

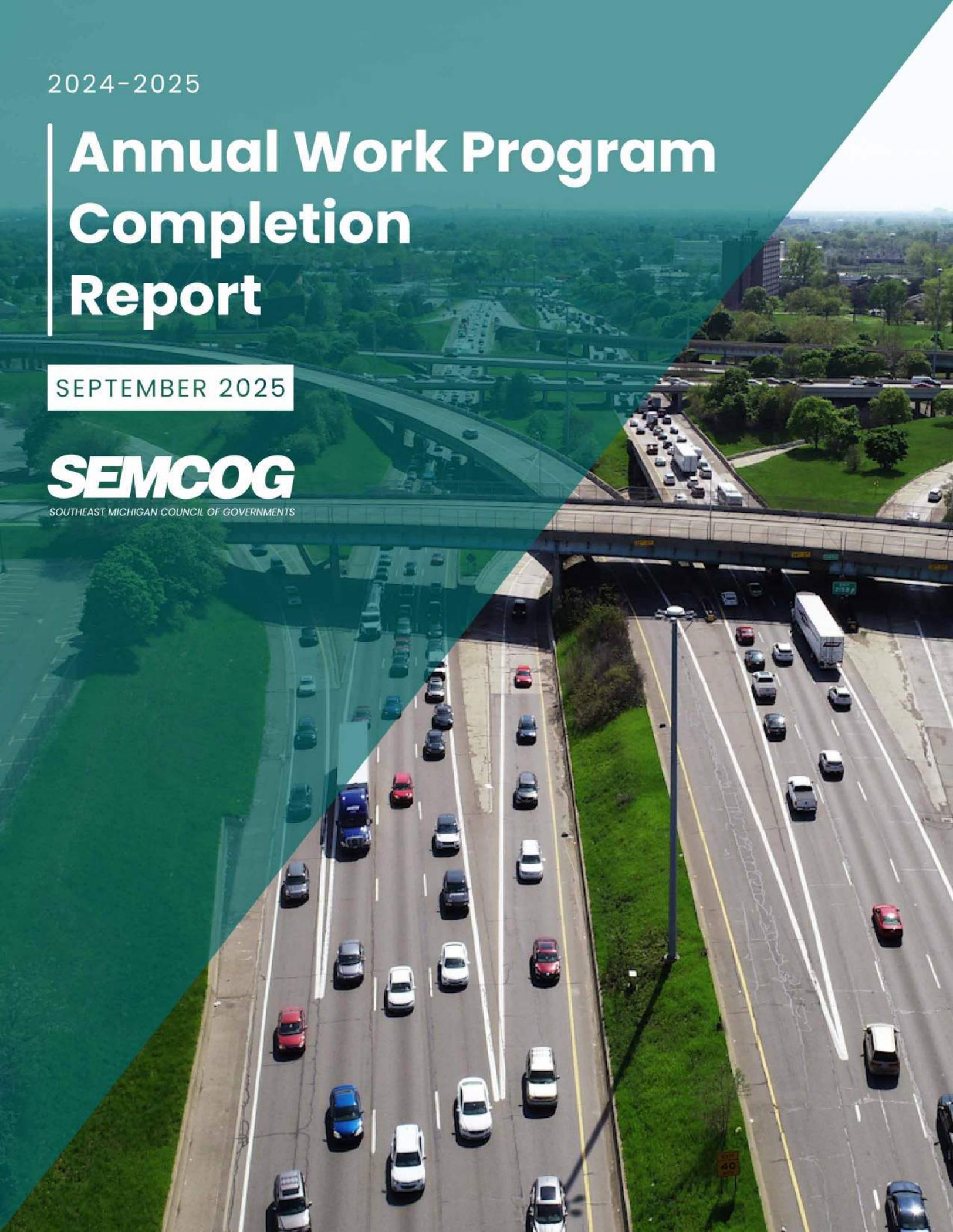
2024-2025

Annual Work Program Completion Report

SEPTEMBER 2025

SEMCOG

SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS



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

2024-2025

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ABSTRACT

This document describes the activities and accomplishments of SEMCOG in completing work contained in the 2024-2025 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 2024-2025 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.

OVERVIEW OF PROGRAM AREA ACCOMPLISHMENTS

INTRODUCTION

This section describes the work accomplished by SEMCOG in fiscal year 2024-2025. 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 Collection and Analysis
- Plan and Policy Development
- Plan Implementation
- Direct Management and Special Projects
- Support Services

DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS

24160/25160 – Transportation Asset Management

25115 – Data Collection, Management, and Distribution

25130 – Demographic and Socio-Economic Forecast

25142 – Monitoring Regional Performance and Reliability

Data Collection and Analysis

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 communities across the seven-county region, planning partners, business community, and the public.

Economic Growth

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 socio-economic 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.

Tracking the region's annual unemployment rate gives policy makers valuable information on the region's economic health. For 2024, the region's unemployment rate came in at 4.5%; which is greater than the U.S. rate of 4%, but lower than Michigan's rate of 4.7%.

Another example is employment trends. Southeast Michigan's total wage and salary jobs declined by 9.4% in 2020 and have been rebounding in the years since. Employment is almost back to year 2019 levels, for there are 27,000 fewer jobs in 2024 than in 2019, a difference of 1.2%.

Lastly, sometimes it is useful to have more recent estimates than annual averages. SEMCOG's High-Frequency Economic Dashboard provides the latest trends important to stakeholders in our region. For example, the region's core industry, automobile manufacturing, is sensitive to economic cycles. Looking at the latest monthly trends for U.S. vehicle sales informs on the health of the industry and provides a bit of an early indicator in the event of a downturn. The latest seasonally adjusted annual rate (SAAR) for June 2025 indicates that annual sales rates are just over 15 million. This rate has been mostly unchanged for the last couple of years, suggesting the automotive sector is holding steady; it's not declining, but it's not prospering either.

SEMCOG also keeps up with changes for all employment establishments by working from detailed employment datasets. 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.

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, and regional transit planning.

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.

Since the last Census, Southeast Michigan has seen notable shifts in population growth. Between the 2020 Census and 2021, the region experienced a significant population decline of 28,900 people. This downward trend continued into 2021–2022, although the loss was smaller, at 8,800. However, starting in 2022, the trend reversed with population increasing by 13,500 between 2022 and 2023 and increasing further by 34,900 between 2023 and 2024. As of July 2024, SEMCOG region’s population stood at 4,841,400 people, an increase of 10,500 from Census 2020 population. This indicates a strong recovery and a growth phase after two years of decline, suggesting improved economic conditions in the region. Although the region still experiences domestic net out-migration, it’s encouraging to note that the rate of domestic out-migration is on a downward trend and is being supplemented by positive international migration leading to a positive net migration into the region. 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 regularly updates its online tools and maps to improve user experience and provide easy access to a wide range of information. The Data and Maps page is continuously updated and enhanced with intuitive interfaces, making it easy for users to quickly find key information. In addition, SEMCOG frequently updates regional demographic indicators, offering insights into important trends in Southeast Michigan, such as education levels, income, and poverty rates at both regional and local levels. It also performs in-depth demographic analyses for smaller geographic areas, including census tracts and block groups. With ongoing improvements and updated data, SEMCOG’s online tools deliver clear summaries and detailed analyses of demographic patterns and geographic distributions across various levels of the region.

SEMCOG produces annual population estimates to provide a timely and accurate picture of demographic trends across Southeast Michigan. These estimates offer insights into short-terms population changes at regional, county, and community level, helping to track shifts in growth, decline, and migration patterns. SEMCOG’s estimates serve as a reliable resource between decennial censuses. They are essential for local governments, planners, and policy makers to make informed decisions related to infrastructure, public services, and economic development. Updated annually, these estimates support data-driven planning and help communities respond to changing population dynamics in a proactive and informed way.

Regional Development Forecast

SEMCOG’s Demographic and Economic analyses are key components of SEMCOG’s Regional Development Forecast, helping to assess how population and employment trends may shape future growth in Southeast Michigan. Population change in the region is expected to follow a different path than in the past, largely due to a significant aging of population. While this is a national trend, Southeast Michigan has a particularly large share of baby boomers

compared to other areas. Between 2020 and 2050, the number of residents aged 65 and older is projected to rise significantly, with an increase of 292,200 people or 36 percent. Much of this growth will come from those aged 85 or older, a group expected to grow by more than 130 percent. At the same time, the number of working age adults (ages 25 to 64) is projected to increase slightly by 90,700. In contrast, the population of individuals 24 and younger is expected to decline by 74,900. Understanding these shifts is essential for regional planning, as the growing aging population will influence future needs for housing, transportation, healthcare, and workforce development. Employment growth in Southeast Michigan is expected to be slower but steady. Job gains will be led by sectors like health care, professional services, and education, driven by an aging population and shifting economic demands. Manufacturing employment is expected to decline slightly due to ongoing automation. These trends highlight the importance of aligning workforce development with evolving industry needs.

These trends, highlighted in the SEMCOG's 2050 Regional Development Forecast, serve as a critical foundation for the development of the upcoming 2055 forecast. The data, trends, and insights identified in the 2050 forecast—including population growth, demographic shifts, employment patterns, and land use changes—provide a baseline for refining assumptions and methodologies used in long-term planning. Lessons learned from the 2050 forecast process, along with updated data and evolving regional conditions, help ensure the 2055 forecast reflects more accurate and forward-looking projections. This continuity allows SEMCOG to build on its existing work, improving the precision of future forecasts and supporting more informed regional planning and investment decisions.

SEMCOG's regional development forecast provides detailed data on population, households, housing units, and employment 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, housing units, and employment by sector. 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 changes to the region's building inventory and the associated impact on land use change is essential to both regional and local planning. SEMCOG continues to collect and process local data on building construction and land use change, which are used for analyzing current development trends and in developing future development expectations in SEMCOG's socioeconomic land use models.

SEMCOG's buildings inventory is a GIS data layer that represents the outline of every building in the region, as drawn from the roofline down, as well as containing information on the location,

size, and use of the building. Continuing to develop and update the buildings inventory is important to SEMCOG because it is heavily used in our planned and forecasting work. SEMCOG produces its regional development forecast by modeling changes to the use of individual buildings over time, and a complete updated buildings inventory is a necessity for accurate small area forecasting. SEMCOG updated its GIS buildings data layer to be current as of the end of 2024 by adding recently constructed buildings, marking as demolished those buildings that have been removed, and updating the attributes of existing structures to capture changes in the size or use of the buildings, including building square footage, building type, and the number of housing units. SEMCOG also updated the inventory of condominiums and manufactured housing parks in the region, both of which are also used in developing the regional forecast. The buildings GIS data layer is also heavily used by local communities and is made available to them in SEMCOG's open data portal.

SEMCOG also develops an inventory of planned future buildings by working with local communities to collect information on upcoming planned construction and translate this information into a GIS layer of future buildings. Each community in the region is contacted to collect these future development expectations, both residential and nonresidential, and this dataset is a key input into the regional development forecast as it represents known expected changes in local land use. Building permit data collected from local communities are used to identify when these future buildings have been constructed and can then be transferred into SEMCOG's current buildings inventory.

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 this 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 2024 with a total of 8,745 new residential building permits issued, a 7% decrease from 2023. Since 2020, the region has averaged approximately 9,700 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 215 nonresidential projects completed in 2024, accounting for 14.7 million square feet of floor space in the region with a reported construction value of \$2.4 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.

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 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 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 rebuilt the modeling workflow and introduced 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 can 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 for an annual subscription to Nearmap as well as an offline copy of the imagery from SEMCOG.

SEMCOG continues 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 CMPASS – Community of Michigan Professionals Advancing Spatial Sciences, 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 of Metropolitan Planning Organizations.

SEMCOG's website is a vital tool for delivering information to SEMCOG members and the public. Site visitors can search several dynamic databases: building permits, community profiles, forecast, and population estimates, to name a few. During this past year, new applications were added to the website, as well as updated functionality to existing applications and more

current data was added to SEMCOG’s website. Additional data and analysis are also made available to SEMCOG members and partners in a timely manner through QuickFacts on the website. SEMCOG continues to maintain an Open Data Portal, which provides geospatial data. Much of our effort on the web site includes new data visualization in terms of maps, dashboards and other applications to provide new and innovative ways to analyze and view data.

PLAN AND POLICY DEVELOPMENT

24286 – Infrastructure Collaboration

24287 – Climate Action Plan (Ongoing)

24290 – Protect – Regional Resiliency Plan (Ongoing)

24204/25204 – MDOT Project Coordination & Assistance

25206 – Travel Management

25207 – Household Survey

25220 – Guiding Regional Investment

25225 – Complete Streets

25226 – Economic Vitality

25284 – Michigan Infrastructure Council

25289 – Environmental Sustainability

Prioritizing and Programming Transportation Investments

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

SEMCOG adopted and began the implementation of 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, 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.

SEMCOG prepared and adopted the FY 26–29 TIP narrative and project list and submitted to MDOT and federal partners. As part of the TIP development process, SEMCOG hosted a series of meetings to educate FACs and other stakeholders on the FY 26–29 TIP funding sources and targets, programming best practices, enhanced reporting and analyses, coordinate on performance measures, call-for-projects strategy, project prioritization and selection, project delivery timelines, and project migration.

Air Quality and Water Resource Policy

SEMCOG continues to be a leader in air quality public policy and planning discussions, advocating for national and State programs that foster 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 Quality webpage.

One of the key highlights of this work 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.

SEMCOG staff also formed a PM 2.5 workgroup in 2024 that met monthly through April 2025. The purpose of the workgroup was to work collaboratively with EGLE Air Quality Division staff as they shared detailed data and information they were compiling for the PM2.5 recommended designations for the State of Michigan. This workgroup met eight (8) times between August 2024 and April 2025. The workgroup consisted of stakeholders across public and private partners as well as academia to review and provide feedback on the data and attainment analysis. EGLE Air Quality Division submitted the PM2.5 attainment recommendations to USEPA in February 2025. The EPA will consider these recommendations and finalize designations by February 2026 unless they extend the deadline to February 2027. The workgroup also stayed abreast of the EPA review status for the Wayne County SO₂ redesignation request from nonattainment to attainment.

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, 15 CMAQ and 18 CRP projects were obligated in FY 2025.

SEMCOG advanced recommendations in the Strategic Framework for 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. SEMCOG also launched the Southeast Michigan Wetland Mapper and Storymap, launched in May 2025. The Mapper highlights the region's diverse wetlands and their various functions, with data sourced from SEMCOG's Open Data

Portal and is based on the US Fish & Wildlife Service's National Wetlands Inventory, updated in 2015 through collaboration with the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) and Ducks Unlimited, Inc. (DU). This analysis focuses on high functioning wetlands, highlighting wetlands that function for water quality, carbon sequestration, flood storage, and habitat. The corresponding Storymap acts as background information for the importance of Southeast Michigan wetlands, as well as a user guide for the tool.

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% of the federal-aid road network in 2024. SEMCOG closed out the FY2024 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 infrastructure project data for near term (4-5 year) and longer term (20 year) projects.

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.

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.

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 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, 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 implementation of Vision 2050, SEMCOG developed and promoted the RTP project amendment schedule and protocol to coincide with the TIP amendment schedule. SEMCOG maintained and updated the interactive hub resource site for Vision 2050. The site provides information to both the public and federal-aid committees for future project development.

SEMCOG coordinated an advisory committee to update an ADA Transition Plan to identify and improve barriers to transportation planning for SEMCOG facilities. SEMCOG worked with advisory group to establish more public engagement and seek public feedback on Public Participation Plan and ADA Transition Plan.

Additionally, SEMCOG was actively engaged in the consultation process of transportation conformity for the three amendments (2024 fall, 2025 spring and 2025 summer) of SEMCOG's

2050 RTP and both Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 – FY 2026 and FY 2026 – FY 2029 TIPs.

Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

SEMCOG continued day-to-day management of the FY2023–FY2026 TIP 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 prepared and adopted the FY 26–29 TIP narrative and project list and submitted to MDOT and federal partners. As part of this process, SEMCOG hosted a series of meetings to educate FACs and other stakeholders on the FY 26–29 TIP funding sources and targets, programming best practices, and enhanced reporting and analyses as well as coordinating on performance measures, call-for-projects strategy, project prioritization and selection, project delivery timelines, and project migration.

As part of implementing and maintaining the FY26–29 TIP, SEMCOG worked with MDOT to develop a virtual JobNet training/refresher course and 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 and MDOT held quarterly major project coordination and general coordination meetings and 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.

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.

SEMCOG also completed the modeling analysis for the development of FY 2026–FY 2029 TIP. The following activities were conducted regarding preparing the model inputs, forecasting future travel demands, performing the environmental justice and conformity analysis of these required model years: 2025, 2030, 2035, 2040, 2045, and 2050.

Transportation Accessibility

The past fiscal year was marked by a sustained, multi-phase effort on the Transportation Accessibility in Southeast Michigan project. This initiative achieved significant milestones across three key areas: project establishment, data and technical development, and analytical product creation. The work was characterized by weekly meetings, cross-departmental collaboration, and the iterative development and refinement of code and data.

SEMCOG refined and enhanced a regional Demographic 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. 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 several languages.

Managing the Regional Transportation System

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 2024-2025, staff updated the transportation system performance measures using the 2024 INRIX NPMRDS (national performance management research data set) 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. 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.

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.

SEMCOG maintains and updates both the regional models - the travel demand forecasting model (TDM) and the dynamic traffic assignment model (DTA). SEMCOG refined the current base 2025 DTA model network with updated posted speed, number of lanes data, signal locations, and signal timing data (including several geometric configuration changes based on the application of regional DTA model at project level). Staff also updated the future years 2045 and 2050 DTA model networks by incorporating the latest RTP\TIP roadway projects.

DTA models for base and future years were evaluated for incorporating the trip demand inputs from newly developed Activity based Model (ABM). High-level model validation and reasonableness checks including VMT, VHT, and average speed data, were compared with the DTA model results using input data from the existing trip based regional models.

Regional DTA models are used to analyze\evaluate the traffic performance measures for several projects including construction, road diet, and road widening projects as requested by planning partners. SEMCOG used the base 2025 and future 2045 regional DTA models to evaluate the traffic performance measures\impact for following projects: a road diet project on Military St/Huron Ave (I-94BL/I-69BL) in City of Port Huron; Michigan Ave\US-12 one-lane reduction in Detroit Downtown and Corktown area; and realignment of freeway auxiliary lanes and geometric change for interchange at US-23\Washtenaw avenue in Washtenaw county. Major steps performed in these studies include 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 and analyzed, and performance measures were computed and evaluated for corridors under the study area for different scenarios. GIS maps were created for displaying traffic diversions in study area during AM and PM peak hours due to differences in volumes between different scenarios. Display maps for diverted traffic can be accessed from the files directory and attached with the documents.

Finally, SEMCOG partnered with MDOT in conducting the 2024-2025 statewide and SEMCOG's household travel surveys (MTC4/STC25). MDOT funded 2,275 household samples from the statewide survey while SEMCOG funded an additional 7,325 samples across SEMCOG's seven-county region. SEMCOG's contract with RSG kicked off in September 2024, and the entire project will be completed by the end of SEMCOG's 2026 fiscal year. The following activities were conducted over the past fiscal year by RSG for the spring data collection of this contract.

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 United States' premier trade gateway with Canada is of immense 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 has long integrated freight system planning into its regional transportation planning process, including maintaining a freight system inventory and geodatabases to evaluate its condition, operation, and safety.

For the first time, SEMCOG began the development of a standalone regional freight plan. The work is expected to continue into 2026 with a fall adoption. Work began this FY with the

formation of a Freight Task Force to help guide the plan's development. Additional efforts included the collection and updating of freight system data along with the creation of a Freight Hub with interactive components to display regional freight data.

Talent/People Initiatives

As one of the three pillars of the CEDS, SEMCOG worked on several 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, including 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 also 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.

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
- 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 helped to guide 61 communities through various aspects of bicycle and pedestrian planning. SEMCOG 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 shows all count locations.

SEMCOG continued to enhance and update its Bicycle and Pedestrian GIS data, including the updating of event table data structures, non-motorized network data structure, and updated non-motorized network. 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

23318 – GLRI (Ongoing)

23346 – Materials Management

23360 – Smart Cities and Electric Fleets

24315 – GLRI EJ (Ongoing)

24327 – DNR Spark Grants Technical Assistances (Ongoing)

24345 – Multimodal Tool

24370 – Safe Streets Road Safety Audit Program (Ongoing)

24375 – MI Infrastructure Office Technical Assistance (Ongoing)

25314 – Local Capacity Building

25330 – Public Transit

25344 – Safety and Security

25347 – Climate Resiliency Feasibility Assessments (Ongoing)

25350 – Education and Workforce Development

25355 – Water Resource Policy & Planning

25358 – Drinking Water Monitoring (Ongoing)

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 89 communities throughout the region regarding eligibility and competitiveness of funding. In the past fiscal year, SEMCOG awarded over \$13 million to 11 projects for fiscal years 2026–2028. 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 administered the FY25 Planning Assistance Program to fund Planning projects across five priority topics of regional significance and move plans and priorities forward:

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

In total, 14 projects were awarded \$480,000 for FY2025. All completed projects have been or will be added to SEMCOG’s Planning Assistance Program interactive mapping tool. To complete these projects, SEMCOG provided administrative support and technical assistance for these projects. Highlights of these successful projects were shared at SEMCOG University workshops. Additionally, sessions highlighting successful projects were shared at the October 2024, General Assembly meeting.

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) 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 transportation challenges.

SEMCOG advanced recommendations in the Strategic Framework for 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 and improve the quality of life in Southeast Michigan communities.

SEMCOG’s Local Government Effectiveness and Collaboration (LGEC) work engaged communities to help them increase their effectiveness. These engagements continued to include assistance to help 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: AI implementation, modernizing municipal facilities, data storytelling to support millage proposals, and collaborative purchasing.

In FY2025, 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 local governments. Munetrix continues to expand the scope of its services to local governments and in FY2025, SEMCOG engaged in conversations about how to evolve this partnership in the future through enhanced data resources and webinar/workshop content.

SEMCOG also works to share best practices across the region to increase efficiency and effectiveness of services. During FY2025, SEMCOG's Locals Lead Initiative celebrated and shared the best practices and success stories of local governments from across the region who are innovating and collaborating to improve their communities. This initiative featured content and presentations at SEMCOG Executive Committee and General Assembly events, a series of workshops and webinars, a webpage dedicated to sharing local stories, and social media and blog posts telling these stories.

Workshops and Trainings

SEMCOG hosted 21 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; local government finance tools; among others.

Improving Safety and Multi-Modal Travel in Southeast Michigan

SEMCOG launched and held four 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 coordinating safety implementation activities of the adopted Southeast Michigan Transportation Safety Plan.

SEMCOG completed work with MDOT and a consultant team to add proven safety countermeasures to the Multimodal 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.

SEMCOG continued to implement its first Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) supplemental planning grant by conducting the Road Safety Audit program, including project selection, vendor selection, and other procurement efforts. The SEMCOG team has awarded 19 RSAs, completed 13, and 6 more will be conducted in FY26. In addition, SEMCOG was also awarded a second SS4A regional grant for vulnerable road user demonstration projects. The FHWA grant agreement for this grant is currently in progress.

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 2024 and May 2025, 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 2024, April 2025, and June 2025.

SEMCOG produced a Safe Streets implementation report, which summarizes campaign activities through FY2024, including products produced and distributed. The implementation report will be updated to summarize FY2025 activities of the Safe Streets campaign and will continue to be updated annually going forward.

SEMCOG finished processing 2023 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 2023 Traffic Crash Quick Facts report.

As part of implementation of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Mobility Plan for Southeast Michigan, SEMCOG maintained and updated 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; 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, Michigan Avenue in Detroit's Corktown, I-94 Detroit, I-75/8 Mile interchange, Washtenaw Avenue, Woodward Avenue from Pontiac to Detroit, and I-75 Monroe and Gratiot PEL studies.

Infrastructure Coordination

SEMCOG continues to prioritize infrastructure coordination in the region and 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 infrastructure project data for near term (4-5 year) and longer term (20-year+) projects.

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 collect 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.

SEMCOG finalized a report with MDOT, Infrastructure Collaboration: An Integrated Infrastructure Framework for Southeast Michigan, that describes how coordination should begin at the planning and project selection level. It demonstrates how higher levels of strategic project selection across project sponsors can lead to long-term cost efficiencies and improvements in levels of service.

Planning and Implementing Water Infrastructure 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. SEMCOG regularly highlights the importance of 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 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 2024, SEMCOG published the One Water Implementation Report, which provides 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 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 and with local governments and water resource stakeholders to support water education.

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 an Environmental Resiliency Data Portfolio to compile available relevant information for environmental 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.

Enhancing RideShare, Alternative Commuting, and Electric Vehicles

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.

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.

SEMCOG continued to work and provide technical assistance on several corridor projects such as Gratiot, Woodward, and Michigan Avenues and I-375. Certain transit-related tasks included 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.

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 FY2025, SEMCOG convened a Legislative Policy Platform Task Force to develop the region's 2025-2026 Legislative Policy Platform. During this time, SEMCOG continued work to implement the policies in the region's 2023-2024 Legislative Policy Platform. Both platforms focus on broad policy needs rather than individual pieces of

legislation, consistent with how SEMCOG’s regional plans focus set a direction to achieve a desired result. The policy platforms reference 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 2025–2026 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.

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.

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 continued in FY2025. 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 region’s 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.

DIRECT MANAGEMENT AND SPECIAL PROJECTS

24410/25410 – Commuter Connect

24456/25456 – Air Quality Planning & Education

24550/25550 – EDA Planning Partnership

24555 – Center for Watershed Protection – Green Infrastructure Assessments

25510 – DOT Program Management

25520 – Strategic Engagement

25525 – Advocacy and Elected Official Involvement

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, and a series of media appearances by SEMCOG to share information on regional issues.

SEMCOG's Commuter Connect program continued to work to assist commuters in Southeast Michigan by informing, encouraging, incentivizing, and helping improve how people commute in the region whether using transit, ridesharing, walking, biking, or teleworking. Commuter Connect worked to encourage travelers to maximize the efficiency of our transportation systems. This leads to improved mobility experiences, reduced congestion, lower vehicle emissions, and provides all people with real transportation options. This means 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.

Air Quality Planning (formerly Ozone Action)

In partnership with the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE), SEMCOG continued to communicate air quality concerns with 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, PM2.5 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 aims 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, PM2.5, 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 PM2.5 throughout the year and ground-level Ozone from March 1 through October 31.

Monitoring Legislation

The foundation of SEMCOG rests on its participation from Southeast Michigan's 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 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 ensuring that all levels and all areas of the region have elected official representation on SEMCOG committees. SEMCOG also

reaches out to 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 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 of Michigan’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 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.

SEMCOG maintained a presence in Lansing with staff as well as Dykema. This resulted in numerous contacts, both formally and informally, with legislators from the region as well as statewide. 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. Legislative updates were written for 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.

SUPPORT

25908 – Engaging Regional Stakeholders

25910 – General Program Management

25920 – Enabling Regional Decision Making

GRANTS & PROJECTS BY PAGE

GRANT & PROJECT TABLE

SEMCOG GRANTNAME	PROJECTNUMBER	PAGENUMBER
CPG225	25225	73
CPG25	25115	32
CPG25	25130	39
CPG25	25142	52
CPG25	25206	59
CPG25	25220	70
CPG25	25226	75
CPG25	25289	89
CPG25	25314	102
CPG25	25330	112
CPG25	25344	114
CPG25	25510	150
CPR24	24287	55
CWP24	24555	149
DNRS24	24327	100
DWM25	25358	132
EDS24	24550	138
EDS25	25550	143
EVJA23	23360	98
GLEJ24	24315	99
GLRI23	23318	95
HS25	25207	69
IC24	24286	53
LP25	25350	117
LP25	25355	124
LP25	25520	150
LP25	25525	151
MIC25	25284	89
MIO24	24375	102
MMCE23	23346	97
MT24	24345	101
OZ24	24456	137
OZ25	25456	137
PC24	24204	57
PC25	25204	57
PRRP24	24290	56
RS24	24410	133
RS25	25410	133
SS24	24370	101
TAS24	24160	29
TAS25	25160	29
ZSS25	25908	153
ZSS25	25910	160
ZSS25	25920	161

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 2024-2025.

SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS

SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
 SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS
 Year ended June 30, 2025

Federal Agency/Pass-through Agency Program Title	ALN	Federal Grant Name/Number	SEMCOG GRANT #/ID	Federal Expenditures	Pass Thru Expenditures
U.S. Department of Transportation					
Passed through the Michigan Department of Transportation:					
Federal Highway Administration Highway Planning & Construction	20.205	2024-0009_Z6	CPG25	11,005,553	1,831,589
Federal Highway Administration Highway Planning & Construction	20.205	2024-0009_Z8	CPG225	191,900	-
Federal Highway Administration Highway Planning & Construction	20.205	2024-0009_Z11	CNBS25	22,954	-
Federal Highway Administration Highway Planning & Construction	20.205	2021-0009_Z20_R2	MT24	83,623	-
Federal Highway Administration Highway Planning & Construction	20.205	2024-0009_Z9	OZ25	34,019	-
Federal Highway Administration Highway Planning & Construction	20.205	2024-0009_Z3	OZ24	4,043	-
Federal Highway Administration Highway Planning & Construction	20.205	2024-0009_Z7	HS25	1,027,749	-
Federal Highway Administration Highway Planning & Construction	20.205	2021-0009_Z18_R2	IC24	19,969	-
Federal Highway Administration Highway Planning & Construction	20.205	2024-0009_Z10	PC25	66,064	-
Federal Highway Administration Highway Planning & Construction	20.205	2024-0009_Z4	PC24	4,998	-
Federal Highway Administration Highway Planning & Construction	20.205	2024-0701	RS25	241,559	-
Federal Highway Administration Highway Planning & Construction	20.205	2023-0699	RS24	122,545	-
Total Federal Highway Administration Highway Planning & Construction				<u>12,824,974</u>	<u>1,831,589</u>
Total funds passed through Michigan Department of Transportation				<u>12,824,974</u>	<u>1,831,589</u>
Passed through the Federal Highway Administration Office of Acquisition & Grants Management:					
Southeast Michigan Regional Resilience Improvement Plan	20.205	693JJ32540317	PRRP24	<u>78,788</u>	<u>-</u>
Total funds passed through Federal Highway Administration Office of Acquisition & Grants Management:				<u>78,788</u>	<u>0</u>
Passed through the Federal Highway Administration Office of Safety:					
Safe Streets and Roads For All Grant Program	20.939	693JJ32340553	SS24	<u>231,883</u>	<u>-</u>
Total funds passed through Federal Highway Administration Office of Safety				<u>231,883</u>	<u>0</u>
American Rescue Plan Act Local Parks and Trails					
Passed through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources					
Michigan Spark Grant	21.027	SLFRP0127	DNRS24	<u>41,297</u>	<u>-</u>
Total funds passed through Michigan Department of Natural Resources				<u>41,297</u>	<u>0</u>
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - Water Quality:					
Great Lakes Restorative Initiative 2023	66.469	GL-00E03231-0	GLRI23	333,445	286,154
GLRI Environmental Justice	66.469	4K-00E03689-0	GLEJ24	31,167	5,517
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - Office of Air and Radiation:					
Climate Pollution Reduction Grants	66.046	00E03475	CPR24	<u>302,419</u>	<u>-</u>
Total U.S. Environmental Protection Agency				<u>667,031</u>	<u>291,671</u>
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development					
Passed through the Michigan Economic Development Corporation:					
Electric Vehicle Jobs Academy	14.228	EV ACADEMY_2022_SEMCA, MSC 221030-CV	EVJA23	<u>2,316</u>	<u>-</u>
Total funds passed through Michigan Economic Development Corporation:				<u>2,316</u>	<u>0</u>
U.S. Department of Commerce - Economic Development Administration:					
Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for SE MI	11.302	ED25CHI0G0113	EDS25	1,255	-
EDA Partnership Planning for Implementing SE Michigan CEDS 2024	11.302	ED24CHI0G0059	EDS24	<u>36,364</u>	<u>-</u>
Total U.S. Department of Commerce				<u>37,618</u>	<u>0</u>
Total Federal Awards Expended				<u>\$ 13,883,907</u>	<u>\$ 2,123,259</u>

PRODUCT NARRATIVES BY PROJECT NUMBER

DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS

PROJECT 24160/25160, TRANSPORTATION ASSET MANAGEMENT

GRANT/TASK	GRANTOR	LOCAL	TOTAL
TAS24, 24160	\$239,391.11	\$243.76	\$239,634.87
TAS25, 25160	\$121,476.14	\$0	\$121,476.14

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 2024. PASER data collection has started in 2025 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, Wayne, and Macomb Counties, as well as the City of Detroit, in 2025.

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 FY2024 Local Road Rating Grants. These grants supported collection of PASER road surface condition 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.
- **SEMCOG Planning Assistance Grants** – SEMCOG received a grant to assist communities obtain PASER data on their local road system. A contractor was hired to collect data in the following communities: Algonac, Belleville, Center Line, Clarkston, Clawson, Fraser, Grosse Pointe Farms, Macomb County, Mount Clemens, Port Huron, Rochester, Rochester Hills, Romeo, and Roseville.

