improvements	\$95,000	In progress; working on construction.
3	City of Dearborn		Rain Gardens for Public Health	\$95,000	In progress; preliminary designs have been delivered, with a summer

				construction start date
4	Grosse Pointe Park	City Hall Rain Garden Bioretention	\$53,885	In progress; drafting design RFP.
5	Huron River Watershed Council with City of Wixom, City of Walled Lake	Green Stormwater Infrastructure Norton Creek Municipal Facility Bioretention	\$97,000	In progress; initial installations complete, evaluating an additional installation with remaining funds.
6	City of Northville	Greening Mill Race Village Permeable pavers and rain gardens.	\$95,000	In progress; construction bids received and construction expected to be completed summer of 2024.
7	Oakland County Water Resources Commissioner	George W. Kuhn RTB site improvements & parking lot bioretention.	\$95,000	In progress; preconstruction meeting occurred on April 23 with selected contractor.
8	City of River Rouge	Belanger Park Bioretention	\$95,000	In progress; a consultant has been hired.
9	City of Southfield	Bauervic Woods Rain Garden / Bioswale	\$95,000	Delayed; awaiting results of a park master plan update for a consultant to be hired.
Total Project Subaward			\$800,885	

From July to October 2023, SEMCOG worked with grantees to get grant agreements with SEMCOG signed. From October, 2023 to March, 2024, SEMCOG had periodic meetings with the communities and provided technical assistance to move projects forward. Ultimately, SEMCOG has entered into contracts with nine of the ten communities with the City of Trenton deciding not to proceed with a signed contract. The \$95,000 originally awarded to Trenton will be reallocated to other communities as-needed for potential construction cost overruns.

SEMCOG hired Environmental Consulting & Technology, Inc. in early 2024 to assist River Rouge with design. SEMCOG also hired Drummond & Carpenter to assist with grant administration, provide technical assistance to communities, and review community submittals for grant conformance. Additionally, SEMCOG submitted semi-annual reports to EPA in October 2023 and April 2024.

### Infrastructure – Drinking Water Monitoring

SEMCOG facilitated the Huron to Erie Corridor Drinking Water Monitoring Stakeholder group. Grant funding from the State of Michigan resulted in 14 facilities getting new source water monitoring equipment and real-time monitoring capabilities in 2018. The consulting firm, Environmental Consulting and Technology (ECT) was hired for equipment procurement, installation, and maintenance. During this fiscal year, the equipment was maintained and troubleshooting completed as needed.

SEMCOG facilitated the stakeholder group meetings approximately quarterly throughout the year. The group discussed various topics including equipment troubleshooting and maintenance, alarm levels for various contaminants monitored by the new equipment, and any trending issues in the water industry. ECT attended these meetings as well.

Additionally, as a participant in the GLWA Watershed HUB group, SEMCOG shares information on the HEC program.

SEMCOG has also participated in the GLWA SWIPP update meetings to provide feedback.

### **Infrastructure**

SEMCOG is working to enhance infrastructure coordination in the region to lead efforts consistent with the goals of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Infrastructure Report and the Michigan Infrastructure Council. This effort seeks to institutionalize a process within the existing transportation planning framework that will ensure efficient and strategic investment of resources for project planning and coordination of above and below ground infrastructure, both public and private. Institutionalizing this process includes an online mechanism and strategic planning efforts for sharing infrastructure project capital improvement plans. SEMCOG aims to institutionalize a process for sharing of infrastructure project data for near term (4-5 year) and longer term (20 year) projects. This project will extend through the end of the 2022\_2023 fiscal year.

### **Task Force on Legislative Policy**

SEMCOG depends upon its legislative policy platform for guidance when dealing with legislative issues at the state and federal level. The platform is developed prior to each new legislative session by a task force consisting of local government officials and is approved by the SEMCOG Executive Committee. In FY2024, SEMCOG continued work to implement the policies in the region's 2023-2024 Legislative Policy Platform. The legislative platform focuses on broad policy needs rather than individual pieces of legislation; just like our regional plans focus setting a direction to achieve a desired result. This policy platform references our recently-approved plans to connect our legislative policies to the planning work of the organization. Our plans identify our aspirations and the policy platform highlights issues that need to be addressed to fulfill those aspirations. The platform also includes links to SEMCOG plans and data/mapping resources that may be helpful to legislators as they consider policy impacting the region and its communities.

When SEMCOG visits with legislators or members of congress, especially those newly elected, we spend considerable time reviewing the issues outlined within the document. When SEMCOG visits our region's congressional delegation each February, we highlight specific policies that are most likely to be discussed over the coming year within congress.

Attached is a copy of the documents used by SEMCOG members during their in-person visits to Congressional Offices in January 2023.

During the FY 2024, SEMCOG also began outlining the timeline and scope of work for re-convening the legislative task force to prioritize remaining policy goals included in the 2023-2024 Legislative Policy Platform. These activities included: developing the task force scope and timeline, identifying task force members and chairpersons, and initial policy review.

### **Local government fiscal analysis**

Our local communities are the foundation upon which much of our regions prosperity rests. Our region has been greatly challenged over the past decade to provide the services and especially infrastructure that is necessary for growth to take place. This situation deteriorated further with challenges associated with the COVID-19 crisis.

SEMCOG remains focused on infrastructure funding and local government operations/fiscal health. SEMCOG works on its own as well as in collaboration with other local government groups to evaluate changes in fiscal issues associated with the new realities of local government operations as well as evaluating the impact of federal relief funds. This work has continued in FY24. This fiscal health analysis is

aided through SEMCOG's contract with Munetrix, a private-sector vendor that provides fiscal data for local governments and schools in the Southeast Michigan region.

Roads were not the only infrastructure issue that needed additional funding. Our regions other buried infrastructure and stormwater conveyance are now taking a more prominent place in public discourse, especially in recent years as the severity of rainfall events has increased. Issues related to stormwater separations, stormwater utilities, lead and copper abatement and the emerging issue of PFAS will all take significant financial resources to mitigate these environmental threats. Efforts to minimize costs such as coordinating underground infrastructure replacement with surface level infrastructure projects remain a method that can be used to utilize our limited fiscal resources. SEMCOG also works to share best practices across the region to increase efficiency and effectiveness of services.

### **SEMCOG Local Government Effectiveness and Collaboration (LGEC)**

SEMCOG's [Local Government Effectiveness and Collaboration](#) (LGEC) work engaged communities to help them increase their effectiveness. These engagements continued to include assistance to local governments understand project eligibility and reporting compliance associated with state and federal funding streams. SEMCOG's LGEC work also focused on important topics for communities, including: local millage election results and sharing Munetrix fiscal tools and best practices.

In FY2024, SEMCOG continued to contract with Munetrix, a local IT company that provides public sector financials to support transparency, fiscal analysis and comparable data that allows the LGEC team to quickly and efficiently access pertinent information to more readily assist member local governments. Munetrix continues to expand the scope of its services to local governments and in FY2024, SEMCOG engaged in conversations about how to evolve this partnership in the future.

### **Parks & Recreation planning assistance**

SEMCOG implemented policies and actions in the [Parks and Recreation Plan for Southeast Michigan](#), including continued updates to and promotion of the [Southeast Michigan Park Finder](#) interactive map and [mobile application](#), the [Southeast Michigan Trail Explorer](#) website, the [Great Lakes Way](#) story map, and [New Future of Southeast Michigan Parks](#) recommendations. These regional priorities and resources were promoted through SEMCOG's participation in steering committees and planning teams for regional recreation projects, including ongoing engagement and assistance with state, regional, and local governments, and partners in the nonprofit, philanthropic, and private sector.

### **GREEN Initiative**

SEMCOG advanced recommendations in the [Strategic Framework for Growing our Resiliency, Equity, and Economy with Nature \(GREEN\)](#), which establishes regional metrics, targets, and priority areas to improve the quality, quantity, and connectivity of the region's green infrastructure network. This initiative is driven by the goal to ensure that public benefits of green infrastructure are resilient, equitable, and improve the quality of life in Southeast Michigan communities.

SEMCOG convened two meetings of the GREEN Implementation Team, which collaboratively engages regional stakeholders to coordinate and supports local efforts that can help reach regional targets for green stormwater infrastructure, tree canopy, wetlands, land conservation, and access to nature. Team meetings have included representatives from SEMCOG member communities, along with partner organizations that manage land and implement green infrastructure in Southeast Michigan. Presentations and discussion topics have covered the latest funding opportunities, best practices from local and regional initiatives, and how to demonstrate investment opportunities and track our progress as a region.

SEMCOG continued to develop, promote, and apply the [GREEN Dashboard](#), which aims to share SEMCOG's data and resources with its members, while understanding more about project opportunities and needs in the region.

### **One Water Campaign**

Following the conclusion of the One Water Campaign in June 2023, SEMCOG's staff conducted internal

meetings to debrief and begin preparations for the comprehensive final report. By September 2023, SEMCOG published the [2023 One Water Implementation Report](#), which provided an overview of the campaign's messages and detailed data on public engagement throughout its duration.

Throughout the fiscal year, SEMCOG staff held internal and external discussions to develop the 2024 One Water Campaign. To expand the reach of the One Water campaign and connect regional and statewide efforts, SEMCOG collaborated with EGLE to develop key messages for Great Lakes and Fresh Water Week 2024.

In these development meetings, SEMCOG supported EGLE's proposed theme, highlighting the link between improved mental health and access to nature and water. SEMCOG worked with EGLE throughout the fiscal year to craft messaging for the week and coordinate various initiatives. This collaboration culminated in a joint webinar between SEMCOG and EGLE on June 6, 2024, titled "[Fostering Connections to Michigan's Water Wonderland for Wellness and Stewardship](#)." The webinar featured a series of speakers who emphasized the benefits of spending time outdoors in Michigan, surrounded by the Great Lakes and the state's abundant water resources, and the positive impact on both physical and mental health.

As part of the 2024 campaign, SEMCOG produced two new videos. The first video, titled "[One Water - Keep It Clean](#)," highlights the critical connection between upstream actions and their downstream impacts. The second video, "[Man Stuck in a Rain Barrel](#)," promotes stormwater management by educating viewers on the benefits and importance of individual stormwater stewardship.

To further support the campaign's objectives, SEMCOG hosted a webinar on May 22, 2024, titled "[Utilizing the One Water Campaign in Your Community](#)." This event demonstrated how local governments can educate residents about Southeast Michigan's water resources by participating in the One Water campaign.

Attendees were introduced to the campaign's social media toolkit and learned effective strategies for raising awareness about water resources during Great Lakes and Fresh Water Week.

### **Justice40 Communities Task Force**

Kicked-off and held three meetings of the Justice40 Communities Task Force. The goal of this task force is to ensure all voices and communities are heard in regional planning and initiatives, and that support is provided to communities in their path to prosperity. As SEMCOG continues to incorporate equity into regional planning and initiatives, this effort is specifically intended to engage member communities who have received a Justice40 designation. Through this task force, SEMCOG will connect Justice40 communities to resources for which they are eligible and provide a space for collaboration and sharing of opportunities, challenges, and successes.

Task Force meetings were held:

- [January 30, 2024](#)
- [March 8, 2024](#)
- [May 7, 2024](#)

## Project 24330, Public Transit

Grant/Task	Grantor	Local	Total
CPG24, 24330	\$534,224.13	\$118,462.67	\$652,686.80

### Product 1: Document technical and policy assistance on various transit planning efforts

Continued to work with the RTA and political leaders on next steps for transit system development. SEMCOG provides some oversight roles regarding contracts as well as ongoing technical assistance. Staff attends and assists in committee meetings and is collaborating with the RTA in the implementation of their recently adopted master plan update.

- The E8+ model includes updated transit component, a tour-based commercial vehicle model, and new version of 2019 social-economic input data set updated by SEMCOG. The development of E8+ model for year 2020 is now completed.
  - Link: Integrating the transit updates and newly developed CVM into [E8Plus model documentation](#).
- Worked on several corridor projects such as Gratiot and Michigan Avenues and I375. Certain transit-related tasks for this work are conducted under 24330 for items that are relevant to SEMCOG's overarching transit responsibilities. This work includes items such as network updates, survey analysis, and model validation and calibration.
- SEMCOG working with MDOT, the City of Detroit, and Michigan Central Station reps to create a transit/mobility hub, including an intercity component.
- Coordinated the deployment of the Multimodal Tool for MDOT and local road agencies to accommodate additional modes, including transit, in street redesign projects.
- Presented transit accessibility indicators for senior population to various stakeholders and planning entities in Southeast Michigan. The indicators were produced to assess and measure accessibility to core services including hospitals, community health centers, urgent care facilities, grocery stores, and libraries using the transit system.
- Coordinating in the deployment of the Multimodal Tool for MDOT and local road agencies to accommodate additional modes, including transit, in street redesign projects. Development of a web-based version of the tool is nearly complete and beta testing with key stakeholders is expected to begin soon.

### Products 2: Participate in mobility management coordination activities with local transit agencies and other providers

- Providing feedback and review of the RTA's Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods (RCN) grant.
- Coordinated with the RTA on potential projects to include in the Healthy Climate Plan grant administrated through the EPA.

### Products 3: Maintain regional transit system map and model network

- Ongoing updates to the regional transit network by collecting all changes and near term planned changed from each transit provider and making updates as needed.

**Product 4: Participate in transit promotion and planning activities**

- Continued participating in the various RTA committees.
- Continued participating in Washtenaw County Transportation coordinating Council meetings.
- Continued to participate in Oakland County Woodward Avenue MOD meetings.
- Participating in the SMARTer Mobility Program Steering Committee led by SMART.

**Product 5: Share best practices and information on transit in order to promote informed actions by decision makers and the public**

- Collect annual SGR and Safety Performance Targets from transit providers.
- Collect and analyze NTD data to set new regional transit safety targets and SGR targets.
- Present federally required Transportation Performance Management (TPM) Transit targets on asset management and safety to SEMCOG committees for adoption.
- Update TPM website with the transit targets recently adopted by executive committee.
  - [TPM website link](#)
- Presented results from transit accessibility analysis at SEMCOG University on Aging, Transportation and Mobility session.

**Product 6: Incorporate the passenger survey and boarding/alighting counts draft results into our planning and modeling processes**

- Testing of the SEMCOG Activity Based Model is underway, including sensitivity testing of the transit component.

**Product 7: Develop Transit Chapter within the 2050 RTP**

- Completed the transit section of the RTP.
  - [RTP 2050 Link \(Page 72\)](#)
- Coordinated with the RTA on the transit chapter.
- Continue collecting data on comparative regional transit spending to better understand capital and operating expenses.
- Presented to the RTA's Public Transit Providers Advisory Committee on November 14, 2023.

**Other:****Projects produced:**

- Adoption of regional transit asset management and transit safety targets.

## Project 24344, Safety and Security

Grant/Task	Grantor	Local	Total
CPG24, 24344	\$652,670.69	\$144,727.83	\$797,398.52

### Product 1: Documentation of technical and policy assistance on various safety planning efforts

SEMCOG continued to lead coordination of the Transportation Safety Action Committee, consisting of local and regional partners, to exchange information and coordinate safety implementation activities. The Action Committee met in September 2023, January and April 2024 to discuss regional traffic crash trends, local and regional accomplishments, strategies, and challenges related to transportation safety.

SEMCOG regularly participated in several transportation safety committees and conferences, including: Governor's Traffic Safety Advisory Commission action teams (Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety; Senior Mobility and Safety; Traffic Incident Management; Drivers Age 20 and Younger; and Traffic Records Coordinating Committee/Data Users Group); ITE Michigan Annual Meeting; AMPO Planning Tools & Training Symposium; NACTO Designing Cities conference; Michigan Traffic Safety Summit; MAP's Transportation Bonanza; TMACOG coordination meetings; and MORPC quarterly coordination meetings.

SEMCOG participated in and provided technical assistance on several studies and projects, including: I-94 Mitigation Study; MDOT I-75 Corridor Plan; MDOT I-375 Projects Meetings; Michigan Trails & Greenways Alliance; Center for Automotive Research; Washtenaw Avenue PEL; M-17 PEL; RCOC's SMART Grant Community Engagement Plan Design and Safety Action Plan Committee Meetings;

SEMCOG worked with FHWA to finalize the grant agreement for the first Safe Streets for a and Roads for All (SS4A) regional supplemental planning grant. SEMCOG developed and started the Road Safety Audit program, including [project selection](#), vendor selection and other procurement efforts. The first round of RSAs are being completed in FY2025 SEMCOG applied for and was awarded a second SS4A regional grant for vulnerable road user demonstration projects. The FHWA grant agreement for this grant is currently in progress.

### Product 2: Updated and adopted *Traffic Safety Plan*, including the most recent data available and as well as an updated *Traffic Safety Manual*, SEMCOG website, mapping tools, etc.

SEMCOG finished processing 2022 traffic crash data and published it online. Updated online safety tools include the [Traffic Crash Data](#) portal, [Intersection and Road Segment](#) data, [High-Frequency Crash Locations, Community Profiles](#), and an [interactive Crash Locations](#) map. SEMCOG also completed the [2022 Traffic Crash Quick Facts](#) report.

SEMCOG worked with MDOT and a consultant team to add proven safety countermeasures to the [Multimodal Tool](#). The project team has completed developing the [web-based version of the tool](#).

SEMCOG worked on the development of the [Safety Hub](#), which gathers all of SEMCOG's transportation safety related efforts, data, and resources in one location. The Safety Hub is being finalized this month.

SEMCOG's first SS4A grant also included funds for purchasing a safety analysis tool to enhance the region's safety analysis and data visualization. SEMCOG met with ten different vendors and evaluated their data and software. SEMCOG is now finishing the selection process and proceeding with purchasing a safety analysis tool.

**Product 3: Technical assistance for local agencies in addressing their safety needs by providing data, information/analysis, training (SEMCOG Universities), and performing safety audits and other technical assistance as requested**

SEMCOG developed and held several workshops related to traffic safety, including:

- [SEMCOG University: Multimodal Tool Workshop](#)
- [SEMCOG 101: In-person Workshop & Networking Lunch](#)
- [SEMCOG University: Transportation Analysis Tools](#)
- [SEMCOG University: Safe Routes to School \(SRTS\) Regional Training – Detroit](#)

SEMCOG provided technical assistance, conducted fieldwork, and fulfilled data and information requests from local agencies, members, and other stakeholders looking to improve traffic safety and nonmotorized connectivity in their communities, including: WATS, Inkster, Eastpoint, Lathrup Village, Detroit, Fort Gratiot, Armada, Bedford, Grosse Pointe, Oakland County Transit, Madison Heights, Wayne County DPS, Crestwood School District, Dearborn Heights, Ecorse, and Ann Arbor.

**Product 4: Document continued implementation and expansion of the *Walk.Bike.Drive.Safe* education campaign for regional and local education and planning activities**

SEMCOG rebranded the previously known *Walk.Bike.Drive.Safe* to the [Safe Streets](#) campaign. SEMCOG promoted and expanded the *Safe Streets* campaign to educate residents on safe walking, biking, and driving, and to assist member governments by providing them with educational resources and tools to educate their own constituencies. SEMCOG ran two multimedia blitzes, in October 2023 and May 2024, including online and TV PSA messaging. SEMCOG also continued to provide safety materials, including tip cards, pamphlets, wristbands, bike lights, and armbands as part of the campaign. These materials were distributed to hundreds of member communities and partner agencies three times, in September 2023, April 2024, and June 2024.

SEMCOG produced a *Walk.Bike.Drive Safe* [implementation report](#) which summarizes campaign activities up to FY2023, including products produced and distributed. The implementation report will be updated to summarize FY2024 activities of the Safe Streets campaign and will continue to be updated annually going forward.

SEMCOG presented the campaign to various committees, including the Transportation Safety Action Committee and Communicators Network. SEMCOG promoted the campaign and safe travel practices through [news release](#) and [blog posts](#). SEMCOG also updated the layout and content of the campaign [website](#).

**Product 5: Monitor and update Regional ITS Architecture as appropriate**

SEMCOG participated on the ITS Architecture update core team and met with consultants to verify data and confirm ITS assets in the regional ITS architecture database.

**Product 6: Document participation in various operations planning coordination meetings and conferences**

SEMCOG regularly participated in Regional Transportation Operations Coordination Committee meetings, as well as subcommittee meetings. Meeting include SEMTOC regional transportation operation coordinating committee meetings and the TIM Partnering Workshop.

**Product 7: Monitor the benefits of implemented safety projects and their impact on safety performance measures and related targets**

SEMCOG continued to track Southeast Michigan's performance for each safety performance measure, monitor safety projects in the TIP, and participate in MDOT's Target Coordination meetings.

SEMCOG coordinated with the Transportation Coordinating Committee, and Transportation Safety Action Committee to develop the second regional safety targets. The Executive Committee took action in January to adopt regional safety targets for 2024, and SEMCOG notified MDOT of the action.

SEMCOG convened a TIP Prioritization Process Committee to identify best practices for adding safety to the Federal Aid Committee project selection process. The group has met several times throughout the fiscal year and is now incorporating those best practices into the FY26-29 TIP development process.

## Project 24510, DOT Program Management

Grant/Task	Grantor	Local	Total
CPG24, 24510	\$164,701.97	\$36,522.18	\$201,224.15

### Product 1: Agreement and contracts that provide for pass-through of federal or state transportation funding

- AAATA contract
- DTC contract

### Product 2: Documentation of compliance with legal and administrative requirements of the transportation program, including DBE and Title VI reporting

- See Title VI Annual certification

### Product 3: Monthly progress reporting system that allows for monitoring of performance of DOT-funded activities

Throughout the year, progress reports were collected, reviewed, and submitted in order to monitor performance and projects of SEMCOG DOT-funded activities.

- Example Progress Reports for projects 24142 and 24330

### Product 4: Completion report for DOT-funded activities

Development of FY23 Completion report:

- [2022-2023 Annual Work Program Completion Report](#)

### Product 5: Coordination and assistance to pass-through agencies in administering transportation funds

SEMCOG met with the various pass-through agencies to ensure proper coordination of federal and state transportation funding.

- Budget memo and schedule for 2024-2025 UWP

## Project 24287, EPA Climate Pollution Reduction

Grant/Task	Grantor	Local	Total
CPR24, 24287	\$409,982.32	\$0	\$409,982.32

### Products 1: Development of the Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP)

In August, 2023, SEMCOG received funding through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Program, to develop a Climate Action Plan for the Southeast Michigan Metropolitan Statistical Area. Through this program, SEMCOG is required to develop a Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP), that highlights near-term climate action goals, as well as a Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP) that provides more detail on near and far-term climate goals, and sets the stage for how to achieve these goals. Project identified within the PCAP were eligible for.

SEMCOG convened a Healthy Climate Task Force in October 2023, to help guide the development of the Southeast Michigan Healthy Climate Plan and engage regional partners in consensus building and decision-making. The task force is co-chaired by Sheila Tomkowiak, Mayor of Grosse Pointe, and Coleman A. Young II, Councilmember of City of Detroit. The task force includes representatives from government, transportation, energy, business, health, development, workforce, and environmental sectors. The task force met three times in 2023 and 2024, to discuss the development of the PCAP:

- Meeting 1 -- October 2, 2023: The first meeting of the Southeast Michigan Healthy Climate Task Force set the stage for the development of the Southeast Michigan Healthy Climate Plan and the timeline for the project moving forward. Task force members discussed potential projects and priorities for the Preliminary Climate Action Plan (PCAP) and provided guidance on engagement strategies.
  - Meeting Summary
  - [Presentation Slides](#)
- Meeting 2 -- November 13, 2023: The second meeting of the Southeast Michigan Healthy Climate Task Force focused on identifying opportunities and coordinating regional priorities. Task force members heard more about potential project ideas and near and long term funding opportunities. The task force engaged in a mapping exercise that focused on what projects are currently being implemented to reduce emissions, and what some potential ideas for future implementation are.
  - Meeting Summary
  - Presentation Slides
- Meeting 3 -- January 22, 2024: The third meeting of the Southeast Michigan Healthy Climate Task Force focused on the draft Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP) and the measures and initiatives identified within the plan. Task force members had the opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback regarding these measures, to shape the final PCAP. Following this discussion, the task force heard about upcoming funding opportunities through CPRG and next steps for the task force moving to the development of the Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP).
  - Meeting Summary
  - [Presentation Slides](#)

As part of building the PCAP, SEMCOG held Focus Groups in October, 2023, to discuss opportunities for Community Engagement, Transportation, Energy, Waste, and Nature. 128 individuals and 73 communities participated in these focus groups to provide expertise and insights into these topics.

In January 2024, SEMCOG finalized a written report, graphics, and data analysis for the PCAP in ongoing coordination with consultants, project team, communications and leadership. The PCAP was available for public comment on January 23, 2024. The PCAP was approved at SEMCOG's Executive Committee meeting on February 23, 2024 and submitted to EPA. The PCAP was approved by EPA on March 8.

Projects identified through the PCAP were eligible for \$4.6 Billion in implementation funding through EPA's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant. SEMCOG worked to draft a regional application for this funding opportunity and submitted that to EPA in April 2024. SEMCOG and their consultants worked with other regional entities that we're interested in applying as well, submitting letters of support and helping support any data analysis needed for those applications.

## **Products 2: Development of the Comprehensive Climate Action Plan**

SEMCOG began planning for the development of the CCAP in April, 2024. SEMCOG discuss the CCAP and the next steps at meeting 4 of the task force:

- Meeting 4 – June 5, 2024: The fourth meeting of the Southeast Michigan Healthy Climate Task Force highlighted the efforts undertaken to develop the Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP), and focused on next steps for the task force. Task force members heard more about the strategy for developing the Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP) and how SEMCOG will conduct engagement and outreach for the plan over the next year.
  - Meeting Summary
  - Presentation Slides

## **Products 3: Community Engagement and Outreach**

SEMCOG launched the [Southeast Michigan Healthy Climate Plan website](#) in November, 2023. The site highlights important meetings and engagement events, provides updates on the plans development, and feature educational resources to support climate action.

SEMCOG and their consultants, SSG, worked to develop an Engagement Strategy for the Healthy Climate plan. The first step to develop the engagement strategy was conducting pre-engagement interview. SSG conducted pre-engagement interviews with interested and affected parties from November 2023 – January 2024. This help shape the formation of the Engagement Strategy.

A draft of the Engagement Strategy was provided to SEMCOG in January 2023. SEMCOG and SSG worked throughout the remainder of the fiscal year to develop a more comprehensive strategy for engagement and a draft document.

SEMCOG received feedback from the task force on the strategy for engagement during multiple task force meetings. SEMCOG solicited input on community groups and individuals that would be important to reach out to as part of this process. A final Engagement Strategy document will be available in the next fiscal year.

## **Product 4: EPA Status Report Development**

Per EPA grant requirements, SEMCOG submitted four quarterly status reports to communicate the progress described in Products 1 through 3.

**Project 24327, DNR Spark**

<b>Grant/Task</b>	<b>Grantor</b>	<b>Local</b>	<b>Total</b>
DNRS24, 24327	\$15,567.28	\$0	\$15,567.28

**Product 1: Outreach About the Spark Grant Opportunity**

SEMCOG coordinated with CMF and regional Community Foundations to understand roles, processes, and opportunities associated with the Spark Grant program, and communicated the technical assistance available through SEMCOG at the Council of Michigan Foundation’s monthly convening of Spark Grant Opportunity Communities, and at regular meetings of SEMCOG’s Executive Committee and General Assembly

**Product 2: Assistance with Grant Applications**

SEMCOG contracted engineering support for conceptual site plans and budget estimates for three opportunity communities to meet current gaps in application assistance identified by CMF. This included facilitating meetings with the Cities of Center Line, Melvindale, and Royal Oak Township, and their engineering consultants to develop conceptual site plans and budget estimates.

**Product 3: Evaluation of the Grant Submissions**

SEMCOG reviewed applications submitted to DNR in Round 2, coordinating with internal team members to understand project impacts, and summarizing and submitting feedback in MiGrants.

**Product 4: RFP for Consultants for Successful Spark Grant Awardees**

This product has not been applicable in the last fiscal year based on the granting timeline.

**Product 5: Grant Management Assistance for Grantees**

This product has not been applicable in the last fiscal year based on the granting timeline.

**Product 6: MAR Coordination Meetings**

SEMCOG participated in regular coordination meetings with MAR, CMF, and DNR partners, which occurred on a monthly to bi-weekly basis depending on coordination needs.

**Product 7: RPO Reporting Requirements**

SEMCOG worked with DNR grants staff to complete MiGrants application, set up reporting access, and complete the first progress report.

## Project 23550/24550, EDA Partnership Planning

Grant/Task	Grantor	MAC	Local	Total
EDS23, 23550	\$27,352.21	\$27,352.20	\$552.56	\$55,256.97
EDS24, 24550	\$33,636.30	\$33,636.29	\$0	\$67,272.59

### Task 1: Establish an Economic Development District (EDD) Committee

#### Activities Supporting the SEMCOG Economic Development Council (EDC)

- Held the monthly SEMCOG Economic Development Team meeting to provide updates on the Economic Development Council, EDA programs, and discuss other ongoing economic development-related items.
  - September 18, 2023
  - October 9, 2023
  - November 28, 2023
  - December 11, 2023
  - January 8, 2024
  - February 12, 2024
  - March 13, 2024
  - April 8, 2024
  - May 13, 2024
  - June 10, 2024
- Presented updated EDD/CEDS process to SEMCOG planning managers on January 18, 2024, and the coordination group on January 22, 2024.
- Held quarterly meeting with Lee Shirey from the EDA on February 1, 2024 to get updates on EDA initiatives and to share the latest on the formation of the Southeast Michigan Economic Development Council and demonstrate SEMCOG's efforts to map Areas of Economic Distress throughout the region.
- Presented an update about the new Southeast Michigan Economic Development Council to the Metropolitan Affairs Coalition Board on February 20, 2024.
- Met with Padmini Roy-Dixon and Aubrey Hauter from the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) on February 22, 2024, to share notes and ideas on the establishment of a new Economic Development District committee. MORPC was recently designated an EDD by the EDA, so it was a good opportunity to hear how another region was setting up their new EDD committee.
- Attended the “Rural Housing Solutions: EDDs as Regional Housing Changemakers” webinar hosted by NADO on February 6, 2024.
- Met internally with Data/Mapping team on March 1, 2024, to discuss mapping of areas of economic distress. Finalized public facing map of economically distressed areas, which is available on SEMCOG website.
- Presented an overview of the new SEMCOG Economic Development Council, Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, and EDA programs to the Justice40 Communities Task Force meeting on March 8, 2024.

- Completed a one-pager introducing the new Economic Development Council and providing an overview of what SEMCOG's Economic Development District designation means for the region. The one-pager was distributed at the March 21, 2024, General Assembly meeting.
- Met with Lee Shirey, Michelle Velazquez, and Lesley Craig from EDA on March 15, 2024, to discuss the finalization of SEMCOG's Partnership Planning Grant application.
- Met internally on April 2, 2024, to finalize Economic Development Council roster and plan for the May 20, 2024, EDC meeting.
- Met with the National Association of Regional Councils on April 4, 2024, to discuss the proposed EDA Reauthorization legislation.
- Attended the EDA's Economic Development Districts Quarterly Meeting on April 24, 2024.
- Developed a charge sheet for the Economic Development Council, which outlines the scope of work and objectives of the new council.
- Began planning for the May 20, 2024, Economic Development Council meeting, including identifying roles and responsibilities for council co-chairs, finalizing agenda items, and determining engagement activities for the meeting.
- Met with Madison Heights Mayor Roslyn Grafstein, co-chair of the Economic Development Council, on May 7, 2024, to provide an overview of the EDC and discuss the roles and responsibilities of serving as the public sector co-chair.
- Gave presentation about the new Economic Development Council on May 8, 2024, at the SEMCOG Staff Forum, to introduce the EDC to the organization.
- Met with DTE Director of Economic Development, Khalil Rahal, co-chair of the Economic Development Council, on May 9, 2024, to provide an overview of the EDC and discuss the roles and responsibilities of serving as the private sector co-chair.
- Hosted and facilitated the inaugural meeting of the Economic Development Council on May 20, 2024, which included a presentation from Lee Shirey at the EDA, a demonstration of SEMCOG's new Economic Indicators tool by SEMCOG Economist Brian Parthum, and a facilitated discussion about the three pillars of the region's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS): Place, Talent, and Business.
- Interviewed with Ed Clemente for the Michigan Opportunity podcast about the Economic Development Council. Joined by EDC co-chair Khalil Rahal for the recording on May 30, 2024, during the 2024 Mackinac Policy Conference.
- Met with Finance department on June 4, 2024, to discuss the EDGE system user assignments and EDA Partnership Planning Grant reporting.
- Met with Communications department on June 11, 2024, to discuss ongoing Economic Development Council work and brainstorm concepts for a SEMCOG publication highlighting the organization's economic development work.
- Began planning for three interactive stakeholder engagement and planning forums for the update of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). The Place Forum will be held on August 7, 2024; the Talent Forum will be held on August 27, 2024; and the Business Forum will be held on September 24, 2024. These forums will be critical drivers of identifying issues and priorities for the updated CEDS that the Economic Development Council will develop.
- Attended a SEMCOG workshop called "From Conflict to Conversation" on June 20, 2024, which focused on using the SOAR strategic planning tool. This will be useful when developing the CEDS next year.
- Attended Rural Readiness Network virtual launch on June 12, 2024. The discussion is based on network opportunities and will include access to regular peer connections, targeted training and technical assistance, and connections to resource providers.

- Attended Part 2 Rural Readiness Network held June 18, 2024. The discussion was a deeper dive into what the network will offer. Partners were introduced and will be part of the next meeting.
- Met internally on June 14, 2024, to discuss the Economic and Community Vitality department goals and proposed work program for FY 2024.
- Attended Michigan Poverty Task Force webinar discussing updates to the ALICE report on June 26, 2024. This was presented by Bobby Dorigo Jones, Director of ALICE & Public Policy with Michigan Association of United Ways.
- Attended an onboarding and training meeting with Placer.ai on June 28, 2024, to learn the features and tools available to create data reports and analyze various economic impacts on communities, special districts, and places.
- Attended the SEMCOG Legislative Priorities Meeting with Midwest Strategy Group and Dykema on June 28, 2024. SEMCOG reported on key issues related to economic development.
- Activities that Implement the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDs)
- Met with representatives from the City of Romulus on January 9, 2024, to discuss a variety of topics, including economic development in the city.
- Attended the MSU University Center for Regional Economic Innovation Consultative Panel meeting on January 10, 2024, to discuss regional innovation grants, the EDA Tech Hubs program, and other economic development initiatives across the state.
- Attended a Broadband Town Hall meeting held at the Washington Township Hall in Washington Charter Township, Macomb County on January 16, 2024. Participated in the discussion along with Township Supervisor Sebastian Previti, Macomb County Board of Commissioners Chairman Don Brown, and Comcast staff.
- Attended the 2024 Michigan Economic Outlook at the Detroit Economic Club on January 16, 2024. The focus was on Growing Michigan Together Council recommendations and implementation.
- Attended “*Building Innovation and Entrepreneurship into the CEDs*” webinar hosted by SSTI and the NADO Research Foundation on January 18, 2024.
- Published a blog post about the Washington Township Broadband Town Hall and resources for local governments on January 23, 2024.
- Analyzed and presented an overview and comparison of the Growing Michigan Together Council final report and recommended strategies to the SEMCOG Executive Committee on January 26, 2024.
- Met with Kevin Krause from the City of Romulus on January 29, 2024, to discuss Census population issues as it relates to CDBG eligibility and requirements for HUD entitlement community status for housing and community development funding.
- Attended “*Coal Countries: Transition Strategies from Coal Communities Across the Globe*” webinar sponsored by the National Association of Counties on February 1, 2024.
- Spoke with Lisa Lothringer with the City of Woodhaven on February 2, 2024, regarding how the City can receive funding or assistance to install public Wi-Fi within one of their parks. Reached out to Mark Vanderpool with the City of Sterling Heights via email to request a sample RFP for Woodhaven to solicit bids for a project.
- Met with Joe LaRussa, Mayor of the City of Farmington, on February 23, 2024, to discuss the Digital Navigator Program and how to maximize the usability of funding from BEAD and the Digital Equity Act programs.
- Met with local entrepreneur Brian Coon on February 28, 2024, to hear about his new startup in the electric vehicle charging space and how to better connect with local communities, downtown business groups, and statewide organizations.
- SEMCOG was invited to participate in a National Electric Vehicle Workforce Task Force coordinated by the National League of Cities and the National Governors Association. This will help cities and

states align policy and funding and develop accessible career pathways in the EV sector. Met virtually with representatives of the two organizations on February 26 to discuss the initiative.