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 in 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. SEMCOG reported on roads, bridges, and National Highway System performance. SEMCOG supported statewide performance measures for these categories.
- **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 comply with TAMC guidelines. PASER training sessions in 2025 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.
- **TAMC MPO/RPO Coordination Meetings** – Attended TAMC coordination meetings as needed to ensure that road condition data and compliance plans were completed as necessary.
- Started working on an update of the region’s freight plan, including pavement conditions, bridge limitations, and other performance measures.

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) can 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 24. 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 Pavement Conditions in Southeast Michigan: SEMCOG map now includes 2024 data (<https://www.semco.org/blog/pavement-conditions-in-southeast-michigan/>).
- Updating freight maps in preparation for 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 following communities' plans were 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.

- SEMCOG also provided outreach to communities that have their compliance plan due on October 1, 2025: Lincoln Park, Novi, Pontiac, Sterling Heights, Warren, Westland, and St. Clair 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.
- National Functional Classification Update – SEMCOG is working with the Michigan Department of Transportation to develop a candidate list of roads that should change functional classification after the 2020 Census update. The work is ongoing.
- Reviewed FY2025 road budget allocations for any PASER federal-aid related expenses in each of the counties in the SEMCOG region.

PROJECT 25115, DATA COLLECTION, MANAGEMENT, AND DISTRIBUTION

GRANT/TASK	GRANTOR	LOCAL	TOTAL
CPG25, 25115	\$1,841,379.49	\$408,320.58	\$2,249,700.07

Product 1: Paser Data for Federal-Aid System Submitted to TAMC via the IRT

- SEMCOG migrated 4 maps (Road Jurisdiction, Traffic Volume, Pavement Condition, Bicycle and Pedestrian Count) to the ArcGIS SDK for JavaScript. This modernizes the maps and ensures that they are sustainable.
- SEMCOG published the Wetland Mapper
- SEMCOG migrated the 2020 Census Map from using Carto to store the data to Mapbox. This modernizes the map and ensures that it is sustainable.
- SEMCOG migrated the Commuting Patterns map from storing the data on Carto to storing it local to the map.
- SEMCOG built data modules for the semcog.org website. This involved developing and designing web tools to visualize and query community and transportation data.
- SEMCOG published the Planned Development Data Collection Map.
- SEMCOG extracted and prepared the First Street Flood Risk data and made it more usable by converting it to a file geodatabase.
- SEMCOG updated the Legislative Districts basemaps with new district data.
- SEMCOG upgraded the ArcGIS Pro Mapping Tool for creating SEMCOG standard maps.
- 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 CMPASS (Community of Michigan Professionals Advancing Spatial Sciences).

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. This conference provides opportunities to learn about upcoming GIS software updates as well as new GIS software. SEMCOG also participated in the CMPASS Conference. SEMCOG staff holds the secretary position on the newly formed Michigan GIS Advisory Group.

SEMCOG fulfilled 260 requests for data from communities and the public in the region. These requests were, in the following categories: Aerial Imagery (45), Bridge Data (1), Building Permits (1), Capital Improvement Project Coordination (1), Census Data (7), Community Development (5), Community Profiles (3), Dues (2), Economic Development (36), Education (2), Employment Estimates (5), Electric Vehicle Data (2), Environmental Restoration (1), Forecast Data (4), Funding Data (1), GIS (9), Green Infrastructure (1), Housing (4), Land Cover and Tree Canopy (12), Legislative (1), Local Government Efficiency & Collaboration (26), Member Benefits (68), Nonresidential Development (1), Other (5), Recreation Plan Assistance (7), Socioeconomic Data (2), Traffic Crashes (2), Traffic Safety (1), Transit (1)

The Roads & Highways data includes a GIS layer of all roads and railroads in Michigan, 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.

MDOT Roads & Highways v24 data was downloaded during the second quarter of 2025. 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. MDOT Roads & Highways version 24 will become the new standard GIS "framework" to use across the agency, replacing Roads & Highways version 22. 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 federal-aid highway links) will be created as part of this new framework. Previous versions based on the MGF 16 or 17 road networks have been retained while related products are being updated.

Product 2: Website operation and maintenance

SEMCOG put out an RFQ for a new website vendor, ultimately selecting Cynerge. Work continued throughout the fiscal year with regular virtual meetings between SEMCOG and Cynerge to design and build a more modern-looking website that is easier to edit and maintain. The new website was scheduled to go live early in Fiscal Year 2026.

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 Open Data Portal was redesigned to match SEMCOG's new style guide, issues the data categorization were fixed, and a bug with the back-end code was identified and reported to Esri for fixing. Distribution via the website continues to be an efficient way to provide resources

to SEMCOG members and the general public.

The following web pages were updated during the course of the year: [GIS](#), [Open Data Portal](#), [Data and Maps](#), [Aerial Imagery](#), [Regional Forecast](#), [County Commissioner Districts](#), [Socio-Economic Trends](#) (renamed from Economic Trends), and [Master Plan Data and Trends](#) (created and updated).

The following datasets were added to the SEMCOG Open Data Portal: updated Traffic Volumes, updated Crash Locations, updated Pavement Condition, updated Building Footprints, updated Condominium Units, TIP amendments as they were released, files containing the data that the Demographic Emphasis Areas and Community Explorer tools run on, and 1-foot elevation contours for each county,

The [Multimodal Tool](#) was loaded into the SEMCOG Maps and Apps Gallery, and updates were made to the thumbnails of maps that received significant updates during the year.

The following maps in SEMCOG's Map Gallery received updates to their functionality and/or their data: [Road Jurisdiction](#), [Community Explorer](#), [Membership](#), [TIP and RTP Projects](#), [Demographic Emphasis Areas](#), [Residential Construction](#), [Nonresidential Development](#), [Planning Assistance Projects](#), [Then and Now](#), [Traffic Volume](#), [Pavement Condition](#), [Bicycle and Pedestrian Count Map](#), [Crash Locations](#), [County Commissioner Boundary Map](#), [Legislative Districts Map](#).

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 2023 were examined. Data from these analyses were used in updating online maps and data tools including [Community Explorer](#), [Demographic 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. The aging of population continues to be one of the defining demographic trends in the region. To address this, SEMCOG presented at several forums and meetings on aging trends and the resources available to communities to help meet the needs of the aging population in the region.

Published [Tracking Change – Before and After COVID](#) dashboard, which offers a data-driven look at how Southeast Michigan has changed in the years surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic (2019 and 2023). The dashboard highlights 30 key indicators on population, employment, commuting patterns, and economic activity, comparing pre-pandemic conditions to current trends.

SEMCOG continues to serve as a valuable regional resource by conducting in-depth data analyses that help communities in the region plan more effectively and make informed decisions. During the fiscal year, SEMCOG’s data analyses efforts included:

- Mapping demographic trends by producing a series of maps that compare data from the previous decade (2010–2019) with the current decade (2010–2024), highlighting shifts in population patterns across the region.
- Analyzing regional migration trends through 2022, with ongoing updates incorporating newly released 2023 data to provide a more comprehensive view.
- Expanding analysis in alignment with emerging U.S. Department of Transportation policy priorities, including mapping and examining birth and marriage rates within Southeast Michigan communities.
- Collaborating across departments to support key initiatives, including assisting with Regional Housing Needs Analysis and providing data and analytical support for the Transportation Access to Core Services project.

The scripts used to download and compile Census Bureau data for mapping and analysis were updated to ensure compatibility with the latest data formats released by the U.S. Census Bureau. Additionally, the scripts were consolidated into fewer files, enabling the generation of multiple datasets in a single run. These datasets are now formatted for use across a variety of mapping and analysis tasks, streamlining the overall workflow and improving efficiency.

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 Census 2020. 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 2024](#) were produced for all communities in Southeast Michigan and published on SEMCOG’s website.

Published a [blog](#) detailing the U.S. Census Bureau’s Housing Unit Review process, highlighting the significance of SEMCOG’s role and the value of its data in supporting accurate population estimates.

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)

Residential development (building permits)

SEMCOG continued to collect monthly residential building permit data from all communities in Southeast Michigan. The number of building permits issued for new residential dwellings, along with address, parcel, and value information 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 SQL Server table; data is entered through MS Access. Building permit addresses are geolocated and polygons created with attributes in a Postgres database. A MS Excel file of building permit contacts is maintained. Communities respond to monthly building permit requests through online SurveyMonkey link emailed or direct email requests.

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 2024/25. Several news sources were checked daily covering the seven counties to find projects completed, under construction or planned. Data was added to the nonresidential 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 and buildings flagged with demolition date. Scheduled weekly data updates are fed to the Nonresidential Development online dashboard.

Nonresidential projects are tracked by 20 different building types such manufacturing, hotel, hospital, and office buildings. New construction, additions to existing buildings, renovations, and redevelopment projects are the development types collected. Data on size (square feet), location, year complete, and construction value are also provided.

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](#) provides a review of the years' development projects.

Employment and economic data

SEMCOG completed the revision and update of its [Socio-Economic Indicators](#) and [High-Frequency Economic Dashboard](#). With Socio-Economic Indicators having already been completed, most of the work focused on finishing the High-Frequency Economic Dashboard.

A total of 18 charts were added to the 14 existing charts. The charts were organized into four categories: Business, Talent, Place, and Community Finance.

With both Economic Trends tools completed, SEMCOG created its [Tracking Change dashboard](#). This new dashboard allowed users to monitor progress across 30 key socio-economic indicators by comparing data between two set time periods; currently, those time periods are years 2019 and 2023.

SEMCOG updated the county and regional State Equalized Valuation (SEV) and Taxable Value (TV) trends using the 2024 data from the Michigan State Tax Commission.

SEMCOG began processing the base year business establishment data from MDOT for input into the 2055 Forecast. Given the shorter schedule to prepare the input data, SEMCOG decided to reuse the MDOT business establishments from 2021, making updates to the records where possible. To date, we have managed to create a new database schema and clean the dataset, removing flags from the work on the 2021 business establishments.

SEMCOG started to develop an application featuring shared prosperity data by county. This effort is to enhance the accessibility of the Shared Prosperity data written in the report, [Evaluating Shared Prosperity in Southeast Michigan, 2018-2022](#). Using Stata code provided to us by University of Michigan, we migrated the code from Stata to R (while learning R in the process). We tested the migration by validating our results with those found in the report. Upon successful migration of the code, we began to develop a webpage where the public can visualize and interact with the data. The work on this project continues into the next fiscal year.

SEMCOG researched, prepared, and presented the impact of tariffs on Southeast Michigan's economy. The findings were presented to staff, Metropolitan Affairs Coalition, the March 2025 General Assembly, and summarized in a blog post. With the frequently changing tariff policies, SEMCOG continues to monitor their impact on our region's economy.

Updated Land Use

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

Current Building Footprints

The current building footprints GIS data layer stores the location, shape, and descriptive attributes such as location, size, and use, of each building in the region, with a building defined as any structure containing a housing unit or nonresidential job space more than 250 square feet. Demolished buildings are maintained in the data layer to analyze changes to the built environment over time.

During this fiscal year, SEMCOG completed a comprehensive update of the building footprints inventory GIS data layer to improve the quality of the data, update building geometries, and incorporate new building construction from April 2020 through the end of 2024. The buildings update used 2023 and 2024 Nearmap imagery and building outlines extracted from this imagery to improve the accuracy of the building outlines in SEMCOG's buildings inventory and add geometry for recently constructed buildings. A summary of the updates included:

- Scanning Nearmap imagery data to extract building outlines for recent construction. 38,799 buildings were added to the buildings inventory.
- Updating geometry for buildings where the building polygon from Nearmap was better formed than the existing building shape. 548,738 buildings had their geometry updated.
- Demolishing buildings that no longer appeared in current imagery. 7,897 buildings were marked as demolished.
- Identifying polygons in the buildings inventory that did not represent actual buildings. 4,003 polygons were deleted from the inventory.
- Snapping building vertices to parcel boundaries in commercial areas where the building should not extend beyond the parcel boundary.
- Correcting house/garage misidentification issues where the garage was misidentified as the house in earlier updates, typically in more rural areas that contain garage buildings larger than the house.

SEMCOG updated the inventory of condominium units in the region at the same time, also bringing this dataset current as of the end of 2024. Metadata for both buildings datasets was updated, and the datasets were published in SEMCOG's open data portal for distribution to local communities and the public.

[Updated 2024 Building Footprints GIS Data Layer](#)

[Updated 2024 Condominium Units GIS Data Layer](#)

A separate update of units in manufactured housing parks in the region was also completed. Each of the region's 276 manufactured housing parks was reviewed for changes in units since April 2020 and updated with 2024 unit counts and locations. The individual manufactured housing units were then 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 densities and future planned land use of each parcel. This data is constructed from county parcel GIS layers in most of the region and community parcel GIS layers in Wayne County.

SEMCOG completed a major update of the land parcels data layer during the previous fiscal year, collecting year 2023 parcel layers from six counties and 13 communities. Further processing of the parcels data during this fiscal year focused on identifying stacked parcels, areas where new subdivision development was represented by copying the original parcel once for each parcel split, rather than editing the original parcel into the multiple new parcels representing the actual lot boundaries. Since SEMCOG's forecasting models require that parcels do not overlap and accurately represent parcel area measurements, a process to replace stacked parcels with Voronoi shapes was developed and implemented to update the parcels layer for use in forecasting. 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 below.

A total of 129,637 stacked parcels were identified, 6.5% of the parcels layer, and replaced with Voronoi shapes, as shown in the example below.

Flattened Subdivision Parcels as Thiessen Polygons



Land Data Coordination

SEMCOG Data Analysis staff organized a series of monthly meetings with staff from the City of Detroit Data and Analytics department to coordinate efforts on updating land data resources. The meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month and focus on joint efforts to update building inventories, housing unit counts, parcel boundaries, and group quarters facilities. These cooperative efforts assist SEMCOG staff in updating land data within the City of Detroit and will continue into the next fiscal year. As preparations begin for the 2030 Census, these meetings will also coordinate developing data resources to support 2030 Census address and housing unit programs.

PROJECT 25130, DEMOGRAPHIC/SOCIO-ECONOMIC FORECASTS

GRANT/TASK	GRANTOR	LOCAL	TOTAL
CPG25, 25130	\$828,359.16	\$183,686.23	\$1,012,045.39

Product 1: Regional Development Forecast system improvements and documentation

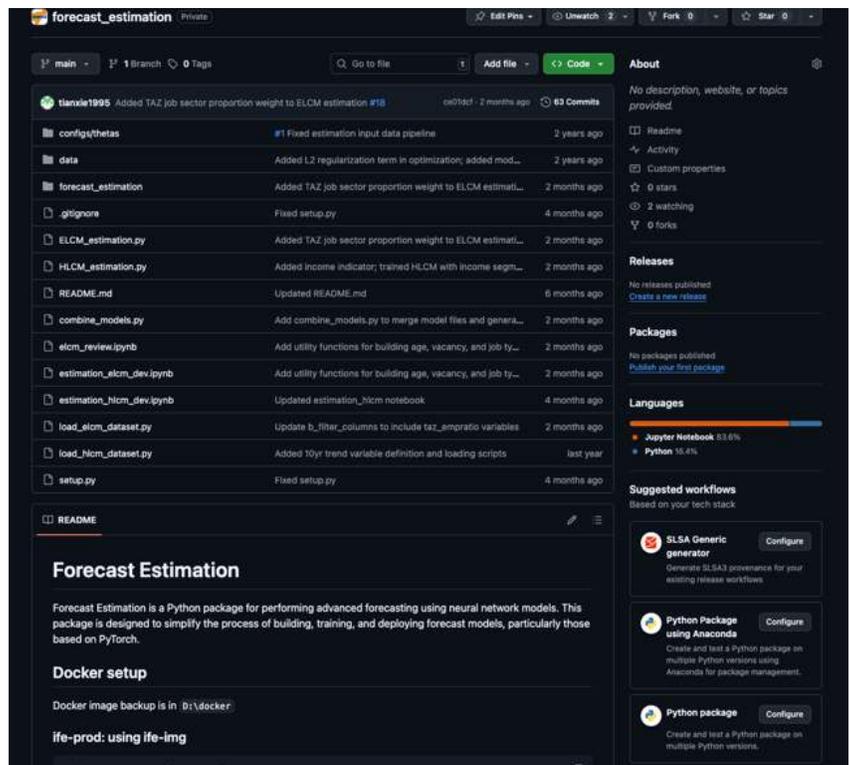
In the 2025 fiscal year, SEMCOG successfully completed the 2050 Forecast Model Improvement and Scenario Exploration project, which focused on adopting advanced forecasting techniques to enhance the performance of its regional forecast model. Key outcomes included a significantly improved regional forecast model, a sophisticated machine learning-based modeling and calibration process, and an enhanced toolset for model preparation and review, positioning SEMCOG to provide more accurate and reliable forecasts for future planning.

Regional Forecast Model Improvement

SEMCOG made significant advancements in model updates to enhance accuracy and stability, primarily focusing on the Employment Location Choice Model (ELCM) and the Household Location Choice Model (HLCM). Key updates included algorithmic enhancements, such as integrating full neural network capabilities, introducing new input variables through feature engineering, and implementing adaptive sampling and weighting strategies based on simulation conditions. These efforts led to a markedly improved baseline model, achieving a mean square error (MSE) reduction of 40% to 80% in location choice results compared to the official 2050 regional forecast model.

SEMCOG Neural Network Model Estimation Github repository

SEMCOG successfully developed and implemented its own neural network (NN) models, establishing a thorough process for estimation, calibration, and simulation (see https://github.com/SEMCOG/semcog_urbansim/tree/scenario-nn). The NN location choice models were trained on an enriched dataset that included specially designed input variables, enhancing the models' ability to capture development trends. SEMCOG also conducted extensive testing of various hyperparameters—such as model sizes, learning rates, regularization terms and factor weights—to optimize performance.



This iterative process of refining hyperparameters, improving training data, and mitigating overfitting has resulted in more robust models capable of delivering accurate and realistic forecasts.

In addition to these methodological advancements, substantial updates were made to the forecast model's codebase, improving its functionality and efficiency. Key accomplishments

included resolving critical bugs that enhanced overall model stability, such as the “vanishing” bug in the household transition model. Furthermore, issues with job control assignments and job scaling across sectors were identified and corrected, resulting in better alignment between model outputs and control targets. SEMCOG also refactored the estimation and simulation logic to support multiple scaler types, effectively addressing problems caused by outlier values in accessibility variables that had led to near-zero probabilities and model instability. These comprehensive updates have significantly improved the accuracy and reliability of the forecasting process.

To complement this product summary, SEMCOG has prepared a detailed 2025 Forecast Model Improvement Report (see attached document).

Forecast Scenario Exploration

Over the past year, SEMCOG has made significant advancements in scenario exploration and testing capabilities, which are essential for evaluating the performance of our forecast model under varying economic and demographic conditions. Our structured approach involved defining and simulating targeted scenarios, such as low immigration and high professional job growth, alongside sensitivity tests like household regional reductions and controlled growth of large households in selected counties. Additionally, we conducted baseline scenarios using machine learning models with different forecast controls, establishing a solid foundation for comparative analysis and validation.

A sustained effort was dedicated to systematically testing scenarios and analyzing the outputs from a wide range of model runs. These efforts have led to substantial improvements in model performance, demonstrating that the enhanced forecast model significantly outperforms its predecessor in demographic and employment outcomes. The variation in model input testing confirmed the model’s stability in adapting to diverse future conditions. Furthermore, enhanced analytical capabilities were achieved through tools like the Forecast Explorer and summary tables, which facilitated in-depth analyses of complex demographic and economic shifts, improving accessibility to results for stakeholders.

Forecast Input Enhancement

During the fiscal year, SEMCOG completed several important updates to model inputs. The first major update involved the new population syntheses for 2015 and 2020 (https://github.com/SEMCOG/SEMCOG_popsim). The 2015 synthesis was based on the 2017 American Community Survey (ACS) and accurately placed households using SEMCOG’s parcel and building information. The 2020 synthesis further advanced this process by integrating 2022 ACS summary data and establishing crosswalk geographies between the 2010 and 2020 Censuses. These updated synthetic demographic data and optimized household placement methods improved overall data accuracy and ensured alignment with Census releases and estimates. Both synthesis products have been incorporated into our forecast development and review process, serving as essential historical inputs and critical resources for future planning and strategic decision-making.

Additionally, SEMCOG developed an automated program for generating employment control totals. This new tool replaced a cumbersome manual process that struggled to meet the demands of scenario testing, enabling rapid production of updated regional job controls within minutes. Revisions to the household control program also enhanced flexibility and

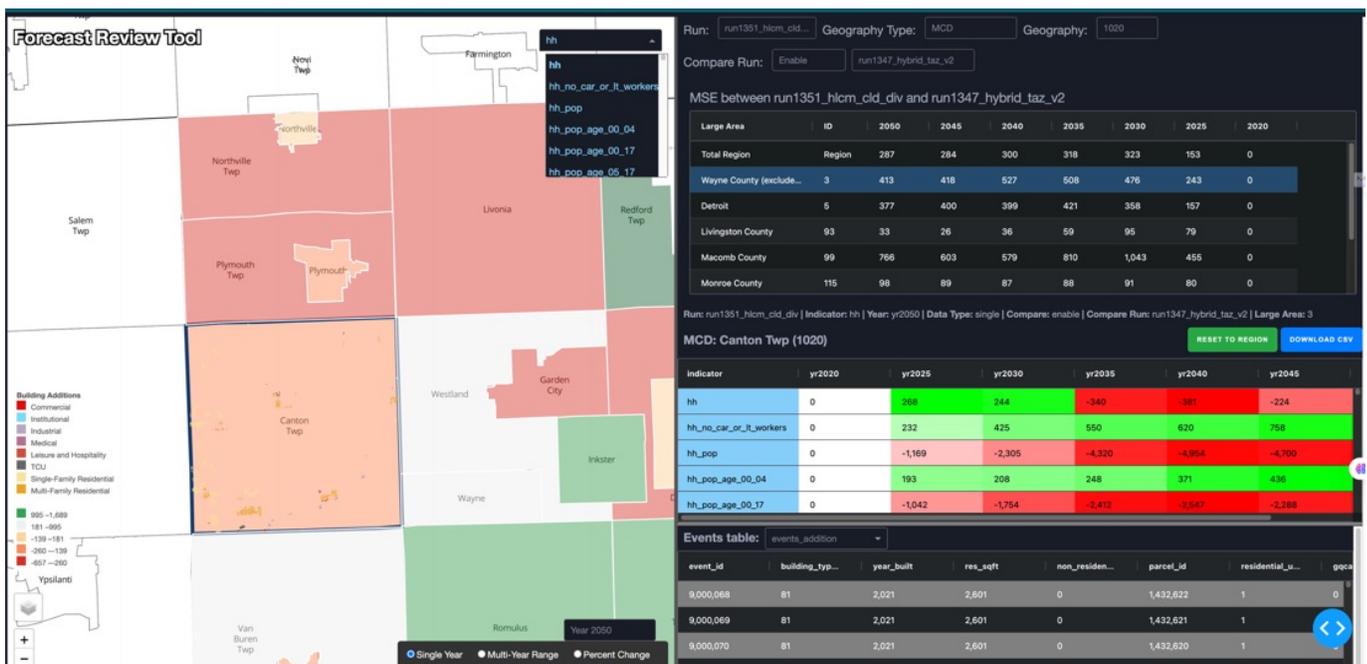
reduced errors, streamlining data input processes and improving overall efficiency.

Forecast Explorer Development

A major advancement in our forecasting review capabilities is the launch of the new internal Forecast Explorer, designed to streamline scenario output reviews and enhance model development. This interactive platform allows staff to dynamically compare different model outputs on a map, marking a significant upgrade from the previous reliance on static data tables. Users can view data by specific indicators and years across various geographic levels, providing a powerful, multi-dimensional perspective on how inputs and model configurations affect outcomes.

The Forecast Explorer also benefits from technical enhancements, including the migration of GeoJSON data to the frontend and optimization of the MySQL database with column indexing. These improvements result in faster map load times and improved processing speeds. The front end has been upgraded with a modern table framework and updated charts that support dual indicators for more detailed comparisons. Additionally, the ability to validate scenario runs against official numbers makes the Forecast Explorer a crucial asset for scenario analyses, ensuring the accuracy and reliability of forecasting work while offering a more user-friendly and intuitive experience.

New Forecast Explorer showing the comparison on household changes between different model runs:



Model Documentation and Collaborative Engagement

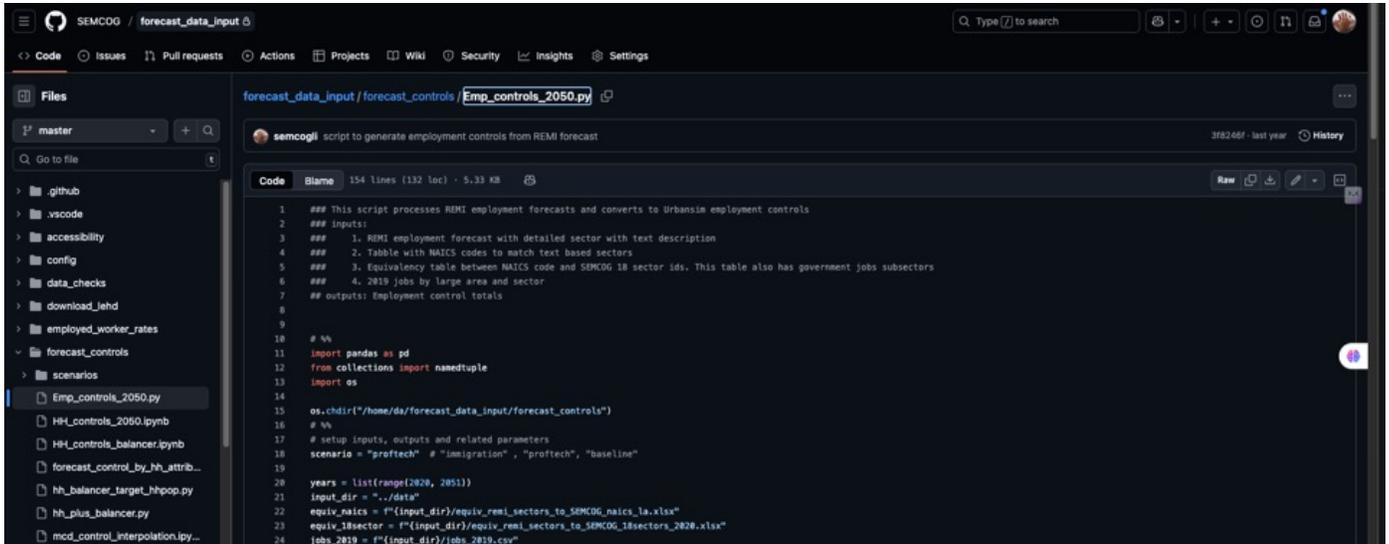
SEMCOG has continued to document improvements in the forecast model and the output review process, utilizing various platforms to enhance collaboration and transparency. GitHub has played a vital role in this effort, facilitating code development, progress sharing, and timely documentation of model changes through commit messages. Over the past fiscal year,

SEMCOG updated program codes across several major forecasting repositories:

Regional Forecast Model (https://github.com/SEMCOG/semcog_urbansim)

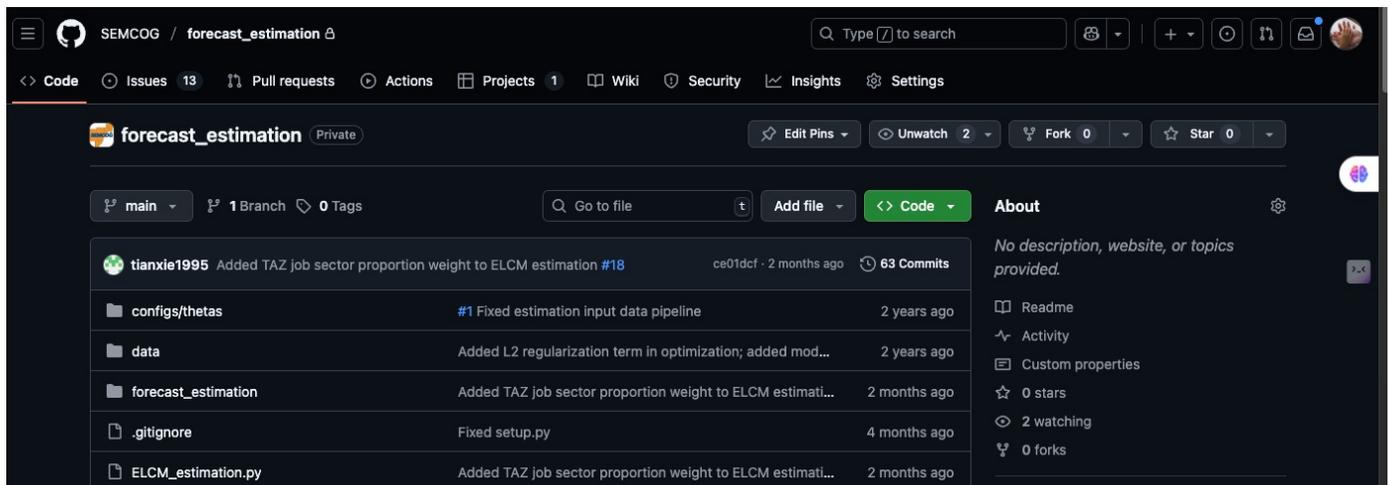
Population syntheses https://github.com/SEMCOG/SEMCOG_popsim

Forecast Data Input



The screenshot shows a GitHub repository page for 'SEMCOG / forecast_data_input'. The main content is a Python script named 'Emp_controls_2050.py' with 154 lines of code. The script is a Jupyter Notebook-style script that processes REMI employment forecasts and converts them to Urbansim employment controls. It includes comments describing its inputs and outputs, and uses libraries like pandas and os. The repository structure is visible on the left, showing folders like 'config', 'data_checks', and 'scenarios'.

Forecast Estimation:



The screenshot shows a GitHub repository page for 'SEMCOG / forecast_estimation'. The page displays a commit history table with columns for the committer, commit message, commit hash, time ago, and number of commits. The repository is private and has 13 issues, 2 pull requests, 1 project, and 1 wiki page. The commit history table is as follows:

Committer	Commit Message	Commit Hash	Time Ago	Commits
tianxie1995	Added TAZ job sector proportion weight to ELCM estimation #18	ce01dcf	2 months ago	63
	configs/thetas #1 Fixed estimation input data pipeline		2 years ago	
	data Added L2 regularization term in optimization; added mod...		2 years ago	
	forecast_estimation Added TAZ job sector proportion weight to ELCM estimati...		2 months ago	
	.gitignore Fixed setup.py		4 months ago	
	ELCM_estimation.py Added TAZ job sector proportion weight to ELCM estimati...		2 months ago	

SEMCOG has effectively utilized GitHub’s project management and issue tracking features to manage project developments and improve coordination

(example: https://github.com/SEMCOG/semcog_urbansim/issues).

In addition to these technical advancements, SEMCOG has actively engaged in communication and sharing activities related to model development. This past fiscal year, SEMCOG participated in the leadership team for the socioeconomic forecast group of the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (AMPO) as well as presented at an AMPO

quarterly webinar on Socioeconomic Forecast Modeling. Furthermore, SEMCOG engaged directly with fellow MPO modelers, consultants, and researchers. SEMCOG shared model code and implementation details of the NN location choice model with the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) to assist in reviewing their experimental model inputs and code development. Meetings were also held with the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) to discuss forecasting practices and model implementation. Additionally, SEMCOG provided model presentations and documentation to the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG).

Product 2: Socioeconomic data inputs

2050 Regional Forecast Community Outreach

Staff continued to present 2050 regional and local 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:

- Macomb County Older Adult Advisory Committee Meeting on July 25, 2025
- City of Warren Housing Commission meeting on September 24, 2024.
- Atlanta Regional Commission forecast modeling meeting on November 11, 2024.
- St. Clair County Economic Development meeting on November 12, 2024.
- Monroe County Economic Development meeting on November 13, 2024.
- Livingston County Economic Development meeting on November 19, 2024.
- Washtenaw County Economic Development meeting on November 22, 2024.
- SEM U: Economic Development and Placemaking Tools and Resources on December 13, 2024.
- Macomb County Economic Forecast on February 21, 2025.
- Michigan Association of Planning housing data meeting on March 19, 2025.
- AMPO Socioeconomic Working Group webinar on March 26, 2025.
- MAC Legislative Update Board Meeting on March 28, 2025.
- 2055 Forecast interview with Canton Township Supervisor on April 14, 2025.
- Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission forecast modeling meeting on May 2, 2025.
- SEMCOG Economic Development Council meeting on May 20, 2025.
- AMPO Socioeconomic Working Group webinar on June 30, 2025.

SEMCOG also continued to update the [SEMCOG 2050 Regional Forecast](#) and [SEMCOG 2050 Regional Forecast Explorer](#) web pages with additional content, product announcements, and links to presentation materials.

To promote the start of the 2055 Regional Forecast development cycle, SEMCOG produced the blog post "[SEMCOG Begins Development of New 2055 Regional Forecast](#)" that highlights the impact of forecast results on regional and local planning and encourages community participation in the development expectations process. The blog post was also shared in Regional Update and on SEMCOG's social media channels.