- Attended Downriver Riverfront Strategy Team meeting hosted by the Downriver Community Conference on February 2, 2024. This meeting was focused on the results of DCC's Small Business Technical Assistance Grants, updates from project sub-teams, and other activities associated with their EDA-funded, multi-community revitalization grant.
- Presented an overview of SEMCOG's economic development work at the SEMCOG 101 workshop held on February 7, 2024.
- Met with Elaine Leven, City Manager of Fraser, on February 7, 2024, to discuss economic development projects, the Experience Southeast Michigan program, and issues with funding local roads within the City's industrial park. Talked to the Transportation group to identify possible funding options for Fraser's specific road infrastructure needs.
- Met with Elle Cole from the City of Saline regarding SEMCOG grant services on February 8, 2024.
- Presented an overview of SEMCOG's economic development activities, the 2050 regional forecast and the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy to the Michigan State University Humphrey Fellows on February 23, 2024.
- Attended the Michigan Economic Development Association (MEDA) Capitol Day Annual Legislative Conference in Lansing on March 5, 2024.
- Attended the Connecting America conference in Dallas, TX on March 11 – 14, 2024; SEMCOG presented on rural broadband in Southeast Michigan as part of a panel discussion.
- Attended the Macomb County Partners meeting on March 12, 2024, to hear the latest updates from the Macomb County Department of Planning and Economic Development, as well as community partners throughout the county.
- Attended the Wayne County State of the State event on March 12, 2024. The County Executive discussed large scale economic development projects.
- Attended the Detroit Regional Partnership (DRP) Annual Meeting on March 14, 2024, to hear updates from DRP on their activities over the past year, as well as priorities for 2024 and beyond.
- Met with Jenan Jondy, the Regional Economic Innovation (REI) Coordinator at Michigan State University's Center for Community and Economic Development, on March 19, 2024, to talk about SEMCOG economic development initiatives and the latest projects from REI.
- Attended the Wayne County Economic Development Briefing on April 10, 2024, hearing updates from County Executive Warren Evans, the Wayne County Economic Development Department, MEDC, and Detroit Regional Partnership.
- Met with the leadership from the Wayne County Economic Development team on April 17, 2024, to talk about ongoing projects and the potential for collaboration.
- Attended the National Economic Resilience Forum at the Argonne National Laboratory in Lemont, Illinois from April 30-May 2, 2024.
- Attended the St. Clair County "State of the County" event on Friday, May 10, 2024, to hear about economic development and county government accomplishments over the past year.
- Spoke to Larry Molnar and Toinu Reeves from the University of Michigan on May 14, 2024. Reeves is a PhD student researching the creation of a Residents' Investment Fund to enable low-income households to build wealth by investing in local businesses. Building Equity is the goal.
- Attended the Michigan Avenue Innovation Network (M.A.I.N) Steering Committee meeting on May 15, 2024, to hear updates from the project team and participating communities along the corridor on asset inventories, community engagement, strategic planning goals, and targeted economic investments along the corridor.

- Participated in the quarterly meeting with Oakland County on May 15, 2024. Provided updates on economic development activities at SEMCOG – including the Economic Development Council meeting on May 20, 2024, and the SEMCOG University on the Economic Impact of Events on May 16, 2024.
- Participated in the Mi Wealth board meeting on May 15, 2024.
- Attended the Future Proof the Economy event at Lawrence Technical University on May 21, 2024, moderated by Ed Clemente of the MEDC. Panelists Maureen Krause of the Detroit Regional Partnership and Cynthia Hutchinson from the World Economic Forum discussed strategies to build Michigan’s economy and workforce.
- Scheduled three stakeholder input forums that will focus on the three pillars of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy: Place (August 7, 2024), Talent (August 27, 2024), and Business (September 24, 2024). These forums will be used to gather input from regional stakeholders, including key economic development issues and priorities, for the development of updated recommendations, policies and actions for the next CEDS.
- Attended the Mackinac Policy conference from May 28-31, 2024. Participated in sessions related to economic development, education, talent, workforce development. Connected with many SEMCOG and MAC members and partners. Significant conversations included:
- Continued planning for three stakeholder engagement forums that will focus on the three pillars of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy: Place (August 7, 2024), Talent (August 27, 2024), and Business (September 24, 2024). These forums will be used to gather input from regional stakeholders, including key economic development issues and priorities, for the development of updated recommendations, policies and actions for the next CEDS.
- Held quarterly catch-up meeting with the Wayne County Economic Development leadership team on June 5, 2024, to discuss ongoing economic development initiatives and potential areas for collaboration.
- Held the monthly SEMCOG Economic Development Team meeting on June 10, 2024.
- Attended Congress for New Urbanism webinar entitled “Mitigating Harm Through Community-Based Ideas” on June 11, 2024.
- Met internally on June 14, 2024, to discuss the Economic and Community Vitality department goals and proposed work program for FY 2024.
- SEMCOG met with Joe La Russa, Mayor of Farmington and broadband consultant on June 18, 2024, regarding opportunities for SEMCOG to apply for State funding for digital literacy.
- Met with John Krauss from the City of Eastpointe on June 20, 2024, to discuss the city’s Civic Pointe project and explore potential funding programs to help with planning and implementation of the project.
- Attended the Macomb County Partners meeting on June 26, 2024, to hear about ongoing initiatives at the Macomb County Planning and Economic Development department and partner communities and agencies throughout Macomb County.
- Attended the Detroit Future City webinar “State of Micro and Small Businesses in the Detroit Region” on June 26, 2024. The webinar highlighted critical findings from the “State of Micro and Small Businesses in the Detroit Region” report. Detroit Future City’s research team and New Economy Initiative (NEI) leadership shared findings from their recently released report and what the conclusions mean for entrepreneurs and small businesses in the region.
- Attended a webinar on June 27, 2024, hosted by the Michigan High Speed Internet (MIHI) office focused on updates on two grant programs: Michigan’s Broadband, Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) program and Michigan’s Inclusive Training, Technology and Equity Network (MITTEN).
- Attended MIHI webinar on June 28, 2024, specifically discussing the MITTEN grant.

- Attended an onboarding and training meeting with Placer.ai on June 28, 2024, to learn the features and tools available to create data reports and analyze various economic impacts on communities, special districts, and places.

## Task 2: Increasing Shared Prosperity in Southeast Michigan

### Activities Supporting Shared Prosperity in Southeast Michigan:

- Added to the Aging Resource Guide, which provides information on the locations and contact information for various agencies and organizations that provide support and resources for aging residents.
- Participated in the Michigan Vehicle Technology Transition Impact Project (MiVTTP) meeting on January 9, 2024. This was the first of several meetings planned in disadvantaged communities in the state – mostly in Southeast Michigan – to develop strategies for the equitable workforce strategies for the transition from ICE to Electric vehicles.
- Met with Colleen Allen from the Autism Alliance and Dave Meador from the Regional CEO group on February 6, 2024, regarding extending workforce opportunities for persons with disabilities.
- Attended the River Rouge Michigan Vehicle Technology Transition Impact Project (MiVTTP) on February 22, 2024. This is an initiative to create inclusive growth in eleven underserved Michigan communities, guiding them to seize new opportunities in industry transitions.
- Held first SEMCOG University workshop on March 15, 2024, which focused on “*Our Aging Region: Resources for Communities.*”
- Released “*Evaluating Shared Prosperity in Southeast Michigan, 2018-2022,*” a study done by the University of Michigan in conjunction with SEMCOG. The full report is [available electronically at this link](#). The report analyzes the extent to which economic prosperity is widely shared in Southeast Michigan over the years 2018 to 2022. The analysis used individual household records to identify and measure the middle class, accounting for differences in household size and in local costs of living.
- Scheduled a meeting with Russ Kavalhuna, President of Henry Ford College to discuss the Shared Prosperity Report on July 15, 2024.

## Task 3: Supporting Placemaking in Southeast Michigan

### Activities Supporting Communities in Placemaking and Revitalization in Downtowns and Commercial Corridors

- Met with John Bry from Oakland County Main Street on January 19, 2024, to brainstorm ideas for a downtown convening workshop to be held in the spring/summer.
- Attended Outdoor Recreation Roundtable (ORR) webinar on January 24, 2024, for the unveiling of the second edition of its widely regarded rural economic development toolkit to support communities from around the United States looking to diversify their economies through outdoor recreation.
- Attended the Congress for New Urbanism’s webinar highlighting “Human Transit” on February 6, 2024.
- Attended a demonstration of the Placer.AI big data platform on February 7, 2024, to understand the capabilities and usability of the platform’s tools for analyzing metrics in downtowns, commercial districts, and other community geographies.
- Met with David Mieksztyn, Dan Rochon, and Jeff Schroeder from Macomb County Planning and Economic Development on February 8, 2024, to talk about how Macomb County uses Placer.AI to analyze economic impacts from downtown areas, community events, and recreation amenities.

- Attended the “*Top Ten Ways to Build a Successful and Vibrant Downtown*” webinar on February 29, 2024, sponsored by Polco and Downtown Colorado, Inc. The webinar focused on actionable insights and proven strategies to establish or transform downtowns into thriving hubs. Speakers/panelists included data scientists, experts in downtown vibrancy, and local government officials who have successfully revitalized their downtowns.
- Met internally on March 13, 2024, to further plan SEMCOG’s NFL Draft Open House event that will focus on community events and their impacts on placemaking and economic development.
- Coordinated with communities throughout the region to gather photos and economic impact information related to local community events.
- Finalized the speakers and agenda for a future SEMCOG University workshop on “*Community Events: Driving Placemaking and Economic Development*,” which will be held on May 16, 2024.
- Attended the Main Street Oakland County Summit on March 19, 2024.
- Attended the Oakland County Planners Gathering on March 27, 2024, which focused on partnering to build transit-friendly communities.
- Coordinated with communities throughout the region to gather photos and economic impact information related to local community events.
- Hosted the SEMCOG University workshop “*Community Events: Driving Placemaking and Economic Development*” on May 16, 2024, which included multiple presentations and a panel discussion with downtown development authority managers.
- Attended the SEMCOG Member Meetup in Oak Park on May 17, 2024, which included a walking tour of the Nine Mile Redesign Project. The project featured placemaking, nonmotorized, parks and recreation, and accessibility improvements along the corridor.
- Met with Ross Boelke and Sam Boelke from the Village of Armada on Thursday, May 30, 2024, to discuss parking management issues, walkability, and signage/wayfinding in the downtown district.
- Attended the American Planning Association sponsored webinar “*Reconnecting Stadiums to Communities*” on June 21, 2024. The focus of the webinar was on how carefully planning new sports facilities with their surroundings offers the opportunity to revitalize communities, promote economic development, and create great places.
- Attended the Oakland County Planners Gathering workshop “*When Regional Malls and Big Box Stores Go Dark*,” on June 26, 2024. The workshop highlighted the planning and adaptive reuse of the Southland Mall and a big-box strip mall in Waterford Township.
- Attended Congress for New Urbanism webinar entitled “*Mitigating Harm Through Community-Based Ideas*” on June 11, 2024.

#### **Task 4: Increasing Labor Force Participation**

##### Activities Supporting the Analysis of Barriers to Labor Force Participation

- Met with Jeffry Henze and Chris Uhl from IFF Detroit on January 8, 2024, to discuss IFF’s regional childcare planning grant and potential stakeholders to engage in the planning process.
- Blog Post: It Takes a Village: Community Approaches for Broadband Access. January 23, 2024. Available on SEMCOG’s website.
- Spoke with Lisa Lothringer with the City of Woodhaven on February 2, 2024, regarding how the City can receive funding or assistance to install public Wi-Fi within one of their parks. Reached out to Mark Vanderpool with the City of Sterling Heights via email to request a sample RFP for Woodhaven to solicit bids for a project.
- Met with Joe LaRussa, Mayor of Farmington, after the Executive Committee Meeting on February

23, 2024, to discuss the Digital Navigator Program and how to maximize the usability of funding from BEAD and the Digital Equity Act programs.

- Provided input on the redesigned Economic Indicators tool on the SEMOG website. This includes four main areas – Place, Talent, Business and Prosperity. The data on talent specifically identifies Labor Force Participation rates by race and education.

#### Activities Supporting Talent Attraction, Retention, and Development

- Met with Jayme Powell, new Executive Director of the Detroit Regional Workforce Partnership on January 18, 2024. Discussed the group's priorities and workforce focus areas.
- Participated in the Automation Alley Roundtable Discussion on creating a work-ready workforce as part of the Integr8 Series on industry 4.0 Future of Work on January 24, 2024.
- Met with Courtney Pendleton from the Michigan Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA) office to discuss licensing of healthcare workers on January 23, 2024.
- Participated in the Oakland 80 Advisory Team meeting on January 31, 2024.
- Participated in the MIVVTP meeting on January 9, 2024. This is the first of several meetings planned in disadvantaged communities in the state – mostly in Southeast Michigan – to develop strategies for the equitable workforce strategies for the transition from ICE to Electric vehicles.
- Met with Kirk Kramer, president of St. Clair County Community College on February 16, 2024, to provide an overview of SEMCOG's services, particularly as it relates to education and talent and to get an understanding of the college's priorities for talent and economic development.
- Met with Colleen Allen from the Autism Alliance and Dave Meador from the Regional CEO group on February 6, 2024, regarding extending workforce opportunities for persons with disabilities.
- Attended the River Rouge Michigan Vehicle Technology Transition Impact Project (MiVTTP) on February 22, 2024. This is an initiative to create inclusive growth in 11 underserved Michigan guiding them to seize new opportunities in industry transitions.
- SEMCOG was invited to participate in a National Electric Vehicle Workforce Task Force coordinated by the National League of Cities and the National Governors Association. This will help cities and states align policy and funding and develop accessible career pathways in the EV sector. Met virtually with representatives of the two organizations on February 26, 2024, to discuss the initiative. The first convening will take place on April 3-5, 2024, in Washington DC.
- Attended one of several presentations by the Michigan Community and Worker Economic Transition Office within the department of Labor and Economic Opportunity on February 26, 2024. This new office will connect workers to the in-demand, high-skill jobs that will be created in manufacturing electric vehicles, batteries, solar panels, wind turbines, etc.
- Healthcare workforce: Convened a fourth meeting of the MAC Healthcare Task Force on April 12, 2024, to review and discuss updated information on policies and additional data related to the healthcare workforce. Members of two labor organizations – Michigan Nurses Association and the United Physician Assistants of Michigan Medicine (AFT Michigan) were invited to participate in the meeting and approved the changes.
- Volunteered at the MI Construction Career Day event at the Operating Engineers 324 training center in Howell on May 1, 2024. Spoke to students, apprentices, employers and workforce development agencies to gather perspectives for a future blog.
- Attended the Industry and Inclusion National Convening Conference on June 5, 2024. The focus

was building regional connections that center equity in manufacturing investments. Industry partners from around the country gathered in small group discussions to strategize how to retain and attract talent in manufacturing from marginalized and disadvantaged groups.

- Met with Eric Keller, Infrastructure Liaison for the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Development on June 20, 2024, about the Governor's proposal to train 5000 workers for Infrastructure jobs.
- Attended EdWeek webinar on *Portrait of a Graduate* on June 11, 2024. This focused on the essential and durable skills that prepare students for work and life success.
- Met with Eric Keller, Infrastructure Liaison for the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Development on June 20, 2024, about the Governor's proposal to train 5,000 workers for Infrastructure jobs.
- Attended the Industry and Inclusion National Convening Conference on June 5, 2024. The focus was building regional connections that center equity in manufacturing investments. Industry partners from around the country gathered in small group discussions to strategize how to retain and attract talent in manufacturing from marginalized and disadvantaged groups.

### **Task 5: Identify Opportunities to Implement SEMCOG Regional Plans**

#### Activities Implementing SEMCOG's Regional Plans

- Reviewed the Roadmap to Rural Prosperity and identified the importance of broadband internet access in addressing rural socioeconomic disparities.
- Monitored SEMCOG's Transportation Planning Department's work on the Electric Vehicle Infrastructure efforts including Steering Committee and roundtable series. The second EV Roundtable was held on January 11, 2024.
- Attended Outdoor Recreation Roundtable (ORR) webinar on January 24, 2024, for the unveiling of the second edition of its widely regarded rural economic development toolkit to support communities from around the United States looking to diversify their economies through outdoor recreation.
- Analyzed and presented an overview and comparison of the Growing Michigan Together Council final report and recommended strategies to the SEMCOG Executive Committee on January 26, 2024.
- Met with Tim Klont, Chief Strategy & Engagement Officer with MSHDA on February 1, 2024, to discuss CDBG and the Housing and Community Development Fund and how both will be leveraged to expand housing development and rehabilitation.
- Attended the "Rural Housing Solutions: EDDs as Regional Housing Changemakers" webinar hosted by NADO on February 6, 2024.
- Drafted more detailed housing-related language for Chapter 5 – Equity of the Vision 2050 Regional Transportation Plan.
- SEMCOG participated in an Electric Vehicle Workforce Task Force convened by the National League of Cities and the National Governors Association in Washington DC on April 3-5, 2024. Presented on SEMCOG's work in raising awareness and resources for local governments on April 5, 2024.
- Attend the Detroit Regional Housing Partnership meeting on April 29, 2024. Participants explored the state housing plan and had small group discussions about the DRHP plan that will coincide with the state plan.

- Met with Jeannine Gant, Christine Roeder, Bernard Swiecki, and Justin Robinson from Detroit Regional Partnership on May 17, 2024, to discuss the Global Epicenter of Mobility (GEM) initiative, DRP/GEM's equity initiatives, and SEMCOG's work in mobility and equity.
- Attended the Electric Vehicle Steering Committee meeting on May 21, 2024. The main goal was to plan the fourth of four roundtable discussions for the Tri-County EV Phase 2 project that would take place on June 12, 2024.
- Participated in the fourth of four EV Infrastructure Roundtable series on June 12, 2024.
- Met with Beheshteh Makari on June 21, 2024, to discuss the range of current and future SEMCOG's activities related to electric vehicles, EV workforce, and new opportunities.

## PRODUCTS PRODUCED:

### General

- Blog – [Investing in our Healthcare System](#), October 6, 2023.
- Blog – [Being the New Kid on the Block](#), November 7, 2023.
- Podcast – [Michigan Opportunity Podcast: Naheed Huq and Khalil Rahal on the SEMCOG Economic Development Council](#), May 2024.
- Blog – [Celebrating Economic Development Week: SEMCOG's New Economic Development Council](#), May 10, 2024.
- Blog – [Storytelling with SEMCOG's Economic Indicators](#), July 18, 2024.

### Broadband

- Blog – [It Takes a Village: Community Approaches for Broadband Access](#), January 23, 2024.