SEMCOG also produced a [video highlighting the new 2055 regional forecast](#), focused on an interview with the Canton Township Supervisor promoting the use of previous regional forecast results in community planning. The video was posted to SEMCOG's YouTube channel and will be used in future forecast community outreach events.

2055 Regional Development Forecast Schedule

SEMCOG began development of the new 2055 Regional Development Forecast during the fiscal year. The 2055 forecast will cover the period 2025 through 2055 and is scheduled for adoption during the spring of 2027. Development of a new forecast takes several years to produce and will be an ongoing priority of Data Analysis staff throughout the next three fiscal years.

SEMCOG developed and adopted a quarterly development schedule for the 2055 forecast, running from 2025 through 2028. The schedule is located within the Products folder under the name "25130 - 2055 RDF Development Schedule.pdf" and contains the benchmarks and deliverables for each of the nine forecast development tracks. The most important items from the schedule are the expected completion dates for the regional, county, community, and transportation analysis zone forecast results, which are as follows:

- 2055 Regional Forecast Control Totals by County (October 22, 2026)
- 2055 Regional Forecast by City, Township and Village (January 29, 2027)
- 2055 Regional Forecast by Transportation Analysis Zone (June 30, 2027)

2055 Regional Forecast Control Totals

SEMCOG began working on the first phase of the 2055 regional forecast, the production of baseline regional and county control totals, in November 2024. The regional control totals are developed in partnership with the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) and the University of Michigan Research Seminar in Quantitative Economics (RSQE). This process also includes the development of alternative scenarios that evaluate the outcomes of different socioeconomic policies on the region's growth pattern. SEMCOG participated in several meetings with MDOT and/or RSQE staff to begin development of the regional control totals:

- Meeting with MDOT staff on October 10, 2024, to review MDOT's proposed control totals schedule.
- Meeting with RSQE staff on January 23, 2025, to review SEMCOG's proposed control totals schedule and confirm MDOT's baseline control total schedule and alternative scenarios.
- Meeting with RSQE staff on June 26, 2025, to confirm SEMCOG's proposed control totals schedule, finalize two alternative economic scenarios, and begin drafting contract with RSQE to produce the SEMCOG alternative scenarios along with an associated report. The contract is expected to be finalized in September 2025.

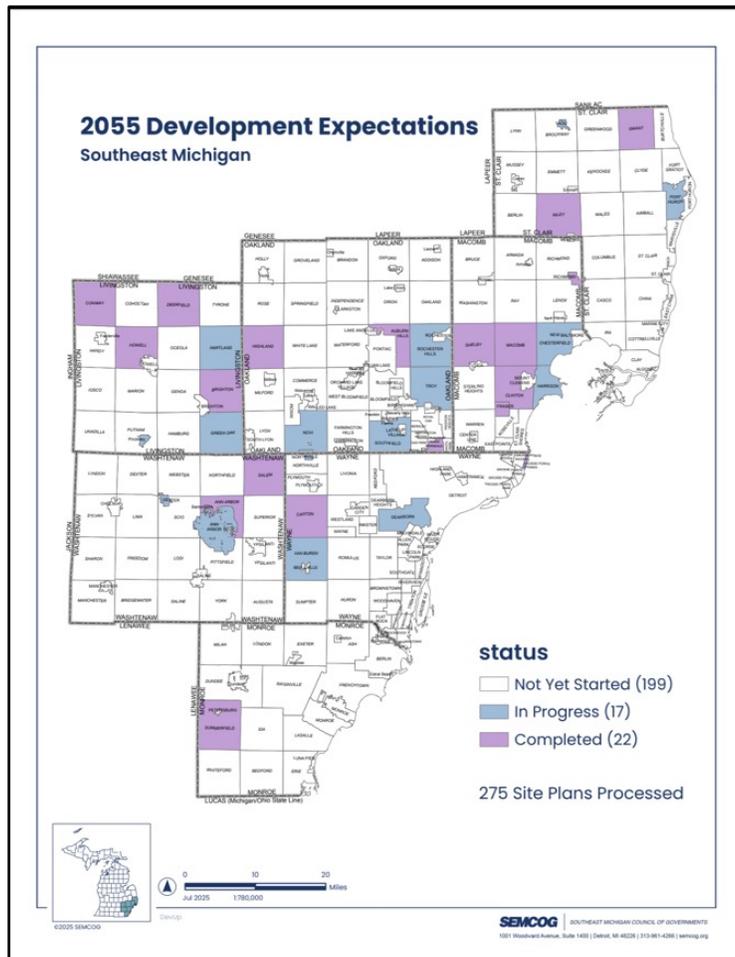
Community Development Expectations for the 2055 Regional Forecast

Collecting information from each community in the region on their future planned development is critical to establishing the correct local development patterns in the socioeconomic forecast model. SEMCOG is working with each community in the region to convert site plans submitted to the community into a GIS data layer of future building

footprints. This planned development layer is used by the UrbanSim forecast model to place new households and jobs in a manner consistent with community development expectations. The data layer is also used as a source of building footprints for newly permitted construction, allowing SEMCOG to update the current building footprints data layer on an annual basis.

SEMCOG began meeting with communities in April 2025 and expects to complete this project in December 2025. During this fiscal year, SEMCOG has met with 39 communities, collecting 275 site plans to process into future buildings.

2055 Development Expectations Data Collection, FY2024-2025



2055 Regional Forecast Database

Staff continued development of a new Postgres database instance to store land use and socioeconomic input data for the 2055 forecast period. The 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 focused this fiscal year on updating the entity relationship diagram (ERD) for the new forecast database instance, adding additional data tables and views and expanding the use

AMPO Socioeconomic Forecasting Interest Group

SEMCOG staff continued to play a leading role 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 and techniques. As part of this effort, Data Analysis staff:

- Were elected to serve as a committee chairperson for calendar years 2024 and 2025.
- Attended quarterly committee leadership meetings, and annual AMPO leadership meetings.
- Organized and developed content for quarterly webinars presenting content of interest to the socioeconomic forecasting community.
- Presented at the March 26, 2025, quarterly webinar on Household Location Choice Segmentation.
- Presented at the June 30, 2025, quarterly webinar on Modeling the Next Generation of Trends in Zoning and Development.

Product 3: Model run outputs and analysis

In the past fiscal year, SEMCOG made substantial progress in two key areas: analyzing scenario model outputs and advancing the Transportation Accessibility in Southeast Michigan project. These efforts have deepened understanding of both the modeling capabilities and the region's transportation realities. Furthermore, the findings from these analyses offer modelers the opportunity to refine their practices and enhance the overall effectiveness of future modeling efforts.

Comprehensive Analysis of Model Outputs and Key Insights

Over the past year, significant effort has been dedicated to analyzing the outputs of a wide range of model runs. This systematic and iterative process aimed to identify model strengths, diagnose persistent issues, and guide future development. More than 70 model runs were completed, with 11 distinct results thoroughly reviewed and analyzed. Each run tested specific hypotheses related to model parameters, data inputs, and structural changes. The analysis involved an in-depth examination of demographic and employment forecasts, comparing outputs against official forecasts and historical trends. Each new model run built upon the findings of the previous one, targeting specific issues identified in earlier output reviews.

This intensive analysis led to several major accomplishments and key insights:

- **Improved Overall Performance:** A core achievement was the implementation of a neural network-based model that significantly outperformed the traditional UrbanSim model in key forecast indicators. For instance, the ELCM demonstrated a 40% reduction in total employment mean squared error (MSE) compared to official forecasts, with some sectors, such as manufacturing and healthcare, experiencing reductions of 50-80%.
- **Enhanced Realism in Job Distribution:** Later model runs showed that new variables and weighting strategies successfully promoted more realistic job growth patterns. The job diffusion effect was mitigated, resulting in job growth clustering more realistically in central business districts. The introduction of TAZ-level sector ratio weights proved particularly

effective in encouraging appropriate job clustering, such as healthcare jobs in medical zones.

- **Refinement of Model Behavior:** Through targeted interventions, SEMCOG addressed specific model behavioral issues. For example, the relationship between building age and job growth was improved, and a vacancy penalty was successfully introduced for non-residential buildings. The analysis confirmed that dynamic neural network configurations effectively reduced overfitting, leading to better outcomes for large areas with substantial job bases.
- **Identification of Persistent Challenges:** The analysis also highlighted persistent issues that will guide future work. For instance, disproportionate job growth in certain communities and inconsistent alignment of job sector growth with building types were mitigated but still observed in some areas. Additionally, the HLCM analysis revealed that household distributions were highly sensitive to surrounding area conditions, complicating the application of a single model’s results across different scenarios.

Github Forecast Improvement Task List:

Title	Assignees	Status	Run Name	Runnum	Linked pull requests	Labels	Model
1 Update HLCM scaling function to RobustScaler #11		Hold		1313			HLCM
2 Customizable scaler function for large areas experiments #61		Hold		1332			HLCM
3 Research: comparing current NN HLCM vs MNL urbanism HLCM #14		Hold				documentation	HLCM
4 Simulation codebase cleanup #12		Done	Iteration				HLCM
5 new LCM data pipeline #1		Done	Iteration				HLCM
6 LCM Visualization #3		Done	Iteration				HLCM
7 LCM Model Persistence (export/load model) #2		Done	Iteration			enhancement	HLCM
8 LCM class template #4		Done					HLCM
9 NN torch-gpu based LCM #5		Done					HLCM
10 Load and simulate with new LCM model #43		Done					HLCM
11 Baseline estimation #7		Done		1234			HLCM
12 KL Divergence + All variables estimation #6		Done		1243			HLCM
13 Combined Loss function estimation #8		Done		1244			HLCM
14 addition of Trend-based variables #9		Done					HLCM
15 addition of household types trend-based variables #10		Done					HLCM
16 HLCM simulation selection out of bound bug #44		Done				bug	HLCM
17 mod_model_quota less than unplaced lths in mod_hlu_sampling step #45		Done				bug	HLCM
18 New full run after bug fix run1250 #46		Done		1251			HLCM
19 HLCM segment racing #47		Done					HLCM
20 New HLCM choicer segmentation with lth with children #48		Done		1234			HLCM
21 HH transition segments with no samples #49		Done				bug	HLCM
22 models_24Mar16 with mod_model_quota disabled #50		Done		1259			HLCM
23 Artificially bump up Dearborn hh and pop trend in simulation #51		Done		1263			HLCM

Transportation Accessibility in Southeast Michigan

The past fiscal year was marked by a sustained, multi-phase effort on the Transportation Accessibility in Southeast Michigan project. This initiative achieved significant milestones across three key areas: project establishment, data and technical development, and analytical product creation. The work was characterized by weekly meetings, cross-departmental collaboration, and the iterative development and refinement of code and data.

1. **Project Establishment and Strategy:** The project was officially recognized as the Transportation Accessibility in Southeast Michigan initiative and was selected as a finalist in the Federal Highway Administration’s (FHWA) Access Pilot Program (APP). A comprehensive Scope of Work was drafted and refined through extensive feedback from internal and external stakeholders, providing a clear roadmap for the project. SEMCOG

successfully clarified and established the core analytical framework, identifying target services, data sources, and key demographic groups for study.

2. **Data and Technical Development:** Significant efforts were dedicated to data preparation and workflow automation. Key achievements included the collection of General Transit Feed Specification (GTFS) data from all regional transit agencies and the compilation of an extended driving network covering Southeast Michigan and surrounding areas. SEMCOG also enhanced the bike and pedestrian network using OpenStreetMap (OSM), incorporating comfort level coding for bike routes. Furthermore, a comprehensive set of service location data was collected and processed for over fifteen different service types, including hospitals, grocery stores, schools, parks, childcare facilities, transit stops and others, all of which are essential for accessibility calculations.
3. **Analytical Products and Indicators:** One of the primary outputs of the project is a set of new accessibility indicators. SEMCOG completed most of the nearest accessibility indicators for four travel modes and service types. Significant progress was also made on more complex indicators, including:
 - Cumulative job measurements
 - Gravity model-based functions using SEMCOG-specific formulas
 - Spatial competition-based accessibilities

Accessibility Evaluation Metric:

	Destinations	Walk		Bike			Transit		Auto			
		N (10 min)	C (10 min)	N (10 min)	C (10 min)	BLOS	N (10 min)	G	N (10 Min)	C (sectors)	S	
3	Destinations											
4	Transit Stops											
5	Jobs											
6	Grocery Stores											
7	Hospitals											
8	Healthcare Facilities											
9	Community Health Centers											
10	Urgent Care											
11	Pharmacy											
12	Total Access (access to any of Healthcare Facilities)											
13	Parks											
14	Regional Parks Entrance Points											
15	Education											
16	Public Schools K-8											
17	Public Schools 9-12											
18	Community Colleges											
19	Libraries											
20	Childcare											
21	Fire Stations											
22	Passenger Airports											
23	Passenger Train Stations											
24	Workforce											
25	American Job Centers											
26	Cargo Airports											
27	Rail Yard											
28	Freight											
29	International Border Crossing											
30	Intermodal Terminals											
31	MDOT Cargo Port											
32	Commercial Marine Terminal											

Default parameters for network calculation

- walking speed = 3 mph
- biking speed = 10 mph
- Transit stop accessible distance 15 minutes (3/4 mile or 1207 meters)
- SEMCOG Travel Model: max access/egress time for transit is 36 minute

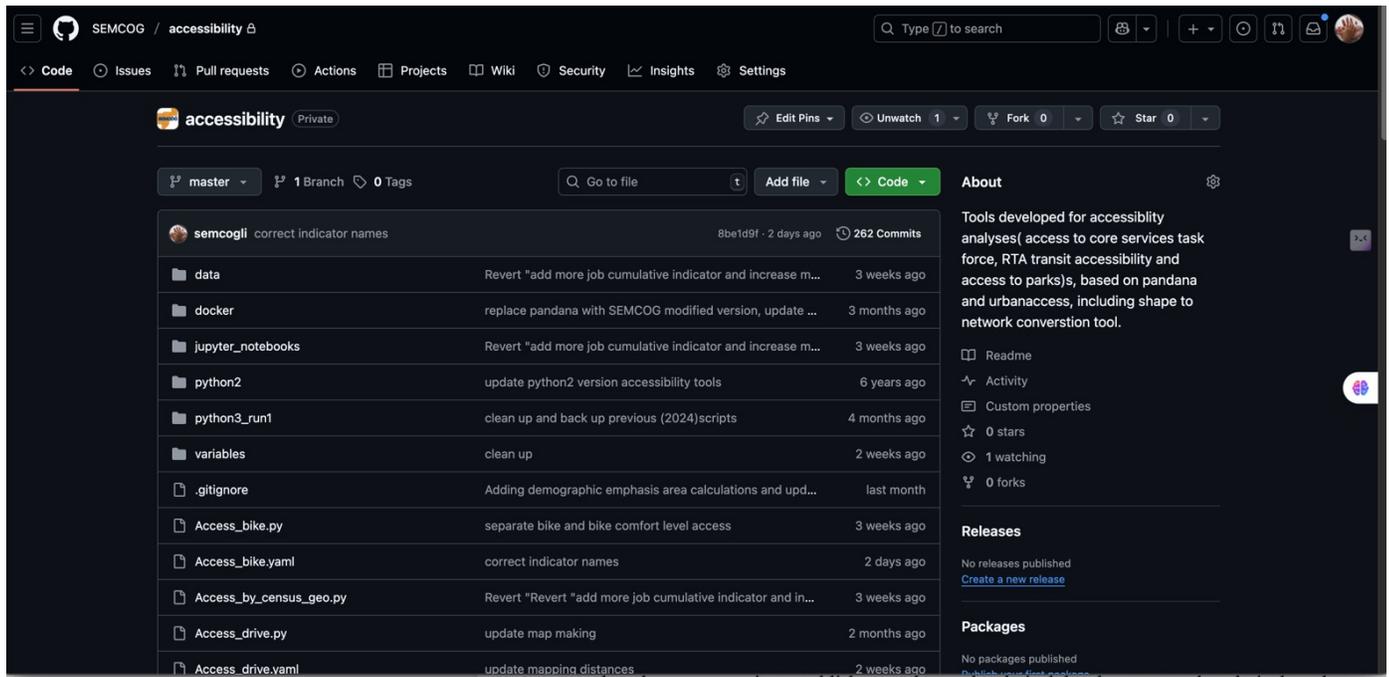
Accessibility Evaluation Method

- N Nearest accessibility
- C Cumulative opportunity accessibility
- G Gravity-based accessibility
- S Spatial competition-based accessibility
- B1 Bike accessibility with level of services (BLOS)
- B2 Bike Accessibility by Comfort Level

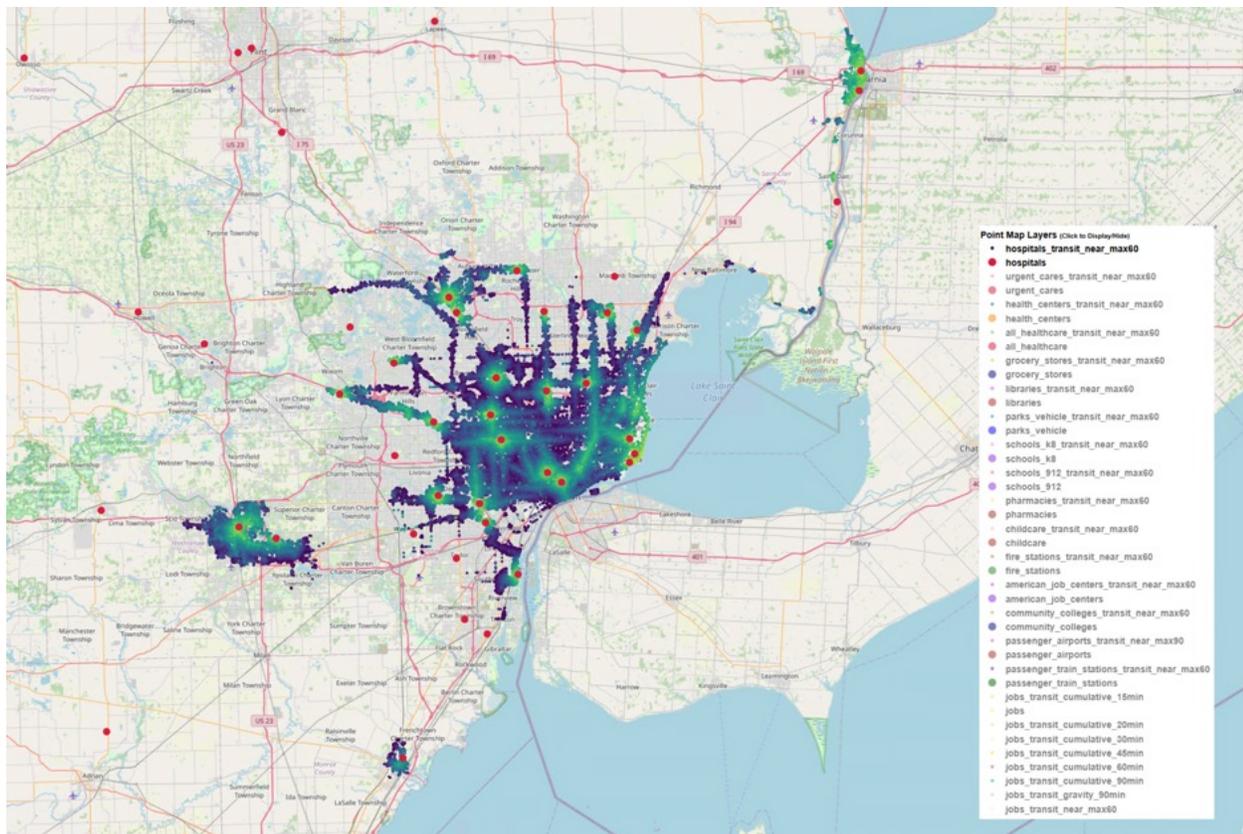
Accessibility Evaluation Method

Method	Description
N	Nearest accessibility
C	Cumulative opportunity accessibility
G	Gravity-based accessibility
S	Spatial competition-based accessibility
B1	Bike accessibility with level of services (BLOS)
B2	Bike Accessibility by Comfort Level

The developed accessibility calculation code and configuration files were actively updated and committed to GitHub, ensuring that methodologies and products are well-documented and reproducible.



Indicator example: Hospital Accessibility by Transit in SEMCOG region:



2. Demographic Impact Analysis: Using accessibility indicators, SEMCOG conducted a comprehensive analysis of selected demographic groups to evaluate how effectively the existing transportation infrastructure serves the residential population and to identify significant gaps in transportation services. The focus included transit-dependent households, low-income families, households with children and seniors, working-age individuals, and people with disabilities, among others. This analysis revealed disparities in access across various population groups and emphasized the necessity for future planning in both transportation and land use development to address these inequities.

SEMCOG is currently working on producing more in-depth analyses and preparing a project report with policy recommendations based on these findings and will release an interactive online map to help local elected officials, planners, and the public better understand the project.

PROJECT 25142, MONITORING REGIONAL PERFORMANCE AND RELIABILITY

GRANT/TASK	GRANTOR	LOCAL	TOTAL
CPG25, 25142	\$480,912.85	\$106,641.03	\$587,553.88

Product 1: Web content updates and additions

SEMCOG is continually improving and updating its Traffic Volume interactive map and the traffic counts search page on its website. When a community or individual searches for traffic volumes, the results display the most recent Average Annual Daily Traffic (AADT) for the selected location, organized by year. AADT represents traffic volumes adjusted for seasonal variations using month and day-of-week factors.

By clicking on a hyperlinked AADT value, users can access a detailed report with additional information for that 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.

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 Roads road network, and migration tools to move data from year to year.

Started work on updating the region’s freight plan. The plan includes updates to truck routes displayed on SEMCOG maps, coordination with planning partners, and task force participation. The plan is expected to be adopted in 2026.

Started review of changes to the region’s National Function Classification road network based on changes from the 2020 Census. The work is being completed in cooperation with the Michigan Department of Transportation and local planning partners.

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

Produced a report of the forecasted budget needs to improve both federal-aid and local roads in the region.

Product 2: Updated traffic count file

Regional Traffic Count Database

SEMCOG continues to manage the Traffic Count Database System (TCDS), hosted by MS2 in Ann Arbor. The TCDS functions as an online hub where county road commissions and the City of Detroit collect traffic count data year-round. Each year, SEMCOG retrieves this information to update the Regional Traffic Count Database (RTCD) a key resource used for model validation, traffic volume mapping, and a wide range of planning and modeling activities. As part of its commitment to maintaining accurate records, SEMCOG has undertaken the update of the 2024 traffic count data. This effort involved obtaining data from the TCDS and working closely with MDOT to integrate traffic counts aligned with MDOT’s new data format, which is also managed within the TCDS.

Highway Performance Monitoring System

Each year, SEMCOG updates the Highway Performance Monitoring System (HPMS) samples for non-trunk-line roads across Southeast Michigan. In partnership with local communities and county road commissions, SEMCOG refreshes more than 400 samples with current traffic counts and related data. As a result of these efforts, the 2024 submission to the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) was completed accurately and on time.

PLAN POLICY AND DEVELOPMENT

PROJECT 24286, INFRASTRUCTURE COLLABORATION

GRANT/TASK	GRANTOR	LOCAL	TOTAL
IC24, 24286	\$19,968.76	\$125.93	\$20,094.69

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.

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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 collect 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.

SEMCOG finalized a new report, Infrastructure Collaboration: An Integrated Framework for Southeast Michigan that describes an updated transportation planning process for regions in general that leads to more coordinated project selection in the early planning phases of local agencies.

PROJECT 24287, EPA CLIMATE POLLUTION REDUCTION

GRANT/TASK	GRANTOR	LOCAL	TOTAL
CPR24, 24287	\$302,419.09	\$3,227.29	\$299,191.80

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

The PCAP was adopted by SEMCOG and approved by EPA in February 2024. This product has not been applicable in the last fiscal year based on the granting timeline.

Products 2: Development of the Comprehensive Climate Action Plan

SEMCOG continued to lead the development of the CCAP as a component of the Southeast Michigan Healthy Climate Plan. Regular meetings were held with the team of project consultants to guide the project’s technical analysis and community engagement activities. In addition, two meetings were convened with the Healthy Climate Task Force:

- Meeting 5 – September 25, 2024: 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. Breakout sessions allowed for feedback on general priorities and next steps.
 - [Agenda](#)
 - [Meeting Summary](#)
 - [Presentation Slides](#)
- Meeting 6 – December 4, 2024: Task Force members heard about feedback from outreach and engagement activities, and early results from the modeling scenarios for reduced

emissions. Breakout sessions allowed for feedback on how implementation can influence the region’s pathway to reduced emissions.

- [Agenda](#)
- [Meeting Summary](#)
- Presentation Slides
- Meeting 7 – February 12, 2025: Task Force members were convened to learn about impact of shifting priorities at the federal level on this project’s outcomes and timeline.
 - [Agenda](#)
 - [Meeting Summary](#)
 - [Presentation Slides](#)

Products 3: Community Engagement and Outreach

SEMCOG continued to implement the Engagement Strategy for the Southeast Michigan Healthy Climate Plan. SEMCOG developed a regional Ambassador Program that included the recruitment and training of 8 ambassadors who facilitated and prepared materials for 9 public meetings. This program provided a new means of receiving meaningful public participation in the development of the CCAP development. SEMCOG and consultants coordinated a series of small focus groups across the region to receive more direct public feedback on specific emission reduction measures related to buildings, transportation, and industry, through four in-person and two virtual meetings. Feedback from these activities will all be summarized as part of the Southeast Michigan Healthy Climate Plan’s final CCAP report.

- [Engagement Strategy](#)

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 24290, REGIONAL FLOODING STUDY

GRANT/TASK	GRANTOR	LOCAL	TOTAL
PRRP24, 24290	\$78,788.31	\$0	\$78,788.31

In 2024, SEMCOG was awarded PROTECT funding, to develop a Flooding and Resilience Plan for Southeast Michigan. The plan will identify strategies and projects for building resilience in the region’s transportation, water, and green infrastructure networks. SEMCOG will convene a Flooding Task Force in Fall 2025 to guide the development of this plan. SEMCOG contracted with TetraTech as the main consultant for the project. TetraTech has subcontracts with Hubbell, Roth, & Clark Inc. (HRC), Drummond Carpenter, and ICF, to help guide and complete the project tasks. This project kicked off in Spring 2025. Work on the RIP will continue until 2027.

Products 1: Flood Risk Tool Update

Culvert data has historically been unavailable for much of the region, which is a problem in both the rural and urban areas that depend on culvert systems for stormwater management.

To understand Flood Risk on the region’s transportation assets as well as the capacity of the culvert network to manage stormwater runoff, more data needs to be collected. The consulting team hired for the Flooding and Resilience Improvement Plan work will develop a culvert data collection methodology, send field teams out to collect culvert data, and develop a dataset to be used in the [SEMCOG Flood Risk Tool](#) update.

Additional tasks as part of the Regional Flooding and Resilience Plan are to develop a feasibility methodology to look at potential opportunities to align transportation projects with large-scale nature-based solutions to address flooding; to develop a culvert data collection methodology and collect culvert data throughout the region; and to update SEMCOG’s Flood Risk Tool with new data and new hazards in alignment with MDOT’s Resilience Improvement Plan. The development of the feasibility methodology will allow for infrastructure coordination across sectors and address rainfall runoff in transportation projects. This connection of transportation runoff and the collection systems has historically been fragmented, and this methodology will make progress in aligning the planning and implementation of stormwater management and transportation capital projects.

- Began coordination with Drummond Carpenter and Tetra Tech on Culvert Assessment and Prioritization
- Staff began collecting culvert data for Culvert Assessment

Products 2: Regional Flooding Study

In Spring 2025, SEMCOG met with the drain commissioners from each county, to hear more about their flooding challenges and priority locations for stormwater improvements. These conversations will help inform regional priorities for the Flooding and Resilience Plan. In June 2025, SEMCOG and their consulting team began work on Task 3, the Large-Scale Nature Based Solutions Analysis. The consulting team developed the interactive [Nature Based Solutions Dashboard](#) to highlight potential opportunities for large-scale nature based solutions in the region. This dashboard was presented to SEMCOG members and partner across the region, to get feedback on potential sites and determine priority areas for developing concept plans. These concept plans will guide the next steps to project implementation.

PROJECT 24204/25204, MDOT PROJECT COORDINATION

GRANT/TASK	GRANTOR	LOCAL	TOTAL
PC24, 24204	\$4,998.20	\$636.59	\$5,634.79
PC25, 25204	\$66,063.71	\$0	\$66,063.71

Product 1: Memorandum documenting technical assistance activities

Staff participate in meetings and provide technical assistance for various projects such as I-375, I-96, I-94, U.S. 23, I-75 in Monroe County, Gordie Howe, the Woodward Loop, Michigan Avenue PEL study, Gratiot Avenue PEL, Washtenaw Avenue PEL, I75 and 8 Mile interchange, and other projects. Following are the specific tasks performed:

- Staff facilitation for Woodward Avenue Corridor Plan and ongoing meetings with local governments.
- Consultation with MDOT and consultants on I-75 Corridor plan in northern Oakland County

- Meeting with Woodward Mayors and MDOT for Corridor Plan in late September to follow up and coordinate the next meeting.
- Hosted Planning and Environmental (PEL) training for FHWA/MDOT/SEMCOG for NHI training on how to conduct the PEL analysis.
- Staff helping coordinate various resiliency activities and coordinating across multiple agencies with MDOT staff.
- Woodward (M-1) meeting with stakeholders held in May. Finalize agenda. Preparation and dissemination of materials for LAC/Mayor's coordination. Prep for June open houses.

Product 2: Technical memos documenting specific assistance using the travel demand models and analyses

I-375: Focused on I-375 in Downtown Detroit, developed maps based on the shift in traffic volumes between 2045 and base model configurations. Maps were created with intent to show diversion in increasing and decreasing traffic volumes for peak AM and PM commute times within a two-hour window.

End to End Learning Framework Research Project: Completed request for travel model data, requested by MDOT and University of Michigan for MDOT research project – End to End learning framework.

Michigan Avenue PEL: Analyzed travel demand model estimated traffic volumes for Michigan Ave. PEL study. Prepared and provided data for reference. Also ran the DTA model to compare the estimated volumes and performance measures between no-build base and build condition for 2045. DTA model underestimating volume on Michigan Ave, checked the network attributes and fixed inconsistencies. DTA model was re-run after fixing the network attributes, to compare the estimated volumes and performance measures between no-build base and build condition for 2045. Performance measures for both Build vs.no-build scenarios were tabulated in excel format.

Military Street Road Diet: Completed the 2045 DTA AM/PM model runs and analyzed the performance measures data to determine the impact of reducing one-lane both directions for road diet project on Military St/Huron Ave (I-94BL/I-69BL) from Erie St (north end) to Military St/Electric Ave/I-94BL split (south end) in City of Port Huron. Provided MDOT with a memo summarizing the results of the DTA model runs, the Multimodal Tool analysis, and additional considerations and resources for nonmotorized facilities.

US-23: Initiated the US-23 Auxiliary Lane in Ypsilanti DTA analysis, including updates to the I-94 interchange network and the auxiliary lane between M-17 and I-94. Additionally, conducted a traffic review for the 2025 base year and performed DTA simulation for the 2045 AM period for a no build and two build scenarios. Conducted DTA simulation for all the six scenarios; validated base year traffic conditions with counts and observed speed, summarized and visualized output for group discussions; touched base with MDOT for clarifications and update. Updated the signal plans provided by MDOT for the No Build scenario and re-conducted relevant DTA simulation. Summarized and visualized the run results and presented findings in the MDOT/SEMCOG Model/Survey Coordination meeting. Performed GIS analysis to understand the traffic diversion between the base and built scenarios and drafted a technical memo to document the DTA process and takeaways. Updated the technical memo for the US-23 DTA analysis and conducted select link analysis to evaluate traffic flow distribution along the

segment between I-94 and Washtenaw Ave.

Woodward Avenue Corridor: SEMCOG attended meetings with MDOT and consultants regarding Woodward Avenue Corridor Plan. Provided travel demand model and technical assistance as needed for alternatives analysis for this project.

Provided model-related technical support to consultants working with Woodward Ave. Corridor plan.

PROJECT 25206, TRAVEL MANAGEMENT

GRANT/TASK	GRANTOR	LOCAL	TOTAL
CPG225, 25206	\$1,335,607.48	\$296,167.09	\$1,631,774.57

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

Operational Travel Model Maintenance and Enhancement

Over the past fiscal year, SEMCOG continued to operate and maintain its official trip-based travel demand model, E8Plus, alongside routine modeling applications. Key efforts focused on managing modeling program, maintaining and updating the model input of SEMCOG's existing E8Plus, and planning for future model improvements of SEMCOG's next Regional Transportation Plan (RTP).