### Placemaking

- Blog – [Experience Southeast Michigan: Shop Local video series has expanded to highlight more of life in Southeast Michigan](#), August 8, 2023.
- Blog – [Placemaking in Sterling Heights: Recreating Recreation](#), October 11, 2023.
- Blog – [Community Events: SEMCOG's Takeaway from the NFL Draft and Beyond](#), May 3, 2024.

### Talent/Education

- Blog – [Wayne County Manufacturing Day 2023](#), October 24, 2023.
- Blog – [CTE Programs Boost Graduation Rates Nearly 15%](#), February 12, 2024.
- Blog – [Don Hubler: Passionate Advocate for Students](#), April 16, 2024.
- Blog – [The State of Education Today](#), March 22, 2024.

### Healthcare Industry

- Report: [MAC Healthcare Task Force Report: The Future of Healthcare in Southeast Michigan: Enhancing Equity, Access and Service Delivery](#), May 2024.

**Our Aging Region**

- Blog – [Our Aging Region](#), April 24, 2024.
- Blog – [Exploring Diverse Senior Living Options](#), June 17, 2024.

**Mobility Industry**

- Blog – [Southeast Michigan Communities Plug into Electric Vehicle \(EV\) Fleet Expo and Ride & Drive](#), September 13, 2023.

**Freight**

- Blog – [Unlocking the Future of Freight: SEMCOG Freight Stakeholder Workshop Highlights and Insights](#), October 10, 2023.

## Project 23361, State of Michigan Community EV Toolkit

Grant/Task	Grantor	Local	Total
EVB23, 23361	\$66,878.56	\$80.02	\$66,958.58

### Product 1: Development of State of Michigan Community Toolkit

SEMCOG developed a turnkey, online and interactive toolkit to assist local governments in the state as they prepare for electrification and e-mobility. This toolkit is deployed and active in its use in Michigan.

<https://southeast-michigan-ev-resource-kit-and-planning-hub-semcog.hub.arcgis.com/>

The toolkit is a standardized guide for how municipalities can best adapt and implement policies and administrative functions for electric vehicle supply equipment (EVSE) and electric vehicle charging infrastructure (such as ordinances, zoning tools, building codes examples, and permitting practices). The toolkit includes links to model local laws, case studies and best practices. The toolkit includes information related to fleet electrification and EVSE placement optimization studies and shows available charging locations. The toolkit provides information about potential partnerships, funding opportunities, and general information about EVs and EVSE. The toolkit includes a feature for users to easily provide feedback.

- Created a GIS Publisher account on ArcGIS Online.
- Developed Webmaps, Dashboards, Web Applications, Story Maps and ArcGIS Hub Page.
- Updated the toolkit content to ensure that it covers statewide data and resources.
- Worked with state to review the content and layout of the Toolkit

### Product 2: Summary of Coordination meetings and capacity building workshops

SEMCOG held three EV and EV Infrastructure Workshops:

- January 11, 2024
  - o Focus of Roundtable: Coordination with utility providers and private sector
  - o Number of registrants: 106
  - o Number of attendees: 53
- March 13, 2024:
  - o Focus of Roundtable: EV and EV Infrastructure Funding Opportunities
  - o Number of registrants: 82
  - o Number of attendees: 47
- June 12, 2024
  - o Navigating EV Readiness with a Focus on Ordinances, Equity, and Accessibility
  - o Number of registrants: 77
  - o Number of attendees: 33

## Project 23360, Electric Vehicle Jobs Academy: Smart Cities and Electric Fleets Collaborative

Grant/Task	Grantor	Local	Total
EVJA23, 23360	\$36,415.51	\$0	\$36,415.51

### Product 1: Documentation of SC2FC meetings and activities

The SEMCOG Southeast Michigan Electric Vehicle Resource Kit and Planning Hub was updated to create a statewide hub with support from the State of Michigan. SEMCOG was responsible for updating key pages on a regular basis.

[The State of Michigan EV Toolkit](https://southeast-michigan-ev-resource-kit-and-planning-hub-semcog.hub.arcgis.com/pages/fleet-electrification) included updates on the EV Jobs Academy Smart Cities and Community Fleet Collaborative (SC2FC) project lead by SEMCOG.

- <https://southeast-michigan-ev-resource-kit-and-planning-hub-semcog.hub.arcgis.com/pages/fleet-electrification>

SEMCOG participated in regular meetings of the EV Jobs Academy (EVJA) Collaborative and provided updates on the Smart Cities and Community Fleet Collaborative project.

EV Jobs Academy meetings:

- November 16, 2023
- January 18, 2024
- March 21, 2024
- May 16, 2024

SEMCOG also participated in the EV Jobs Academy event at the Detroit Auto Show on September 14 at COBO Center. EVJA project leads provided updates on their projects and representatives from the State of Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Development, regional workforce development agency and community college leaders presented on the importance of the project.

In December 2023, SEMCOG met with the EVJA project manager at the Workforce Intelligence Network to discuss future sustainment of the SC2FC project in light of funding and staff limitations. SEMCOG developed an outline of the work to be completed and agreed to report to the EVJA bi-monthly meetings and expand and update the SC2FC webpage content on the EV Toolkit as appropriate.

In June 2024, it was announced that the EVJA grant would be terminated as the State of Michigan would be coordinating the project as part of its overall workforce development initiatives. It is anticipated that no further work will take place directly related to this grant.

### Product 2: Forums to share resources and best practices

During the fiscal year 2023-2024, SEMCOG planned, coordinated and developed a Community EV Fleet Expo and Ride and Drive. This regional event took place on August 17, 2023 at Canton Township. The goal was to expose local community leaders to electric vehicles and opportunities to electrify their fleets.

The event incorporated three main components:

- The Community EV Fleet Expo
- The Panel Discussion: The Road to Community Fleet Electrification
- The EV Ride and Drive

The Community EV Fleet Expo: Attendees had the opportunity to

- Interact with EV fleet vehicles and EV charging infrastructure
- Learn from early adopters about converting municipal fleets to EVs including City of Ann Arbor, Monroe County Community College, and Oakland Schools
- Interact with exhibitors including the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE), Clean Fuels Michigan, Michigan Clean Cities, EV Jobs Academy, DTE, Walker-Miller, Red-E, Flo, BorgWarner, GM, GM BrightDrop, VIA Motors, Fontaine Modification, LaFontaine Automotive Group, NAVISTAR, and CALSTART

The Panel Discussion: The Road to Community Fleet Electrification

Attendees had the opportunity to hear from a panel of experts regarding Community Fleet Electrification as well as Lightning Talks from the exhibitors.

- **Scott Benson**, Councilperson, City of Detroit
- **Matt Kulhanek**, Fleet and Facilities Manager, City of Ann Arbor
- **Erin Quetell**, Chief Environmental Sustainability Officer, Oakland County
- Facilitator: **Michele Ureste** - Executive Director, WIN

The EV Ride & Drives

Attendees had the opportunity to drive and/or ride along in up to two Electric Vehicles (EV) including

- Chevrolet Bolt EUV
- Ford Mustang Mach-E
- F-150 Lightning
- Ford E Transit
- VIA Class 3 Van
- VIA VTRUX Class 3 Chassis Cab

### **Product 3: Technical assistance and data to assist communities with planning and decision-making**

#### **Products:**

EVJA SC2FC web page: <https://southeast-michigan-ev-resource-kit-and-planning-hub-semcog.hub.arcgis.com/pages/fleet-electrification>

SEMCOG blog about the EV Fleet Expo and Ride and Drive: <https://www.semcog.org/blog/southeast-michigan-communities-plug-into-electric-vehicle-ev-fleet-expo-and-ride-drive>

## Project 23318, Great Lakes Restoration Initiative

Grant/Task	Grantor	Local	Total
GLRI23, 23318	\$118,768.93	\$0	\$118,768.93

### Product 1: Equity Emphasis Evaluation

SEMCOG partnered with the EPA to establish a green infrastructure subaward program, funded by the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI). In 2023, this program awarded support to 10 local agencies, enabling them to construct various green stormwater infrastructure techniques that offer multiple community benefits.

Through the SEMCOG Green Stormwater Infrastructure Program, there is \$900,000 available for competitive subawards of up to \$100,000 per project. The program's primary goal is to provide funding to counties, cities, villages, townships, intermediate school districts, and community colleges for constructing green infrastructure techniques that yield environmental benefits, with a primary focus on reducing stormwater runoff volume. The SEMCOG Green Stormwater Infrastructure Program plays a vital role in implementing small-scale green infrastructure techniques, contributing to both regional and local stormwater management goals. Additionally, it aims to build capacity within several disadvantaged communities at the local level.

### Product 2: Steering Committee Meetings

SEMCOG provided a status update on the GI Grants at the December Partners for Clean Water Meeting. Ric Lawson, with the Huron River Watershed Council provided a presentation on their project, how it moved forward, and lessons learned.

### Product 3: Subaward Process

The status of each project as of June 2024 can be seen in the table below:

No.	Local Agency Subawardee	Project Name / Description	Award Amount	Project Status
1	City of Center Line	Memorial Park Improvements - Permeable Pavers & Native Prairie	\$80,000	In progress; delayed due to environmental assessment of park
2	Clinton Township	Joy Park Parking Lot Improvements	\$95,000	In progress; working on construction.
3	City of Dearborn	Rain Gardens for Public Health	\$95,000	In progress; preliminary designs have been delivered, with a summer construction start date

4	Grosse Pointe Park	City Hall Rain Garden Bioretention	\$53,885	In progress; drafting design RFP.
5	Huron River Watershed Council with City of Wixom, City of Walled Lake	Green Stormwater Infrastructure Norton Creek Municipal Facility Bioretention	\$97,000	In progress; initial installations complete, evaluating an additional installation with remaining funds.
6	City of Northville	Greening Mill Race Village Permeable pavers and rain gardens.	\$95,000	In progress; construction bids received and construction expected to be completed summer of 2024.
7	Oakland County Water Resources Commissioner	George W. Kuhn RTB site improvements & parking lot bioretention.	\$95,000	In progress; preconstruction meeting occurred on April 23 with selected contractor.
8	City of River Rouge	Belanger Park Bioretention	\$95,000	In progress; a consultant has been hired.
9	City of Southfield	Bauervic Woods Rain Garden / Bioswale	\$95,000	Delayed; awaiting results of a park master plan update for a consultant to be hired.
<b>Total Project Subaward</b>			<b>\$800,885</b>	

From July to October 2023, SEMCOG worked with grantee’s to get grant agreements with SEMCOG signed. From October, 2023 to March, 2024, SEMCOG had periodic meetings with the communities and provided technical assistance to move projects forward. Ultimately, SEMCOG has entered into contracts with nine of the ten communities with the City of Trenton deciding not to proceed with a signed contract. The \$95,000 originally awarded to Trenton will be reallocated to other communities as-needed for potential construction cost overruns.

**Product 4: SEMCOG Project Oversight and Technical Assistance**

SEMCOG met with subawardees periodically throughout the year to help answer any project related questions and provide guidance on project task eligibility as part of the grant.

Beginning in April, SEMCOG began holding monthly meetings with subawardees, to talk through the status of their projects, get technical assistance from SEMCOG and their consultants, and provide educational presentations on important topics related to their grants.

**Product 5: Contractual Technical Support**

SEMCOG hired Environmental Consulting & Technology, Inc. in early 2024 to assist River Rouge with design. SEMCOG also hired Drummond & Carpenter to assist with grant administration, provide technical assistance to communities, and review community submittals for grant conformance.

**Products 6: Grant Reporting**

SEMCOG submitted semi-annual reports to EPA in October 2023 and April 2024.

## Project 23286/24286, Infrastructure Collaboration

Grant/Task	Grantor	Local	Total
IC23, 23286	\$76,059.22	\$352.37	\$76,411.59
IC24, 24286	\$105,031.24	\$0	\$105,031.24

SEMCOG is working to enhance infrastructure coordination in the region to lead efforts consistent with the goals of the 21st Century Infrastructure Report and the Michigan Infrastructure Council. This effort seeks to institutionalize a process within the existing transportation planning framework that will ensure efficient and strategic investment of resources for project planning and coordination of above and below ground infrastructure, both public and private. Institutionalizing this process includes an online mechanism and strategic planning efforts for sharing infrastructure project capital improvement plans. SEMCOG aims to institutionalize a process for sharing of infrastructure project data for near term (4-5 year) and longer term (20 year) projects. This project will extend through 2024.

### Product 1: Collect and integrate local Capital Improvement Program infrastructure data.

During the last year, the Michigan Infrastructure Council contracted with a firm to develop a CIP coordination tool. SEMCOG and MDOT reviewed the tool and agreed that it is ideal for our region and good to use statewide. SEMCOG has coordinated with the MIC as the tool is developed at the state level. As of August 2024, the MIC was close to completion and launch of the tool.

SEMCOG has coordinated with municipalities and partner agencies to collection CIP data to test the SEMCOG regional connection to the State MIC portal. The next steps to wrap up the data collection are to create an outreach strategy when the MIC portal is live to educate member communities and partner agencies and share instruction on how to participate at the regional and state levels.

### Product 2: Collect and integrate infrastructure asset data.

SEMCOG utilizes collected infrastructure asset data for roads and water infrastructure - as available - to review and share out key messages on condition and investment needs

### Product 3: Conduct forums/work sessions and coordinate on other regional/statewide efforts.

Throughout this fiscal year, SEMCOG collaborated with MDOT staff to devise a workplan for this project that encompasses data collection, surveys, and workshops. Additionally, SEMCOG played a role in facilitating the water infrastructure task force. SEMCOG actively participated in the Michigan Infrastructure Council, Water Asset Management Council, and the transportation Asset Management Council meetings to apply influence on processes and policies that uphold regional efforts.

SEMCOG forged active partnerships with both internal and external stakeholders in preparation for the Infrastructure Coordination Webinar. This entailed coordination with entities such as the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) and the Metropolitan Infrastructure Council (MIC). In addition to the webinar, SEMCOG facilitated a workshop which served as a platform for presenting findings, insights, and feedback gathered from the collaborative endeavors. The primary emphasis was on establishing a more structured and efficient process for disseminating CIP data, along with enhancing coordination concerning project timing, funding requests, and loan applications.

SEMCOG presented the Infrastructure Coordination Framework at several events including:

- EGLE Water Infrastructure Conference

- South Oakland County Municipal Engineers meeting
- Partners for Clean Water meetings
- GIS User Group meeting
- Transportation Improvement Program develop meeting
- Ohio Stormwater Conference
- MWEA Annual Conference
- GLWA One Water Partnership meeting

SEMCOG also hosted an Infrastructure Coordination Framework webinar to share the MIC project portal status, share the coordination framework and solicit feedback, and prepare partners for participation in late 2024 for the CIP portal.

**Project 24350, Education and Workforce Development**

<b>Grant/Task</b>	<b>Grantor</b>	<b>Local</b>	<b>Total</b>
LP24, 24350	\$0	\$61,466.69	\$61,466.69

**Product 1: Policy positions for Executive Committee**

Growing Michigan Together Council

SEMCOG monitored Governor Whitmer’s Growing Michigan Together Council which was announced at the Mackinac Policy Conference in May 2023. Between June 2023 – Spring 2024, SEMCOG analyzed progress, provided updates to members, provided input to the Council on SEMCOG efforts related to its work, and presented an overview of the final recommendations to the Executive Committee.

In July 2023, the Governor announced legislative and non-voting members of the Council in addition to the chairs of the four workgroups.

- Pre-K-12
- Higher Education
- Jobs, Talent and People
- Infrastructure and Place

This included several SEMCOG members and partners.

- August 15, 2023:
  - Arranged for Growing Michigan Together Council co-chairs John Rakolta and Shirley Stancato and Chief Growth Officer Hilary Doe to participate in a panel discussion on the Council at the MAC Board meeting on August 15. Developed questions for MAC President Amy O’Leary to ask during the facilitated discussion.
- December 14, 2023:
  - The final recommendations were released on December 14. SEMCOG analyzed the recommendations related to economic development, education and workforce development, and placemaking recommendations. There were four strong education reform recommendations focused on Building a lifelong learning system focused on future ready skills and competencies.
- January 26, 2024:
  - Planned and presented an overview of the Growing Michigan Together Council recommendations at the SEMCOG Executive Committee on January 26. This included discussion on economic development, education and workforce development, and placemaking recommendations.

Michigan Department of Lifelong Education, Advancement and Potential (MiLEAP)

In July 2023, Governor Whitmer established a new state agency, the Michigan Department of Lifelong Education, Advancement and Potential (MILEAP) to improve long term education outcomes, developing talent and growing the economy.

- SEMCOG provided information on this for the July 2023 Executive Committee meeting.
- Provided information to leaders in the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity related to SEMCOG's work in the area of lifelong learning, including the Future Skills report from 2019 in which identified developing a system of lifelong learning as a key recommendation.
- Continued to monitor progress and updates from the Department during the year.

#### Other Legislative Activities

- Participated in SEMCOG's Mid-Session Legislative Priorities Discussion on August 29, 2023. Facilitated breakout group discussion on housing, education and talent.
- Participated in a meeting on September 26, 2023 convened by the office of State Senator Mallory McMorrow to get input on proposed legislation related to an update of the Strategic Outreach Attraction Reserve (SOAR) called the Make It Michigan Fund. This meeting was also attended by representatives of the Michigan Municipal League, DTE, Ford Motor Company, Stellantis and Bedrock.
- Continued monitoring the Good Jobs for Michigan (HIRE) legislation and provided cards of support during hearings in Lansing.

#### **Products 2: Convening workshops and forums to share case studies and promote best practices.**

SEMCOG coordinated webinars and workshops related to issues of interest to SEMCOG education members and partners.

#### MAC Healthcare Task Force Workforce Symposium on November 1, 2023

Coordinated a healthcare workforce symposium as part of the MAC Healthcare Task Force at Macomb Community College. The purpose was to understand and address the shortage of workers in the healthcare field and learn about successful strategies to attract, retain and develop a robust workforce. This half day event included three panel discussions, presentation on healthcare trends, tour of the healthcare training labs and breakout sessions with the purpose of learning about specific challenges facing healthcare stakeholders. More than 70 people were in attendance representing healthcare providers, employers, education and other organizations that serve underrepresented populations.

Received suggestions for additional perspectives on the health care workforce from two labor organizations – Michigan Nurses Association and the United Physician Assistants of Michigan Medicine (AFT Michigan) at a special task force meeting on April 12.

The information gathered helped inform the MAC Healthcare workforce report: *The Future of Healthcare in Southeast Michigan: Enhancing Access, Equity and Service Delivery*.