- Prepared and presented SEMCOG's modeling program activities during the FHWA/FTA re-certification meeting. These activities included survey implementation, traffic count collection, model applications, and planned improvements
- Coordinated and led a modeling-focused lunch-and-learn session to promote knowledge sharing and model usage. Topics included general transportation modeling, RTP/TIP analysis, local project support using travel demand models, and dynamic traffic assignment
- Supported the "Access to Core services report update" now referred to as "Transportation Accessibility" and provided the model data needed for this project.
- Drafted a preliminary improvement plan outlining potential enhancement for the 2055 RTP modeling. These needs include the model base year change, model calibration, scenarios of SEMCOG interests to be modeled, new Household Travel Survey (HTS) integration, etc. Each of these items needs to have further discussion to estimate the efforts.
- Compiled a list of model scenarios to facilitate discussions among planners and modelers regarding SEMCOG's priority needs for future model improvements.
- Reviewed the model's transit route system and compared it with 2025 routes and schedules to support future model base year updates.
- Updated the [online "Traffic Volume Forecast Map"](#) using E8plus-2050 RTP model results to support data requests from consultants and member agencies.
- Converted six of eight TransCAD hardware keys to software keys in preparation for the upcoming version upgrade. Engaged with Caliper in reviewing new features and improvements made in TransCAD 10.

- Maintained high-level description of [various transportation models](#) used at SEMCOG, highlighting differences in model features and capabilities.

SEMCOG continued maintaining and updating 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 2024 vehicle registration dataset from the Michigan Department of State (MDOS). The data was utilized agency-wide to support various planning and modeling needs.
- Started transitioning from EPA’s MOVES4 to MOVES5 emissions model. Attended EPA training sessions and began exploring new features and key differences.

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

- MDOT/SEMCOG held bi-weekly meetings to discuss any items and issues related to transportation modeling and mobility. Household Travel Survey (HTS), I-375, I-75/8-mile, US-23, Michigan Avenue and M-1 Woodward projects were the major topics of the coordination between the two agencies.
- MDOT and SEMCOG frequently updated the progress of the M-1 Woodward project, as well as the findings from their consultant team. The presentations from the team included traffic data collection along Woodward, the data used for the project, and the approach used for developing the growth factors using various models.
- Engaged WATS in SEMCOG’s modeling improvement efforts, data collection program, scenario discussion, potential coordination of university student survey and their commitment in using the regional model for WATS policy analysis.

Continued serving in the panel discussion of two MDOT research projects: “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.”

Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) /Transpiration Implementation Plan (TIP) Updates and Amendments

SEMCOG was actively engaged in the consultation process of transportation conformity for the three amendments (2024 fall, 2025 spring and 2025 summer) of SEMCOG’s 2050 RTP and both Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 – FY 2026 and FY 2026 – FY 2029 TIPs.

- Reviewed the project list for capacity changes and provided inputs to the Michigan Transportation Conformity Inter Agency Work Group (MITC-IAWG).
- Facilitated MITC-IAWG meetings and recommended if the model runs were needed.
- Documented the meeting summary for MITC-IAWG and public’s review and comments.

SEMCOG also completed the modeling analysis for the development of FY 2026 – FY 2029 TIP. The following activities were conducted regarding preparing the model inputs, forecasting future travel demands, performing the environmental justice and conformity analysis of these required model years: 2025, 2030, 2035, 2040, 2045, and 2050.

- Facilitated the MITC-IAWG meeting to review/discuss the project list for their air quality

impacts, recommended the modeling network changes.

- Updated Gordie-Howe related model input data.
- Coded the model highway network of each model year accordingly based on the identified capacity projects from the new TIP.
- Performed the model runs, checked the reasonableness of model outputs, conducted the input and output trend analysis.
- Reviewed and prepared data for Environmental Justice analysis. Ran the analysis tool for all scenario year, updated EJ report.
- Updated population distribution maps and per capita funding distribution analysis.
- Prepared the moves input data and performed regional emission analysis of each model year, documented the [conformity process and findings](#).

In addition, SEMCOG started to coordinate the schedule of data preparation and model development for the 2055 RTP, which was estimated to be adopted in March 2028.

Local Requests and Internal Support

SEMCOG provided extensive modeling expertise and technical support across a range of projects of regional and local significance. Key projects and activities included

I-75/8 Mile

- SEMCOG and MDOT collaborated on the forecast modeling aspect of this project. Several meetings were held to discuss scenarios and model results.

Climate Action Plan

- Provided necessary model files in the desired format to consultant working on the Climate Action Plan.
- Met with consultant to discuss border crossing and truck data sources. Also provided additional model data (skims) as requested.

Wayne State University

- Completed the agreement process with Wayne State University and provided the model package for flooding project with EGLE.
- Provided technical assistance/guidance to Wayne State for working with Travel demand model code.
- Completed request for SEMCOG's household survey.

End to End Learning Research Project

- SEMCOG in collaboration with MDOT, met with research team to gain an understanding of the project and provided technical expertise and model data for the project conducted by University of Michigan.

Martin Parkway in Commerce Township

- Performed select link analysis on Martin Parkway in Commerce township to find origins and destination of trips the study segments.
- Completed analysis, provided and discussed summary of results with the internal project

team.

Woodward Avenue Corridor

- Staff met with MDOT and consultants working on Woodward Ave. corridor project. Travel demand model and related input requested by the consultant were provided after completion of the agreement.
- Provided technical support to consultants to assist in setting up the SEMCOG model.

Argonne National Laboratory

- Met with staff from Argonne National Lab to discuss project and data needs. Completed request for SEMCOG's travel demand model and data.

MDOT/EGLE

- Coordinated with MDOT/EGLE to submit the EPA's default data for the 2023 National Emission Inventory (NEI) of SEMCOG counties.

Enhancing Travel Forecasting Practices and Effective Use of Travel Forecasts in Long Range Transportation Planning – Expert interview

- Staff participated in an interview with FHWA and consultants for their project “Enhancing Travel Forecasting Practices and Effective Use of Travel Forecasts in Long Range Transportation Planning.”, and provided insights on current practices, challenges, and needs related to travel demand forecasting.

RTA – thriving communities project

- Work continues on model data requested by a consultant working with Regional Transit Authority (RTA) on Thriving Communities Program. Staff held meetings with this group to discuss data needs.

Other requests

- Met with Oakland County transit planning staff. Discussed modeling scenarios and other tools for potential new transit lines and ridership estimation.
- Assisted staff in identifying relevant data sources for a grant application request from the Washtenaw County Energy Department.
- Provided transit route shapefile to MDOT for an internal project regarding the use of carpool lots and transit.
- Received a request for traffic count data from the City of Detroit for the MODES project. Staff provided the data sources.
- Completed request for LOCUS origin-destination trips for Corktown.
- Met with the Ministry of Transportation Ontario to discuss border crossing studies and a panel discussion.
- Completed request from MDOT for model year 2035 data.
- Completed request for transit routes in GIS for MDOT's internal study.
- Reviewed and discussed internally the select link analysis conducted by CS using GeoTab truck data in Chelsea.
- Completed request for traffic growth on White Lake Road in Tyrone Township, submitted by a consultant working with MDOT.

- Completed request for traffic growth for road segments in Milford and Commerce Township, submitted by the Oakland County Road Commission.
- Completed request for model data from Cadillac Wexford Transit Authority.
- Completed request for model data from a consultant working with the City of Detroit on the Detroit Smart Parking Lab project.
- Completed request for traffic growth on Big Beaver Road in Troy, submitted by a consultant.
- Received request for the Transit Onboard Survey from the University of Illinois for a research project.
- Staff met with a Wayne State University professor working on a proposal for a project with the National Science Foundation. SEMCOG offered collaboration and support if the project is awarded and provided a letter of support.
- Queried data and provided travel trends to RTA for Canton Township using LOCUS data.
- Completed traffic growth request for several roads in Van Buren Township.
- Completed request for traffic growth on Ortonville Road, submitted by MDOT.
- Queried and provided trip information from LOCUS for a safety project in Dearborn Heights.
- Met with AAATA and consultants to discuss the use of LOCUS and model data for a Park and Ride study.
- Received request for traffic growth and potential modeling for Lyon Center Road in Lyon Township.

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 current base 2025 DTA model network with updated posted speed, number of lanes data, signal locations and signal timing data including several geometric configuration changes based on the application of regional DTA model at project level. Staff also updated the future years 2045 and 2050 DTA model networks by incorporating the latest RTP \ TIP roadway projects. DTA models for base and future years were evaluated for incorporating the trip demand inputs from newly developed Activity based Model (ABM). High-level model validation and reasonableness checks including VMT, VHT, average speed data, were compared with the DTA model results using input data from the existing trip based regional models.

Regional DTA models are used to analyze \ evaluate the traffic performance measures for several projects including construction, road diet, and road widening projects as requested by planning partners. SEMCOG used the base 2025 and future 2045 regional DTA models to evaluate the traffic performance measures \ impact for following projects: a road diet project on Military St/Huron Ave (I-94BL/I-69BL) in City of Port Huron, Michigan Ave \ US-12 one-lane reduction in Detroit Downtown and Corktown area, and realignment of freeway auxiliary lanes and geometric change for interchange @ US-23 \ Washtenaw avenue in Washtenaw county. Major steps performed in these studies include 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 and evaluated for corridors under the study area for different scenarios. GIS maps were created for displaying traffic diversions in study area during AM and PM peak hours due to differences in volumes

between different scenarios. 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 continued working with the newly developed ABM and preparing for the ABM transition. Model tests and improvements, model evaluation and scenario analysis, as well as exploring other relevant areas were the major activities conducted by SEMCOG, with the assistance from RSG.

- Model tests and improvements made to ActSim 1.0 resulting in two new versions: ActSim 1.1 and 1.2.
 - Completed SEMCOG ABM upgrade in adopting ActivitySim 1.3.2 and using Sharrow 2.10 developed by ActivitySim consortium. Significant improvements were noticed in reducing memory usage and the model run-time. This resulting ABM version (ActSim 1.1) from this upgrade was used to conduct the ABM sensitivity tests and various scenario runs of SEMCOG interests.
 - Performed statistical analysis on the transit onboard survey to understand the relation between transit subsidy recipients/transit pass owners and transit ridership to support the transit improvement in the ABM.
 - Completed the improvements to transit subsidy, pass ownership models and recalibrated tour/trip mode choice models. The changes were documented in the transit improvement memo for the reference of the next round of model documentation updates.
 - Optimized the model in keeping the consistent version of R/Pandoc and other software packages. Updated models from both transit improvements and code optimization were included in a new model version – ActSim V1.2, which uses ActivitySim 1.3.4.
 - Conducted the ABM tests for various versions of models and fixed the bugs discovered along with the tests. These bugs were documented as GitHub issues for the purpose of coordination.
 - Reviewed ABM output dashboard and data dictionaries in the User Guide and provided improvement suggestions to be included in the future updates.
- ABM evaluation and scenario analysis using two released internal versions of ActSim.
 - Drafted a preliminary ABM evaluation and transition plan for internal discussion and feedback.
 - Performed a scenario run for SEMCOG’s aging population to generate synthetic household and person demographic data: assuming 10% more elderly people in the region in 2025 and analysis travel pattern shift in the region. Findings from the aging population scenario were compiled and shared.
 - Conducted ABM runs on several scenarios of transit fare. The results were compared between scenarios, and the findings were shared internally and with the consultant –RSG. ABM output indicated that Transit Fare has less impact on the mode share and ridership.
 - Performed the ABM scenario runs to see the model sensitivities of the changes to transit service frequency, biking speed, and vehicle operating cost. These tests indicated both

transit frequency and vehicle operating cost having significant and similar impacts to transit ridership in the region. The findings from these tests were shared internally and with MDOT.

- Performed a subset of transit scenario runs with trip-based model (TBM) for the purpose of comparing model output and sensitivities between ABM and TBM. Findings were documented and presented internally.
- Updated ABM output summary and visualization automation procedures to compare scenario outcome.
- Exploration of other areas relevant to SEMCOG ABM
 - Visualized ABM output trips by purpose by destination micro traffic zones (MAZ) in ArcGIS Pro and Origin-Destination (OD) desire lines,
 - Performed GIS analysis on the Census Block Group and SEMCOG ABM micro zone to understand the conformity. Created thermal maps of trips by destination MAZ and visualized trip OD desire lines by SEM county using ArcPro and TransCAD.
 - Implemented the population synthesis tool (PopulationSim) for a full population simulation of SEMCOG region and explored the RePop function in preparing the scenarios of demographic changes for ABM tests
 - Performed the ABM run using CTRAMP method for mandatory destination choice model and compared the results with the current implementation to understand the effectiveness of Shadow Pricing method.
 - Conducted a literature review on travel behavior of the aging population and reviewed the paper titled Analysis of the Activity and Travel Patterns of the Elderly Using Mobile Phone-Based Hourly Locational Trajectory Data: Case Study of Gangnam, Korea.
 - Explored the tour mode calibration process as a proactive step for the potential in-house capability to conduct ABM calibration - resolving issues in the automated tour mode choice calibration procedures and adjusting transit tour mode shares and UMI ridership affected by the university override modification.

During the past fiscal year, SEMCOG continued to be a member of ActivitySim group, currently with 14 agency members, to share the cost of developing a common ABM platform - ActivitySim. SEMCOG were engaged in various activities including weekly meetings, document reviews and as needed discussions on 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.
- WSP completed the ActivitySim Roadmap update and the initial improvement on telecommuting model.
- RSG completed the explicitly error term design and worked together with CS on the estimation mode enhancement.
- SEMCOG reviewed both the telecommuting design memo and the updated roadmap document, delivered by WSP. Participated in a one-to-one interview conducted by WSP on behalf of SEMCOG to provide feedback on the ABM application and share input on future ABM development needs.
- SEMCOG reviewed the initial investigation memo of explicitly error term design, drafted by RSG.

- The consortium transitioned ActivitySim’s new administration home to ZEPHR due to the ending contract with AMPO foundation.
- The three workbench contractors worked together and released two ActivitySim versions over the past year.
 - ActivitySim 1.3.x, which includes better logging, explicit chunking, sharrow setting optimization, and other performance improvements, and
 - ActivitySim latest version 1.4, which includes the update to use Pandas v2 and some other bug fixes.

Professional Development

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

- Attended the “TRB Data and AI Conference” in Seattle to learn the evolution of data and technology in transportation applications.
- Participated in the 2025 TRB conference – including a panel discussion on household travel survey, various activities on workshops, meeting with peers, etc.

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 2024-2025, staff updated the transportation system performance measures using the 2024 INRIX NPMRDS (national performance management research data set) 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. 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 2024-2025, 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 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 arterials are shared with their respective planning partners.

SEMCOG based on requests from planning partners performed congestion deficiency analysis for: 1) West Road corridor in City of Woodhaven and 2) several corridors in Milford Twp for their master plan using the 2025 INRIX XD archived speed data. Technical memos and GIS maps were produced and shared with city officials and can be accessed from the files directory and attached with the documents.

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

During the 2024–2025 fiscal year, SEMCOG maintained oversight of regional travel patterns and system performance through data collection and collaboration with agencies across the region including MDOT, county road agencies, municipalities, and transit agencies. This monitoring enabled performance-based decision making and fostered strong partnerships. System monitoring and coordination activities include:

- Conducted a call for projects awarding more than \$100 million in the region for Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) and Carbon Reduction Program (CRP).
- Participated on the RTA Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan technical committee.
- Developed the CMAQ performance plan to document the adopted regional CMAQ performance measures.
- Some of this work is conducted under the Commuter Connect program and includes employer programs including Oakland County that educates, promotes, incentivizes, and supports employees using alternative commute modes. And programs for Federal employees to assist as they made the transition to being back in the office. Also, work is done coordinating transit services with the Regional Transit Authority and Ann Arbor Area Transportation Authority.
- Other Coordination meetings work has been captured in 25344.

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 enter the SEMCOG area, travel model defined cutline locations, additional freeway and fringe area locations.

- Received several batches of counts collected during 2023–2024 for the initial review and QA/QCs.
- Conducted a preliminary quality check of these counts and identified the 40 count

locations missing from the dataset: 21 of them have been taken and existed in the TCDS while 19 of them were not collected in 2024 due to construction.

- Geocoded these counts to the network links and external stations of the model base year network.

Big data emerged as a valuable data source for supplementing expensive and infrequent travel surveys to analyze travel changes quickly, especially after Covid. Following are some activities using LOCUS data:

- Reviewed and analyzed Community VMT tool results for internal discussion.
- Coordinated setup of LOCUS access for People Mover and Climate Action Plan consultants.
- Discussed use of LOCUS trend results with staff for the GA presentation.
- Received internal inquiry regarding the use of total VMT as regional VMT from the Community VMT tool. Clarified methodology with the consultant.
- Trends analysis report was updated with 2023 data during this fiscal year. Staff reviewed and provided input and comments on several drafts before finalizing the report.
- Truck data and 2024 person data were procured during this fiscal year. A kick-off meeting was held at the end of November.
- Coordinated LOCUS access for the Wayne County Airport Authority.
- Coordinated a LOCUS–TomTom speed data demo with the LOCUS team.
- Sent an email to existing LOCUS users to inquire about current usage and ongoing data access needs.
- Staff coordinated and attended a LOCUS training session.

LOCUS Data Validation

- Staff initiated LOCUS data validation by manipulating project creation and data download processes.
- Conducted comparison analysis using SEMCOG counts datasets and ABM estimations to assess LOCUS data validity.
- Drafted a technical memo documenting LOCUS data validation procedure, which was reviewed by the team.
- Responded to LOCUS team’s comments on the data validation technical memo.

Meetings and Outreach

- Staff attended monthly meetings with the LOCUS team to organize training and outreach efforts. Prepared a one-page handout for distribution at the General Assembly.
- Staff also participated in monthly office hours with LOCUS to discuss and better understand dashboard features.
- Followed up on LOCUS-related work items, including transit data collection, select link queries, outreach, and other tasks.

Additional Engagements

- Staff participated in an interview conducted by UCLA regarding the use of Big Data.

- LOCUS conducted select link analysis for trucks in Erie and Clarkston. Staff reviewed the results and discussed possible enhancements.

Regional household travel survey (HTS) is an important data item used to estimate and calibrate SEMCOG’s regional travel demand models. SEMCOG 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). SEMCOG’s contract with RSG kicked off in September 2024, and the data collection in SEMCOG region started in the spring of 2025.

- Jointly, MDOT and SEMCOG reviewed and provided comments on the common administrative and work tasks to ensure the survey consistent between both agencies.
- Reviewed and commented on the following items delivered to SEMCOG by RSG: the data expansion memo, the data codebook, survey methods and incentive plan, the data coding, integration, and quality control memo, the sample plan, the invitation materials, and interview manual for the spring data collection.
- Participated in the household survey pre-test during the first week of February and suggested changes to the project team.
- Presented information regarding the spring data collection to SEMCOG’s TCC and executive committee meetings. Prepared a one-page handout flyer for March GA.
- Coordinated with MDOT on the public awareness for the spring data collection including posting a blog article, conducting interviews and news release.
- By the end of June, the spring data collection was wrapped up with a total of 3,828 households in the SEMCOG region being completed. The remaining target samples will be collected in the fall of 2025.

PROJECT 25207, HOUSEHOLD SURVEY

GRANT/TASK	GRANTOR	LOCAL	TOTAL
HS25, 25207	\$1,027,748.70	\$227,900.30	\$1,255,649.00

Product 1: Launch, conduct, and begin analysis of Household travel survey

SEMCOG has partnered with MDOT in conducting the 2024-2025 statewide and Southeast Michigan household travel surveys (MTC4/STC25). MDOT funded 2,275 household samples from the statewide survey while SEMCOG funded an additional 7,325 samples across SEMCOG’s seven county region. SEMCOG’s contract with RSG kicked off in September 2024 and the entire project will be completed by the end of SEMCOG’s 2026 fiscal year. The following activities were conducted over the past fiscal year by RSG for the spring data collection of this contract.

- The sample design for overall population, hard-to-reach population, and transit/bike riders.
- The data collection methodology, including public awareness plan, data codebook, survey methodology & incentive plan, data coding, integration, and QC memo.
- The instrument design – including questionnaire – invitation letter, postcard, website FAQs, interview scripts, and training manual.

- Conducting the pretest for the initial instrument evaluation and feedback.
- Collecting a total of 3,828 completed households in the SEMCOG region between April and June 2025.
- The interim dataset and report from the spring data collection was delivered to SEMCOG.

PROJECT 25220, GUIDING REGIONAL INVESTMENT

GRANT/TASK	GRANTOR	LOCAL	TOTAL
CPG25, 25220	\$1,062,011.49	\$235,497.95	\$1,297,509.44

Product 1: Maintain and implement Vision 2050 Regional Transportation Plan, including periodic amendments

- SEMCOG maintained the Vision 2050 RTP project list and coordinated project inclusion in the FY 26–29 TIP.
- SEMCOG developed and promoted the RTP project amendment schedule and protocol to coincide with the TIP amendment schedule.
- SEMCOG maintained and updated the interactive hub resource site for Vision 2050. The site provides information to both the public and federal-aid committees for future project development.
- SEMCOG coordinated an advisory committee to update an ADA Transition Plan to identify and improve barriers to transportation planning for SEMCOG facilities. Worked with advisory group to establish more public engagement and seek public feedback on Public Participation Plan and ADA Transition Plan.

Product 2: Develop the FY 2026 to FY 2029 Transportation Improvement Program, including periodic Amendments. Continue to maintain FY 2023 to FY 2026 TIP with amendments as needed.

- SEMCOG completed amendments to the 2050 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and FY 2023–2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) in [July 2024](#), [September 2024](#), [December 2024](#), [February 2025](#), and [April 2025](#), as well as Technical Corrections 13–18.
- SEMCOG prepared the FY 26–29 TIP [narrative](#) and [project list](#) and submitted to MDOT and federal partners.
- SEMCOG hosted a series of meetings to educate FACs and other stakeholders on the FY 26–29 TIP funding sources and targets, programming best practices, enhanced reporting and analyses, coordinate on performance measures, call-for-projects strategy, project prioritization and selection, project delivery timelines, and project migration.
- 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 and FY

26–29.

- 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 FY202. Refer to TIP amendments.

Product 3: 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 2026–2029 TIP.
- SEMCOG updated and maintained the Vision 2050 interactive hub website, including project lists.
- SEMCOG maintained the [FAC webpage](#) with the [FAC guidebook](#), meeting materials, dates, and locations for FACs without their own website.

Product 4: Documentation of planning activities to improve regional infrastructure, active transportation, mobility coordination and collaboration, transportation safety, and climate resiliency integration

- SEMCOG had staff on the planning board for the Annual Intelligent Transportation System (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 staff coordinated and prepared agendas and meeting minutes for MTPA meetings, encouraging the 3-C transportation planning process.
- 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 coordinated Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) operations including new monitoring databases, the internal TAP application review committee, and progress reports.
- SEMCOG held 3 rounds of applications for the TAP and awarded funds to new and existing projects. SEMCOG provided many letters of support for various project applications across the region.
- SEMCOG coordinated internally and externally to develop a comprehensive scope of work for the Transportation Accessibility project. With the goal of assessing Transportation Accessibility to key destinations, SEMCOG analyzed access to over ten key destinations (including but not limited to jobs, schools, healthcare, grocery stores, parks), via walking, biking (including bike comfort levels), transit, and drive and evaluated impacts for various demographic groups (including but not limited to transit-dependent households, low-income households, households with seniors, and households with children) in the Southeast Michigan region. SEMCOG is now working on developing a report highlighting key findings as well as developing an online interactive tool to provide a user-friendly platform for accessibility data and analysis.

Product 5: Develop and maintain funding targets and other financial information as needed

- SEMCOG posted the [FY 2024 List of Obligated Projects](#) on the SEMCOG website.
- SEMCOG prepared and disseminated funding targets for FY 26-29 to federal-aid committees and transit agencies.
- SEMCOG coordinated with agencies receiving FY 2025 CMAQ/CRP funding to verify projects are on schedule/obligated and providing assistance as requested.
- 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 2025 in January](#).
- SEMCOG monitored and presented pavement, bridge, reliability, freight and CMAQ performance targets as part of the TPM process through Transportation Coordination Council and Executive Committee.
- FHWA/FTA SEMCOG Certification meeting July 23 and 24, 2024. Certification of the program in October 2024.

List of Attached Files:

1. FY 23-26 TIP Amendment 24:3 (Full)
2. FY 23-26 TIP Amendment 24:4 (Cost/GPA)

3. FY 23-26 TIP Amendment 24:5 (Full)
4. FY 23-26 TIP Amendment 25:1 (Full)
5. FY 23-26 TIP Amendment 25:2 (Cost/GPA)
6. FY 26-29 TIP Narrative
7. FY 26-29 TIP Project List
8. FY 2024 Obligation Report

PROJECT 25225, COMPLETE STREETS

GRANT/TASK	GRANTOR	LOCAL	TOTAL
CPG225, 25225	191,900.00	27.01	191,927.01

Product 1: Technical and policy assistance on various complete streets planning efforts.

- SEMCOG provided assistance on various corridor studies that involve complete streets including on Woodward Avenue, Michigan Avenue, and Washtenaw Avenue.
- SEMCOG participated in a roundtable discussion of several multimodal tool development projects from across the county, including Washington DC DOT and the NCHRP 20-44(52) projects.

Product 2: Technical assistance for local agencies in addressing complete streets planning and safety needs by providing data, information/analysis, training (SEMCOG Universities), and performing audits and other technical assistance as requested.

- SEMCOG worked with Detroit and MDOT on determining mode share in Corktown, Detroit to assist in deciding on Complete Streets elements on Michigan Avenue reconfiguration.
- SEMCOG met with Port Huron officials regarding various forms of bike lanes for a proposed road diet and safety-related streetscape on Huron Road.
- SEMCOG produced a memo for Port Huron and MDOT officials regarding various forms of bike lanes for a proposed road diet and safety-related streetscape on Huron Road.
- SEMCOG developed a new spreadsheet with updated functionality to track technical assistance.
- SEMCOG began planning a SEMCOG University on the connection between complete streets planning and economic vitality.
- SEMCOG provided assistance to communities regarding vulnerable road user safety especially through SEMCOG's Planning Assistance Program, Road Safety Audit Program, and Transportation Alternatives Program.

Product 3: Participation in various operations, planning coordination meetings, and conferences

- SEMCOG continued bi-weekly coordination meetings with MDOT and the Multimodal Tool project team. Worked on an updated User Guide for the new tool.

- SEMCOG presented on the new Multimodal Tool to the Huron Valley FAC, Oakland County FAC, SCCOTS, and at a WTS Michigan webinar.
- SEMCOG presented on the new Multimodal Tool to the Monroe County FAC.
- SEMCOG held the Southeast Michigan Active Transportation Committee Meeting.
- SEMCOG presented on the Multimodal Tool at the Wayne County FAC meeting and the ITE Michigan December Technical Session.
- SEMCOG continued bi-weekly coordination meetings with MDOT and the Multimodal Tool project team.
- SEMCOG posted the updated user guide for the new tool on the project website.
- SEMCOG prepared for the MDOT-ACEC Partnering Workshop presentation on the Multimodal Tool in February.
- SEMCOG held the quarterly Southeast Michigan Active Transportation Committee Meeting.
- SEMCOG met with MDOT to learn about the Michigan Multimodal Economic Benefits Analysis Tool.
- SEMCOG participated in a Healthy Climate Transportation Focus Group meeting.
- SEMCOG participated in MDOT-SEMCOG coordination meeting regarding RSAs, Counts, and HH Travel Survey. on 2.19.25.
- SEMCOG presented at the MDOT-ACEC Partnering Workshop on the Multimodal Tool in February.
- SEMCOG presented on the Southeast Michigan Active Transportation Committee at SEMCOG's TCC on 2.21.25
- SEMCOG met with MDOT to learn about the Michigan Multimodal Economic Benefits Analysis Tool.
- SEMCOG participated in a Healthy Climate Transportation Focus Group meeting.
- SEMCOG presented on the Multimodal Tool at the MDOT-ACEC Partnering Workshop in February.
- SEMCOG prepared for Southeast Michigan Active Transportation Committee on 4.16.25.

Product 4: Monitor the benefits of implemented complete streets projects and their impact on mobility.

- SEMCOG continued using the Linear Referencing System tool in ArcGIS Pro to update the bicycle and pedestrian GIS networks.
- SEMCOG began programming Spring/Summer Multimodal counts.

PROJECT 25226, ECONOMIC VITALITY

GRANT/TASK	GRANTOR	LOCAL	TOTAL
CPG25, 25226	\$916,272.10	\$203,180.69	\$1,119,452.79

Product 1: Activities that implement the economic development strategy.

1. Economic Development Activities and Assistance

A. Working with Stakeholders

- Met with the Wayne County Economic Development Team to discuss ongoing economic development initiatives and opportunities for collaboration and support:
 - September 24, 2024
 - December 4, 2024
 - June 26, 2025
- Coordinated quarterly catch-up meetings with representatives from Oakland County Planning Teams to discuss ongoing projects and opportunities for collaboration and support:
 - December 16, 2024
 - March 4, 2025
 - June 24, 2025
- Participated in the quarterly MSU/REI Consultative Panel meetings
 - July 10, 2024.
- Attended the Downriver Community Conference (DCC) Riverfront Strategy Team Meeting on February 28, 2025 to hear project and community updates related to DCC’s EDA grant.
- Attended the all-day Brownfield Bus Tour put on by Downriver Community Conference on June 11, 2025, highlighting major brownfield redevelopment projects and opportunities in various Downriver communities.
- Attended the Michigan Association of Regions (MAR) Partners meeting on June 10, 2025.

B. Participation at Conferences and Training events

- Attended the MEDA annual conference in Shanty Creek from August 14–16, 2025. Sessions included Building Public Support for economic development projects, Leveraging P3 to accomplish Economic Development, Infrastructure and Jobs, and Inclusive Communications and Engagement for Local Government.
- Attended the MEDA Fall Conference in Lansing, Michigan, on November 7, 2024.
- Attended the Michigan Association of Planning Annual “Planning Michigan” Conference from September 25–27, 2024, in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The conference featured sessions on planning for and implementing affordable housing projects, immigrant inclusion as an economic development strategy, the new housing brownfield tax increment financing program, building equity and fostering resilient neighborhoods in Detroit, overcoming opposition on planning and development projects, enhancing stakeholder engagement during the planning process, as well

as other topics.

- Attended the Annual Michigan Works! Conference September 8-10, 2024. The theme was igniting possibilities, unleashing Michigan's workforce potential. Sessions focused on returning citizens, outlook of the current and future workforce, and global talent.
- Attended the TMACOG Winter General Assembly meeting in Perrysburg, OH on January 24, 2025. The meeting featured keynote presentations on economic redevelopment projects through partnerships with the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency.
- Attended the Michigan Association of Regions (MAR) meeting on April 8, 2025 to hear updates from partner agencies at the State and federal level. The meeting included updates from Jenan Jondy from MSU/REI, Ryan Laruwe from the Michigan Infrastructure Council, Clay Summers from MDNR, Lee Shirey from the EDA, Clay Sigmann and Heather Bowden from MDOT, and Merrie Carlock from MDNR.
- Participated in a two-day peer exchange visit with the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) in Columbus, OH, on April 10-11, 2025. SEMCOG ECV staff met with the economic development team from MORPC to talk about various topics, including organizational programs, economic development districts, CEDS, and other topics. The visit also featured several site visits/walking tours of economic development and redevelopment projects around the city.
- SEMCOG's General Assembly meeting held on March 20, 2025, was focused on economic development and featured presentations about the new Gordie Howe International Bridge, the redevelopment of Lakeside Mall in Sterling Heights, office to residential conversions in Troy, and redevelopment of Northville Downs and the daylighting of the Rouge River in Northville. Additionally, SEMCOG unveiled its new economic development magazine.
- Attended the Urban Land Institute (ULI) Michigan Annual Real Estate Summit on May 6-7, 2025, in Dearborn. The summit featured a walking tour of the West Dearborn Downtown, as well as panel discussions on green infrastructure, housing development, and adaptive reuse of shopping malls.
- Attended the annual Wayne County Economic Development Summit: Pathways to Prosperity on June 18, 2025, focused on discussing key issues in economic development by County Economic Development division leaders and partners.

C. Supported partner events and initiatives

- Attended the Macomb Partners CDBG 50th anniversary celebration on September 10, 2024.
- Attended the "Make it in Michigan" tour of the 173 W. Liberty redevelopment project in Plymouth on October 4, 2024. The tour was sponsored by the Governor's Office and the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC).
- Attended the signing of state legislation on the Research and Development tax credit at Michigan Central on January 13, 2025.
- Attended a community benefits agreement (CBA) discussion panel on January 15, 2025, in Lansing Michigan.