<https://www.semco.org/desktopmodules/SEMCOG.Publications/GetFile.ashx?filename=FutureOfHealthcareInSoutheastMichigan.pdf>

#### SEMCOG University: Education Member Priorities (originally scheduled for November 16, 2023)

- Coordinated SEMCOG University on Education Member Priorities scheduled for November 16. This annual event was developed to engage SEMCOG education members on challenges faced by boards, educators and districts with a view to identifying strategies to address them.

### SEMCOG University: School Age Population forecast by School District, December 13, 2023

- Coordinated a SEMCOG webinar on School Age Population forecast by school district. The focus of the webinar is to inform educators changing school age population in Southeast Michigan. This information is helpful to educators for informational and planning purposes. SEMCOG presented the forecast and engaged in a facilitated discussion with attendees with questions based around issues with school age population.

### **Product 3: Summary of assistance provided to education, workforce and other talent partners.**

SEMCOG participates regularly in several organizations related to education and workforce development. SEMCOG also communicates with education members to encourage attendance at SEMCOG and other education-related events. In addition, a strategy to ensure effective future engagement was developed.

#### Education Member Brochure:

Developed a brochure *Tools and Resources to help Education Members Plan for Success*. This was designed for SEMCOG education members outlining the services, programs and opportunities for engagement at SEMCOG. Collected input from different SEMCOG departments on data, maps, grants and plans that could help education institutions with their planning efforts.

<https://www.semco.org/desktopmodules/SEMCOG.Publications/GetFile.ashx?filename=ToolsAndResourcesToHelpEducationalMembersPlanForSuccess.pdf>

Updated plan for engaging SEMCOG Education members in regional planning and leadership.

- Convened an internal meeting to discuss Education member strategy on April 19. The purpose was to ensure that members are receiving services and benefits from SEMCOG ensuring they knew about grants and other opportunities.
- Worked with the SEMCOG Communications Team to develop a strategy for communicating SEMCOG and MAC activities related to education, workforce development and talent.

### **Education-related Meetings Attended**

#### MiWealth (formerly Southwest Economic Solutions)

- Participated in a Board Site Tour of Southwest Economic Solutions operated facilities for adult literacy labs, youth training and career centers on September 15.
- Attended board meetings on November 15, 2023; February 21, 2024; and May 21, 2024.

#### Oakland 80

- Attended meeting of Oakland 80 Advisory Board on November 15, 2023.
- Participated in the Oakland 80 Advisory Team meeting on January 31, 2024.
- Participated in the Oakland 80 Steering Committee on April 17, 2024.

### SEMCA Workforce Development Board

- Participated in the bi-monthly SEMCA Michigan Works Board Meeting on September 20, 2023.
- Attended SEMCA Workforce Development Board on November 15, 2023.
- Attended the SEMCA Workforce Development Board meeting on March 20.

### National Electric Vehicle Workforce Task Force

- SEMCOG was invited to participate in a National Electric Vehicle Workforce Task Force coordinated by the National League of Cities and the National Governors Association. This will help cities and states align policy and funding and develop accessible career pathways in the EV sector.
- Met virtually with representatives of NLC and NGA on February 26 to discuss the initiative.
- Attended first convening of the Task Force in April 3-5, 2024 in Washington DC.
- SEMCOG presented on efforts related to raising awareness and resources for local governments on April 5.

### Manufacturing Day

SEMCOG is a member of the Wayne County Manufacturing Day planning team. It met regularly during the year to plan, promote and host the event which took place on October 6, 2023, in addition to other related events.

#### Meetings:

July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023. John Nasarzewski from DCTC facility in Flat Rock. The discussion was based around recruiting more manufacturers and schools to participate at the event and ramping up marketing and recruitment efforts. Each planning quadrant was tasked with creating materials to assist with getting the word out. A video was created to help with the effort and will be pushed to all media outlets.

Planning committee meeting was held August 17<sup>th</sup>. Issues included Match-Up Logistic Meeting planned for August 31, 2023; Meet & Greet Orientation Match-Up Breakfast on September 21, 2023 at Henry Ford College; securing speakers from school districts and world class sponsorship levels.

Participated in the Wayne County Meet & Greet Orientation Match-Up Breakfast was held on September 21, 2023 at Henry Ford College. The breakfast featured speakers from local school districts and world class sponsors. The purpose of the breakfast orientation was to engage sponsors, community partners, business/post-secondary site hosts, and school representatives in a communal relationship that will ensure successful student visits/tours during Manufacturing Day on October 6.

Manufacturing Day was held on October 6, 2023. Manufacturing Day 2023 was a success with over 1000 students from various school districts in Wayne County participated in touring 26 manufacturing sites and 12 post-secondary institutions. Manufacturing Day is the largest annual event to promote manufacturing in the United States Celebrated nationally on the first Friday in October, MFG Day is manufacturing's biggest annual opportunity to inspire the next generation.

### MiCareer Quest Southeast

MiCareer Quest Southeast is a regional career exposure event for mainly high school students Southeast Michigan to explore career opportunities in four in-demand career areas – manufacturing, information

technology, healthcare, and construction. In 2023, it celebrated its third annual event. MiCareerQuest provides students, teachers and career counselors with a clear understanding of the rewarding, in-demand job options available in southeast Michigan, Exposes young people to exciting career paths for the future, Establishes a talent pipeline for the region's employers with in-demand jobs.

- Attended volunteer team meeting on October 26, 2023 with around 100 volunteers via zoom to identify individual roles on the day of the event.
- Participated at MiCareerQuest Southeast on Tuesday, November 14, 2023 at the Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi. 7,000 high school students, 500 teachers and counselors, 1,000 exhibitor volunteers, 200 MiCareerQuest volunteers, and 100 special guests were in attendance. SEMCOG's role was helping to market the event and volunteer with students during the event.
- SEMCOG also participated in the VIP tour, interviewed participants and recorded the events to make a SEMCOG video.

## Other Events Attended

### September 2023

- Attended the annual Michigan Works Association conference on September 10-12 in Detroit. This offered about 100 sessions on issues related to workforce development, developing effective partnerships, professional development and many networking opportunities. SEMCOG held a session focused on water infrastructure careers. SEMCOG staff provided an overview of the issue and career options and SEMCOG's One Water Campaign. Jordie Kramer from EGLE presented on creating a pipeline to water careers. Attended sessions during the conference on in demand careers, trends in the labor force, and assisting people with disabilities into the workforce.

### November 2023

- Attended the Detroit Future City Equity Forum on November 2, 2023. This included presentations by local and national experts on creating a thriving and resilient Detroit. Equitable housing and upskilling the workforce were among the main topics of discussion.
- Attended the Next Generation Mobility symposium at Schoolcraft College on November 3. This focused on preparing the workforce for careers in mobility. Included presentations from employers and economic developers in addition to college students discussing their interest in engineering and mobility occupations.
- Participated in a National Apprenticeship Week event hosted by the Operating Engineers 324 at its construction career center in Howell on November 13. This is the largest training facility in the state! This provided information on various apprenticeship opportunities in the skilled trades and hands on experiences using construction equipment for attendees.

### December 2023

- Attended a webinar on the 2023 State of Education and Talent hosted by the Detroit Regional Chamber on December 6. This focused on data on low postsecondary education attainment and declining interest in obtaining a college degree. It also highlighted worker shortages in various industries affecting goods and services.
- Attended the graduation ceremony for the Southeast Michigan Workforce Leadership Symposium on December 7. This leadership program exposes workforce professionals to

### January 2023

- Attended the Detroit Policy Conference on January 11. The focus was on the Growing Michigan Together Council Report and recommendations. The event featured Council co-chairs, Shirely Stancato and John Rakolta; Hilary Doe, Chief Growth Officer; co-chairs of the working groups and many other leaders working to implement the recommendations.

- Attended the Detroit Economic Club event on January 16 which also focused on the Growing Michigan Together Council's work. Speakers included Gabriel Ehrlich from the University of Michigan, Hilary Doe from the State of Michigan and Quentin Messer from the MEDC.
- Participated in the Automation Alley Roundtable Discussion on creating a work-ready workforce as part of the Integr8 Series on industry 4.0 Future of Work on January 24.
- Met with Courtney Pendleton, from the Michigan Licensing and Regulatory Affairs to discuss licensing of healthcare workers on January 23.

#### February 2024

- Attended one of several presentations by the Michigan Community and Worker Economic Transition Office within the department of Labor and Economic Opportunity on February 26. This new office will connect workers to the in-demand, high-skill jobs that will be created in manufacturing electric vehicles, batteries, solar panels, wind turbines, etc.
- Attended the River Rouge Michigan Vehicle Technology Transition Impact Project (MiVTTP) on February 22. This is an initiative to create inclusive growth in 11 underserved Michigan guiding them to seize new opportunities in industry transitions.

#### March 2024

- Finalized review of the SEMCOG one-pager for education members. The new brochure will be provided to current and new members as a resource on SEMCOG assistance related to grants, data and networking opportunities.
- Interviewed former SEMCOG Chairperson Don Hubler on March 21, for an article on his upcoming presidency of the National School Boards Association.

#### April 2024

- Healthcare workforce: Convened the fourth meeting of the MAC Healthcare Task Force on April 12. The focus was on receiving input from organizations representing healthcare workers and finalizing the recommendations. Input from the Michigan Nurses Association and the United Physician Assistants of Michigan Medicine (AFT Michigan) was subsequently added to the final draft. This was shared with MAC healthcare members.

#### May 2024

- Volunteered at the MI Construction Career Day event at the Operating Engineers 324 training center in Howell on May 1. Spoke to students, apprentices, employers and workforce development agencies to gather perspectives for a future blog.
- Met with numerous education stakeholders at the Mackinac Policy conference on May 27-June 1, 2024.

#### June 2024

- Attended the Industry and Inclusion National Convening Conference on June 5, 2024. The focus was building regional connections that center equity in manufacturing investments. Industry partners from around the country gathered in small group discussions to strategize how to retain and attract talent in manufacturing from marginalized and disadvantaged groups.
- Met with Eric Keller, Infrastructure Liaison for the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Development on June 20 about the Governor's proposal to train 5000 workers for Infrastructure jobs.
- Met with Nabil Grace and Mark Brucki from Lawrence Technological University on college needs and priorities on June 25.

## Technical Assistance to Workforce Partners

### Water Infrastructure Careers

Proposed, developed and presented a session on water infrastructure careers at the statewide annual Michigan Works! Conference on September 12, 2023. Invited two other speakers to participate on the session. Jordie Kramer from EGLE on creating a pipeline to water careers. Katie Grantham on SEMCOG's water initiatives. Participated in a number of planning sessions with the co-presenters.

### Career Pathways Initiative: Healthcare Workforce

The Metropolitan Affairs Coalition Healthcare Task Force was established to identify opportunities to improve access, equity and workforce pathways in the healthcare industry. Coordinated four task force meetings and one workforce healthcare symposium on November 2023. SEMCOG prepared and presented data on trends in healthcare jobs, workforce, technology and facilities.

SEMCOG reached out to partners for case studies to include in the report. These include communications with Jan Karazim on February 8 regarding the SEMCAWIN Healthcare Alliance; Jenny Brown from Dutton Farms on efforts to train persons with disabilities for healthcare jobs; and Henry Ford College on the Nurse Immersive Clinical and Employment Agreement with Corewell Health.

Developed and presented a powerpoint presentation summarizing the draft report to the MAC board on February 20. This was followed by a presentation of one of the case studies: Corewell Health and Henry Ford College – Nurse Immersive Clinical and Employment Agreement. This was presented by Russ Kavalhuna, President of Henry Ford College and Kelli Sadler, Corewell Health Chief Nursing Officer.

### Presented the final report to the MAC Board on May 14 for approval.

### Public Sector Careers

- Produced a new work proposal for a public sector workforce project: **Growing the Public Sector Workforce and Promoting Career Pathways**. The goal is threefold – help communities recruit for in-demand careers, raise awareness of public sector career opportunities, and expand the pool of candidates.
- Attended webinar on Skilled Through Alternative Routes (STARS) on May 16. This focused on skills based hiring for the public sector to compete against the private sector.  
<https://opportunityatwork.org/>

## PRODUCTS PRODUCED:

Blog: 2023 Wayne County Manufacturing Day: <https://www.semco.org/blog/wayne-county-manufacturing-day-2023>, October 23, 2023

Video: [MiCareerQuest Southeast](#) 2023

Blog on former SEMCOG Chairperson Donald Hubler: <https://www.semco.org/blog/don-hubler-passionate-advocate-for-students>, April 16, 2024

SEMCOG Education Member brochure: <https://www.semco.org/desktopmodules/SEMCOG.Publications/GetFile.ashx?filename=ToolsAndResourcesToHelpEducationalMembersPlanForSuccess.pdf>, April 2024

Blog: [The State of Education Today](#) March 22, 2024

Blog: [CTE Programs boost graduation rates](#), February 12, 2024

Report on Healthcare in Southeast Michigan:

<https://www.semco.org/desktopmodules/SEMCOG.Publications/GetFile.ashx?filename=FutureOfHealthcareInSoutheastMichigan.pdf>

## Project 24355, Water Policy Development and Implementation

Grant/Task	Grantor	Local	Total
LP24, 24355	\$0	\$219,930.31	\$219,930.31

### Product 1: Participation in water- and infrastructure-related committees and activities

Over the last fiscal year, SEMCOG has been actively involved in numerous water and infrastructure-related committees and activities, reflecting their dedication to promoting sustainable water management and resilience in Southeast Michigan.

#### Watershed-related committees and activities

SEMCOG has participated in multiple meetings with local governments, state and federal agencies, academic institutions, not-for profit organizations, foundations and other stakeholder groups to assist in Watershed planning. The following list details some of the partners SEMCOG have worked with over the year, or attended meetings being held by these partners:

- Friends of the St. Clair River
- Friends of the Rouge
- Clinton River Watershed Council
- Huron River Watershed Council
- Friends of the Detroit River
- Great Lakes Water Authority
- Alliance of Rouge Communities
- Alliance of Downriver Watersheds
- Great Lakes Commission
- University of Michigan
- Michigan State University Extension
- Lake St. Clair CISMA
- Oakland County CISMA
- Macomb County
- Oakland County
- Washtenaw County
- Livingston County
- Wayne County
- St. Clair County
- Monroe County
- Land Information Access Association (LIAA)
- Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative
- Michigan SEA Grant

- Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE)
- Down River Community Conference (DCC)
- Michigan Association of Planning (MAP)

Infrastructure coordination and planning were central to SEMCOG's work throughout the year. Staff collaborated with various committees and groups to address infrastructure development, asset management, and strategic planning. This included ongoing efforts with Oakland County to enhance the post-construction tracking tool for stormwater permit compliance, as well as promoting the MS4 Public Education Program (PEP) through the One Water campaign.

SEMCOG also played an active role in several water infrastructure-related working groups and committees. These included monthly meetings with the Michigan Association of Regions (MAR), bi-weekly sessions with the WAMC KPI and Survey Committee, and participation as a member of the Water Asset Management Council. Additionally, SEMCOG contributed to the planning of the statewide Integrated Infrastructure Conference as part of the MIC/WAMC/TAMC Conference Planning Committee for August, 2024.

Additionally, SEMCOG facilitated bimonthly Partners for Clean Water meetings with regional partners on September 18, 2023, December 7, 2023, February 5, 2024, and May 1, 2024. The Southeast Michigan Partners for Clean Water group is comprised of SEMCOG members, including representatives from local communities and counties, in addition to representatives from watershed councils, not-for-profit agencies, the private sector, and water resource professionals. The purpose of the group is to facilitate information sharing, to coordinate public education, and to leverage resources on water quality, stormwater management, and green infrastructure implementation.

## **Product 2: Summary of water-quality and infrastructure-related assistance and services to local governments**

SEMCOG recently presented at the Ohio Stormwater Conference (May 8-10) and the National Adaptation Forum (May 14-16). These presentations highlighted our resiliency framework and the development of a Resiliency Improvement Plan, emphasizing the critical need for communities to prepare for future challenges.

In addition, SEMCOG showcased the Green Stormwater Infrastructure Program, funded through the EPA's GLRI program. This initiative provided support to 10 local agencies, enabling them to implement various green stormwater infrastructure techniques that deliver multiple community benefits. SEMCOG also discussed the upcoming work under the Great Lakes Environmental Justice Grant Program, which supports similar projects aimed at implementing green infrastructure across Southeast Michigan.

SEMCOG's staff also made significant contributions to the Detroit River Watershed Management Plan. They regularly attended Steering Committee meetings and participated in the Technical Advisory Team to assist in the creation of the Watershed Management Plan (WMP). SEMCOG has been assisting on data needs for the plan and acting as a technical resource.

Additionally, SEMCOG has been collaborating with other councils of governments across Michigan to discuss Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) and Illicit Discharge Elimination Program (IDEP) processes. The objective of these meetings is to compile Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) data from regions across the state, determine the most effective and efficient methodologies for data collection, and present these findings to EGLE. This initiative coincides with SEMCOG facilitating IDEP and Pollution Prevention and Good Housekeeping training to public works staff across the region.

### **Product 3: Documentation of activities to institutionalize infrastructure coordination and asset management planning in the region**

Throughout this fiscal year, SEMCOG collaborated with MDOT staff to devise a workplan for this project that encompasses data collection, surveys, and workshops. Additionally, SEMCOG played a role in facilitating the water infrastructure task force. SEMCOG actively participated in the Michigan Infrastructure Council, Water Asset Management Council, and the transportation Asset Management Council meetings to apply influence on processes and policies that uphold regional efforts.

SEMCOG forged active partnerships with both internal and external stakeholders in preparation for the Infrastructure Coordination Webinar. This entailed coordination with entities such as the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) and the Metropolitan Infrastructure Council (MIC). In addition to the webinar, SEMCOG facilitated a workshop which served as a platform for presenting findings, insights, and feedback gathered from the collaborative endeavors. The primary emphasis was on establishing a more structured and efficient process for disseminating CIP data, along with enhancing coordination concerning project timing, funding requests, and loan applications.

SEMCOG presented the Infrastructure Coordination Framework at several events including:

- EGLE Water Infrastructure Conference
- South Oakland County Municipal Engineers meeting
- Partners for Clean Water meetings
- GIS User Group meeting
- Transportation Improvement Program develop meeting
- Ohio Stormwater Conference
- MWEA Annual Conference
- GLWA One Water Partnership meeting

SEMCOG also hosted an Infrastructure Coordination Framework webinar to share the MIC project portal status, share the coordination framework and solicit feedback, and prepare partners for participation in late 2024 for the CIP portal.

### **Product 4: Policy input on legislative and regulatory proposals**

Over the past fiscal year, SEMCOG has been actively involved in providing policy input on legislative and regulatory proposals, aiming to shape water management and infrastructure policies in Southeast Michigan. Additionally, SEMCOG staff are members of the MWEA Governmental Affairs Committee. Together, SEMCOG staff work to align and collaborate with local government priorities across water-related legislative topics.

Key topics this past fiscal year include the statewide sanitary code legislation and EGLE's reauthorization for writing specific water quality rules. SEMCOG led numerous discussions to coalesce feedback to legislators working on the sanitary code legislation. Additionally, SEMCOG successfully pursued the state budget allocation of \$1.5 million for regional drinking water monitoring.

### **Product 5: Development of climate resiliency activities, guidance, and analyses to support local implementation.**

SEMCOG hired a consulting team to develop a *Regional Resiliency Framework*, which is in progress through 2024. The project workplan included the development of a Climate Resiliency Data Portfolio to compile available relevant information for climate resiliency work, specifically focused on stormwater drainage. The relevant data was compiled, the document is under review internally, and SEMCOG will share the portfolio in 2024.

The next task as part of the *Regional Resiliency Framework* workplan was to identify funding strategies related to resiliency planning and implementation. The document gives a 2-page summary of 12 relevant funding strategies ranging from local to federal opportunities. The [Southeast Michigan Climate Resiliency](#)

[Funding Strategies](#) document is live.

As part of the *Regional Resiliency Framework* work plan, the consultants also developed a pilot methodology for identifying and quantifying potential large-scale nature-based storage opportunities to help reduce and manage flooding. The methodology developed in this pilot task will inform future SEMCOG development of a Regional Resilience Improvement Plan.

Finally, the consultants developed a *Regional Resiliency Framework* report, summarizing actions to assess, plan, and implement resiliency efforts at the local, county, and regional levels for communities and organizations in Southeast Michigan. This document is under review internally and will be published in 2024.

The *Regional Resiliency Framework* created a baseline for SEMCOG to apply for the FHWA PROTECT grant opportunity. SEMCOG was awarded the PROTECT funding, and work to develop a Southeast Michigan Regional Resilience Improvement Plan will begin in 2025.

Additionally, this work was discussed in a SEMCOG interview with *Hour Detroit*. SEMCOG was also invited to provide feedback on NCHRP national stormwater resilience performance measures through this work.

As part of the NOAA-USDOT partnership, SEMCOG's Flood Risk Tool is setting the stage as a demonstration project to incorporate an equity analysis in response to the flood risk scores to highlight the impacts to underserved communities. Specifically, NOAA is developing a methodology that uses SEMCOG's *Access to Core Services* analysis, which measures and benchmarks accessibility for seven core services: fixed-route transit, jobs, health care facilities, supermarkets, parks, schools, and libraries. These core services are major destinations that residents need to access on a regular basis. Coupled with the assets at high-risk of flooding, NOAA is working to understand how a flood event may impact access for underserved and disadvantaged populations or communities, especially as these communities may experience a disproportionate impact from a natural disaster like flooding. Understanding how flooding impacts people reaching their desired destinations—like work, school, or health care facilities—safely, affordably, and efficiently will allow for targeted policies and actions in the short- and long-term planning efforts in the region.

As of August 2024, this project is complete and a final report summarizing the methodology is in progress. This work was presented at the following local, regional, state, and federal events:

- GLWA One Water Partnership Meetings
- Transportation Research Board Resilience Conference
- Southeast Michigan Partners for Clean Water meetings
- Transportation Improvement Program development meeting
- FEMA Region 5 Flooding Summit
- MWEA Asset Management Seminar
- Ohio Stormwater Conference
- MWEA Annual Conference

Additionally, this work was discussed in a SEMCOG interview with *Hour Detroit*.

## Product 6: Summary of water resource education activities and actions

### IDEP and PPGH Trainings

Education and training were central to SEMCOG's initiatives. On October 10 and 11, SEMCOG hosted IDEP Alert Observer and Investigator training sessions, equipping participants with the skills needed to effectively monitor water resources. These sessions were held in Macomb on October 10 and in Ann Arbor on October 11 to maximize regional participation. To accommodate a broader audience, SEMCOG also offered a hybrid option for the Alert Observer sessions. Additionally, SEMCOG conducted a SEMU Webinar on Pollution Prevention and Good Housekeeping on October 17, aimed at educating local governments on proper stormwater management, permit compliance, and best practices for DPW facilities.

### One Water

One major achievement was the successful execution of the One Water campaign in June. Following its conclusion, SEMCOG's staff conducted internal meetings to debrief and begin preparations for the comprehensive final report. By September 2023, SEMCOG published the [2023 One Water Implementation Report](#), which provided an overview of the campaign's messages and detailed data on public engagement throughout its duration.

Throughout the fiscal year, SEMCOG staff held internal and external discussions to develop the 2024 One Water Campaign. To expand the reach of the One Water campaign and connect regional and statewide efforts, SEMCOG collaborated with EGLE to develop key messages for Great Lakes and Fresh Water Week 2024.

In these development meetings, SEMCOG supported EGLE's proposed theme, highlighting the link between improved mental health and access to nature and water. SEMCOG worked with EGLE throughout the fiscal year to craft messaging for the week and coordinate various initiatives. This collaboration culminated in a joint webinar between SEMCOG and EGLE on June 6, 2024, titled "[Fostering Connections to Michigan's Water Wonderland for Wellness and Stewardship](#)." The webinar featured a series of speakers who emphasized the benefits of spending time outdoors in Michigan, surrounded by the Great Lakes and the state's abundant water resources, and the positive impact on both physical and mental health.

As part of the 2024 campaign, SEMCOG produced two new videos. The first video, titled "[One Water - Keep It Clean](#)," highlights the critical connection between upstream actions and their downstream impacts. The second video, "[Man Stuck in a Rain Barrel](#)," promotes stormwater management by educating viewers on the benefits and importance of individual stormwater stewardship.

To further support the campaign's objectives, SEMCOG hosted a webinar on May 22, 2024, titled "[Utilizing the One Water Campaign in Your Community](#)." This event demonstrated how local governments can educate residents about Southeast Michigan's water resources by participating in the One Water campaign. Attendees were introduced to the campaign's social media toolkit and learned effective strategies for raising awareness about water resources during Great Lakes and Fresh Water Week.

### Water Schools Initiative

SEMCOG met with MSU SeaGrant and MSU Extension throughout the fiscal year to discuss the Water School initiatives. The Water School initiative will be free, self-paced, online courses about water infrastructure through the Michigan State University Desire2Learn (D2L) platform. These courses provide municipal elected and appointed officials in Michigan with content, scenarios and techniques to support water infrastructure decision-making and communications. The plan is to launch the course early 2025.

## Product 7: Activities that implement the Water Resources Plan for Southeast Michigan, the regional infrastructure report and the Green Infrastructure Vision for Southeast Michigan

SEMCOG advanced recommendations in the [Strategic Framework for Growing our Resiliency, Equity, and](#)

[Economy with Nature \(GREEN\)](#), which establishes regional metrics, targets, and priority areas to improve the quality, quantity, and connectivity of the region's green infrastructure network. This initiative is driven by the goal to ensure that public benefits of green infrastructure are resilient, equitable, and improve the quality of life in Southeast Michigan communities. SEMCOG convened two meetings of the GREEN Implementation Team, which collaboratively engages regional stakeholders to coordinate and supports local efforts that can help reach regional targets for green stormwater infrastructure, tree canopy, wetlands, land conservation, and access to nature. Team meetings have included representatives from SEMCOG member communities, along with partner organizations that manage land and implement green infrastructure in Southeast Michigan. Presentations and discussion topics have covered the latest funding opportunities, best practices from local and regional initiatives, and how to demonstrate investment opportunities and track our progress as a region.

SEMCOG continued to develop, promote, and apply the [GREEN Dashboard](#), which aims to share SEMCOG's data and resources with its members, while understanding more about project opportunities and needs in the region.

#### **Product 8: Development of Environmental & Ecosystem Services Tool.**

To enhance and update the environmental sensitivity analysis for all transportation projects, SEMCOG is working with Highland Economics (HE) and Hubbel, Roth and Clark (HRC) to develop an Environmental and Ecosystem Services Tool. This tool will provide an online planning - level service to local agencies, incorporating more recent environmental data and initiatives to inform project selection. SEMCOG meets with Highland Economics monthly to touch base about necessary data for the tool, as well as who the tool is targeted to and developing an easy user interface. During this fiscal year SEMCOG has sent over needed data to Highland Economics' GIS team.

## Project 24525, Advocacy and Elected Officials

Grant/Task	Grantor	Local	Total
LP24, 24525	\$0	\$174,728.11	\$174,728.11

### Product 1: Participation in SEMCOG meetings by a broad range of elected officials and citizens

The foundation of SEMCOG is its elected officials. Over the course of the year SEMCOG held six Executive Committee meetings and three General Assembly meetings involving the elected officials of the region. All of these SEMCOG meetings were held in-person in this fiscal year, and SEMCOG renewed its efforts to enhance Open Meetings Act compliance and increase communication about the actions being considered by these public bodies.

SEMCOG’s communications and workshop activities are geared towards informing and involving our local elected officials. SEMCOG focuses on insuring that all levels and all areas of the region have elected official representation on SEMCOG committees. SEMCOG also reaches out to include other interest groups within the region to participate on our committees. This is especially true when looking at the joint projects between SEMCOG and the Metropolitan Affairs Coalition. At the heart of SEMCOG is the work to bring all local communities together and to create the environment that will enhance the prospects of local governments working together to create a better region.

### Product 2: Advocacy efforts on priority legislative issues for Southeast Michigan

This year, efforts continued to implement policies in the SEMCOG 2023-2024 Legislative Policy Platform. SEMCOG continued its efforts to grow a coalition of organizations and stakeholders to build consensus on issues including: pursuing state FY 2024-2025 appropriations for drinking water monitoring equipment along the Huron-Erie Corridor and to offset the costs of state-mandated materials management planning to assist counties, and legislation on safety/distracted driving, stormwater utilities, water affordability, local control of aggregate mining, short term rentals, and local government revenue sharing trust fund.

Discussion of these issues was the basis for several meetings SEMCOG held with state legislative offices, regional stakeholders, and local government leaders. SEMCOG conducted many of these discussions with partner groups from throughout the region and state, sitting on several coalitions to develop priorities and work with receptive legislative champions. SEMCOG also monitored the state’s fiscal outlook as an indicator for impacts on the state’s ability to allocate resources to local governments.

SEMCOG continued involvement with the Michigan Infrastructure Council, Michigan Water Asset Management Council, and Transportation Asset Management Council. This work coordinates well with SEMCOG’s Infrastructure Asset Management and Southeast Michigan GREEN Initiative.

### Product 3: Discussion and participation in legislative work groups and with state and federal legislators and their staff

SEMCOG has maintained a presence in Washington D.C. through a contract with Dykema to monitor issues and lobby on behalf of SEMCOG. This contract includes an ongoing relationship between Dykema and the congressional offices. SEMCOG staff and officers met in-person in February 2024 with all Senate and Congressional offices that represent the region. These visits included a meeting with either the elected official or their staff. During these meetings a broad range of topics were discussed, including: the importance of federal assistance to underscore the importance of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) to address issues with the region’s above- and below-ground infrastructure. We also shared the region’s recent Economic Development District status designation through the Economic Development Administration, and our work to maintain the region’s attainment status for air quality. SEMCOG was invited to provide testimony to the U.S. House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, focused on the IIJA and implications for regional planning. Discussions were often tailored to the interests and committee

assignments of the individual members. Talking points that outline SEMCOG's various interests for the meetings are attached.

At the state level SEMCOG maintained a presence in Lansing through the use of staff as well as Dykema. This resulted in numerous contacts, both formally and informally with legislators from the region as well as the rest of the state. As described above, SEMCOG met with the majority of the region's legislators, focusing on key House and Senate appropriators.

#### **Product 4: Information and research on pertinent state and federal issues**

The contract work with Dykema included their work identifying issues impacting the region as well as relaying original materials to SEMCOG on specific federal and state legislation or regulation. Written legislative updates were provided at each Executive Committee and General Assembly meeting, outlining current issues at both the state and federal level. Examples of these updates are attached.

SEMCOG staff worked with Dykema in monitoring state issues both at the capitol and out of the SEMCOG office. Agency resources were used to compile and analyze pending legislation and to then disseminate materials to our member communities regarding the potential impacts of the proposals or new laws. SEMCOG used our [Regional Update](#) newsletter and [Think Regional – Act Local](#) blog to keep our membership informed on both federal and state legislative issues. SEMCOG also issued legislative action alerts to provide local leaders with information on legislative issues of extreme importance when action by the legislature was imminent.

SEMCOG also sent correspondence to our congressional delegation and key state lawmakers on the impact of legislation or rules on member communities on a regular basis.

**Project 23346, Materials Management County Engagement**

<b>Grant/Task</b>	<b>Grantor</b>	<b>Local</b>	<b>Total</b>
MMCE23, 23346	\$46,585.48	\$0	\$46,585.48

SEMCOG applied for funding for the Materials Management County Engagement (MMCE) grant being authorized by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) in preparation for requiring counties across the state to adopt a Materials Management Plan (MMP) under the proposed amendments to Part 115 of the Michigan Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (NREPA; Act 451 of 1994) and/or a required update from EGLE. In addition, SEMCOG is in the progress of developing the final deliverables report for the grant with support and input from the participating counties. SEMCOG aims to develop the report as the Designated Planning Agency (DPA)<sup>1</sup> by facilitating the provision of feedback and data relating to materials management from each county associated with the MMP effort.

**Project Participants**

- Lenawee County
- Livingston County\*
- Macomb County
- Monroe County
- Oakland County
- St. Clair County
- Washtenaw County
- Wayne County
- SEMCOG

**Product 1: Updated Materials Management data for Southeast Michigan**

In fiscal year 2023, SEMCOG has applied for and been granted funding for the Materials Management County Engagement (MMCE) grant. SEMCOG worked closely with the counties to review data collected by EGLE as part of the RRS Mega Data Project, which documented local disposal sites, waste haulers, recyclable processing facilities, and other materials management facilities within each county. The final deliverable is the Materials Management County Engagement Plan, completed in early 2024, and the [Materials Management Dashboard](#).

Additionally, SEMCOG has been serving as a regional representative by facilitating monthly meetings for the seven counties. These meetings are designed to support the counties in developing their MMP plans, and SEMCOG also provides access to our lobbyist for any questions or concerns that may arise.

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<sup>1</sup> SEMCOG is the DPA only for purposes of this grant. SEMCOG is not taking on any County’s role as the overall DPA.

**Project 23345/24345, Multimodal Tool**

<b>Grant/Task</b>	<b>Grantor</b>	<b>Local</b>	<b>Total</b>
MT23, 23345	\$95,909.41	\$0	\$95,909.41
MT24, 24345	\$116,377.17	\$0	\$116,377.17

**Product 1: Documentation of tool development**

SEMCOG finalized and published the [Multimodal Tool](#) for Southeast Michigan. This tool was developed to help County and Local jurisdictions in Southeast Michigan, stakeholders and community organizations, SEMCOG staff, and MDOT staff. It can be used for State, County, and Local roads within Southeast Michigan.

**Product 2: Fully integrated web-based Multimodal Tool**

Launched the fully [integrated web-based tool](#) and began promoting it across the region, in partnership with MDOT. Held a SEMCOG University to promote the new tool in [May 2024](#).

## Project 23456/24456, Ozone Issues

Grant/Task	Grantor	Local	Total
OZ23, 23456	\$25,424.32	\$6,632.44	\$32,056.76
OZ24, 24456	\$35,957.04	\$8,989.27	\$44,946.31

### Product 1: Ozone Action communication via print materials including tip cards, displays, media advisories and electronic, online and social media

The seven-county region was redesignated to attainment for ozone in spring of 2023. This follows up on the long process to request redesignation outlined in this section. In late 2021, SEMCOG worked directly with EGLE staff to submit an ozone redesignation request to USEPA Region V. This request was based on the fact that Southeast Michigan maintained compliance with the ozone standards for three (3) consecutive years (2018 – 2020). Thus, as the Clean Air Act outlines, a redesignation request was feasible. EGLE formally submitted this request in December 2021.

Throughout the past year, SEMCOG staff met internally and externally with regional partners to ensure Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) Program and Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) projects were programmed and moved towards implementation. This included making sure transit projects that received CMAQ and CRP funding were flexed to Federal Transit Administration to allow for seamless implementation. In total, 13 CMAQ and 17 CRP projects were obligated in FY 2024. SEMCOG also began preparing schedules and materials to conduct another call for projects for CMAQ and CRP funding for Fall 2024.

SEMCOG attended the State of Michigan Air Advisory Council quarterly meetings. Among the topics discussed in these meetings are:

- NAAQS Planning including sulfur dioxide and ozone
- Wildfire messaging
- Air monitoring network plan
- Air quality forecasting
- Michigan-Ontario Ozone Source Experiment
- MiEnviro Portal

SEMCOG has been actively advancing its air quality initiatives and communication strategies. In November 2023, SEMCOG published the Healthy Climate Plan Hub and began evaluating how to align its efforts with regional air quality priorities.

To enhance coordination across organizations, SEMCOG met with EGLE in February 2024 to discuss air quality messaging related to ozone and PM2.5 alerts. This dialogue continued with additional meetings over the fiscal year, focusing on air quality messaging for the upcoming season. As a result, SEMCOG developed and updated its air quality messaging, including a new [Air Quality tip card](#) and an updated [“Keep the Air Clean” webpage](#), both launched in June 2024.

In addition to these efforts, SEMCOG participated in a podcast with the Michigan Chamber on the topic of ozone attainment in Southeast Michigan. This provided a platform to discuss the region’s progress and challenges in achieving ozone standards.

The Ozone Action season, running from March 1 through September 30, includes SEMCOG’s communication efforts such as electronic mailings and social media posts. In 2023, there were 17 Ozone

Action Days, 17 PM2.5 Action Days, and 3 days with both advisories in Southeast Michigan. In collaboration with EGLE, SEMCOG is transitioning from Action Days to a two-tiered system of Air Quality Advisories and Air Quality Alerts, based on the EPA's U.S. Air Quality Index (AQI).

This new system is reflected in SEMCOG's updated "Keep the Air Clean" webpage, the new tip card, and air quality alert mailings. These initiatives are crucial for refining strategies to improve air quality and address environmental challenges, ensuring a healthier environment for the region.