D. Provided Direct Technical Assistance

- Met with Hunter Manikas from the City of Warren on November 9, 2024, to discuss a business attraction project in the city.
 - Met with the Village of Capac’s Manager and Village President on January 16, 2025, to talk about SEMCOG services and identify economic development priorities for the Village.
 - Met with the City of Milan and Destination Ann Arbor on January 21, 2025, to discuss a planned tourism/economic development project centered on sports tourism and business growth.
 - Attended a member outreach meeting with Kimball Township on February 5, 2025, to talk about SEMCOG’s economic development strategy and tools and resources for technical assistance.
 - Met with Alex Garza, Economic Development Director for the City of Westland to discuss resources and strategy for the development of the Westland Mall on February 11, 2025.
 - Met with the St. Clair County Board Chair on April 18, 2025, to discuss economic development-related resources SEMCOG could provide to the county.
 - Participated in the SEMCOG/Kenockee Township member visit on May 14, 2025, and provided township officials with information about the CEDS, master plan and CIP tools, the Location Analysis and Visitation Tool, and other economic development resources.
 - Presented about SEMCOG services and resources, including a variety of economic development and placemaking tools and resources to Ira Township officials during a member visit on May 21, 2025.
 - Highlighted SEMCOG’s economic development resources and tools during a member visit with Fort Gratiot Township on June 18, 2025.
- E. Hosted workshops and webinars
- Presented a webinar highlighting SEMCOG economic development and placemaking tools and resources on December 13, 2024, to help local communities with economic development decision making.
 - Held education roundtable on April 16, 2025, with education members and industry partners to gain input for the CEDS on challenges and priorities related to education.
- F. Presentations
- Presented SEMCOG economic development strategy and regional data trends to the Michigan State University Humphrey Fellows on February 7, 2025, at Michigan Central Station in Detroit.
 - Presented to the St. Clair County Board of Commissioners on April 3, 2025. Presentation included an overview of SEMCOG as an organization, highlights of SEMCOG’s planning work, and the various economic development services and resources we have.
- G. Research and support issues related to strengthening Economic conditions
- Attended a webinar on US/Canada tariff impacts hosted by the MSU Center for Canadian Studies on February 24, 2025.
 - Attended a SEMCOG “Lunch and Learn” presentation on March 12, 2025, focused on

the impacts of tariffs on the Southeast Michigan economy.

- Met with Joel Nickel from Barton Malow on data centers on June 20, 2025.
- Attended a seminar on small business loans on March 26, 2025 (Federal and Oakland County).
- Presented about SEMCOG's Economic and Community Vitality department and SEMCOG's economic development work at the SEMCOG 101 workshop on April 14, 2025.

2. Supporting Broadband Access

- Met with various stakeholders from the public, private and nonprofit sectors to discuss a potential regional coalition to apply for the Michigan Inclusive Training, Technology, and Equity Network (MITTEN) program in July 2024.
- Provided a letter of support to Connect 313 for its Digital Equity grant application on September 20, 2024.
- Developed and facilitated a SEMCOG University on the federal Broadband Access and Deployment (BEAD) program on January 30, 2025. The purpose was to help local governments prepare for the State of Michigan's BEAD application process. Speakers included Eric Frederick, Chief Connectivity Officer for the State of Michigan and Mayor Joe LaRussa. Representatives from four Internet Service Providers participated in a panel discussion on what they offer to local governments and what they need from them.
- Continually monitored proposed changes to the BEAD program by the new Administration. Participated in the State of Michigan Office of High-Speed Internet (MIHI) BEAD Update on June 13, 2025. Communicated with Broadband partners on impact of the changes on local communities.

3. Supporting Southeast Michigan's Mobility Industry

- Met with Mac Dodds from the State Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity on the State's plans for the EV Jobs Academy on August 8, 2024.
- Participated in the virtual convening of the National League of Cities/National Governors Association Electric Vehicle Workforce Development Task Force on October 10, 2024.
- Participated in the Community and Workforce Economic Transition (CWETO) office Advisory Committee Quarterly meetings on November 19, 2024, as well as March 4 and June 3, 2025, and participated in the CWETO Community Resiliency Advisory Committee. The focus of this committee is to "ensure that communities, workers, and employers impacted by transitions have the support they need to proactively prepare for, benefit from and shape Mi's future economy."
- Provided a letter of support to the University of Michigan Economic Growth Institute for their application for the CWETO Community Toolkit grant.
- Participated in a planning meeting with partners on March 25, 2025. Reached out to partners in the state of Michigan Workforce and Training office to provide a state update on EV training.
- Provided a letter of support to the University of Michigan Economic Growth Institute for their application for the CWETO Community Toolkit grant.
- Participated in the Detroit Convening of the national Electric Vehicle Workforce

Task Force sponsored by the National League of Cities and the National Governors Association on April 16–17, 2025, in Detroit. Presented on Michigan’s EV Hub on April 17, 2024, with Stephanie Beckhorn, Director of Education and Training for the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity.

- Met with Amy Petersen, Director of Mobility Initiatives to discuss launch of new EV training programs at Washtenaw Community College on April 24, 2025.

4. Housing in Southeast Michigan

A. Internal Meeting and Planning:

- Met to implement the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy goals related to housing on November 1, 2024, and planned speakers for seminars to meet workforce needs. Developed an outline of housing opportunities and challenges in Southeast Michigan and the role of government in expanding availability of affordable housing. Presented product concepts on December 2, 2024.
- Created files on local examples of zoning reform to create products that highlight what local communities are doing to support infill development, including higher density zoning near transportation corridors and supporting main street. The product of this research is inclusion in articles, reports and a main street handbook, along with seminars.
- Participated in a discussion on Community Benefits Agreements on July 25, 2024. This was coordinated by Michigan State University Center for Community and Economic Development. The purpose was to analyze the potential of CBAs for economic development projects.
- In response to the CEDS Forums, developed a concept for housing-related work including infill on commercial corridors, development of preapproved housing plans, workforce development and transforming existing structures into housing. Summarized a list of free resources that are already available to communities in SE Michigan.

B. Education and External Meetings:

- Attended the Oakland County Planner’s Legislative Update on December 2, 2024.
- Attended the NAHRO Housing Update on December 12, 2024.
- Attended the Mi Neighborhood Webinar hosted by MSHDA on December 17, 2024.
- Took notes on the Oakland Together Housing Trust Fund seminar on December 13, 2024 (shared relevant local data on TODs with Transportation department).
- Spoke to Carla Spradlin at the Detroit Office of HUD regarding potential SEMCOG interest in a video project to raise awareness of housing challenges in the region.
- Attended the Oakland County Planners Gathering: Oakland County Regional Housing Partnership and Zoning Webinar on February 20, 2025.
- Met with Tim Klont on March 17, 2025, to discuss the state of Michigan’s perspective on the Community Development Block Grant program (CDBG).
- Met with Liz Koto, Community Development Director of St. Clair Shores and President of the Michigan Community Development Association on March 7, 2025, regarding proposed changes to CDBG.
- Attended the Building Michigan Communities Conference in Lansing on May 14–15,

2025.

C. Technical Assistance:

- Talked with Terri Beaumont from City of Ecorse about the successes and challenges using the pre-approved housing development plans – identified flooding as the main issue in development moving forward.
- Completed a letter of support for infill of mixed-use housing near an employment center in Dearborn, Michigan on March 17, 2025.
- Hosted an internal meeting on housing data helpful to community master planning and discussed how to share SEMCOG data that related to housing with member communities on May 6, 2025.
- Provided technical assistance to Inkster on June 20, 2025. Toured various residential neighborhoods with vacant land and provided information on strategies for infill.

5. Supporting Talent Development and Career Pathways

- Met with Paul Bryant from Plante Moran about opportunities to promote careers in Accounting on July 17, 2024.
- Met with Dan Mahoney from DTE regarding workforce and economic priorities on July 31, 2024.
- Met with James Fults from MDOT on State initiatives to recruit and grow the infrastructure workforce on August 9, 2024.
- Attended SEMCA Workforce Development Board meeting on September 18, 2024.
- SEMCOG participated in Wayne County Manufacturing Day on October 3, 2024. The assigned hub site MAGNA and community college Wayne County Community College. Students from Robichaud High School were the students touring the facility.
- Presented a session related to creating the Infrastructure Workforce at the SEMCOG General Assembly meeting on October 24, 2024.
- Participated in the quarterly Oakland 80 Advisory Committee on October 23, 2024.
- SEMCOG participated in Wayne County Manufacturing Day appreciation breakfast on November 14, 2024. The breakfast is held annually to show appreciation for the hard work that goes into facilitating MFG Day. Those who were invited to the breakfast were volunteers, businesses, and hub sites.
- Attended the Detroit Regional Workforce Partnership Advisory Committee meeting on November 19, 2024. The focus is on careers in healthcare and manufacturing and overall strategies for retention of employees.
- Attended the Detroit Future City webinar entitled “Fueling a Just Mobility Future” on December 3, 2024, which focused on equitable talent development processes for the mobility industry.
- Attended the Detroit Future City webinar “Making the Middle Class: Advancing Stronger and Equitable Cities” on December 11, 2024, which focused on developing talent for the construction of affordable housing.
- Attended an infrastructure careers meeting on January 28, 2025, at the IBEW 58 facility in Detroit to discuss the State of Michigan’s goal of creating 5,000 new infrastructure workers to support infrastructure projects across the state. Input from these meetings will inform Michigan’s first Statewide Infrastructure Jobs Plan due later this year.

- Attended the first meeting of the GLWA employer led collaborative on March 20, 2025, with various industry partners to help fill the impending water sector job shortage.
- Attended the Detroit Regional Workforce Partnership Advisory Committee meeting on March 18, 2025.
- Mackinac Policy Conference meetings and conversations on May 27–May 30, 2025:
 - Discussed healthcare labor shortages with Mark Corriveau, Henry Ford Health.
 - Attended a session on dual enrollment and how this prepares students for college.
 - Talked to Amy DeWys at Lawrence Technological University on the University’s dual enrollment programs for students in STEM fields.
- Participated in the half-day workshop on developing the Community Transitions playbook on June 24, 2025, at the Downriver Community Conference, and discussed impacts of plant closures with member communities.
- Attended the quarterly meeting of the Detroit Regional Workforce Fund on June 16, 2025.

6. Postsecondary Education Campaign

- Participated in the first meeting of the MAC Future of Postsecondary Education Working Group on January 13, 2025. Facilitated input on the objective of the campaign and barriers to postsecondary education facing different populations.
- Participated in the Metropolitan Affairs Coalition Postsecondary Education Workgroup on March 17, 2025.
- Attended the Workforce Development Institute (WDI) annual Workers’ Gala on May 9, 2025, which focused on apprenticeship as effective pathways to the skilled trades.
- Facilitated discussion on increasing postsecondary enrollment at the MAC Postsecondary Workgroup on May 7, 2025.
- Facilitated discussion on increasing postsecondary enrollment at the MAC Postsecondary Workgroup on June 26, 2025. The focus was on developing a pilot program to test messages either for high school students and their families or underemployed workers.

Product 2: Documentation of Meetings and Activities of the Economic Development District Committee

1. EDA Meetings

- Met regularly with Lee Shirey EDA Economic Development Representative, to get updates on EDA funding programs and discuss potential projects from regional partners. In addition, set up meetings to connect EDA to local communities interested in EDA funding, including:
 - August 1, 2024, with Lyon Township regarding a proposed project related to infrastructure improvements and drainage mitigation issues that are affecting business growth/attraction.
 - April 28, 2025, with Goodwill Industries of Detroit for a workforce development project.
 - June 24, 2025, to discuss the EDA 2025 Disaster Supplemental NOFA.
- Attended the EDD Quarterly Update meetings hosted by the EDA Chicago Region on July 24 and October 23, 2024, and January 22 and April 23, 2025, to hear news and updates

from EDA staff on federal programs.

- C. Held quarterly catch-up meeting with Lee Shirey from the EDA on February 10, 2025, to discuss the EDA reauthorization, hear the latest on EDA funding programs, and share information on projects taking place in the region.
 - D. The Economic Development Council meeting was held on February 18, 2025, where staff facilitated an input discussion on regional economic development priorities and an interactive discussion to develop the SWOT Analysis for the next regional CEDS.
 - E. Met with Lee Shirey from EDA, and representatives from Goodwill Detroit on April 28, 2025, to discuss potential EDA funding for a workforce development project in Detroit.
 - F. Met with EDA economic development representative Lee Shirey on June 24, 2025, to discuss the FY2025 Disaster Supplemental Notice of Funding Opportunity.
2. Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Planning Process
- A. Facilitated three interactive planning forums with member communities and regional stakeholders focused on the following topics:
 - Place Forum: August 7, 2024. This forum featured spotlight presentations highlighting various placemaking implementation efforts from around the region, a presentation from MEDC on State placemaking resources, and an interactive discussion among stakeholders to identify issues, challenges, and priorities for creating quality places in Southeast Michigan.
 - Talent Forum: August 27, 2024. This forum featured spotlight presentations highlighting various talent attraction and retention efforts from around the region (including Oakland80, MUST Construction Careers, and the Community Foundation of St. Clair County), as well as an interactive discussion among stakeholders to identify issues, challenges, and priorities for developing talent in Southeast Michigan.
 - Business Forum: September 24, 2024. This forum featured spotlight presentations highlighting various business assistance initiatives from around the region (including Downriver Community Conference, the New Economy Initiative, and SEMCOG), as well as an interactive discussion among stakeholders to identify issues, challenges, and priorities for improving the business climate for businesses of all sizes in Southeast Michigan.
 - B. Prepared for and facilitated four county-specific economic development input meetings in St. Clair County (November 12, 2024), Monroe County (November 13, 2024), Livingston County (November 19, 2024), and Washtenaw County (November 22, 2024) to engage members and regional stakeholders on discussions pertaining to place, talent, and business as part of the CEDS update process.
 - C. Facilitated a meeting with staff from the St. Clair County Metropolitan Planning Commission on April 2, 2025, to gather input for the CEDS update.
 - D. Facilitated a meeting with staff from the Downriver Community Conference on April 2, 2025, to gather input for the CEDS update.
 - E. Facilitated a meeting with staff from the Livingston County Planning Department, as well as the County Administrator, on April 15, 2025, to gather input for the CEDS update.
 - F. Facilitated the SEMCOG University Education Roundtable with education stakeholders on April 16, 2025, to gather input on challenges and priorities for the CEDS update.
 - G. Facilitated an interview meeting with representatives of the City of Dearborn, including

Mayor Hammoud, on April 21, 2025, to identify the City's priorities for economic development as part of the stakeholder engagement process for the CEDS update.

- H. Met with representatives from Oakland County Economic Development on May 1, 2025, for a CEDS input interview to better understand the County's economic development priorities, challenges, and opportunities.
- I. Met with representatives from Macomb County Planning and Economic Development on May 6, 2025, for a CEDS input interview to better understand the County's economic development priorities, challenges, and opportunities.
- J. Facilitated a CEDS input session with the SEMCA Workforce Development Board at its meeting on May 21, 2025.
- K. Met with representatives from Monroe County and the Monroe County Business Alliance on June 11, 2025, for a CEDS input interview to better understand the County's economic development priorities, challenges, and opportunities.
- L. Met with representatives from the City of Monroe on June 13, 2025, for a CEDS input interview to better understand the City's economic development priorities, challenges, and opportunities.

3. Economic Development Council Meetings

- Prepared for and presented an update from the Economic Development Council to the SEMCOG Executive Committee on December 6, 2024, which included an overview of CEDS engagement activities and an interactive input discussion with Executive Committee delegates and alternates on topics related to Place, Talent, and Business.
- The Economic Development Council met on December 10, 2024. The meeting agenda included an update from Lee Shirey on EDA programs, an overview of regional freight planning activities, a discussion on SEMCOG's new Legislative Policy Platform, and an overview of CEDS outreach activities, including three engagement forums and four county input meetings in St. Clair, Monroe, Livingston, and Washtenaw counties.
- Held the quarterly Economic Development Council meeting on May 20, 2025. The meeting was focused on "Place" and featured an overview of demographic trends in Southeast Michigan, a panel discussion on leveraging placemaking for regional growth, and an update on SEMCOG's Transportation Access project.

4. EDD Capacity Building and Training

- Participated in the NADO CEDS Peer Exchange Program Cohort and attended interactive training sessions on September 26 and November 7, 2024.
- Attended the MEDA Fall Conference in Lansing, Michigan, on November 7, 2024.
- Attended the NADO Washington Conference in Arlington, Virginia, from March 9-12, 2025, as well as NADO's "Afternoon with the Districts" post-conference workshop in Arlington, VA on March 12, 2025.
- Participated in the NADO CEDS Peer Exchange Program Cohort and attended full cohort training sessions on May 22, 2025, and the group discussion meeting on April 25 and June 6, 2025, to discuss EDDs, EDA funding, and the CEDS planning process.

5. Economic Development Strategy Presentations:

- Presented SEMCOG's experience and activities related to its EDD designation to the Metro Washington Council of Governments Board on July 19, 2024.

- Prepared for and presented an update from the Economic Development Council to the SEMCOG Executive Committee on December 6, 2024, which included an overview of CEDS engagement activities from the past few months and an interactive input discussion with Executive Committee delegates and alternates on topics related to Place, Talent, and Business.

Product 3: Activities for infrastructure and environmental coordination, including complete and green streets.

- Attended the Tree Canopy Subcommittee to bring attention to and discuss the cost and technical challenges with adding trees to urban census tracts that have little open space or available planting locations.
- Shared local concepts of zoning reform that impact TOD (Transit Oriented Development) with SEMCOG Transportation Planning and Programming for tracking of TOD in the region.
- Attended the Transportation Coordination Council meeting on January 23, 2025, to learn about walkability downtown and transportation improvements along commercial corridors.
- Attended the GREEN Subcommittee on Trees and discussed trees as they relate to Main Street and Downtown green infrastructure.
- Attended a meeting to discuss flooding and economic development in Ecorse on March 27, 2025, including strategic plans to address both issues at the same time.
- Reviewed research from Main Street America and the Institute of Transportation Engineers. Created a PowerPoint on the information linking road attributes and Main Street success.
- Researched the link between main street success and traffic speeds; Created a presentation on the importance of road safety, slow speeds and traffic calming in main street districts. Presented this during the Main Street webinar recorded on May 16, 2025.

Product 4: Activities that assist local partners in planning and implementing place-making initiatives.

I. Placemaking

A. Technical Assistance

- Sent Milan information and assistance on main street land use questions as a follow-up to a discussion at the Talent Forum on September 6, 2024.
- Spoke with and sent placemaking materials to the City of Hamtramck on September 19, 2024, regarding main street business strategies and success and grant opportunities, including how CDBG funds can be used for neighborhood improvements.
- Met with Sean Clark, Director of Administration for the City of Warren, on September 16, 2024, regarding data and resources to support affordable housing opportunities in the city.
- Met with local communities (Luna Pier, Port Huron, and Romeo) to discuss location and visitation analytics in the downtown development authority district, as well as signature community events.
- Met with Dearborn Heights new CED Director Lielle Saad and discussed a vision

for the Warren Corridor in Dearborn Heights to be more walkable, to have more sidewalks, to remove blight, and to have working streetlights. Discussed fixing the roads and improving the overall appearance. Shared about the CEDAM Community Development fellowship with the Mayor of Dearborn Heights.

- Completed the Project for Public Spaces (PPS) training called “Making it Happen” between November 5 and November 19, 2024.
- Met with Jim Gammicchia from the City of Roseville on November 5, 2024, to discuss the Location Analysis and Visitation Tool and identify specific data needs in the city.
- Attended the Michigan Downtown Association (MDA) Conference on November 7-8, 2024.
- Attended the Michigan Economic Development Corporation’s RAP 3.0 grant application informational webinar on placemaking on November 13, 2024. This information was later distributed to local communities through SEMCOG’s Regional Update.
- Met with Gerry Santoro from Macomb County Planning and Economic Development on January 15, 2025, to discuss the county’s Blue Economy initiatives.
- Wrote a letter of support for the City of Royal Oak’s application for funding for the Fifth Street Plaza Project – a downtown placemaking project.
- Spoke with the Mayor of the City of New Baltimore to discuss downtown redevelopment projects and rehab of existing buildings in the downtown. Using as a case study for other communities.
- Met with new DDA Director Lisa DeLong on March 12, 2025, and shared SEMCOG resources and invited her to SEMCOG’s upcoming Main Street workshop series. Discussed downtown amenities, road plans, downtown retail, and SEMCOG’s Planning Assistance Grant program.
- SEMCOG participated in multiple Strategic Planning Meetings with the City of Highland Park and representatives from the State of Michigan in March 2025.
- SEMCOG participated in the Monroe County Non-Motorized Plan partners meeting on April 4, 2025, to discuss updating the strategic plan to connect recreation and economic assets in the county.
- SEMCOG participated in the Local Economies Initiative (MML) in Marine City on April 10, 2025, with stakeholders and toured the downtown and main streets; provided technical assistance and sent a follow-up email with resources.
- Met with the Mayor, staff and elected officials from Inkster on April 29, 2025, where we discussed with stakeholders the Master Plan, the zoning changes, the downtown, and toured the former civic center area, future home to a farmers’ market and community center. Followed up after meeting with resources sent via email.
- Met with the Executive Director of the Birmingham Shopping District, Erika Bassett, on June 20, 2025, and discussed downtown Birmingham trends as well as potential future assistance from SEMCOG regarding Location Analysis.
- Provided technical assistance to Inkster on June 20, 2025. Toured downtown Inkster and discussed vacancies, transportation, zoning and other issues in the downtown district. Met with Derek Dowdell, Community Development Director in Inkster.
- Provided technical assistance to Berkley’s elected officials and staff, as well as a

group of business owners, which included a walking tour on June 30, 2025, of the west side of the downtown district, with a focus on placemaking and economic development.

B. Location Analysis and Visitation Evaluation

- Assisted 35 local government members with visitation data reports for parks, downtowns and commercial corridors, and community events using Placer.ai.

C. Education and Workshops

- Developed and presented a three-part SEMCOG University Workshop Series on Main Street Revitalization and Placemaking. Sessions included “Building Leadership, Organization, and Funding for Main Street” on March 14, 2025; “Developing Vibrant Year-Round Places” on April 17, 2025; and “Creating Safe and Livable Main Streets” on May 16, 2025.

2. Experience Southeast Michigan Videos

- Met with representatives from the City of Southfield on July 12, 2024, to talk about an Experience Southfield video.
- Met with Starsha McCrary from the City of Fraser on July 17, 2024, to talk about an Experience Fraser video.
- Met with John Bry from Main Street Oakland County on January 13 to discuss development of an Experience Southeast Michigan video to celebrate the 25th anniversary of Main Street Oakland County.
- Met with Jerry Frayer from Romulus on April 29, 2025, to discuss filming an Experience video in May.
- Went to Romulus on May 22, 2025, for part one of the Experience Romulus filming.
- Met with Highland Township on June 23, 2025, to plan for an “Experience Highland Township” video highlighting community assets.
- Met with Inkster on June 24, 2025, to plan for an “Experience Inkster” video highlighting community assets.

Product 5: Engage in freight planning activities that support economic development initiatives with local, regional, state, national, and/or bi-national partners.

1. General

- Participated in monthly internal freight meetings and monthly freight advisory meetings with TMACOG.
- Coordinated freight peer exchange program with the FHWA Freight office
- Participated on the Michigan Rail Conference Advisory Committee and prepared for a presentation at conference.
- Met with the City of Detroit freight and infrastructure office and the MDOT DIFT project manager to discuss coordination of future projects related to the freight plan.
- Attended Mid-American Freight Coalition Conference in Kansas City, MO on August 12-14, 2024, and met with MDOT and other state DOT freight experts.
- Site visit with representatives at Oakland County International Airport.
- Coordinated with partners to establish the Southeast Michigan Freight Task Force,

identifying co-chairs and committee members.

- Met with MDOT office of rail to discuss data needs for upcoming freight plan.
- Coordinated with FHWA, MDOT, and the City of Detroit to host the Freight Peer Event.
- Participated in the “Freight Forward Plan” event at the Port of Monroe with regional partners.
- Hosted the Freight Peer Exchange with FHWA, MDOT, City of Detroit, and regional partners.
- Coordinated the kickoff of the Southeast Michigan Freight Task Force meeting
- Hosted the Southeast Michigan Freight Task Force meeting on November 12, 2024.
- Released freight plan RFP on November 12, 2024 and hosted RFP pre-bid meeting with potential consultants.
- Met with Padmini Roy-Dixon from the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) on December 3, 2024, to discuss regional freight planning and economic development.
- Presented the freight plan planning process to the Economic Development Council on December 10, 2024.
- Met with the Great Lakes / St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation to discuss freight plan.
- Met with FHWA and members from the Office of the Secretary, to discuss the potential Detroit Border Supply Chain/Operations event.
- Hosted quarterly meetings with freight plan steering committee (MDOT, City of Detroit, and freight task force chairs).
- Hosted freight task force meeting on March 11, 2025, with regional stakeholders. Obtained feedback on road network existing conditions and truck parking analysis.
- Attended CSCMP supply chain event at American Center for Mobility.
- Met with CEO of Michigan Trucking Association to discuss freight plan, and trucking issues in Southeast Michigan.
- Met with MDOT office of rail to discuss rail safety.
- Coordinated and attended a Southwest Detroit Rail Facility tour on May 22, 2025.
- Hosted Freight Task Force Meeting with regional partners on May 22, 2025.
- Attended and presented at Eastern Border Transportation Coalition Conference.
- Attended the transportation border working group annual meeting on June 4, 2025.
- Attended the quarterly meeting with Southwest Detroit freight infrastructure on June 10, 2025.
- Met with air freight partners (Wayne County Airport Authority and Avflight).
- Attended a legislative tour with Detroit/Wayne County Port Authority.
- Submitted a letter of testimony to the Michigan Senate in support of regional rail modernization funding.
- Submitted a letter of support to the Michigan Appropriations Committee for the Detroit/Wayne County Port Authority.

Product 6: Develop a regional freight plan, including update of freight system data, inventory, and analysis as needed.

1. General

- Developed a GIS freight system map for the region
- Developed a work program and project scope for the regional freight plan activities.
- Developed and issued an RFP for a technical consultant to assist in the development of the regional freight plan.
- Launched the regional freight hub site which can be accessed at <https://southeast-michigan-freight-plan-semcog.hub.arcgis.com/>
- Updated regional truck routes in collaboration with the seven counties, acquiring designated truck routes and then coding into GIS.

Products Produced:

- Published a blog entitled "[Storytelling with SEMCOG's Economic Indicators](#)," posted on July 18, 2024.
- Published a blog entitled "[Celebrating 50 Years of CDBG in Southeast Michigan](#)," posted on August 27, 2024.
- Blog Post: "[Crafting a New Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for Southeast Michigan](#)," published on January 3, 2025.
- Blog Post: "[Tis the Season of Placemaking Grants](#)," published on January 16, 2025.
- Completed and distributed the new SEMCOG Economic Development Magazine at the March General Assembly meeting on March 20, 2025. The magazine – entitled "[Southeast Michigan: What's Our Edge](#)" – features stories about place, talent, and business initiatives and successes throughout the region, as well as timely information about key economic trends and data. These articles will be released as individual blogs over the next two months.
- Published the blog article "[Economic Development: What's Our Edge?](#)" on April 8, 2025.
- Published the blog article "[What's Our Edge? The Data](#)" on April 13, 2025.
- Published the blog article "[A New Economic Development Strategy](#)" on April 18, 2025.
- Published the blog article "[Building Momentum for Main Street Revitalization in Southeast Michigan](#)" on April 25, 2025.
- Recorded Main Street Series webinar "[Developing Vibrant Year-Round Places](#)" on April 17, 2025.
- Published the blog article "[Community Events as Economic Drivers](#)" on May 2, 2025.
- Published the blog article "[Economic Development Through Housing](#)" on May 7, 2025.
- Published the blog article "[Going with the Flow: Turning to the Water as a Placemaking Driver](#)" on May 13, 2025.
- Recorded Main Street Series webinar "[Creating Safe and Livable Main Streets](#)" on May 16, 2025.
- Published the blog article "[Bridging the Talent Gap: Gordie Howe Bridge Creates Big Opportunities for Local, International Workers](#)" on May 16, 2025.

- Published the blog article "[Growing our Innovation Ecosystem](#)" on May 29, 2025.
- Published the blog entitled "[The Value of Postsecondary Education](#)" on June 4, 2025.

PROJECT 25284, MICHIGAN INFRASTRUCTURE COUNCIL

GRANT/TASK	GRANTOR	LOCAL	TOTAL
MIC25, 25284	\$25,997.56	\$0	\$25,997.56

Product 1: Capital Improvement Project Plans

SEMCOG has worked directly with Michigan Infrastructure Council staff and consultants to test the updated tool and discuss approaches for collecting local agency data. The MIC is taking the lead in populating the tool with CIP data from the large private utilities, the Great Lakes Water Authority, and State-funded projects like transportation projects.

Product 2: MIC portal data input and collection

SEMCOG solicited proposals to hire multiple consultants to support the work with the MIC. The consultants will support project data collection, development of best practices, outreach and education and asset management training.

PROJECT 25289, ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

GRANT/TASK	GRANTOR	LOCAL	TOTAL
CPG25, 25289	\$579,216.95	\$128,439.66	\$707,656.61

Product 1: Updated emission inventories and local requests

SEMCOG Coordinated with MDOT/EGLE to submit the EPA's default data for the 2023 National Emission Inventory (NEI) of SEMCOG counties.

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

SEMCOG prepared and performed the MOVES runs for estimating the mobile vehicle emissions of 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. MOVES4 has since been used in SEMCOG's transportation conformity analysis, as well as ozone redesignation and greenhouse gas scenario tests.

In addition, SEMCOG processed the 2024-2025 vehicle registration data for evaluating the trend of vehicle population changes and how to update the local inputs of MOVES5 for future emissions modeling.

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 2050 RTP

amendments and new TIP development. SEMCOG conducted the conformity analysis for two of these amendments and the new TIP FY26–FY29 adoption. Meeting summary and conformity analysis document were shared with the group and public for review and comments. (These being reported under 25206 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 and 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

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.

SEMCOG staff also formed a PM 2.5 workgroup in 2024 that met monthly through April 2025. The purpose of the workgroup was to work collaboratively with EGLE Air Quality Division staff as they shared detailed data and information they were compiling for the PM2.5 recommended designations for the State of Michigan. This workgroup met eight (8) times between August 2024 and April 2025. The workgroup consisted of stakeholders across public and private partners as well as academia to review and provide feedback on the data and attainment analysis. EGLE Air Quality Division submitted the PM2.5 attainment recommendations to USEPA in February 2025. The EPA will consider these recommendations and finalize designations by February 2026 unless they extend the deadline to February 2027. The workgroup also stayed abreast of the EPA review status for the Wayne County SO₂ redesignation request from nonattainment to attainment.

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, 15 CMAQ and 18 CRP projects were obligated in FY 2025.

SEMCOG attended the State of Michigan Air Advisory Council quarterly meetings. Among the topics discussed in these meetings included NAAQS Planning, including PM2.5 attainment, Wayne County SO₂ attainment and ongoing ozone. Other topics included wildfire messaging, air monitoring network plan, air quality forecasting and the MiEnvironPortal.

The Air Quality Advisory and Alerts season, running from March 1 through September 30, includes SEMCOG’s communication efforts such as electronic mailings and social media posts. In 2024–2025, there were four Air Quality Advisories. In 2024, in collaboration with EGLE, SEMCOG transitioned 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.

2024–2025 Air Quality Advisories and Alerts

- July 12, 2024 – [Air Quality Advisory \(AQI Orange\) Declared for Saturday, July 13 in Southeast Michigan](#)
- May 30, 2025 – [Air Quality Advisory \(AQI Orange\) Declared for Friday, May 30 until 6 a.m. Saturday, May 31 in Southeast Michigan](#)
- June 5, 2025 – [Air Quality Advisory \(AQI Orange\) Declared for Thursday, June 5 until 12 p.m. on Friday, June 6 in Southeast Michigan](#)
- June 6, 2025 – [Air Quality Advisory \(AQI Orange\) Extended through all of Friday, June 6 in Southeast Michigan](#)

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

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. SEMCOG has an active position on the statewide Water Asset Management Council to help elevate these priorities in the region.

SEMCOG staff also coordinate other related work that will lead to and support future infrastructure coordination initiatives. 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 contributed to the planning of the statewide Integrated Infrastructure Conference as part of the MIC/WAMC/TAMC Conference Planning Committee for August 2024.

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 infrastructure project data for near term (4-5 year) and longer term (20 year) projects.

In 2024, SEMCOG entered a Memorandum of Understanding with the Michigan Infrastructure Council to coordinate the following activities in the SEMCOG region:

- Developing and managing a geographic information system that is integrated with the MIC Project Portal (MIDIG)
- Collection of capital improvement plans from public infrastructure owners within the SEMCOG region

- Training and education efforts associated with GIS, using the MIC Project Portal, and infrastructure data collection best practices and standards
- Developing processes and policies associated with delivering integrated infrastructure projects (dig once) identified within the MIC Project Portal
- Facilitation of periodic regional coordination meetings to discuss SEMCOG analysis of data and opportunity identification
- Providing asset management training and resources to local communities including the MIC AM Champions program and MIC Asset Management Readiness Scale

SEMCOG attended the following Water Asset Management Council meetings:

- June 26, 2025
- May 22, 2025
- April 24, 2025
- March 27, 2025
- February 27, 2025
- January 23, 2025
- November 14, 2024
- October 24, 2024
- August 22, 2024
- August 14, 2024

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 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 support 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.

SEMCOG developed the [Southeast Michigan Wetland Mapper](#) and [Storymap](#), launched in May 2025. The Mapper highlights the region's diverse wetlands and their various functions, with data sourced from SEMCOG's Open Data Portal and is based on the US Fish & Wildlife Service's National Wetlands Inventory, updated in 2015 through collaboration with the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) and Ducks Unlimited, Inc. (DU). This analysis focuses on high functioning wetlands, highlighting wetlands that function for water quality, carbon sequestration, flood storage, and habitat. The corresponding Storymap acts as background information for the importance of Southeast Michigan wetlands, as well as a user guide for the tool.

Product 7: Regional Resiliency Planning Activities

SEMCOG developed the [Regional Resilience Framework](#) to guide project and investment needs for the region. The Framework summarizes actions to assess, plan, and implement resiliency efforts at the local, county and regional levels for communities and organizations in Southeast Michigan. Additionally, the project workplan included the development of a [data portfolio](#) to compile available relevant information for flooding related projects, specifically focused on stormwater drainage. This project also included a summary of [funding strategies](#) to address flooding in the region.

The Regional Resiliency Framework created a baseline for SEMCOG to apply for the FHWA PROTECT grant opportunity. In 2024, SEMCOG was awarded the PROTECT funding, to develop a Resilience Improvement Plan for Southeast Michigan. The plan will identify strategies and projects for building resilience in the region's transportation, water, and green infrastructure networks. SEMCOG will convene a Flooding Task Force in Fall 2025 to guide the development of this plan. SEMCOG contracted with TetraTech as the main consultant for the project. TetraTech has subcontracts with Hubbell, Roth, & Clark Inc. (HRC), Drummond Carpenter, and ICF, to help guide and complete the project tasks. This project kicked-off in Spring 2025 and will continue through March 2027.

In Spring 2025, SEMCOG met with the drain commissioners from each County, to hear more about their flooding challenges and priority locations for stormwater improvements. These conversations will help inform regional priorities for the Flooding and Resilience Plan.

In June 2025, SEMCOG and their consulting team began work on Task 3, the Large-Scale Nature Based Solutions Analysis. The consulting team developed an online, interactive [Nature Based Solutions Dashboard](#), to highlight potential opportunities for large-scale nature based solutions in the region. This dashboard was presented to SEMCOG members and partner across the region, to get feedback on potential sites and determine priority areas for developing concept plans. These concept plans will guide the next steps to project implementation.

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.

Staff facilitated bimonthly Partners for Clean Water meetings. 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.

Product 8: Environmental and Ecosystem Services Tool

To enhance and update the environmental sensitivity analysis for all transportation projects, SEMCOG worked with Highland Economics (HE) to develop an Environmental and Ecosystem Services Tool. This tool provides an online planning - level service to local agencies, incorporating more recent environmental data and initiatives to inform project selection. SEMCOG met 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 sent over needed data to Highland Economics' GIS team. Their GIS team utilized this data to stand up an online tool. SEMCOG worked with their members and partners throughout the year, to test the iterations of the tool and make changes to provide enhanced user experience. SEMCOG and Highland Economic are working to transfer the tool to SEMCOG's GIS servers. This will happen during Summer 2025, with release of the tool scheduled for Fall 2025.

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 9: 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 10: Documentation of activities and actions to address climate priorities across air, water, and natural resources.

In collaboration with various SEMCOG departments, SEMCOG facilitated the regional Healthy Climate Task Force in developing the comprehensive action plan. The Task Force engaged regional stakeholders to provide input and guidance on developing priorities, while smaller focus groups met to examine specific issues and report back to the larger Task Force. SEMCOG staff in collaboration with the task force and consultants developed a suite of strategies for future implementation consideration at the State and local levels working towards meeting the State of Michigan goals.

PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

PROJECT 23318, GREAT LAKES RESTORATION INITIATIVE

GRANT/TASK	GRANTOR	LOCAL	TOTAL
GLRI23, 23318	\$333,444.76	\$0	\$333,444.76

Product 1: Demographic 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 and Drummond Carpenter provided updates on the grant program to SEMCOG's Partners for Clean Water group, who represents the project's Steering Committee. Additionally, SEMCOG and Drummond Carpenter presented on the Green Infrastructure Grant Program at the MWEA Annual Conference in June 2025, specifically on the benefits of green infrastructure implementation and coordination with water resource engineers.

Product 3: Subaward Process

The status of each project as of June 2025 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; the project will be bid out in April/May, with implementation happening throughout the summer.
2	Clinton Township	Joy Park Parking Lot Improvements	\$115,000	Complete
3	City of Dearborn	Rain Gardens for Public Health	\$95,000	Complete
4	Grosse Pointe Park	City Hall Rain Garden Bioretention	\$60,335	In progress; design consultant selected.
5	Huron River Watershed Council with City of Wixom, City of Walled Lake	Green Stormwater Infrastructure Norton Creek Municipal Facility Bioretention	\$107,000	In progress; initial installations complete with additional installation with remaining funds scheduled for 2025.
6	City of Northville	Greening Mill Race Village Permeable pavers and rain gardens.	\$115,000	Complete
7	Oakland County Water Resources Commissioner	George W. Kuhn RTB site improvements & parking lot bioretention.	\$95,000	Complete
8	City of River Rouge	Belanger Park Bioretention	\$95,000	Paused; soil testing completed, with soil contamination found at the site, making it unadvisable to implement GI practices. SEMCOG is working with the community and ECT to determine next steps for the project.
9	City of Southfield	Bauervic Woods Rain Garden / Bioswale	\$95,000	In progress; design consultant selected.
Total Project Subaward			\$857,335	

From June 2024 to June 2025, SEMCOG had monthly to bi-monthly meetings with the communities and provided technical assistance to move projects forward. Multiple communities have completed their respective projects, but others' progress was slower due to a variety of planning and implementation obstacles. A formal extension was approved to provide additional time for communities who experienced additional barriers, extending the grant timeline through 2025.

Product 4: SEMCOG Project Oversight and Technical Assistance

SEMCOG met with subawardees periodically throughout the year 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

Drummond Carpenter (DC) was hired in early 2024 to assist with grant administration, provide technical assistance to communities, and review community submittals for grant conformance. DC has been attending, and documenting, the monthly progress meetings and has provided several presentations on relevant GSI technical topics. DC has also visited eight of the nine proposed GSI installation sites at least once and have been providing technical assistance to communities on an as-needed basis. They have been reviewing community submittals (monthly reports and design plans) for grant conformance and providing advice on designs. Finally, DC verified as-built conditions for the four communities that have finalized their projects and calculated metrics for grant reporting.

Products 6: Grant Reporting

SEMCOG submitted semi-annual reports to EPA in October 2024 and April 2025.

PROJECT 23346, MATERIALS MANAGEMENT COUNTY ENGAGEMENT

GRANT/TASK	GRANTOR	LOCAL	TOTAL
MMCE23, 23346	\$13,076.68	\$18.86	\$13,095.54

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.

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](#).

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.

PROJECT 23360, ELECTRIC VEHICLE JOBS ACADEMY: SMART CITIES AND ELECTRIC FLEETS COLLABORATIVE

GRANT/TASK	GRANTOR	LOCAL	TOTAL
EVJA23, 23360	\$2,315.67	\$52.85	\$2,368.52

Product 1: Documentation of SC2FC meetings and activities

Finalized and published the new [State of Michigan Community EV Toolkit](#) to include information on the EV Jobs Academy Smart Cities and Community Fleet Collaborative (SC2FC) project lead by SEMCOG.

Product 2: Forums to share resources and best practices

Results and best practices from forums and trainings held in through this collaborative were incorporated into the [State of Michigan Community EV Toolkit](#) and shared with partners, stakeholders, and the public.

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>

PROJECT 24315, GLRI URBAN STORMWATER

GRANT/TASK	GRANTOR	LOCAL	TOTAL
GLEJ24, 24315	\$31,167.25	\$0	\$31,167.25

SEMCOG has received a \$4.2 million grant from the EPA’s Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Environmental Justice Program (GLEJP) to enhance environmental quality in underserved communities in Southeast Michigan. This funding will support green infrastructure projects aimed at reducing stormwater runoff, improving water quality, helping build local capacity and expanding the region’s green infrastructure network.

As of January 21, 2025, work for this project was put on hold due to Executive Order and EPA notice to pause disbursement for the grant. SEMCOG was able to continue working on internal tasks for the grant, but much of the work remained paused throughout the fiscal year.

Product 1: Identifying Impacted Communities and Community Outreach

SEMCOG previewed this grant opportunity to members and partner organizations at SEMCOG’s General Assembly meeting in October, 2024. Additionally, SEMCOG held a SEMCOG University webinar in January 2025 to announce the program and discuss the timeline moving forward. CWP participated in this webinar and discussed the project development and application assistance they are able to provide.

Products 2: Steering Committee Meetings

In August 2024, SEMCOG began reaching out to local stormwater experts and environmental justice community representatives to build a Steering Committee for the grant program. The following communities and organizations agreed to participate as a member of the steering committee:

- St. Clair County
- Oakland County
- Macomb County
- Washtenaw County
- Detroit Future City
- Michigan Environmental Justice Council
- The State of Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy
- City of Dearborn

SEMCOG and the Center for Watershed Protection (CWP) held the initial steering committee meetings on September 12 and 13. The committee’s role is to establish criteria for project selection, review applications and provide recommendations for project selection, and serve as a potential resource for subawardees as projects move forward. At these initial meetings, Steering Committee members provided comments and suggestions on the project criteria.

On October 1, 2024, the project criteria, developed and approved by SEMCOG and the project Steering Committee, was taken to SEMCOG’s Regional Review Committee, where it was

approved. This criteria will be used when evaluating subaward project proposals.

Products 3: Subaward Process

The subaward process will begin when the pause is lifted on the grant.

Products 4: SEMCOG Project Oversight and Technical Assistance

Worked internally on the development of the Quality Management Plan, under EPA guidance to move forward with this part of the project.

Products 5: Contractual Technical Support

SEMCOG released a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to qualify up to four engineering and environmental consultants to support local agencies that will be awarded funding through this grant program. In total, seven proposals were received. SEMCOG put together a small steering committee of stormwater engineers to help review proposals. SEMCOG and the RFQ steering committee reviewed the proposals and selected five consultants to interview.

SEMCOG is not moving forward with contracting with the consultants until the pause on the grant program has been lifted.

Products 6: Grant Reporting

SEMCOG staff submitted Semi-Annual progress reports to the EPA in October 2024 and April 2025.

PROJECT 24327, DNR SPARKS

GRANT/TASK	GRANTOR	LOCAL	TOTAL
DNRS24/24327	\$41,296.97	\$0	\$41,296.97

Product 1: Project and expenditure reporting

SEMCOG served as a frequent point of contact between grantors and grantees to identify local needs and support overarching assistance strategies. SEMCOG met regularly with with DNR, MAR, and CMF for ongoing coordination across program and state. SEMCOG prepared and submitted quarterly progress reports to DNR.

Products 2: Programmatic data reporting

No activity on this task in this fiscal year.

PROJECT 24345, MULTIMODAL TOOL

GRANT/TASK	GRANTOR	LOCAL	TOTAL
MT24/24345	\$83,622.83	\$137.63	\$83,760.46

Product 1: Enhanced web-based Multimodal Tool

SEMCOG continued bi-weekly coordination meetings with MDOT and the consultant team to finish tool development, testing, and deployment. The [Multimodal Tool](#) was developed to help county and local jurisdictions in Southeast Michigan, stakeholders and community organizations, SEMCOG staff, and MDOT staff with multimodal transportation planning projects. It can be used for State, county, and local roads within Southeast Michigan. Final products include the [integrated web-based tool](#), an updated [User Guide](#), and a [Case Studies](#) report.

Product 2: Documentation of local implementation of the Multimodal Tool

SEMCOG, in partnership with MDOT, promoted local implementation of the tool across the region and State. SEMCOG presented on the tool at various meetings and conferences to encourage local use, including: Federal-aid Committee meetings, MDOT Metro Region Steering Team, Michigan State Transportation Innovation Council, WTS Michigan webinar, WTS International Annual Conference, ITE Michigan technical session, ITE Michigan webinar, and MTPA Annual Conference. SEMCOG also provided technical assistance to local communities using the tool, such as Detroit, Port Huron, and Wixom.

PROJECT 24370, SAFE STREETS

GRANT/TASK	GRANTOR	LOCAL	TOTAL
SS24, 24370	\$231,882.98	\$57,970.74	\$289,853.72

Product 1: Implementation of regional RSA programs

SEMCOG's Regional Review Committee (RRC) reaffirmed selection criteria for the RSA program, including using regional analyses from SEMCOG's Transportation Safety Plan and Bicycle and Pedestrian Mobility Plan. SEMCOG solicited additional RSA project locations from local agencies via a second call for projects, a SEMCOG University webinar, a blog, and targeted outreach. To date, the RRC has selected 19 projects across the region. 13 are completed and 6 are in progress, to be completed this year.

SEMCOG completed the safety analysis tool vendor selection process and procured the selected tool, Tatum Group's Safety Performance Function (SPF) Tool. SEMCOG held several coordination meetings with the vendor, prepared the data needed for the tool, and the vendor is now working on building the 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, Transportation Coordinating Council meetings, and the annual Michigan Transportation Planning Association conference. SEMCOG also coordinated with individual communities and

partners who are interested in the programs, including targeted outreach to communities with potential locations for RSAs.

SEMCOG coordinated with the 2024 and 2025 RSA communities to develop their RSA implementation plans and begin implementing project recommendations.

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, processing local community matches and consultant invoices, and SS4A quarterly performance progress reporting to FHWA.

PROJECT 24375, MI INFRASTRUCTURE OFFICE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

GRANT/TASK	GRANTOR	LOCAL	TOTAL
MIO24, 24375	\$10,000.00	\$1,057.12	\$11,057.12

Product 1: Implementation of regional RSA programs

- Reviewed applications from communities in Southeast Michigan for the MIO-TA program and provided direct guidance to applicants regarding grant opportunities
- Drafted and provided letters of support for multiple communities and applications
- Promoted MIO-TA funding opportunities in bi-weekly newsletter Regional Update
- Coordinated with MIO-TA staff on project competitiveness and eligibility related to both MIO-TA program and Elective Pay program
- Attended webinars and training on new MIO-TA opportunities, and presented on changes to the program throughout the year

PROJECT 25314, LOCAL CAPACITY BUILDING

GRANT/TASK	GRANTOR	LOCAL	TOTAL
CPG25, 25314	\$1,370,117.87	\$224,490.32	\$1,594,608.19

Product 1: Documentation of training programs provided

Held 21 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:](#)
 - 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.

- [Accessible by Design: Designers, the ADA, and real life](#)
 - Held on September 12, this webinar provided communities and stakeholders with education and requirements needed to ensure planning and implementation projects are reflective of ADA and designing for people of all abilities.
- [IDEP Alert Observer Training](#)
 - Three training sessions were held on October 8, October 9, and November 13 on stormwater permit training opportunities
- [Locals Lead: Modernizing Municipal Buildings](#)
 - Held on October 30, this webinar shared best practices from a variety of communities who overcame funding and community perception challenges to update municipal facilities.
- [Road Safety Audit Program](#)
 - Held on November 4, this webinar shared information on SEMCOG's Road Safety Audit program, including the funding available, and resources available to local communities interested in understanding what RSAs are and how they can improve transportation safety for their residents and road users.
- [Locals Lead: Demystifying AI](#)
 - Held on December 11, this workshop featured an introduction to Artificial Intelligence and shared examples of how communities can harness this emerging technology in their daily operations.
- [Economic Development and Placemaking Tools and Resources](#)
 - Held on December 13, this webinar provided participants with an overview of SEMCOG's role in economic development, tracking socio-economic change and SEMCOG's new Economic Development Dashboard, and several of SEMCOG's economic development tools, including the Location Analysis and Visitation Tool and GREEN Dashboard.
- [Engaging Students in Regional Planning](#)
 - Held on January 9, this webinar shared information on SEMCOG's current Safety, Water Quality and Healthy Environment planning efforts and received input from stakeholders on how best to communicate with students and ultimately their parents on the importance of inclusive and impactful regional planning
- [Adopting a Culture of Safety](#)
 - Held on January 23, this webinar shared the importance of a Safe System Approach to transportation safety, highlighting the tools and resources available through SEMCOG and sharing presentations and best practices from local practitioners, including the Road Commission for Oakland County, Canton Township, City of Ann Arbor, and Washtenaw County.
- [Implementing Clean Energy Projects and Cutting Costs through Elective Pay](#)
 - Held on January 29, this webinar was hosted with the Michigan Infrastructure Office to provide information about how local governments can use the state's Elective Pay program to offset the cost of energy-efficiency projects.
- Green Infrastructure Grant Program

- Held on February 4, this webinar provided an overview of SEMCOG’s upcoming grant opportunity for local agencies to implement green infrastructure projects through funding received from the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) Great Lakes Environmental Justice Grant Program (GLEJGP).
- [Building Leadership, Organization, and Funding for Main Street](#)
 - Held on March 14, this in person training was the first of a three-part series on Main Street Revitalization and Placemaking. This series has been designed to support elected officials, community administrators, and professionals working to revitalize Main Streets, commercial corridors, and downtowns in rural communities, small towns and dynamic urban centers.
- [Wetland Mapper Tool](#)
 - Held on April 1, this workshop introduced SEMCOG’s new [Wetland Mapper](#) and [Wetlands Storymap](#), tools designed to support the protection and restoration of Southeast Michigan’s wetland – spanning over 330,000 acres. These vital ecosystems enhance water quality, sequester carbon, and help mitigate flooding.
- [SEMCOG 101 Workshop](#)
 - Held on April 14, this in person workshop shared the basics of utilizing SEMCOG resources at this orientation session, which is designed for newly elected officials and those wishing to become more engaged with SEMCOG.
- [Developing Vibrant Year-Road Places](#)
 - Held on April 17, this webinar focused on Placemaking on Main Street, Creating Year-Round Activity, and Understanding Annual Visitation Trends.
- [Locals Lead: Data Storytelling to Support Millages](#)
 - Held on May 7, this webinar was hosted in partnership with Munetrix to share methods for communicating community needs using a data-based approach to support millage proposals.
- [Creating Safe and Livable Main Streets](#)
 - Held on May 16, this webinar highlighted regional successes, data and tools available, and a Q and A session.
- [Locals Lead: Unlocking Local Prosperity – Collaborative Purchasing for Every Michigan Community](#)
 - Held on May 22, this webinar provided best practices and examples of how communities are using collaborative purchasing to reduce costs, increase services, and stimulate local economic development.

Product 2: Summary of capacity-building activities

Documentation of regional reviews and actions of the Regional Review Committee

SEMCOG reviewed 28 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 four times during the Fiscal Year:

- October 1, 2024
- January 31, 2025
- April 3, 2025
- June 24, 2025

Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)

Provided technical assistance and coordination to 89 communities/counties throughout the region regarding eligibility and competitiveness and/or LAP implementation of TAP funding, including:

- Ann Arbor
- Ann Arbor Township
- Bellville
- Beverly Hills
- Birmingham
- Bloomfield Township
- Brighton
- Brownstown Township
- Canton Township
- Chelsea
- Chesterfield Twp
- Clawson
- Clinton Township
- Dearborn
- Dearborn Heights
- Detroit
- Downriver Linked Greenways
- Ecorse
- East China Township
- East Pointe
- Erie Township
- Farmington
- Farmington Hills
- Ferndale
- Flat Rock
- Huron Clinton Metroparks
- Fort Gratiot
- Gibraltar
- Green Oak Township
- Grosse Ile Township
- Grosse Pointe Park
- Hamtramck
- Harper Woods
- Harrison Township
- Hartland Township
- Howell
- Inkster
- Independence Township
- Keego Harbor
- Lima Township
- Livingston County
- Macomb County
- Macomb Township
- Marine City
- Marysville
- Milan
- Monroe
- Monroe County
- Monroe Township
- Mt Clemens
- Northville
- Northville Township
- Novi
- Oakland County
- Orion Township
- Pinkney
- Pittsfield Township
- Port Huron
- Port Huron Township
- River Rouge
- Riverview
- Rochester
- Rochester Hills
- Romeo
- Romulus
- Roseville
- Saline
- Scio Township
- Shelby Township
- Southfield
- Springfield
- Township
- St Clair
- St Clair Shores
- Sterling Heights
- Superior Township
- Trenton
- Troy
- Van Buren Township
- Washington Township
- Washtenaw County
- Waterford Township
- Wayne
- Wayne County
- West Bloomfield Township
- Westland
- Wyandotte
- York Township
- 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 \$13 million funding to 11 projects at Regional Review Committee meetings held on October 1, January 31 and June 24.

Bicycle and pedestrian planning technical assistance

Worked with 62 communities to help guide them through various aspects of bicycle and pedestrian planning.

- Livingston County
 - Brighton
 - Green Oak Township
 - Livingston County
 - Pinckney
- Monroe County
 - Bedford Township
 - Erie Township
 - Frenchtown Township
 - Luna Pier
 - Monroe
 - Monroe Township
 - Monroe County
 - South Rockwood
 - Whiteford Township
- Macomb County
 - Armada
 - Armada Township
 - Chesterfield Township
 - Clinton Township
 - East Ponte
 - Harper Woods
 - Macomb Township
 - Mount Clemens
 - St Clair Shores
 - Warren
 - Washington Township
- Oakland County
 - Birmingham
 - Clarkston
 - Clawson
 - Commerce Township
 - Ferndale
 - Farmington
 - Lathrup Village
 - Novi
 - Oakland County
 - Orion Township
 - Oxford Township
 - Rochester Hills
 - Rose Township
 - Royal Oak Township
 - Waterford Township
- Wixom
- St Clair County
 - Fort Gratiot
 - Port Huron
- Washtenaw County
 - Ann Arbor
 - Ann Arbor Township
 - Washtenaw County
 - York Township
- Wayne County
 - Belleville
 - Canton Township
 - Dearborn
 - Dearborn Heights
 - Downriver Linked Greenways
 - Detroit
 - Flat Rock
 - Gibraltar
 - Grosse Ile
 - Inkster
 - Romulus
 - Trenton
 - Wayne
 - Wayne County
 - Woodhaven
 - Wyandotte

SEMCOG staff continued a bicycle and pedestrian count program in urban, suburban and rural communities across the seven-county region. An interactive online map of bicycle and pedestrian counts shows 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 FY25 Planning Assistance Program to fund Planning projects across five priority topics of regional significance and move plans and priorities forward:

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

In total, 14 projects were awarded \$480,000 for FY2025. All completed projects have been or will be added to [SEMCOG's Planning Assistance Program interactive mapping tool](#). To complete these projects, SEMCOG provided administrative support and technical assistance for these projects. Highlights of these successful projects were shared at SEMCOG University workshops. Additionally, sessions highlighting successful projects were shared at the October 2024 General Assembly meeting.

For FY2026, SEMCOG awarded nearly \$500,000 to 13 projects across the region. Staff have begun the administration of these projects, working directly with communities.

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.

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.

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5	Huron River Watershed Council with City of Wixom, City of Walled Lake	Green Stormwater Infrastructure Norton Creek Municipal Facility Bioretention	\$107,000	In progress; initial installations complete with additional installation with remaining funds scheduled for 2025.
6	City of Northville	Greening Mill Race Village Permeable pavers and rain gardens.	\$115,000	Complete
7	Oakland County Water Resources Commissioner	George W. Kuhn RTB site improvements & parking lot bioretention.	\$95,000	Complete
8	City of River Rouge	Belanger Park Bioretention	\$95,000	Paused; soil testing completed, with soil contamination found at the site, making it unadvisable to implement GI practices. SEMCOG is working with the community and ECT to determine next steps for the project.
9	City of Southfield	Bauervic Woods Rain Garden / Bioswale	\$95,000	In progress; design consultant selected.
Total Project Subaward			\$857,335	

SEMCOG has entered 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. Additionally, Grosse Pointe Park and River Rouge are in the process of determining if they can move forward due to several challenges.

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 2024 and April 2025.

Infrastructure – Drinking Water Monitoring

SEMCOG was awarded a \$1.5 million appropriation from the Michigan Legislature to connect the drinking water plants from Lake Huron to Lake Erie with real time monitoring capabilities. SEMCOG has facilitated these community stakeholder group meetings since the inception of this program in the early 2000s. The funding is providing upgrades to the monitoring equipment with higher levels of data sensitivity and response time.

Infrastructure

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. SEMCOG has an active position on the statewide Water Asset Management Council to help elevate these priorities in the region.

SEMCOG staff also coordinate other related work that will lead to and support future infrastructure coordination initiatives. 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 contributed to the planning of the statewide Integrated Infrastructure Conference as part of the MIC/WAMC/TAMC Conference Planning Committee for August 2024.

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 infrastructure project data for near term (4-5 year) and longer term (20 year) projects.

In 2024, SEMCOG entered a Memorandum of Understanding with the Michigan Infrastructure Council to coordinate the following activities in the SEMCOG region:

- Developing and managing a geographic information system that is integrated with the MIC Project Portal (MIDIG)
- Collection of capital improvement plans from public infrastructure owners within the SEMCOG region
- Training and education efforts associated with GIS, using the MIC Project Portal, and infrastructure data collection best practices and standards
- Developing processes and policies associated with delivering integrated infrastructure

projects (dig once) identified within the MIC Project Portal

- Facilitation of periodic regional coordination meetings to discuss SEMCOG analysis of data and opportunity identification
- Providing asset management training and resources to local communities including the MIC AM Champions program and MIC Asset Management Readiness Scale

SEMCOG attended the following Water Asset Management Council meetings:

- June 26, 2025
- May 22, 2025
- April 24, 2025
- March 27, 2025
- February 27, 2025
- January 23, 2025
- November 14, 2024
- October 24, 2024
- August 22, 2024
- August 14, 2024

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 FY2025, SEMCOG convened a [Legislative Policy Platform Task Force](#) to develop the region's [2025-2026 Legislative Policy Platform](#). During this time, SEMCOG continued work to implement the policies in the region's [2023-2024 Legislative Policy Platform](#). Both platforms focus on broad policy needs rather than individual pieces of legislation; just like our regional plans focus setting a direction to achieve a desired result. The policy platforms reference 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 2025-2026 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 2025.

Local government fiscal analysis

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.

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 FY2025. 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 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: AI implementation, modernizing municipal facilities, data storytelling to support millage proposals, and collaborative purchasing.

In FY2025, 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 FY2025, SEMCOG engaged in conversations about how to evolve this partnership in the future through enhanced data resources and webinar/workshop content.

SEMCOG also works to share best practices across the region to increase efficiency and effectiveness of services. During FY2025, SEMCOG's [Locals Lead Initiative](#) celebrated and shared the best practices and success stories of local governments from across the region who are innovating and collaborating to improve their communities. This initiative featured content and presentations at SEMCOG Executive Committee and General Assembly events, a series of workshops and webinars, a webpage dedicated to sharing local stories, and social media and blog posts telling these stories.

Parks and 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.

One Water Campaign

One major achievement was the successful execution of the One Water campaign in May and June of 2025. Following its conclusion, SEMCOG’s staff conducted internal meetings to debrief and begin preparations for the comprehensive final report. Following successful execution of the One Water campaign in June, SEMCOG’s staff conducted internal meetings to debrief and begin preparations of the comprehensive final report, to be published in PowerPoint/PDF format in Fall 2025. Throughout the 2024–2025 fiscal year, SEMCOG staff held internal and external discussions to develop the 2025 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 2025. In these development meetings, SEMCOG supported EGLE’s proposed theme, highlighting the interconnectedness between Michiganders and the water resources around us. SEMCOG worked with EGLE throughout the fiscal year to craft messaging for the week and coordinate various initiatives.

In addition to its member communities, SEMCOG has partnered with Southeast Michigan watershed organizations to distribute water quality materials designed to support each council’s educational and stewardship goals. These partners, deeply connected to the communities they serve, play a key role in educating and empowering residents as stewards of our water resources.

PROJECT 25330, PUBLIC TRANSIT

GRANT/TASK	GRANTOR	LOCAL	TOTAL
CPG25, 25330	\$344,443.25	\$76,379.30	\$420,822.55

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. Staff participates in committee meetings and collaborated with the RTA in the implementation of adopted master plan updates.
- Working with MDOT, the City of Detroit, and Michigan Central Station (MCS) reps to create a transit/mobility hub, including an intercity component.
- An outgrowth of the MCS work is an effort to re-establish passenger rail connections to Canada. As part of this, SEMCOG participates on the steering committee to move this connection forward.
- Continued coordination in 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.

- Continued discussions with consultants of The Ride regarding the investigation of various transit options along US 23 and I 94 for access to jobs in Ann Arbor.
- Coordinating with SMART on their outreach effort with Wayne County communities to prepare for potential expansion of transit services within the county. Based on the need to properly coordinate, a monthly meeting has been scheduled between SEMCOG, SMART and RTA.

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

- Coordinating with the RTA on potential projects to include in the Healthy Climate Plan grant administrated through the EPA.
- Coordinating with RTA on their Mobility 4 All program focused on seniors, people with disabilities, and low-income community members.
- Coordinating with regional providers on SEMCOG's Transportation Accessibility Report, which has included direct meetings and gathering feedback.

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 changes from each transit provider and making updates as needed.
- Preparing to gather GTFS and demand response data from providers.
- Updated Demand response map based on survey of all regional providers to be used in Transportation Accessibility report and other updated information for regional planning.
 - Updated RTA on the work and intention to brief and discuss further during the following RTA Providers Advisory Committee Meeting.

Product 4: Participate in transit promotion and planning activities

- Continued to participate in the various RTA committees.
- Participating in the SMARTer Mobility Program Steering Committee led by SMART.
 - Provided feedback based on the two scenarios focused on coverage and frequency.
- Provided feedback to SMART on their bus stop design manual. The manual has been finalized and posted online.
- Working with the RTA on a joint workshop regarding mobility options.

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

- Participated in RTA Thriving Communities project for the four identified corridors for Bus Rapid Transit in the future.
- Present federally required TMP Transit targets on asset management and safety to utilize in regional targets.
- Updated TMP website with the transit targets recently adopted by executive committee.

- Coordinated with transit agencies to gather updated TAM and Safety targets on an annual basis.

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: Transit Awards: FY 2027 – 2029 CMAQ and Carbon Reduction Program (CRP)

- SEMCOG’s Regional Review Committee approved the CMAQ and CRP projects proposed to the committee on January 31, 2025.
- Provided individual outreach to transit agencies for these application submittals.
- Worked with MDOT OPT to review applications.
- Provided assistance to transit agencies reviewing eligible projects
- Awarded 19 transit projects totaling \$38.7 million in federal CMAQ funding.

PROJECT 25344, SAFETY AND SECURITY

GRANT/TASK	GRANTOR	LOCAL	TOTAL
CPG25, 25344	\$572,491.41	\$126,948.28	\$699,439.69

Product 1: 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 [July](#) and [October](#) 2024, [January](#) and [April](#) 2025 to discuss regional traffic crash trends, local and regional accomplishments, strategies, projects 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 Technical Session Meeting; quarterly AMPO Safety webinars; MAP’s Transportation Leadership Task Force; AAA Safe Systems Symposium; MTPA conference; APBP conference; Michigan Rail conference; Michigan Traffic Safety Summit; AASHTO CPMB/TPM TSP quarterly coordination meetings, and MORPC quarterly coordination meetings.

SEMCOG participated in and provided technical assistance on several studies and projects, including: Warren Active Mobility Plan, Macomb County Comprehensive Safety Action Plan, Oakland County Safety Action Plan Committee; OHSP Detroit Focus Group; TAP Application Review Committee including safety review of several TAP and SRTS project in the region; MDOT Pedestrian Bridge Study LAC; MDOT I-75 Corridor Plan; and MDOT COVID Impacts Research Steering Committee. SEMCOG also assisted with the Southeast Michigan Freight Plan development and data needs.

SEMCOG prepared for FHWA certification and presented SEMCOG safety implementation

highlights. FHWA gave SEMCOG several commendations for this work.

Product 2: Maintain and update transportation planning tools, including the SEMCOG crash database, SEMCOG website, mapping tools, etc.

SEMCOG finished processing 2023 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 [2023 Traffic Crash Quick Facts](#) report.

SEMCOG began to update the Traffic Safety Manual, which will be finalized this year.

SEMCOG continued to update and maintain information on the [Safety Hub](#), which gathers all of SEMCOG's transportation safety related efforts, data, and resources in one location.

SEMCOG's first SS4A grant included funds for purchasing a safety analysis tool to enhance the region's safety analysis and data visualization. SEMCOG selected and purchased Tatum Group's SPF tool, prepared the data needed for the tool, and the vendor is now working on building the 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: Road Safety Audit Program](#)
- [SEMCOG University: Engaging Students in Regional Planning](#)
- [SEMCOG University: Adopting a Culture of Safety](#)
- [SEMCOG 101: In-person Workshop and Networking Lunch](#)
- [SEMCOG University: Main Street Revitalization and Placemaking Series: Creating Safe & Livable Main Streets](#)

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: Woodhaven, SMART, Washtenaw County Road Commission, Royal Oak, Bedford, Whiteford, Flat Rock, 8 Mile Blvd Association, Fraser, Detroit, Mt. Clemens, Scio Twp, Port Huron, Brighton, Green Oak Twp, Ann Arbor, Macomb County, Erie Twp, Pickney, Oakland County, Clawson, Livingston County, Warren, Hamtramck, Macomb Twp, Farmington Hills, Milford, Dearborn, and Pittsfield Twp.