### **2024 Air Quality Advisories and Alerts**

- July 12 - [Air Quality Advisory \(AQI Orange\) Declared for Saturday, July 13 in Southeast Michigan](#)
- June 20 - [Air Quality Advisory \(AQI Orange\) Declared for Friday, June 21 in Southeast Michigan](#)
- June 19 - [Air Quality Advisory \(AQI Orange\) Declared for Thursday, June 20 in Southeast Michigan](#)
- June 16 - [Air Quality Advisory \(AQI Orange\) Declared for Sunday, June 16 in Southeast Michigan](#)
- June 15 - [Air Quality Advisory \(AQI Orange\) Declared for Sunday, June 16 in Southeast Michigan](#)
- May 17 - [Air Quality Advisory Declared for Saturday, May 18 in Southeast Michigan](#)

### **Product 2: Summary of other activities to support required ozone compliance activities and/or congestion reduction**

One of the key highlights was the continuous efforts to stay updated with the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) on the status of the Ozone State Implementation Plan (SIP) and Ozone nonconformity in the region. SEMCOG has been coordinating with EGLE on updated air quality messaging and ozone attainment. Additionally, SEMCOG is facilitating monthly meetings regarding PM2.5 via a Technical Workgroup to establish a process for data review and coordination on attainment analysis.

Moreover, SEMCOG also put significant emphasis on improving their Greenhouse Gas Inventory (GHGI) by working closely with the Transportation team. SEMCOG aimed to find the most efficient way to collect data on Aviation and Waterborne Transportation trips that occur specifically within the SEMCOG boundary, rather than trans-boundary. SEMCOG published the [2019 Southeast Michigan Regional Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory Report](#) for Southeast Michigan, commissioned by the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) for SEMCOG, the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments, provides a summary of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions generated within the region during 2019.

Additionally, SEMCOG published [the Southeast Michigan Priority Climate Action Plan](#) and the Healthy Climate Plan Hub. The purpose of this Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP) and Hub is to prioritize measures that will reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and enhance natural areas that capture climate pollution. This plan was developed with the assistance of the Healthy Climate Task Force and regional stakeholders.

## Project 23204/24204, MDOT Project Coordination

Grant/Task	Grantor	Local	Total
PC23, 23204	\$154,696.77	\$361.44	\$155,058.21
PC24, 24204	\$195,001.80	\$0	\$195,001.80

### Product 1: Memorandum documenting technical assistance activities

SEMCOG was actively involved in providing ongoing technical assistance and meeting participation for various projects throughout the region, such as I-375, I-96, I-94, Gordie Howe Bridge, the Woodward Loop, Michigan Avenue PEL study, Innovate Mound Road and other projects.

Staff also continued coordination in the deployment of the Multimodal Tool, and development of a web-based version, for MDOT to accommodate additional modes in street redesign projects.

### Product 2: Technical memos documenting specific assistance using the travel demand models and analyses

SEMCOG provided technical support, travel models, data and analyses for various projects and traffic studies across the region. Following work items were conducted for some of the specific projects

- SEMCOG worked closely with the project team, and held weekly meetings with MDOT and consultants, to discuss Dynamic assignment (DTA) modeling for alternative scenarios.
- Prepared, reviewed and shared summaries of socio-economic and other travel measures, for reference.
- Analyzed, prepared and coded the M-375 (boulevard) configuration into the SEMCOG DTA for base and 2045 scenario runs. Also reviewed data indicators of changes to travel, due to the pandemic.
- Analyzed, prepared and coded M-375 into the SEMCOG DTA for various alternative scenarios.
- Completed DTA runs for base and various scenarios. Created diverted traffic maps and prepared other analyses/results and shared with project team.
- Completed request for model input data from Downtown Detroit partnership regarding I-375 project.

#### I-94 Modernization

- Staff worked on travel model estimated volumes for Gratiot corridor in Detroit for I-94 Mobility study.
- Performed select link analysis and alternative/scenario modeling and analysis for I-94 Modernization project. Provided output files and maps to consultant working on the project.

#### I-75/8mile

- Provided E8Plus model set up files to MDOT and assisted with setting up and running the model.
- Several meetings were held with MDOT and consultants to discuss modeling and data needs. Staff were also involved in reviewing the modeling results, prepared by MDOT.

**Project 23410/24410, Rideshare and Travel Demand Management**

<b>Grant/Task</b>	<b>Grantor</b>	<b>Local</b>	<b>Total</b>
RS23, 23410	91,887.10	\$139.61	\$92,026.71
RS24, 24410	\$237,454.70	\$0	\$237,454.70

**Product 1: Reports documenting use of Commuter Connect matching database**

The [Commuter Connect](#) program uses Transportation Demand Management software. The following features help expand and enhance the program:

- a mobile-responsive web app, a native Android app, and a native iOS app all branded for Commuter Connect.
- Trip planning for commute trips, single trips, and trips to events and destinations allows users to see all of the transportation options available.
- Users are encouraged to track the non drive alone trips so they can see their environmental impact and cost savings. This information engages users and helps to motivate them to continue taking clean air commute options. In addition, tracking these trips gives them access to over 2,000 rewards through an Entertainment partnership and a chance to win additional prizes each month.
- Keeping track of these trips is easy with the passive trip tracking and active trip tracking with apps like Strava, Under Armour, Garmin, Fitbit, Scoop, and Love to Ride.
- Staying engaged with users is made easier with integrated communication with emails and notifications that can highlight new features, incentives and to give reminders about the users account activity.
- The [Emergency Ride Home](#) Program reassures commuters (bike, carpool, vanpool, walk) that taking an alternative commute won't leave them stranded. If an emergency comes up (needing to leave work early, bike maintenance, unexpected overtime) the commuter can arrange and pay for their ride home and then request to be reimbursed. The program can be used up to six times per year.

Based on input into this database, SEMCOG is able to produce monthly usage reports. Statistics are used to communicate benefits of the program to media and others via SEMCOG's Web site and social media.

**Southeast Michigan Commuter Connect**

**Usage Report June 30, 2023 – June 30, 2024**

**Registered users: 4,795**

<b>Commuter Connect User Report</b>	
Users	4795
Recorded Trips	18710
Average Trip Distance	19
Reduced Trips	19290
Reduced Vehicle Miles Traveled	301,454
Gas Saved	14,053 gallons
Reduced CO2	178 tons
Money Saved	\$195,852
Calories Burned	590,791

Mode	Entries #	Average Trip Distance Miles	Money Saved	Calories Burned Cal	Fuel Saved Gal	CO Saved Tons
Carpool	3,904	25	\$54,935		3,603	43
Transit	4788	18	\$46,43		3168	41
Vanpool	124	28	\$305		129	2
Bicycle	80	5	\$12	374,770	490	4.99
Walking	1,921	1	\$1,368	194,721	78	.77
Telework (work from home)	3321	21	\$77,032		5,008	59

**New Commuter Connect Members**

Date	New Members
July 2023	30
August 2023	32
September 2023	34
October 2023	37
November 2023	35
December 2023	44
January 2024	45
February 2024	48
March 2024	73
April 2024	125
May 2024	145
June 2024	70

The Southeast Michigan Commuter Connect is an entirely web-based interface that includes rideshare matching capabilities, multimodal trip planning available for different modes of travel based on users origin and destination (carpool, vanpool, transit, bike, and walk) for a given to/from parameter. Southeast Michigan Commuter Connect offers one-stop-shop for trip planning across all modes of travel, transportation demand management, emergency ride home, and promotional events/competitions.

**Product 2: News releases and social media**

An important element of the Southeast Michigan Commuter Connect program is marketing and promoting timely and impactful messages related to alternative commuting to the public – via the media with our [press releases](#).

### **Product 3: Promotional outreach via events at businesses, community organizations, schools, and local governments.**

Outreach efforts to promote alternative commute modes are made through attending various types of events and presentations– through businesses, communities, schools, etc. These events help SEMCOG connect our message to our audience in a very personal level in places they are most comfortable. Some of them include:

#### **Special Events**

- Chrysler Health and Safety Day
- Detroit Bike Challenge Garage Sale
- Detroit Bike Challenge Bailey Park Moves Mobility Fest
- Detroit Bike Challenge Bike Summit
- Commuter Challenge Kick Off Event
- Macomb Community College Job Fair
- Oakland County Employee Earth Day Event

#### **Presentations**

- Commute with Enterprise Presentation
- SMART Presentation
- Oakland County Presentation
- City of Detroit Presentation
- TACOM Presentation
- Transportation Choices Presentation
- Wayne State University Presentation
- Henry Ford Hospital Presentation
- SEMCOG Transportation Coordinating Council Presentation
- SEMCOG Executive Committee Presentation
- SEMCOG Safety Committee Presentation
- Transportation Analysis Tools SEMCOG University

SEMCOG's Commuter Connect program continued to work to assist commuters in Southeast Michigan by using the program to inform, encourage, incentivize, and help improve how people commute in the region whether using transit, ridesharing, walking, biking, or teleworking. Commuter Connect worked to inform and encourage travelers to maximize the efficiency of our transportation systems leading to improved mobility, reduced congestion, and lower vehicle emissions and provides all people with real transportation options that enable them to travel from their location to a destination in an affordable, efficient, and sustainable way.

The work was done by providing [resources](#), connecting with partners and employers, attending special events, giving presentations and sharing information through a webinar and through the Commuter Challenge.

[A customized Commuter Connect Oakland County employer portal](#) was created for employees of Oakland County, as well as a customized Commuter Connect program for Oakland County employees.

### **Product 4: In partnership with Transportation Choices, groups participate in events such as Commuter Challenge and Dump the Pump**

Southeast Michigan Commuter Connect is promoted collaboratively with our partners. This collaboration is effective because of the creative ideas generated together and the shared resources (both personnel and monetary). Monthly meetings of this Transportation Choices group are held to work collaboratively on projects such as the special events including the Detroit Bike Challenge and the Commuter Challenge.

The web site for [Southeast Michigan Commuter Connect](#) offer additional details.

**Project 24370, Safe Streets**

<b>Grant/Task</b>	<b>Grantor</b>	<b>Local</b>	<b>Total</b>
SS24, 24370	\$15,222.60	\$3,805.64	\$19,028.24

**Product 1: Implementation of regional programs**

SEMCOG's Regional Review Committee (RRC) established selection criteria for the RSA program, including using regional analyses from SEMCOG's Transportation Safety Plan and Bicycle and Pedestrian Mobility Plan. SEMCOG solicited RSA project locations from local agencies via a [call for projects](#). The RRC selected [eight RSA locations](#) for the first round of projects in 2024. Scheduling of the [eight RSAs has begun](#), and they will all occur between August and October of 2024. A second round of RSAs will be selected and conducted in 2025. SEMCOG procured a pool of qualified and independent consultants to facilitate the RSAs on an as-needed basis for the duration of the program.

SEMCOG began the safety analysis tool vendor selection process. SEMCOG met with potential vendors and received temporary access to multiple tools to test functionality and better understand their capabilities. SEMCOG solicited proposals from five vendors that met SEMCOG's selection criteria. The selection committee reviewed the proposals and is beginning the procurement process for the selected tool, Tatum Group's Safety Performance Function (SPF) Tool.

**Product 2: Coordination with partner agencies for local project implementation**

SEMCOG coordinated with partner agencies and presented project updates at various committee meetings, including quarterly Transportation Safety Action Committee meetings and Transportation Coordinating Council meetings. SEMCOG also coordinated with individual communities and partners who are interested in the programs. For example, SEMCOG coordinated with PEAC to have representation from the disability community in the RSA program.

**Product 3: Documentation of grant administration**

SEMCOG coordinated internally between the planning and finance departments on grant administration activities, including community grant agreements, vendor procurement, budget tracking, and SS4A quarterly performance progress reporting to FHWA.

**Project 23160/24160, Transportation Asset Management**

<b>Grant/Task</b>	<b>Grantor</b>	<b>Local</b>	<b>Total</b>
TAS23, 23160	\$107,673.61	\$236.56	\$107,910.17
TAS24, 24160	\$64,170.22	\$0	\$64,170.22

**Product 1: PASER data for Federal Aid System submitted to TAMC via the IRT**

- **Administer rating of federal aid roads** – SEMCOG administered the rating of federal aid roads in the region. This included ensuring raters participate in training, scheduling, rating field work, submission of data to the Investment Reporting Tool website, and tracking of who participated in rating.
- **Collection of road condition data on federal aid roads** – SEMCOG worked with the county road agencies and the City of Detroit to collect PASER data on 50% of the federal aid road network in 2023. PASER data collection has started in 2024 and is expected to finish in October.
- **Collection of road condition data RFQ** – SEMCOG solicited a request for qualifications to help collect federal aid road condition data in Oakland County and the City of Detroit in 2023. There was a second RFQ for federal aid data collection in Oakland, Wayne, and Macomb Counties, as well as the City of Detroit, in 2024.

**Product 2: PASER data and/or culvert data for Non-Federal Aid System submitted to TAMC via the IRT**

- **Collection of road condition data on local roads** – SEMCOG closed out the FY2023 Local Road Rating Grants. These grants supported collection of PASER road surface condition data in the following communities: Ecorse, Grosse Pointe Shores, Grosse Pointe Woods, Harper Woods, the City of St. Clair, Monroe County, Washtenaw County, Beverly Hills, Bingham Farms, Ferndale, Oakland County, Saline, Dearborn Heights, Franklin, Birmingham, Clinton Twp, and the City of Northville.
- **SEMCOG Planning Assistance Grants** – SEMCOG received a grant to assist communities obtain PASER data on their local road system. Contractors were hired to collect data in the following communities: Detroit, Wayne County, Trenton, Riverview, Macomb County, Dundee, Oakland County, Lake Orion, Keego Harbor, Pontiac, Marysville, Marine City, Wolverine Lake, Sylvan Lake, and the Village of Holly.

**Product 3: Regular activities reports submitted with invoices to TAMC Coordinator**

- **Asset Management Conference** – SEMCOG served on the development committee for the Michigan Asset Management Conference, which was hosted on September 2023.
- There was planning for the 2024 Integrated Infrastructure Conference to be held on August 12 and 13, 2024. This is the first joint conference put on by the Michigan Infrastructure Council (MIC), Transportation Asset Management Council (TAMC), and Water Asset Management Council (WAMC).
- **Asset Management Coordination Meetings** – SEMCOG attended regular meetings with the Michigan Transportation Asset Management Council and the Michigan Department of Transportation. Several meetings were held to ensure that asset management activities were performed and coordinated in a consistent manner.

- **Federal Performance Measures Reporting** – Worked with the Michigan Department of Transportation and the Michigan Transportation Planning Association to develop updated performance measures for roads.
- **PASER Training** – SEMCOG coordinated with county road agencies, local communities, and the Michigan Department of Transportation to ensure that the appropriate staff attended PASER and Inventory Based Rating for Gravel Roads training. Annual training, or certification, is required to be in compliance with TAMC guidelines. PASER training sessions in 2024 were held online and in person.
- **Webinars and training sessions** – Attended meetings and webinars hosted by AASHTO, AMPO, SEMCOG, NARC, FHWA, and Michigan Technological University to learn about the latest ideas to implement asset management programs, performance measures, as well as state and federal regulations. In addition, SEMCOG hosted in-person Investment Reporting Tool training, and a half-day session on asset management for local officials.
- **SEMCOG Infrastructure Asset Management Group** – SEMCOG hosts regular meetings for the underground utilities group. This group brings together public and private partners who have underground utilities or host utilities within their right-of-way. The group is currently developing a data schema for all utilities to report on their assets. They are also partnering with the road and bridge owners to build a comprehensive database of assets.
- **TIP Project Review** - Reviewed projects entered into SEMCOG's TIP amendments and compared them to information entered into the Investment Reporting Tool website.
- **TAMC MPO/RPO Coordination Meetings** – Attended TAMC coordination meetings as needed to ensure that road condition data and compliance plans were completed as necessary.

#### **Product 4: Annual Report of Asset Management program activities and a summary of annual PASER condition data.**

- **Community maps and road condition summaries** – SEMCOG provided maps and summaries of road surface condition for communities to help their planning activities. Latest road surface conditions can be found on SEMCOG's [Pavement Condition interactive webpage](#). SEMCOG also prepared presentations, media releases, and blog posts about the state of the region's infrastructure.
- **Regional road surface condition analysis** – SEMCOG analyzed and reported on road surface conditions throughout the region. The information was used to help SEMCOG and local communities plan road and bridge projects. Information about the region's bridge and pavement conditions were disseminated through press releases, presentations, and the agency's web site, including [Community Profiles](#) and the [Pavement Condition interactive webpage](#).
- **Display of Road and Bridge Data** – Working with the TAMC, MDOT and the Center for Shared Solutions to find better solutions for dissemination of bridge condition information. This includes displaying data on [SEMCOG's bridge condition map](#) and community profiles. The group is also looking into making sure that data from various sources (Investment Reporting Tool, JobNet, and others) are able to display across applications.
- **Roadsoft User Group Meetings** – SEMCOG attended Roadsoft User Group meetings to learn about the latest features added to Roadsoft and help develop the work program for the software. The Roadsoft Users Group typically meets twice a year.

- **SEMCOG Transportation Coordinating Council** – Presented on the region’s pavement and bridge conditions, and updates on federal performance measures, as information became available.
- **Pavement Condition Forecasting Group** – SEMCOG is working with MDOT Statewide Planning to outline the direction of pavement condition forecasting over the next few years. The group will regularly meet to discuss forecasting tools, techniques, and data. The group hopes to share resources to improve the outputs that are used for determining road needs in the region.
- **Investment Reporting Tool** – SEMCOG assisted local communities with entering data into the Investment Reporting Tool (IRT) website. SEMCOG attended webinars to learn about changes to the IRT to provide assistance to local communities.
- **Road Jurisdiction Map** – Updated a dynamic map that shows the [Road Jurisdiction](#) of all roads in the SEMCOG region. Users can filter by county, community, and National Functional Classification of the road. In addition, the dynamic map reports the mileage of the filtered selection.
- **MIRE Working Group** – SEMCOG is participating on Michigan’s MIRE (Model Inventory of Roadway Elements) working group. The group is working on strategies for integrating various databases into the state’s overall MIRE database. SEMCOG updates to the MIRE dataset were uploaded to the state at the appropriate time.
- **Roads & Highways Tools Update** – SEMCOG is developing tools to migrate and perform analysis on the road network. The tools are being developed to perform analysis on the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) road network, Roads & Highways version 23. The improvements include a new FALink analysis network, a new tRoads road network, and migration tools to move data from year to year.
- Published blog post Exploring the Outcomes: Analyzing the 2022 Federal Aid Road Rating Results (<https://www.semco.org/blog/exploring-the-outcomes-analyzing-the-2022-federal-aid-road-rating-results>).
- Published blog post Rating Local Road Conditions (<https://www.semco.org/blog/rating-local-road-conditions>).
- Updating freight maps in preparation for an update of the region’s freight plan.
- Met with the Michigan Infrastructure Council (MIC) to develop a model work program as MIC activities are added to SEMCOG’s asset management program for various types of infrastructure.