SEMCOG concluded the first round of Road Safety Audit [projects](#) and conducted a second [call of projects](#) for additional RSA locations. Many of the selected projects are complete and the rest will finish in FY26. SEMCOG continued coordination with FHWA on the grant agreement for a second SS4A regional grant for vulnerable road user demonstration projects. The grant agreement for this grant is still in progress.

Product 4: Implementation and expansion of the Safe Streets education campaign for regional and local education and planning activities

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 2024](#) and [May 2025](#), including online and TV PSA messaging. SEMCOG developed a new PSA video – [Driving Store](#), for the campaign about safe speeds and driver behavior, which won multiple [awards](#). SEMCOG is now developing a second PSA video focusing on Roundabout safety. 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 two times, in [October 2024](#) and [April 2025](#).

SEMCOG produced a Safe Streets [implementation report](#) which summarizes campaign activities up to FY2024, including products produced and distributed. A FY2025 implementation report is in progress.

SEMCOG presented the campaign to various committees, including the Transportation Safety Action Committee, Southeast Michigan Active Transportation Committee, and Communicators Network. SEMCOG promoted the campaign and safe travel practices through news releases ([December 2024](#) and [May 2025](#)) and [blog posts](#). SEMCOG also updated the layout and content of the campaign [website](#).

SEMCOG worked with Canton Twp on a safety education pilot and with Pittsfield Twp on a pedestrian safety outreach campaign. These pilot projects will serve as a template for local safety education tool kit.

Product 5: Monitor and update Regional ITS Architecture as appropriate

SEMCOG continued to coordinate with MDOT and monitor the regional ITS Architecture.

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. Meetings included SEMTOC regional transportation operation coordinating committee meetings and the TIM Partnering Workshop.

SEMCOG met with FHWA and presented information about regional traffic operations and coordination in Southeast Michigan. SEMCOG met with the city of Detroit on alternatives for I-75 Interchange study for the city. SEMCOG participated on the MDOT M-1 Corridor Planning local advisory committee activities.

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 worked with the Federal-Aid Committees to add safety to the project selection process for the FY26-29 TIP.

SEMCOG coordinated with the Transportation Coordinating Council and Transportation Safety Action Committee to develop the annual regional safety targets. The Executive Committee took action in [January](#) to adopt regional safety targets for 2025, and SEMCOG notified MDOT of the action.

PROJECT 25347, RESILIENCY FEASIBILITY ASSESSMENT

GRANT/TASK	GRANTOR	LOCAL	TOTAL
CNBS25, 25347	\$22,953.57	\$0	\$22,953.57

SEMCOG received funding through MDOT’s State Planning and Research (SPR) Program to conduct field-level engineering assessment of proposed conceptual plans to determine if a proposed nature-based feature is a feasible alternative for mitigating flooding. The goal of this work is to align potential nature-based solutions projects with other infrastructure projects happening throughout the region. Aligning conceptual plans with projects identified in SEMCOG transportation planning documents (both the TIP and the RTP) can help prioritize project implementation and ensure coordinated infrastructure improvements.

Products 1: Feasibility assessment methodology for nature-based solutions

In June 2025, SEMCOG and their consulting team began work on Task 3, the Large-Scale Nature Based Solutions Analysis. The consulting team developed the [Nature Based Solutions Dashboard](#) to highlight potential opportunities for large-scale nature based solutions in the region. This dashboard was presented to SEMCOG members and partners across the region, to get feedback on potential sites and determine priority areas for developing concept plans. These concept plans will guide the next steps to project implementation.

SEMCOG and MDOT met throughout the year to discuss the Nature Based Solutions Analysis and the Feasibility study, and how they can best align and move forward. Due to a pause on this grant program by Executive Orders released in January 2025, SEMCOG has requested an extension on this program to February 2026, in order to have adequate time to complete these assessments. The Feasibility Assessment will take place in Fall 2025, once a final site has been selected.

PROJECT 25350, EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

GRANT/TASK	GRANTOR	LOCAL	TOTAL
LP25, 25350	\$0	\$63,365.36	\$63,365.36

Products 1: Policy positions for Executive Committee

1.3 Analyzed the FY 25 state of Michigan budget for issues related to community and economic development, education and workforce development.

Key focus areas in the Governor’s budget include apprenticeships, resources for persons with disabilities and removal of barriers for employment. Monitored the Governor’s budget as well

as Senate and House activity on these issues

Monitored federal policies and proposals related to the Department of Education and Department of Labor. Several major changes have been proposed to workforce programs and adult education as well as funding for these programs. Monitoring the impact as identified by partners in education and workforce development.

2.3 SEMCOG and MAC 2025–2026 Policy Platforms

Participated in the development of both the SEMCOG and MAC Policy platforms for FY 2025–2026.

SEMCOG Platform

- Attended Task Force meetings and provided input on education, workforce and economic development. Attended meetings and discussed education policy with Midwest Strategies with a view to understanding the policy and funding implications.
- SEMCOG Roundtable for Education members on September 17 provided valuable insight into the legislative and policy priorities of Southeast Michigan’s education leaders. These were included in the platform.
- Platform was presented and approved by the SEMCOG Executive Committee on December 6.

MAC Platform

- Attended Task Force meetings and provided input on education, workforce and economic development. The final platform was presented and approved by the board on December 3.
- Attended the Metropolitan Affairs Coalition (MAC) Legislative Committee meeting on March 28, to discuss issues related to education and workforce development, including changes to the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA).

3.3 Legislative Events Attended

- Attended the SEMCOG Legislative Reception on April 15. Shared SEMCOG and MAC policies related to education and workforce development with guests.
- Participated in the Mackinac Policy Conference on May 27–May30, 2025. Attended sessions on education and workforce policy including dual enrollment, moving Michigan into a top ten state, education funding, the role of foundations in community development and employer needs for talent.
- Spoke with representatives from Michigan College Access Network, Lawrence Technological University, Macomb ISD, Ballmer Group, Washtenaw Community College, Schoolcraft College, Henry Ford College, Launch Michigan, Michigan Education Association, University of Michigan Dearborn, University of Michigan.
- In addition, spoke about workforce development with SEMCA Michigan Works, MUST Construction Careers, Operating Engineers, Michigan Regional Council of Carpenters and Millwrights.

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

SEMCOG continued researching issues related to issues of importance to education and workforce development. Attended webinars on challenges facing the childcare industry, working parents and employers, water infrastructure workforce, and labor force participation. This led to a series of SEMCOG webinars and workshops. These included:

SEMCOG Roundtable on September 17

At this roundtable discussion for SEMCOG Education members to gather input on the 2025-2026 Legislative Policy Platform, priorities included:

- State funding to adequately reflect the increasing cost of healthcare and prescription drugs for educators
- Capital improvements that create a positive and safe learning environment for students
- Supporting cybersecurity efforts to protect students, districts and institutions
- Address chronic absenteeism
- Health education highlighting the dangers (or impacts) of marijuana, vaping, and smoking

SEMCOG University on Engaging Students in Regional Planning on January 9, 2025.

Don Hubler, from Macomb ISD presented the opening remarks and education members discussed ways of sharing regional planning messaging with students in grade school. Further details can be found below.

SEMCOG Roundtable on April 16, 2025

Held the roundtable discussion for SEMCOG Education members to gather input on the 2026 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. Priorities included collaboration with employers, promoting skilled trades and healthcare careers, dual enrollment, and career technical education.

SEMCOG General Assembly, October 24, 2024

Coordinated a session related to creating the Infrastructure Workforce at the October 24, 2024 SEMCOG General Assembly meeting. Speakers provided input on local and statewide efforts to grow the workforce for careers in transportation, water infrastructure and broadband. Speakers were:

- Kojo Quartey, President, Monroe County Community College
- Eric Keller, Infrastructure Liaison, Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity
- Lee Graham, Executive Director, Labor Management and Education, International Union of Operating Engineers local 324
- Joseph Petrosky, Vice Chancellor for Economic and Workforce Development, Oakland Community College

The SEMCOG University on Engaging Students in Regional Planning led to several additional conversations regarding development of products and outreach efforts.

Engaging Students in Regional Planning

- Met with Ken Gutman on September 23 to discuss interest in providing input on products for students related to regional plans.
- Held the SEMCOG University on Engaging Students in Regional Planning on January 9, 2025. Don Hubler, from Macomb ISD gave opening remarks about the opportunities to engage youth in regional issues. We had a fruitful conversation and identified many product ideas for students. Met with Ken Gutman on September 23 to discuss interest in providing input on products for students related to regional plans.
- Internal debrief of Engaging Students in Regional Planning SEM U on 2/6/2025 to determine the next steps in completing this initiative.
- Kicked off pilot program 2/25 with Canton Twp. SEMCOG will support Evan Zhen a student who is concerned about safety issues such as biking and driving safety.
- Met with education members at General Assembly on 3/20/2025 to discuss next steps in the development and distribution of One Water materials to students.
- Spoke with Mary Blackmon on April 11, 2025 and Danielle Funderburg on April 30, 2025 on their thoughts on types of materials students would like related to One Water.

MAC Postsecondary Education Campaign

Developed a scope for a project focused on promoting the value of higher education/postsecondary education and training for the Metropolitan Affairs Coalition. This project was led by Henry Ford College President Russ Kavalhuna, and Macomb Community College President Jim Sawyer. Other participants include Washtenaw Community College President Rose Bellanca as well as Oakland University and Wayne RESA. Representatives of MAC's labor, business and government members were also invited to provide perspectives.

The goals of the project were to develop an effective communications campaign to:

- Show the value of postsecondary education in improving lifestyle
- Link to tuition availability and training opportunities
- Get trusted voices to identify the benefits including increased income
- Get employers to identify their talent needs and the resulting career opportunities.
- Share data on fast growing careers – 50 Hot Jobs
- Build understanding among different constituencies about the impact of postsecondary education on economic development
- Developed agenda and facilitated discussion for the first meeting of the MAC Future of Postsecondary Education Working Group on January 13, 2025. Facilitated input on the objective of the campaign and barriers to postsecondary education facing different populations. President Russ Kavalhuna from Henry Ford College provided the introduction and goals of the initiative.
- Coordinated speakers and facilitated discussion at the MAC Postsecondary Education Workgroup on March 17, 2025. Speakers included:
 - Charles Cotton III, Vice Provost of Enrollment Management, Wayne State University
 - Greg Handel, Vice President Education and Talent, Detroit Regional Chamber
- Coordinated speakers and facilitated discussion on increasing postsecondary enrollment

at the MAC Postsecondary Workgroup on May 7, 2025. Speakers included:

- Sarah Szurpicki, Director, Office of 60/30, MiLEAP
- Patrick Brown, Director of Adult Student Attainment Strategy, Michigan College Access Network (MCAN)
- Krista McKinney King, Director of Workforce Development, CTE, Adult Ed & Career Counseling, Wayne RESA
- Beth Gonzalez, Deputy Superintendent, Wayne RESA
- Jayme Powell, Executive Director, Detroit Regional Workforce Partnership
- Prepared agenda and proposals for discussion at the Workgroup meeting on June 26, 2025. The focus was on developing a pilot program to test messages either for high school students and their families or underemployed workers.

Products 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.

3.1 Board and Committee Participation.

SEMCOG participates in several boards and committees related to education and workforce development.

- Oakland 80 Advisory Committee
- SEMCA Michigan Works Workforce Development Board
- Detroit Regional Workforce Partnership
- MIWealth Board
- National League of Cities/National Governors Association EV Workforce Task Force
- 2025 Wayne County Manufacturing Day
- MDOT Partnership for Opportunity in Transportation

3.2 Meetings with Education and workforce stakeholders

- In addition, SEMCOG engages MAC members as well as other education leaders for insight into policy and workforce needs and provide support as needed.
- Met with Bri Brazell from the Detroit Regional Workforce Partnership on September 17 to discuss areas of collaboration.
- Met with President Jim Sawyer and Patrick Rouse, Director of Workforce and Continuing Education at Macomb Community College about a future blog on the college's Michigan Maritime Manufacturing training on November 4.
- Developed messages for President Bellanca's introductory remarks at the SEMCOG Washtenaw County Economic Development Outreach meeting on November 22.

- Spoke to City Manager, Quentin Bishop from the city of St. Clair about data related to CTE programs at the General Assembly on March 20. Referred him to Brian Parthum for information.
- Spoke to Anthony Arminiak, former President of WCCCD Downriver campus about the public safety training program for a future blog.
- Met with Amy Petersen, Director of Mobility Initiatives to discuss launch of new EV training programs at Washtenaw Community College on April 24, 2025. She provided a tour of the labs.
- Met with Dr. Beverly Walker-Griffea, Executive Director of the Michigan Department of Lifelong Learning, Advancement and Potential regarding data needs. common areas of interest on June 27, 2025.
- Met with Rob Leadley of Schoolcraft College for an orientation lunch to discuss his role as alternate to the general assembly. Rob provided extensive information about the award winning culinary program and enhancements to the campus.
- Met with Furquan Ahmed, Senior Vice- Chancellor and Northwest Campus President Wayne County Community College District on January 14, 2025. He provided a tour of the college's healthcare program facilities, Culinary Arts program as well as event space equipped with state of the art audio-visual equipment that can accommodate 900 people.
- Met with Jim Wagner, from Wayne County Community College District for new Delegate orientation on 3/6/2025.
- Met with Steve Gotlieb, Trustee for Oakland Schools for new delegate orientation on May 9, 2025 to discuss his new role and specific areas of interest.
- Coordinated with Dale DeSloover on October 22, 2024 to setup an interview with the director of the Knabusch Math and Science in Monroe. The goal is to interview the director for an upcoming blog that will feature the center and how they are using SEMCOG One Water materials with students.
- Met with Dale DeSloover from Monroe ISD and Nicole Shaughnessy, Director of the Knabusch Math and Science Center on November 12, followed by an interview with Ms. Shaughnessy for an interview on November 22.

3.3 Events, conferences and workshops attended

- Tech Talent Tomorrow Summit on Bridging the IT Skills Gap at Macomb Community College on October 8. This discussed research and strategies to address the need for digital skills in the workforce.
- Annual Macomb School Boards Association Education Leadership Dinner on April 24, 2025.
- Washtenaw Community College 2025 President's Leadership Recognition Luncheon on April 24, 2025 at the invitation of President Rose Bellanca. This event included the Washtenaw County economic outlook by the University of Michigan.
- Workforce Development Institute (WDI) annual Workers' Gala on May 9, 2025, which focused on apprenticeship as effective pathways to the skilled trades.
- Detroit Regional Chamber Foundation State of Education and Talent webinar on November 18, 2024 the. The focus was on talent needs for the state.
- Detroit Future City webinar entitled: Fueling a Just Mobility Future on December 3. The

purpose of attending was to gather information on talent needs in the mobility industry.

- Detroit Future City webinar Making the Middle Class: Advancing Stronger and Equitable Cities on December 11. Heard talent needs to construct affordable housing.
- Mackinac Policy Conference meetings and conversations on May 27–May 30, 2025:
 - Talked to Mike DeVault, Superintendent from MISD on the challenges and successes of the education system in /Macomb County
 - Discussed healthcare labor shortages with Mark Corriveau, Henry Ford Health.
 - Met with Dr. Beverly Walker–Griffea, Executive Director of the Michigan. Department of Lifelong Learning, Advancement and Potential regarding data common areas of interest.
 - Talked to Irene Watts, Vice Chair for Henry Ford College about changes in leadership at the college following the departure of President Kavalhuna.
 - Met with Ryan Fewins–Bliss, Michigan College Access Network regarding help with distribution of messages on postsecondary education.
 - Met with Kylee Mitchell, Ballmer Group about potential funding for the post secondary education campaign.
 - Met with Jeremy Hedges, Executive Director, The Michigan Center for Adult College Success about how his organization can help distribute messages on the importance of postsecondary enrollment and completion.

3.4 Presentations

- Presented information on SEMCOG’s economic priorities and governance to a delegation from Belarus for Global Ties Detroit.
- Presented on Michigan’s EV Hub on April 17 with Stephanie Beckhorn, Director of Education and Training for the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity at the NLC/ NGA EV Workforce Task Force.
- Began planning a presentation on SEMCOG resources for education, workforce development and labor force participation rates for Dr. Beverly Walker–Griffea scheduled for July 16, 2025

Products Produced:

- Blog – [Locals Lead: Empowering Education at the Knabusch Center](#)
- Blog – [Locals Lead: Macomb Community College Helps Build the Defense Workforce](#)
- Blog – [Growing our Innovation Ecosystem](#)

Blog – [The Value of Postsecondary Education](#)

PROJECT 25355, WATER POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION

GRANT/TASK	GRANTOR	LOCAL	TOTAL
LP25, 25355	\$0	\$124,506.58	\$124,506.58

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)

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.

SEMCOG facilitated quarterly Partners for Clean Water meetings with regional partners on September 12, 2024, January 28, 2025, and June 24, 2025. 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 presented at the Center for Watershed Protection (CWP) Annual Conference and the Michigan Water Environment Association (MWEA) Annual Conference, which highlighted how SEMCOG, the regional planning organization for Southeast Michigan, addresses environmental challenges by fostering collaboration, connecting stakeholders, and providing essential resources to Southeast Michigan and how to integrate watershed management, stormwater planning, and data accessibility to address local and regional priorities.

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 Green Infrastructure Assessments with the Center for Watershed Protection as well as 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.

Lastly, SEMCOG developed the [Southeast Michigan Wetland Mapper](#) and [Storymap](#), launched in May 2025. The Mapper highlights the region's diverse wetlands and their various functions, with data sourced from SEMCOG's Open Data Portal and is based on the US Fish & Wildlife Service's National Wetlands Inventory, updated in 2015 through collaboration with the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) and Ducks Unlimited, Inc. (DU). This analysis focuses on high functioning wetlands, highlighting wetlands that function for water quality, carbon sequestration, flood storage, and habitat. The corresponding Storymap acts as background information for the importance of Southeast Michigan wetlands, as well as a user guide for the tool.

Product 3: Documentation of activities to institutionalize infrastructure coordination and asset management planning in the region

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), 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.

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 infrastructure project data for near term (4-5 year) and longer term (20 year) projects.

In 2024, SEMCOG entered a Memorandum of Understanding with the Michigan Infrastructure Council to coordinate the following activities in the SEMCOG region:

- Developing and managing a geographic information system that is integrated with the MIC Project Portal (MIDIG)
- Collection of capital improvement plans from public infrastructure owners within the SEMCOG region
- Training and education efforts associated with GIS, using the MIC Project Portal, and infrastructure data collection best practices and standards
- Developing processes and policies associated with delivering integrated infrastructure projects (dig once) identified within the MIC Project Portal
- Facilitation of periodic regional coordination meetings to discuss SEMCOG analysis of data and opportunity identification

- Providing asset management training and resources to local communities including the MIC AM Champions program and MIC Asset Management Readiness Scale

SEMCOG attended the following Water Asset Management Council meetings:

- June 26, 2025
- May 22, 2025
- April 24, 2025
- March 27, 2025
- February 27, 2025
- January 23, 2025
- November 14, 2024
- October 24, 2024
- August 22, 2024
- August 14, 2024
- June 13, 2024

Product 4: Policy input on legislative and regulatory proposals

SEMCOG participates in State workgroups on various environmental regulatory proposals (rules, policies, etc.) in addition to regularly reviewing draft environmental legislation. Examples of SEMCOG’s legislative and regulatory support activities include:

- Support and collaboration regarding federal funding and legislative priorities • Comments on federal funding legislative priorities, including the Statewide Septic Code, Stormwater Utility, hazardous waste legislation with biosolids implications, Part 31, State revolving loan priorities and drain code legislation
- Work on water asset management topics and providing input on various infrastructure council initiatives
- Coordinating legislative and policy reviews involves participating in numerous committees and associations that help establish water resource policies:
 - Water Asset Management Council
 - Michigan Section, American Water Works Association (MI-AWWA)
 - Michigan Water and Environment Association (MWEA)
 - Asset Management Committee
 - WEF Stormwater Committee
 - Government Affairs Committee
 - Great Lakes Water Authority
 - Public Education and Outreach Work Group
 - Watershed Hub Work Group
 - Michigan State University Extension/ Michigan Sea Grant
 - Water School Training Workshops
 - Sea Grant Advisory Committee

- GLCA Coastal Wetland Conservation Framework Advisory Team
- Great Lakes Integrated Science Assessment
- Oakland County Trail, Water, and Alliance Work Group
- Detroit River Public Advisory Council
- Clinton River Public Advisory Council

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 resiliency activities, guidance, and analyses to support local implementation.

The Water Resources Plan for Southeast Michigan guides much of SEMCOG's work and is supported and influenced by SEMCOG's members. Recent activities and initiatives that reflect priorities in the plan include the Water Infrastructure Task Force and Planning Guide, the One Water public education program, the annual update of the Flood Risk Tool, Infrastructure Coordination efforts, resilience work to develop a Regional Resiliency Framework, and preparation for a regional Flooding and Resilience Plan. Additionally, environmental and water resource priorities are integrated into other SEMCOG regional plans and work program activities, including the Regional Transportation Plan, the Economic Development Strategy for Southeast Michigan, and the Parks and Recreation Plan for Southeast Michigan.

Regional Flooding and Resilience Plan

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 resilience 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 developed the [Regional Resilience Framework](#), to guide project and investment needs for the region. The Framework summarizes actions to assess, plan and implement resiliency efforts at the local, county and regional levels for communities and organizations in Southeast Michigan. Additionally, the project workplan included the development of a [data portfolio](#) to compile available relevant information for flooding related projects, specifically focused on stormwater drainage. This project also included a summary of [funding strategies](#) to address flooding in the region.

The Regional Resiliency Framework created a baseline for SEMCOG to apply for the FHWA

PROTECT grant opportunity. In 2024, SEMCOG was awarded the PROTECT funding, to develop a Resilience Improvement Plan for Southeast Michigan. The plan will identify strategies and projects for building resilience in the region's transportation, water, and green infrastructure networks. SEMCOG will convene a Flooding Task Force in Fall 2025 to guide the development of this plan. SEMCOG contracted with TetraTech as the main consultant for the project. TetraTech has subcontracts with Hubbell, Roth, & Clark Inc. (HRC), Drummond Carpenter, and ICF, to help guide and complete the project tasks. This project kicked-off in Spring 2025 and will continue through March 2027.

Additional tasks as part of the Regional Flooding and Resilience Plan are to develop a feasibility methodology to look at potential opportunities to align transportation projects with large-scale nature-based solutions to address flooding; to develop a culvert data collection methodology and collect culvert data throughout the region; and to update SEMCOG's Flood Risk Tool with new data and new hazards in alignment with MDOT's Resilience Improvement Plan. The development of the feasibility methodology will allow for infrastructure coordination across sectors and address rainfall runoff in transportation projects. This connection of transportation runoff and the collection systems has historically been fragmented, and this methodology will make progress in aligning the planning and implementation of stormwater management and transportation capital projects.

Culvert data has historically been unavailable for much of the region, which is a problem in both the rural and urban areas that depend on culvert systems for stormwater management. To understand Flood Risk on the region's transportation assets as well as the capacity of the culvert network to manage stormwater runoff, more data needs to be collected. The consulting team hired for the Flooding and Resilience Improvement Plan work will develop a culvert data collection methodology, send field teams out to collect culvert data, and develop a dataset to be used in the [SEMCOG Flood Risk Tool](#) update.

The work of the Flooding and Resilience Plan is underway, and the entire project is projected to be completed in 2027. This work was presented at the following local, regional, State, and federal events:

- GLWA One Water Partnership Meetings
- Oakland County Stormwater Summit
- Federal Highway Administration Peer Exchange
- Southeast Michigan Partners for Clean Water meetings
- MWEA Annual Conference
- Watershed Council Meetings

In June 2025, SEMCOG and their consulting team began work on Task 3, the Large-Scale Nature Based Solutions Analysis. The consulting team developed an online, interactive Nature Based Solutions Dashboard, to highlight potential opportunities for large-scale nature based solutions in the region. This dashboard was presented to SEMCOG members and partner across the region, to get feedback on potential sites and determine priority areas for developing concept plans. These concept plans will guide the next steps to project implementation.

Product 6: Summary of water resource education activities and actions

IDEP and PPGH Trainings

Education and training were central to SEMCOG's initiatives. SEMCOG, in partnership with ECT Consulting, held in-person Illicit Discharge Elimination Program (IDEP) Trainings in 2024 as well as the Pollution Prevention and Good Housekeeping webinar. These trainings were developed to assist communities with their MS4 Phase II Stormwater permit compliance. The trainings help educate public works staff on how to identify potential pollutants while out in the field, and how to properly report and treat these pollutants. SEMCOG also provides training certificates for participants.

SEMCOG offered two training days for both IDEP Module 1: Alert Observer and IDEP Module 2: Investigator - offered in Macomb and Wayne counties to accommodate schedules. IDEP Module 1: Alert Observer training sessions were offered on October 8 in Clinton Township and October 9 in Canton Township, both in-person. IDEP Module 2: Investigator training sessions were offered in-person on October 8 in Clinton Township, October 9, and November 13 in Canton Township. A recorded version of IDEP Module 1: Alert Observer was offered on SEMCOG's website for those unable to attend in-person. Attendance for the IDEP training sessions totaled 242, with over 180 in person. Additionally, SEMCOG hosted the Pollution Prevention and Good Housekeeping training webinar on October 14, educating attendees about procedures for municipal facilities for proper stormwater management and permit compliance.

Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Tracking Tool For Post-Construction Standards Compliance

SEMCOG, in coordination with Oakland County Water Resources Commissioner (OCWRC), developed a [MS4 \(Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System\) Post-Construction Tracking Tool](#) a few years back to support local agency compliance with NPDES MS4 Phase II Stormwater Permit requirements. Post-construction refers to stormwater standards required for new developments and redevelopments, specifically establishing how stormwater is managed from these projects. This tool is available to all local agencies within the SEMCOG region who are required to comply with these related post-construction standards within their NPDES stormwater permits.

The tracking tool utilizes ArcGIS Survey 123 to capture required project and stormwater management calculation details. The tool is designed for county, community, and consultant input to collect individual project development post-construction plan review data. SEMCOG summarizes the information for each permittee and provides that information back in a report format to each contributing local agency who then submits to EGLE as part of their compliance reporting. The tool requests local agencies to input basic location information for new and redevelopments, detailed engineering pre-development/post-development site criteria, and quantities of stormwater managed. The tool supports MS4 permit compliance with consistent reporting format and details. This is a vital tool for local agencies to demonstrate the success of alternative approaches to typical permit requirements. Below is a breakdown of the data that was collected in April 2025:

- 4 counties submitted: Livingston, Oakland, Macomb, & Wayne counties
- 30 total communities

- 134 total projects
- Total Control Protection Volume Control (CPVC) – 1,010,066 ft³
- Additional CPVC – 316,119 ft³
- Total Control Protection Rate Control (CPRC) – 8,198,278 ft³

One Water

One major achievement was the successful execution of the One Water campaign in May and June of 2025. Following its conclusion, SEMCOG’s staff conducted internal meetings to debrief and begin preparations for the comprehensive final report. Following successful execution of the One Water campaign in June, SEMCOG’s staff conducted internal meetings to debrief and begin preparations of the comprehensive final report, to be published in PowerPoint/PDF format in Fall 2025. Throughout the 2024-2025 fiscal year, SEMCOG staff held internal and external discussions to develop the 2025 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 2025. In these development meetings, SEMCOG supported EGLE’s proposed theme, highlighting the interconnectedness between Michiganders and the water resources around us. SEMCOG worked with EGLE throughout the fiscal year to craft messaging for the week and coordinate various initiatives.

In addition to its member communities, SEMCOG has partnered with Southeast Michigan watershed organizations to distribute water quality materials designed to support each council’s educational and stewardship goals. These partners, deeply connected to the communities they serve, play a key role in educating and empowering residents as stewards of our water resources.

Water Schools Initiative

SEMCOG also 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 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 2026.

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 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. To support this effort, SEMCOG convened two GREEN Subcommittees on Tree Canopy and Land Conservation with key stakeholders providing insight and experience with using regional data resources, and guidance for future updates.

Product 8: Development of Environmental and Ecosystem Services Tool.

As part of the regional transportation planning process, SEMCOG conducts an environmental sensitivity analysis for all transportation projects. To enhance and update this analysis, SEMCOG is working 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. Users of the tool will be able to map potential project areas and provide inputs on required site details for a transportation, development, or redevelopment project. The tool will estimate the potential environmental and ecosystem impacts of that project, including stormwater runoff, water quality, recreation, urban heat island, habitat, and air quality.

In addition, the tool will offer guidance for potential best management practices and mitigation opportunities, while highlighting estimated returns on investments for reducing impacts related to project development. SEMCOG worked with HE throughout the year on data collection and model development. The tool is completed and will launch in Fall 2025.

SEMCOG also worked with Hubbel, Roth and Clark (HRC) to develop a water quality tool that estimates runoff and pollutant loads from new and redevelopments using EPA’s STEPL model. HRC worked with Highland Economics to integrate the water quality tool into the new Environmental and Ecosystem Services Tool. The tool is completed and will launch in Fall 2025.

PROJECT 25358 – DRINKING WATER MONITORING

GRANT/TASK	GRANTOR	LOCAL	TOTAL
DWM25, 25358	\$577.13	\$0	\$577.13

Product 1: Summary of collaboration activities with drinking water partners

SEMCOG developed a workplan for the drinking water monitoring in partnership with the local communities and the Great Lakes Water Authority. Additionally, we began planning for a late summer 2025 press event to related to the purchase of Drinking Water Monitoring Equipment along to Huron-to-Erie Corridor.

PROJECT 24571, MAC/Erb CWP

GRANT/TASK	GRANTOR	LOCAL	TOTAL
MA224, 24571	\$72,295.77	\$0	\$72,295.77

Product 1: Data Collection, Analysis & Mapping

SEMCOG contracted with a team of consultants to collect, analyze, and map data related to landscape conservation and green stormwater infrastructure. Collection efforts were focused on protected lands, wetlands, and other factors to understand risks related to flooding and infrastructure. Analysis efforts were focused on identifying potential conservation land, tree canopy enhancements, and a desktop model to understand current flooding conditions and opportunities for large scale nature-based solutions. When complete, the project will represent the collection and analysis efforts spatially with interactive maps and other documentation in regional plans.

Products 2: Stakeholder Engagement

To ensure that stakeholder input guided this project, SEMCOG convened two meetings of the GREEN Implementation Team, which were supported by several subcommittee meetings to focus on specific aspects of the project with topic-area experts. Direct outreach was also conducted with each County Drain Commissioner's office, to understand local flooding concerns and advise on locations for potential improvements. SEMCOG began preparations to launch a Flooding Task Force at the beginning of FY26, which will include local government stakeholders from across the region, and guide the development of a comprehensive regional plan that identifies flood mitigation priorities for the future for Southeast Michigan

DIRECT SERVICES

PROJECT 24410/25410, RIDESHARE AND TRAVEL DEMAND MANAGEMENT

GRANT/TASK	GRANTOR	LOCAL	TOTAL
RS24, 24410	122,545.30	\$63.47	\$122,608.77
RS25, 25410	\$241,558.65	\$0	\$241,558.65

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 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.

Recent added features and improvements of the Commuter Connect software include:

- Added multilingual options in the web, IOS, and Android apps
- Development and improvement to personal dashboard and badges to further engagement
- Upgraded to Google Routes for better location identification and directions
- Updated user interface for new iPad layout
- Added ability to import employer external data for reporting
- Updated vanpool importer to accept non Commute with Enterprise vans
- Security enhancements
- Emergency Ride Home menu created for custom audiences
- Implemented rideshare poll and custom report to capture poll responses

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, 2024 – June 30, 2025

Commuter Connect User Report

Users	5,240
Recorded Trips	44,358
Average Trip Distance	21
Reduced Trips	44,104
Reduced Vehicle Miles Traveled	828,066
Gas Saved	35,733 gallons
Reduced CO2	350 tons
Money Saved	\$567,087
Calories Burned	995,864

New Commuter Connect Members

Date	New Members
Jul-24	26
Aug-24	48
Sep-24	35
Oct-24	49
Nov-24	32
Dec-24	27
Jan-25	44
Feb-25	39
Mar-25	34
Apr-25	41
May-25	105
Jun-25	41

Mode	Entries	Average Trip Distance	Money	Calories Burned	Fuel Saved	CO Saved
	#	Miles	Saved	Cal	Gal	Tons
Carpool	10,593	3	\$54,935		14,391	141
Transit	7,906	16	\$46,43		3168	41
Vanpool	1,539	37	\$50,429		3,227	32
Bicycle	5,236	5	\$10,928	374,770	704	6.9
Walking	4,002	0.9	\$2,481	194,721	158	1.55
Telework (work from home)	6,531	22	\$192,305		11,526	113

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
- Troy Chamber of Commerce
- United Way

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 website for [Southeast Michigan Commuter Connect](#) offers additional details.