#### **Product 5: Status report of Public Act 51 agency Asset Management activities and plans within Southeast Michigan**

- **Asset Management Plan Development** – SEMCOG attended training for the TAMC Compliance Plan template. All counties and communities with more than 100 miles of road will be required to produce a compliance plan on a 3-year cycle. The next round of plans are due on October 1, 2024. SEMCOG has provided assistance to communities that are producing plans as needed. SEMCOG provided assistance to the following communities that had compliance plans due on October 1, 2023: Ann Arbor, Dearborn Heights, Farmington Hills, Livonia, Romulus, Royal Oak, Southfield, Troy, Macomb County, Monroe County, and Wayne County.
- SEMCOG also provided outreach to communities that have their compliance plan due on October 1, 2024: Dearborn, Detroit, Garden City, Port Huron, Rochester Hills, Roseville, St. Clair Shores, Taylor, Livingston County, Oakland County, and Washtenaw County.

- **State 30-Year Strategy** – Attended the State of Michigan 30-Year Infrastructure Kickoff and workshops. The group will meet periodically to discuss the integration of plans for roads, underground utilities, and private utilities.
- **Economic Indicators** – Provided key infrastructure information for SEMCOG’s annual economic indicators performance monitoring system.
- **Road and Bridge Information** – Provided road and bridge information (shapefiles, reports, spreadsheets) to fulfill data requests from planning partners.
- Reviewed FY2025 road budget allocations for each of the urbanized areas in the SEMCOG region.

## Project 24908, Engaging Regional Stakeholders

Grant/Task	Grantor	Local	Total
ZSS24, 24908	\$0	\$858,592.72	\$858,592.72

This project provides the opportunity to engage SEMCOG members and other regional stakeholders on regional plans, policies, and programs. Through these communications, we achieve outcomes that result in a better understanding of regional plans, policies, and programs, showcasing that work to our members and other audiences, and furthering plan implementation.

### Product 1: Publications: *Regional Update* e-newsletter, reports, and blogs

SEMCOG's biweekly *Regional Update* newsletter is the organization's most important member communication tool. It provides timely information of regional interest 25-26 times a year. Articles include notice of SEMCOG meetings, SEMCOG University workshops, reports, data, news releases, public notices, items of regional interest sent to SEMCOG by partner organizations, membership information (e.g., new members), and legislative information related to SEMCOG work. Target audience includes SEMCOG members, partner organizations, and media contacts. Newsletter is sent via Informz email. *Regional Update* is posted on [www.semco.org](http://www.semco.org), and stories are posted on social media. Open rates are tracked in monthly progress reports. Some representative samples:

- [September 6, 2023](#)
- [November 1, 2023](#)
- [May 7, 2024](#)
- [June 18, 2024](#)

Blog articles are another vehicle to disseminate messages and information. Blogs are posted on SEMCOG's website and on social media. A link is also included in *Regional Update*. Members/the public can subscribe to blogs and receive the blog via email when posted; some blogs are also sent via individual mailings. Tracking totals for this fiscal year: 50 blogs were posted (41 in FY 2023) with 15,684 page views (9,057 page views in FY 2023).

### Product 2: News releases, media advisories, etc.

The media plays an important role in reaching SEMCOG's target audiences. News releases are developed by SEMCOG on a regular basis announcing important regional information and sent to a media committee that also includes the communications person in SEMCOG member communities. Inclusion of member communities helps to ensure they are informed of SEMCOG communications activities and are encouraged to post information on their websites and social media. News releases are posted on [www.semco.org](http://www.semco.org), included in *Regional Update*, and also posted on social media. Some representative samples:

- **July 27, 2023** - [SEMCOG announces over \\$500,000 in funding awards for 2024 Planning Assistance Program](#)
- **September 19, 2023** - [Health Climate Task Force Launches on October 2](#)
- **November 29, 2023** - [Annual crash stats report: increase in severe traffic crashes persists since pandemic](#)
- **May 2, 2024** - [SEMCOG announces \\$4.4 million in funding awards for walking and biking projects in Southeast Michigan](#)
- **May 17, 2024** – [Air Quality Advisory Declared for Saturday, May 18 in Southeast Michigan](#)
- **June 20, 2024** – [Air Quality Advisory \(AQI Orange\) Declared for Friday, June 21 in Southeast Michigan](#)

Media advisories are notifications to the media of impending SEMCOG public meetings (e.g., Transportation Coordinating Council, Executive Committee, General Assembly). They are invitations to the media to attend the meeting and report on the proceedings. Media advisories are sent to the same Informz emailing list as news releases. Media advisories are posted on [www.semco.org](http://www.semco.org), included in *Regional Update*, and posted on social media. Public notices of actions related to plans (amendments, approval, adoption) are sent to the entire SEMCOG mail database (7,000+), included in *Regional Update*, and posted on social media. Some representative samples:

- **August 15, 2023** – [Over 170 local officials to test drive and discuss electric vehicle \(EV\) technologies this Thursday](#)
- **May 3, 2024**– [SEMCOG Executive Committee meets May 3, 2024](#)

This product also tracks our contacts with media in a given month. That information is included in the monthly progress report.

### Product 3: Website updates

SEMCOG's website is a vital component in delivering information to SEMCOG members, the public, and others, based on SEMCOG's work program. [SEMCOG's website](#) includes a Community Selection Tool, which allows users to see the site data already queried for the community they select, and a responsive design that displays information depending on the device being used (such as a cell phone or tablet). [Site visitors are able to perform searches of several dynamic databases, such as community profiles and crash data, a map gallery, and much more. The site also includes a publications database, blog, and other information, such as Quick Facts. Statistics for FY 2024:](#)

- Pageviews – 422,006 (558,794 in FY 2023)

**Most visited pages – Crash and Road Data (173,269); Search Results (20,343); Community Profiles (16,911); Traffic Counts (16,287); Data and Maps (14,082); Map Gallery (5887); Directory (5,844); Careers (5,134)**

**Product 4: Social media communications and tracking**

SEMCOG uses social media as another communications tool. We are active on Facebook, X/Twitter, LinkedIn, YouTube, TikTok and Instagram. Most of the messages originate from the other tools described here. A few things originate on social media. Those include pictures from staff sent from events that they are attending; pictures from SEMCOG meetings (General Assembly, Executive Committee, Transportation Coordinating Council, SEMCOG Universities); pictures of SEMCOG staff and stakeholders engaged in meaningful work; and additional information on our products (especially ParkFinder®) not used in any other tool.

Through social media, we reach SEMCOG members, partners, the media, and the general public. Social media plays a very important role in reaching the general public. It is increasingly important to SEMCOG funders – particularly the U.S. Department of Transportation and Michigan Department of Transportation – that SEMCOG use and enhance its social media presence as a primary mechanism of communicating with the public. Public notices are posted on social media. Social media is tracked in monthly progress reports based on established benchmarks. Here are the number of followers for the year: Facebook: 3,350 (3,204 in FY 2023); X/Twitter: 3,799 (3,713 in FY 2023); TikTok 76, Instagram 727 (604 in FY 2023); LinkedIn has 1,823 followers (1,306 in FY 2023). Other stats are included monthly in the progress reports.

### Product 4: Promotional videos and educational podcasts

SEMCOG produces videos and podcasts to communicate with our members and the public.

The numbers of views for the [videos we created](#) and/or promoted in this fiscal year are tracked here:

- July: 1,400 YouTube views on SEMCOG channel

- Experience Dining in Macomb County, 75 YouTube views on SEMCOG's channel, 3,400 organic views on Make Macomb Your Home's Facebook page, 18,700 views with \$400 paid ad on Make Macomb's Facebook page
- August: 1,800 YouTube views
- Experience Beverly Hills- 589 YouTube views, 668 FB views
- Experience River Rouge- 149 YouTube views, 274 views on River Rouge FB
- Experience Northville Township- 104 YouTube views, 3,700 views on Northville Township FB page.
- September: No new videos, 1,500 views on existing YouTube videos.
- October: SEMCOG Fleet EV event video (57 views on YouTube)
- 1,600 views on existing YouTube videos. The top being IDEP trainings and Public Works Washtenaw video.
- 300 views on FB from existing WBDS videos.
- November: 1,114 total YouTube views
- Experience Southgate Video (1,000 views on Southgate's FB page, 109 FB views on Southgate Parks & Rec page, 117 views on SEMCOG YouTube, for a total of 1,226 views)
- Experience Southeast Michigan (319 FB views, 78 YouTube views, total of 397 views)
- Experience Brownstown Township (1,600 views on Brownstown FB page, 120 SEMCOG YouTube views, total of 1,720 views)
- 1,000 views for existing WBDS videos on FB
- EV video (40 views)
- December: 778 total views on SEMCOG YouTube
- Experience Eastpointe (170 YouTube views on SEMCOG's channel)
- Water workforce video repost (94 FB views)
- Public Sector Careers, Public Works (old video, 74 additional views)
- January: MI CareerQuest Southeast, 81 YouTube views, 826 total views on SEMCOG YouTube
- February: No new videos, 803 total views on SEMCOG YouTube 126 views on FB
- March: No New Videos, 988 total views on SEMCOG YouTube
- April: Over 6,849 video views across all platforms
- Timelapse of downtown during NFL draft- 3,500 twitter views, 94 FB views
- RTP public comment video- 73 YouTube views
- Man stuck in a rain barrel- 200 YouTube views, 218 FB views, 37 twitter views, 1800 TikTok views
- May: Approximately 350,000 paid video views for Safe Streets
- Over 6,000 organic video views across all platforms
- 1,107 organic views on LinkedIn
- 2, 369 organic TikTok views, 51,087 paid TikTok views
- 2,118 organic views on FB + Twitter + Instagram
- 298,437 paid views on FB + Instagram
- 1,600 total organic views on SEMCOG YouTube
- June: Approximately 253,000 paid video views for One Water

- Over 53,000 organic video views across all platforms
- 6,261 organic TikTok views, 42,000 organic TikTok views for rain barrel video
- 1,500 organic impressions on LinkedIn
- 3,623 organic views on FB + Twitter + Instagram
- 211,205 paid views on FB + Instagram for One Water
- 1,400 total organic views on SEMCOG YouTube

#### **Product 5: Graphic design programs/projects**

- SEMCOG produces graphic pieces that support and maintain our branding as well as engages our audience(s) with the great work that is done across our agency. Those products included:
  - July-September 2023
    - Placemaking Display
    - What's Next handout
    - New Sign-out process for outdoor signage
    - Shining Light stage display
    - EV Expo materials
  - October-December 2023
    - Tools and Data for Transportation handout
    - Regional Safety Audit handout
    - Maps with Updated Data handout
    - Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) FAQs handout
  - January-March 2024
    - Formatting and layout of the Vision 2050 report
    - Safety First magazine
    - Rebranding WBDS with new Safe Streets materials
    - 5 new one-pagers including About Us, Economic Development District, and Maps with Updated Data handout
  - April-June 2024
    - Year in Review handout
    - Vision 2050 Summary report
    - Education Member brochure
    - GA Display highlighting the 2024 Regional Showcase winner

#### **Product 6: Image Library**

- SEMCOG is active around the region taking photos of the many assets that our region has to offer as well as the many opportunities to engage our members. Those photos are housed in our Image Library where staff can access to use to enhance our products and better present our data in a more engaging manner.
- For the FY 2023-2024, the Communications Department has added new **555** images, icons, and QR codes

**Project 24910, General Program Management**

<b>Grant/Task</b>	<b>Grantor</b>	<b>Local</b>	<b>Total</b>
ZSS24, 24910	\$0	\$268,420.20	\$268,420.20

**Product 1: Administration memoranda and correspondence**

Internal communications are produced to keep staff informed of agency activities and operations.

**Product 2: Monthly progress reports and expenditure summaries**

Progress reports are produced to monitor advancement of SEMCOG work.

**Product 3: Annual work program completion report**

See [Completion Report](#).

**Product 4: Annual work program and budget**

See [Work Program](#) and [budget documents](#).

**Product 5: Human resource administration**

Human resources activities include the on-boarding and off-boarding of employees, ongoing administration of fringe benefits, and dispensing information to staff.

## Project 24920, Enabling Regional Decision Making

Grant/Task	Grantor	Local	Total
ZSS24, 24920	\$0	\$960,577.01	\$960,577.01

**Product 1: Products/tools designed to increase participation in planning and decision-making and increase capacity of local governments.**

### Member Orientation Program

This program is designed to provide an orientation to General Assembly delegates and alternates. Upon completion of the program, delegates and alternates understand their role on the General Assembly and are knowledgeable about the benefits of SEMCOG membership so that their community is taking advantage of all that is available. Approximately one-third of our General Assembly members turn over each year.

The process includes:

- Welcome packet – a description of role on General Assembly; meeting schedule; member benefits brochure; recent magazine; legislative policy platform; recent publications.
- Visit with staff – an opportunity for members to ask questions about GA or member benefits; role on GA is reinforced.

### New Members

SEMCOG added four new members this year: Armada Township, Hartland Township, Village of Pinckney, and York Township.

### Committee Orientation

Committee members were elected at the June GA. Orientations will take place as necessary.

### SEMConnect

This year, staff hired a consultant to evaluate our efficiency of use of our AMS database. We are currently in the process of working with our database administrator on gaps identified in the evaluation and preparing to invite presentations from other AMS providers to determine whether we want to continue with the current system or move to an alternative system. We are improving efficiency in a number of areas with the use of a new data importing tool. Staff met regularly throughout the year to troubleshoot and provide solutions to day-to-day SEMConnect work. Staff performed on-going data integrity checks and monthly purges throughout the year.

### GrantFinder

Staff conducted surveys of GrantFinder users to help evaluate the value of the database. It has been determined that members are not getting value commensurate with the cost of GrantFinder, we are in discussions with the database company to determine at what level we want to continue with our subscription.

### Member Meet-ups

SEMCOG continued these informal member gatherings and tours of community projects. Planning for the future includes strengthening the educational component and striving to prioritize engagement by our less active members and focusing on equity emphasis communities. Four meet-ups have been held Rochester Hills, Sterling Heights, NFL Draft/SEMCOG Offices, Oak Park. These tours and networking have been *invaluable in connecting members interested in learning from one another about innovative projects and how they were implemented.* They also provide SEMCOG an opportunity for informal networking with members.

## **Product 2: General Assembly, Executive Committee, standing committees, and task force membership lists, meeting notices, and agendas**

### **General Assembly**

Planning our General Assembly meetings included focus on holding these events at regional assets and offering tours of the site and/or welcome remarks from the site host offering insight to the unique offerings/attributes of the site. The October meetings continue to feature a workshop format. Opportunities to increase attendance, particularly by representatives from communities that are less engaged or from equity emphasis areas continue to be a focus.

### **Executive Committee**

These meetings continue to offer members opportunities to engage on priority regional issues. Speakers included Brad Wieferich, MDOT Director; Judy Allen, MTA Legislative Affairs Director; Deena Bosworth, MAC Director of Government Affairs; Meghann Keit-Corrian, Dykema Government Policy Advisor; and John LaMacchia, MML Director of State and Federal Affairs.

Amendments to the Transportation Improvement Program and Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) were approved, as were the 2050 RTP, GREEN Policies and Metrics, Public Participation Plan, Priority Climate Action Plan, and Safety Performance Targets.

### **Standing Committees**

We continue to address transportation issues in a holistic manner through the Transportation Coordinating Council. Efforts are being made to engage more local transportation planners/engineers through membership on this committee. As a result of SEMCOG's designation as an Economic Development District, and Economic Development Council has been established. The first meeting was held in May.

### **Task Forces**

The GREEN Task Force and Healthy Climate Task Force concluded their work. The Justice40 Communities Task Force began its work.

## **Product 3: Member recognition programs**

SEMCOG presents Regional Ambassador Awards annually. The Regional Ambassador Award is SEMCOG's highest honor for individuals and organizations making Southeast Michigan a better place to live, work, and raise a family. SEMCOG has been recognizing and celebrating the outstanding leaders of Southeast Michigan since 1974. The Regional Ambassador Award is a symbol of the foresight, courage, and persistence that it takes to be a champion beyond your own community or organization. Regional Ambassadors seek to support and influence those working beyond their own sphere of authority in order to develop a shared investment in the success of Southeast Michigan. This year's Regional Ambassadors were Al Haidous, Wayne County Commissioner and the University of Michigan Research Seminar on Quantitative Economics.

The Regional Showcase award recognizes a project or initiative that has made a significant contribution to SEMCOG's vision of a connected, thriving region of small towns, dynamic urban centers, active waterfronts, diverse neighborhoods, agricultural land, and parks, trails and natural areas. Wayne County's Ford Fair Lane Estate Fishway project was recognized this year.

SEMCOG has been a proud partner with the Taubman Company since 1991 in offering the Taubman Fellowship program. The fellowship program, generously funded by the Taubman Company provides registration, materials, room, and board for local elected officials, selected by SEMCOG, to attend the Harvard University John F. Kennedy School of Government program for Senior Executives in State and

Local Government Farmington Mayor Joseph LaRussa and Fraser Mayor Michael Lesich were named in 2024.

**Product 4: Bylaws and voting system updates**

Regular updates were made to the voting system as members were added and subtracted. Quorum tracking has been instituted as part of registration for each General Assembly and Executive Committee meeting.



**SEMCOG Officers  
2024-2025**

**Mandy Grewal**  
Vice Chairperson  
*Supervisor,  
Pittsfield Township*

**Gwen Markham**  
First Vice Chair  
*Commissioner,  
Oakland County*

**Ann Marie Graham Hudak**  
Vice Chairperson  
*Supervisor,  
Canton Township*

**Laura Kropp**  
Vice Chairperson  
*Mayor,  
Mount Clemens*

**Diana McKnight-Morton**  
Vice Chairperson  
*Trustee,  
Washtenaw Community College*

**Michelle Nard**  
Vice Chairperson  
*Commissioner,  
Macomb County*

**Pauline Repp**  
Immediate Past Chair  
*Mayor,  
Port Huron*

**Amy O'Leary**  
Executive Director