PROJECT 24456/25456, AIR QUALITY PLANNING & EDUCATION

GRANT/TASK	GRANTOR	LOCAL	TOTAL
OZ24, 24456	\$4,042.95	\$1,892.45	\$5,935.40
OZ25, 25456	\$34,018.64	\$8,504.67	\$42,523.31

Product 1: Air quality communication via print materials including tip cards, displays, media advisories and electronic, online and social media

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, 15 CMAQ and 18 CRP projects were obligated in FY 2025.

SEMCOG attended the State of Michigan Air Advisory Council quarterly meetings. Topics discussed in these meetings included NAAQS Planning including sulfur dioxide and ozone, wildfire messaging, air monitoring network plan, air quality forecasting, Michigan-Ontario Ozone Source Experiment and MiEnviro Portal.

To enhance coordination across organizations, SEMCOG developed and updated air quality messaging beginning in 2024, including a new Air Quality tip card and an updated “Keep the Air Clean” webpage.

The Air Quality Advisory and Alerts season, running from March 1 through September 30, includes SEMCOG’s communication efforts such as electronic mailings and social media posts. In 2024-2025, there were four Air Quality Advisories. In 2024, in collaboration with EGLE, SEMCOG 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.

2024–2025 Air Quality Advisories and Alerts

- July 12, 2024 – [Air Quality Advisory \(AQI Orange\) Declared for Saturday, July 13 in Southeast Michigan](#)
- May 30, 2025 – [Air Quality Advisory \(AQI Orange\) Declared for Friday, May 30 until 6 a.m. Saturday, May 31 in Southeast Michigan](#)
- June 5, 2025 – [Air Quality Advisory \(AQI Orange\) Declared for Thursday, June 5 until 12 p.m. on Friday, June 6 in Southeast Michigan](#)
- June 6, 2025 – [Air Quality Advisory \(AQI Orange\) Extended through all of Friday, June 6 in Southeast Michigan](#)

Product 2: Summary of other activities to support air quality policy and 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.

SEMCOG staff also formed a PM 2.5 workgroup in 2024 that met monthly through April 2025. The purpose of the workgroup was to work collaboratively with EGLE Air Quality Division staff as they shared detailed data and information they were compiling for the PM2.5 recommended designations for the State of Michigan. This workgroup met eight (8) times between August 2024 and April 2025. The workgroup consisted of stakeholders across public and private partners as well as academia to review and provide feedback on the data and attainment analysis. EGLE Air Quality Division submitted the PM2.5 attainment recommendations to USEPA in February 2025. The EPA will consider these recommendations and finalize designations by February 2026 unless they extend the deadline to February 2027.

The workgroup also stayed abreast of the EPA review status for the Wayne County SO2 redesignation request from nonattainment to attainment.

PROJECT 24550/ EDA PARTNERSHIP PLANNING

GRANT/TASK	GRANTOR	LOCAL	TOTAL
EDS24, 24550	\$36,363.71	\$36,363.70	\$20.13

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

1. Activities Supporting the SEMCOG Economic Development Council (EDC)

A. EDA Meetings

- Met regularly with Lee Shirey EDA Economic Development Representative, to get updates on EDA funding programs and discuss potential projects from regional partners. In addition, set up meetings to connect EDA to local communities interested in EDA funding, including

- August 1, 2024, with Lyon Township regarding a proposed project related to infrastructure improvements and drainage mitigation issues that are affecting business growth/attraction.
 - Attended the EDD Quarterly Update meetings hosted by the EDA Chicago Region on July 24 and October 23, 2024, to hear news and updates from EDA staff on federal programs.
- B. Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Planning Process**
- Facilitated three interactive planning forums with member communities and regional stakeholders focused on the following topics:
 - Place Forum: August 7, 2024. This forum featured spotlight presentations highlighting various placemaking implementation efforts from around the region, a presentation from MEDC on state placemaking resources, and an interactive discussion among stakeholders to identify issues, challenges, and priorities for creating quality places in Southeast Michigan.
 - Talent Forum: August 27, 2024. This forum featured spotlight presentations highlighting various talent attraction and retention efforts from around the region (including Oakland80, MUST Construction Careers, and the Community Foundation of St. Clair County), as well as an interactive discussion among stakeholders to identify issues, challenges, and priorities for developing talent in Southeast Michigan.
 - Business Forum: September 24, 2024. This forum featured spotlight presentations highlighting various business assistance initiatives from around the region (including Downriver Community Conference, the New Economy Initiative, and SEMCOG), as well as an interactive discussion among stakeholders to identify issues, challenges, and priorities for improving the business climate for businesses of all sizes in Southeast Michigan.
 - Prepared for and facilitated four county-specific economic development input meetings in St. Clair County (November 12, 2024), Monroe County (November 13, 2024), Livingston County (November 19, 2024), and Washtenaw County (November 22, 2024) to engage members and regional stakeholders on discussions pertaining to place, talent, and business as part of the CEDS update process.
- C. Economic Development Council Meetings**
- Prepared for and presented an update from the Economic Development Council to the SEMCOG Executive Committee on December 6, 2024, which included an overview of CEDS engagement activities and an interactive input discussion with Executive Committee delegates and alternates on topics related to Place, Talent, and Business.
 - The Economic Development Council met on December 10, 2024. The meeting agenda included an update from Lee Shirey on EDA programs, an overview of regional freight planning activities, a discussion on SEMCOG's new Legislative Policy Platform, and an overview of CEDS outreach activities, including three engagement forums and four county input meetings in St. Clair, Monroe, Livingston, and Washtenaw counties.
- D. DD Capacity Building and Training**
- Participated in the NADO CEDS Peer Exchange Program Cohort and attended interactive training sessions on September 26 and November 7, 2024.

- Attended the MEDA Fall Conference in Lansing, Michigan, on November 7, 2024.

E. Economic Development Strategy Presentations:

- Presented SEMCOG’s experience and activities related to its EDD designation to the Metro Washington Council of Governments Board on July 19, 2024.
- Prepared for and presented an update from the Economic Development Council to the SEMCOG Executive Committee on December 6, 2024, which included an overview of CEDS engagement activities from the past few months and an interactive input discussion with Executive Committee delegates and alternates on topics related to Place, Talent, and Business.

2. Activities that Implement the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)

- SEMCOG participated in the MSU/REI Consultative Panel meeting on July 10, 2024.
- Attended and facilitated discussions centered around legislation and policies pertaining to economic development, workforce development and education at the first meeting of the SEMCOG Legislative Policy Platform Task Force on July 17, 2024.
- Met with local communities to discuss location and visitation analytics for parks, downtown districts, and community events.
- Met with Hunter Manikas from the City of Warren on November 9, 2024, to discuss a business attraction project in the city.
- Provided a letter of support to Amy DeWys from Lawrence Technological University for a National Science Foundation grant for high performance computing resources on November 12, 2024.
- Met with John Bry and Main Street Oakland County to discuss upcoming seminars on placemaking for main streets and commercial corridors on November 26, 2024.
- Met with Padmini Roy-Dixon from the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) on December 3, 2024, to discuss regional freight planning and economic development.
- SEMCOG held a quarterly catch-up meeting with Wayne County Economic Development on December 4, 2024.
- Presented a webinar highlighting SEMCOG economic development and placemaking tools and resources on December 13, 2024, to help local communities with economic development decision making.
- Attended the Oakland County/SEMCOG quarterly meeting on December 16, 2024.

Task 2: Increasing Shared Prosperity in Southeast Michigan

1. Activities Supporting Shared Prosperity in Southeast Michigan

- Met with Russ Kavalhuna, President of Henry Ford College on July 15, 2025, to discuss the need to promote higher education/postsecondary education to increase prosperity particularly among underserved populations.
- SEMCOG presented a summary of the findings from the “Evaluating Shared Prosperity in Southeast Michigan, 2018-2022” report at the October 24, 2024, SEMCOG General Assembly meeting.
- SEMCOG participated in the first meeting of the new Community and Worker Transitions Office Advisory Committee on November 19, 2024. The committee heard from

researchers about some of the opportunities and impacts of the transition to electric vehicles.

Task 3: Supporting Placemaking in Southeast Michigan

1. Activities Supporting Communities in Placemaking and Revitalization in Downtowns and Commercial Corridors

- Sent the City of Milan information and assistance on main street land use questions as a follow-up to a discussion at the Talent Forum on September 6, 2024.
- Spoke with and sent placemaking materials to the City of Hamtramck on September 19, 2024, regarding main street business strategies and success and grant opportunities, including how CDBG funds can be used for neighborhood improvements.
- Met with Sean Clark, Director of Administration for the City of Warren on September 16, 2024, regarding data and resources to support affordable housing opportunities in the city.
- Met with local communities (Luna Pier, Port Huron, and Romeo) to discuss location and visitation analytics in the downtown development authority district, as well as signature community events.
- Met with Dearborn Heights new CED Director Lielle Saad and discussed a vision for the Warren Corridor in Dearborn Heights to be more walkable, to have more sidewalks, to remove blight, and to have working streetlights.
- Completed the Project for Public Spaces (PPS) training called “Making it Happen” between November 5 and November 19, 2024.
- Met with Jim Gammicchia from the City of Roseville on November 5, 2024, to discuss the Location Analysis and Visitation Tool and identify specific data needs in the city.
- Attended the Michigan Downtown Association (MDA) Conference on November 7–8, 2024.
- Attended the Michigan Economic Development Corporation’s RAP 3.0 grant application informational webinar on placemaking on November 13, 2024. This information was later distributed to local communities through SEMCOG’s Regional Update.

Task 4: Increasing Labor Force Participation

1. Activities Supporting the Analysis of Barriers to Labor Force Participation

Attended a training session on the Chmura JobsEQ labor market research software platform on September 11, 2024.

- Activities Supporting Talent Attraction, Retention, and Development

2. Met with Paul Bryant from Plante Moran on July 17, 2024, to discuss need to promote opportunities in accounting careers and firms.

- Met with James Fults from MDOT on State initiatives to recruit and grow the infrastructure workforce on August 9, 2024.
- Attended SEMCA Workforce Development Board meeting on September 18, 2024.
- Met with Bri Brazell from the Detroit Regional Workforce Partnership on September 17, 2025, to discuss areas of collaboration.

- Presented a session related to creating the Infrastructure Workforce at the SEMCOG General Assembly meeting held on October 24, 2024.
- Met with President Jim Sawyer and Patrick Rouse, Director of Workforce and Continuing Education at Macomb Community College about a future blog on the college's Michigan Maritime Manufacturing training on November 4, 2024.
- Met with Fatima Salman from the University of Michigan on November 12, 2024, to collaborate on workforce needs in the green industry.
- SEMCOG participated in Wayne County Manufacturing Day appreciation breakfast on November 14, 2024. The breakfast is held annually to show appreciation for the hard work that goes into facilitating MFG Day. Those who were invited to the breakfast were volunteers, businesses, and hub sites.
- Attended the Detroit Regional Workforce Partnership Advisory Committee meeting on November 19, 2024. The focus is on careers in healthcare and manufacturing and overall strategies for retention of employees.
- Attended GIS User Group Meeting on December 12, 2024, and gathered information on talent development for youth in the GIS field; to be used for a future article highlighting success stories in High School career exposure.
- Began working on a project focused on promoting the value of higher education/ postsecondary education and training for the Metropolitan Affairs Coalition. This will engage Henry Ford College President Russ Kavalhuna, Macomb Community College President Jim Sawyer and Washtenaw Community College President Rose Bellanca, as well as Oakland University and Wayne RESA.

Task 5: Identify Opportunities to Implement SEMCOG Regional Plans

I. Activities Implementing SEMCOG's Regional Plans

- Met with Ken Gutman, Oakland Schools Superintendent on September 23, 2024, to discuss interest in providing input on products for students related to regional plans.
- Reached out to SEMCOG education members to encourage attendance by representatives to help with development and distribution of materials.

Products Produced:

- Published a blog entitled "[Storytelling with SEMCOG's Economic Indicators](#)," posted on July 18, 2024.
- Published a blog entitled "[Celebrating 50 Years of CDBG in Southeast Michigan](#)," posted on August 27, 2024.

PROJECT 25550 FISCAL YEAR 2025 EDA PARTNERSHIP PLANNING (ONGOING)

GRANT/TASK	GRANTOR	LOCAL	TOTAL
EDS25, 25550	\$0	\$0	\$0

Task 1: Coordinating the Economic Development Council to guide the update and implementation of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy.

I. Activities Supporting the SEMCOG Economic Development Council (EDC)

A. EDA Meetings

- Met regularly with Lee Shirey EDA Economic Development Representative, to get updates on EDA funding programs and discuss potential projects from regional partners. In addition, set up meetings to connect EDA to local communities interested in EDA funding, including
 - April 28, 2025, with Goodwill Industries of Detroit for a workforce development project.
 - June 24, 2025, to discuss the EDA 2025 Disaster Supplemental NOFA.
- Attended the EDD Quarterly Update meetings hosted by the EDA Chicago Region on January 22 and April 23, 2025, to hear news and updates from EDA staff on federal programs.
- Held quarterly catch-up meeting with Lee Shirey from the EDA on February 10, 2025, to discuss the EDA reauthorization, hear the latest on EDA funding programs, and share information on projects taking place in the region.
- The Economic Development Council meeting was held on February 18, 2025, where staff facilitated an input discussion on regional economic development priorities and an interactive discussion to develop the SWOT Analysis for the next regional CEDS.
- Met with Lee Shirey from EDA, and representatives from Goodwill Detroit on April 28, 2025, to discuss potential EDA funding for a workforce development project in Detroit.
- Met with EDA economic development representative Lee Shirey on June 24, 2025, to discuss the FY2025 Disaster Supplemental Notice of Funding Opportunity.

B. Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Planning Process

- Facilitated a meeting with staff from the St. Clair County Metropolitan Planning Commission on April 2, 2025, to gather input for the CEDS update.
- Facilitated a meeting with staff from the Downriver Community Conference on April 2, 2025, to gather input for the CEDS update.
- Facilitated a meeting with staff from the Livingston County Planning Department, as well as the County Administrator, on April 15, 2025, to gather input for the CEDS update.
- Facilitated the SEMCOG University Education Roundtable with education stakeholders on April 16, 2025, to gather input on challenges and priorities for the CEDS update.
- Facilitated an interview meeting with representatives of the City of Dearborn, including Mayor Hammoud, on April 21, 2025, to identify the City's priorities for

economic development as part of the stakeholder engagement process for the CEDS update.

- Met with representatives from Oakland County Economic Development on May 1, 2025, for a CEDS input interview to better understand the County's economic development priorities, challenges, and opportunities.
- Met with representatives from Macomb County Planning and Economic Development on May 6, 2025, for a CEDS input interview to better understand the County's economic development priorities, challenges, and opportunities.
- Facilitated a CEDS input session with the SEMCA Workforce Development Board at its meeting on May 21, 2025.
- Met with representatives from Monroe County and the Monroe County Business Alliance on June 11, 2025, for a CEDS input interview to better understand the County's economic development priorities, challenges, and opportunities.
- Met with representatives from the City of Monroe on June 13, 2025, for a CEDS input interview to better understand the City's economic development priorities, challenges, and opportunities.

C. Economic Development Council Meetings

- Held the quarterly Economic Development Council meeting on May 20, 2025. The meeting was focused on "Place" and featured an overview of demographic trends in Southeast Michigan, a panel discussion on leveraging placemaking for regional growth, and an update on SEMCOG's Transportation Access project.

D. Economic Development District Capacity Building and Training

- Attended the NADO Washington Conference in Arlington, Virginia, from March 9-12, 2025, as well as NADO's "Afternoon with the Districts" post-conference workshop in Arlington, VA on March 12, 2025.
- Participated in the NADO CEDS Peer Exchange Program Cohort and attended full cohort training sessions on May 22, 2025, and the group discussion meeting on April 25 and June 6, 2025, to discuss EDDs, EDA funding, and the CEDS planning process.

2. Activities that implement the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS).

- Met with the Village of Capac's Manager and Village President on January 16, 2025, to talk about SEMCOG services and identify economic development priorities for the Village.
- Met with the City of Milan and Destination Ann Arbor on January 21, 2025, to discuss a planned tourism/economic development project centered on sports tourism and business growth.
- Presented SEMCOG economic development strategy and regional data trends to the Michigan State University Humphrey Fellows on February 7, 2025, at Michigan Central Station in Detroit.
- Attended the Downriver Community Conference (DCC) Riverfront Strategy Team Meeting on February 28, 2025, to hear project and community updates related to DCC's EDA grant.
- Attended the SEMCOG/Oakland County Quarterly Catch-up Meeting on March 4, 2025,

and provided an update on ongoing economic development activities at SEMCOG.

- SEMCOG hosted a 2-hour seminar on Main Street Revitalization and Placemaking called “Building Leadership, Organization and Funding” and had 48 people in attendance on March 14, 2025.
- Completed and distributed the new SEMCOG Economic Development Magazine at the March General Assembly meeting on March 20, 2025. The magazine – entitled “Southeast Michigan: What’s Our Edge” – features stories about place, talent, and business initiatives and successes throughout the region, as well as timely information about key economic trends and data.
- Presented to the St. Clair County Board of Commissioners on April 3, 2025. Presentation included an overview of SEMCOG as an organization, highlights of SEMCOG’s planning work, and the various economic development services and resources we have.
- Participated in a two-day peer exchange visit with the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) in Columbus, OH, on April 10-11, 2025. SEMCOG ECV staff met with the economic development team from MORPC to talk about various topics, including organizational programs, economic development districts, CEDS, and other topics. The visit also featured several site visits/walking tours of economic development and redevelopment projects around the city.
- Presented about SEMCOG’s Economic and Community Vitality department and SEMCOG’s economic development work at the SEMCOG 101 workshop on April 14, 2025.
- Met with the St. Clair County Board Chair on April 18, 2025, to discuss economic development-related resources SEMCOG could provide to the county.
- Attended the Urban Land Institute (ULI) Michigan Annual Real Estate Summit on May 6-7, 2025, in Dearborn. The summit featured a walking tour of the West Dearborn Downtown, as well as panel discussions on green infrastructure, housing development, and adaptive reuse of shopping malls.
- Attended the annual Wayne County Economic Development Summit: Pathways to Prosperity on June 18, 2025, focused on discussing key issues in economic development by County Economic Development division leaders and partners.
- Participated in the quarterly catch-up meeting with representatives from Oakland County on June 24, 2025, and provided them with updates on the FY2025 EDA Disaster Supplemental Funding and other ongoing economic development activities.
- Participated in the quarterly catch-up meeting with Wayne County Economic Development on June 26, 2025.

3. Activities Supporting Talent Attraction, Retention, and Development.

- Attended an Infrastructure Careers meeting on January 28, 2025, at the IBEW 58 facility in Detroit to discuss the State of Michigan’s goal of creating 5,000 new infrastructure workers to support infrastructure projects across the state. Input from these meetings will inform Michigan’s first Statewide Infrastructure Jobs Plan due later this year.
- Attended the Oakland80 Career and Education Advisory Committee (CEAC) meeting on February 26, 2025, and facilitated an input discussion on economic development, talent attraction/retention, and education issues as part of the engagement process for the CEDS update.

Task 2: Increasing economic prosperity in Southeast Michigan and emphasizing economic resilience in SEMCOG’s planning work

1. Activities Supporting Economic Prosperity and Economic Resilience in Southeast Michigan.
 - Participated in the Community and Workforce Economic Transition (CWETO) office Advisory Committee Quarterly meetings on March 4 and June 3, 2025, and participated in the CWETO Community Resiliency Advisory Committee.
 - Provided a letter of support to the University of Michigan Economic Growth Institute for their application for the CWETO Community Toolkit grant.
 - Met with planning committee on April 7, 2025, to discuss next steps in the planning process for Manufacturing Day.
 - Participated in the half-day workshop on developing the Community Transitions playbook on June 24, 2025, at the Downriver Community Conference, and discussed impacts of plant closures with member communities.

Task 3: Supporting placemaking and economic vitality in Southeast Michigan.

1. Activities Supporting Communities in Placemaking and Economic Vitality in Southeast Michigan.
 - A. Technical Assistance:
 - Prepared a summary document of proposed placemaking technical assistance that SEMCOG may be positioned to provide over the next few years and how it fits in with the regional ecosystem of economic development technical assistance.
 - Met with Gerry Santoro from Macomb County Planning and Economic Development on January 15, 2025, to discuss the county’s Blue Economy initiatives.
 - Wrote a letter of support for the City of Royal Oak’s application for funding for the Fifth Street Plaza Project – a downtown placemaking project.
 - Spoke with the Mayor of the City of New Baltimore to discuss downtown redevelopment projects and rehab of existing buildings in the downtown. Using as a case study for other communities.
 - Met with new DDA Director Lisa DeLong on March 12, 2025, and shared SEMCOG resources and invited her to SEMCOG’s upcoming Main Street workshop series. Discussed downtown amenities, road plans, downtown retail, and SEMCOG’s Planning Assistance Grant program.
 - SEMCOG participated in multiple Strategic Planning Meetings with the City of Highland Park and representatives from the State of Michigan in March 2025.
 - SEMCOG participated in the Monroe County Non-Motorized Plan partners meeting on April 4, 2025, to discuss updating the strategic plan to connect recreation and economic assets in the county.
 - SEMCOG participated in the Local Economies Initiative (MML) in Marine City on April 10, 2025, with stakeholders and toured the downtown and main streets; provided technical assistance and sent a follow-up email with resources.
 - Met with the Mayor, staff and elected officials from Inkster on April 29, 2025, where

we discussed with stakeholders the Master Plan, the zoning changes, the downtown, and toured the former civic center area, future home to a farmers' market and community center. Followed up after meeting with resources sent via email.

- Met with the Executive Director of the Birmingham Shopping District, Erika Bassett, on June 20, 2025, and discussed downtown Birmingham trends as well as potential future assistance from SEMCOG regarding Location Analysis.
- Provided technical assistance to Inkster on June 20, 2025. Toured downtown Inkster and discussed vacancies, transportation, zoning and other issues in the downtown district.
- Provided technical assistance to Berkley's elected officials and staff, as well as a group of business owners, which included a walking tour on June 30, 2025, of the west side of the downtown district, with a focus on placemaking and economic development.

B. Location Analysis and Visitation Evaluation:

- Assisted 16 local government members with location and visitation data for parks, downtowns and commercial corridors, and community events.

C. Education and Workshops:

- Developed and presented a three-part SEMCOG University Workshop Series on Main Street Revitalization and Placemaking. Sessions included "Building Leadership, Organization, and Funding for Main Street" on March 14, 2025; "Developing Vibrant Year-Round Places" on April 17, 2025; and "Creating Safe and Livable Main Streets" on May 16, 2025.

Task 4: Increasing participation in postsecondary education and training

1. Postsecondary Education Campaign:

- Participated in the first meeting of the MAC Future of Postsecondary Education Working Group on January 13, 2025. Facilitated input on the objective of the campaign and barriers to postsecondary education facing different populations.
- Continued to research initiatives to increase interest and access to postsecondary education.
- Reached out to Michigan Department of Lifelong Education, Advancement and Potential (MiLEAP), Michigan College Access Network (MCAN) and Wayne RESA to provide presentations at the MAC Postsecondary workgroup meeting on May 7, 2025.
- Participated in the Metropolitan Affairs Coalition Postsecondary Education Workgroup on March 17, 2025.
- Developed a summary of the discussion and key themes for presenting to the MAC Executive Committee in April.
- Mackinac Policy Conference meetings and conversations on May 27–30, 2025:
 - Met with Ryan Fewins-Bliss, Michigan College Access Network regarding help with distribution of messages on postsecondary education.
 - Met with Kylee Mitchell, Ballmer Group about potential funding for the postsecondary education campaign.
 - Met with Jeremy Hedges, Executive Director, The Michigan Center for Adult

College Success about how his organization can help distribute messages on the importance of postsecondary enrollment and completion.

- Attended the quarterly meeting of the Detroit Regional Workforce Fund on June 16, 2025.
- Facilitated discussion on increasing postsecondary enrollment at the MAC Postsecondary Workgroup on June 26, 2025. The focus was on developing a pilot program to test messages either for high school students and their families or underemployed workers.

Task 5: Expanding the impact of the CEDS by increasing connectivity with other regional plans and priorities.

1. Activities Linking Economic Development to other Regional Plans

- Attended a meeting with MDOT to discuss the new MMEBA tool for tracking the economic benefits of multimodal transportation.
- Attended a meeting to discuss flooding and economic development in Ecorse on March 27, 2025, including strategic plans to address both issues at the same time.
- Attended the Michigan BEAD Program updated hosted by the Michigan High-Speed Internet Office on June 13, 2025. Communicated with Broadband partners on impact of the changes on local communities.

Products Produced:

- Blog Post: "[Crafting a New Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for Southeast Michigan](#)," published on January 3, 2025.
- Blog Post: "['Tis the Season of Placemaking Grants](#)," published on January 16, 2025.
- Completed and distributed the new SEMCOG Economic Development Magazine at the March General Assembly meeting on March 20, 2025. The magazine – entitled "[Southeast Michigan: What's Our Edge](#)" – features stories about place, talent, and business initiatives and successes throughout the region, as well as timely information about key economic trends and data. These articles will be released as individual blogs over the next two months.
- Published the blog article "[Economic Development: What's Our Edge?](#)" on April 8, 2025.
- Published the blog article "[What's Our Edge? The Data](#)" on April 13, 2025.
- Published the blog article "[A New Economic Development Strategy](#)" on April 18, 2025.
- Published the blog article "[Building Momentum for Main Street Revitalization in Southeast Michigan](#)" on April 25, 2025.
- Recorded Main Street Series webinar "[Developing Vibrant Year-Round Places](#)" on April 17, 2025.
- Published the blog article "[Community Events as Economic Drivers](#)" on May 2, 2025.
- Published the blog article "[Going with the Flow: Turning to the Water as a Placemaking Driver](#)" on May 13, 2025.
- Recorded Main Street Series webinar "[Creating Safe and Livable Main Streets](#)" on May 16, 2025.
- Published the blog article "[Bridging the Talent Gap: Gordie Howe Bridge Creates Big](#)

[Opportunities for Local, International Workers](#)” on May 16, 2025.

- Published the blog article “[Growing our Innovation Ecosystem](#)” on May 29, 2025.
- Published the blog entitled “[The Value of Postsecondary Education](#)” on June 4, 2025.

PROJECT 24555, GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE ASSESSMENTS

GRANT/TASK	GRANTOR	LOCAL	TOTAL
CWP24, 24555	\$0	\$31,143.44	\$31,143.44

The Center for Watershed Protection (CWP), in partnership with SEMCOG, received an Erb Family Foundation grant to increase the abundance of green infrastructure (GI) within underserved communities. Finding more opportunities to create green infrastructure in underserved areas of Southeast Michigan will help communities improve their flood management, resilience, and community health while providing quality habitat, green space, recreation, and better quality of life.

A GIS desktop assessment was conducted with CWP to locate potential GI sites and determine community interest. This was followed by fieldwork to assess feasibility, with community engagement throughout the process. In mid-2025 CWP developed concept plans and SEMCOG is preparing a final report in a GIS web-based application to present the findings. The following communities were chosen to conduct green infrastructure site assessments and concept plans:

- City of Taylor
- City of Warren
- City of Sterling Heights
- City of Romulus
- City of Pontiac
- City of Van Buren

Product 1: Storymap of project sites and attributes like environmental benefits and projected costs

SEMCOG is in early development of a GIS web-based application that includes the project overview as well as tying it to previous CWP green infrastructure assessments, such as the coastal resilience project. This web app is anticipated to be launched in early 2026.

Product 2: Concept designs

The Center for Watershed Protection (CWP) created concept plans for the communities listed above, after community engagement and review.

PROJECT 25510, DOT PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

GRANT/TASK	GRANTOR	LOCAL	TOTAL
CPG25, 25510	\$200,898.70	\$44,548.70	\$245,447.40

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 to monitor performance and projects of SEMCOG DOT-funded activities.

Example Progress Reports for projects 25142 and 25220

Product 4: Completion report for DOT-funded activities

Development of FY24 Completion report:

[2023-2024 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 2025-2026 UWP

PROJECT 25520, STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENT

GRANT/TASK	GRANTOR	LOCAL	TOTAL
LP25	\$0	\$41,528.90	\$41,528.90

SEMCOG strategically engaged with members and partners throughout the year. This work included meeting with communities to tour new facilities and projects, coordinating on best practices, hosting events that showcase innovation, and highlighting local leadership. Example engagement activities included:

- Member Meet Up events with local and regional leaders at Michigan Central Station,

downtown Howell, 9 Mile corridor in Oak Park, and Blossom Heath Park and Pier in St Clair Shores

- Staff team building and strategic planning for implementing the 24-25 UWP

PROJECT 25525, ADVOCACY AND ELECTED OFFICIAL INVOLVEMENT

GRANT/TASK	GRANTOR	LOCAL	TOTAL
LP25, 25525	\$0	\$264,583.65	\$264,583.65

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, and SEMCOG continued its efforts to enhance Open Meetings Act compliance and increase communication about the actions being considered by these public bodies. Considerable effort was made to increase the opportunity for committee members to engaged in input discussions to set priorities for SEMCOG staff to follow.

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

During 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 – which ultimately [led to a FY2025 State appropriation totaling \\$1.5M](#). SEMCOG also advocated for an offset to costs of state-mandated materials management planning to assist counties, legislation on safety/distracted driving, stormwater utilities, water affordability, local control of aggregate mining, short term rentals, and establishment of a 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 Michigan, 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.

As SEMCOG continued implementation of the 2023-2024 legislative policy platform, a [task force](#) was also convened to develop the region's [2025-2026 legislative policy platform](#) document. The culmination of these efforts was adoption of the platform in December 2024, followed by legislative priority setting with SEMCOG's Executive Committee in January and February 2025.

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 2025 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. Congressional Committees, focused on the impacts and importance of federal transportation and infrastructure funding. 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.

SEMCOG maintained a presence in Lansing through the use of staff as well as Midwest Strategy Group. This resulted in numerous contacts, both formally and informally with legislators from around the entire 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 and Midwest Strategy Group 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 and Midwest Strategy Group 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, Think Regional – Act Local blog, and – beginning in 2025 – monthly Legislative Update mailings to keep our membership informed on both federal and State legislative issues. Beginning in 2025, we also hosted quarterly Legislative Roundtable discussions for SEMCOG's members to learn about important legislative issues impacting their communities, and providing the opportunity to get their questions answered on these topics.

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 25908, ENGAGING REGIONAL STAKEHOLDERS

GRANT/TASK	GRANTOR	LOCAL	TOTAL
ZSS25, 25908	\$0	\$914,711.64	\$914,711.64

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, and stories are posted on social media. Open rates are tracked in monthly progress reports. Regional Update was delivered 140,227 times in the fiscal year. The open rate was 31.8%. The click rate was 18.4%. The unsubscribe rate was 0%. A representative sample of Regional Update issues:

- [October 22, 2024](#)
- [December 17, 2024](#)
- [February 18, 2025](#)
- [June 10, 2025](#)

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: 54 blogs were posted (50 in FY 2024) with 19,472 page views (15,684 page views in FY 2024). A representative sample:

- July 30, 2024: [July 2024 Communicators Network Recap](#)
- August 12, 2024: [Local Millages Successful, School Bonding Falls Short in August 6 Primary](#)
- August 28, 2024: [Civility: From Conflict to Conversation – A SEMCOG Locals Lead Initiative](#)
- September 10, 2024: [Downtown Howell’s Ongoing Evolution](#)

- September 24, 2024: [SEMCOG's Grant Resources](#)
- October 2, 2024: [Improving Transportation Air Quality](#)
- October 10, 2024: [The Detroit International Wildlife Refuge – A Natural Gem](#)
- November 4, 2024: [Locals Lead: Innovative Ideas for Modernizing Municipal Buildings](#)
- November 12, 2024: [Census Bureau's Call for Housing Rehabilitation Data to Update its Housing Unit Estimates Process](#)
- December 9, 2024: [Locals Lead: Macomb Community College helps build the defense workforce](#)
- December 13, 2024: [Improving Road Safety in Southeast Michigan: The Road Safety Program](#)
- December 16, 2024: [Why are Housing Prices High but New Construction Has Stalled?](#)
- December 18, 2024: [Locals Lead: Empowering Education at the Knabusch Center](#)
- January 3, 2025: [Crafting a New Economic Development Strategy for Southeast Michigan](#)
- January 6, 2025: [Locals Lead Survey: Collaboration Common in Southeast Michigan](#)
- January 30, 2025: [Centralized Communications in Local Government](#)
- February 14, 2025: [Adopting a Culture of Safety: Part 1 – A Regional Perspective and the Safe System Approach](#)
- March 14, 2025: [Pavement Conditions in Southeast Michigan: SEMCOG map now includes 2024 data](#)
- April 8, 2025: [Economic Development: What's Our Edge?](#)
- April 22, 2025: [Earth Day, One Water, and Collective Action](#)
- April 28, 2025: [Safe Streets – Spring 2025](#)
- May 2, 2025: [Community Events as Economic Drivers](#)
- May 7, 2025: [Economic Development Through Housing: Local Implementation Efforts across Southeast Michigan](#)
- May 29, 2025: [Growing our Innovation Ecosystem](#)
- June 5, 2025: [There is only One Water, and it's ours to protect](#)
- June 9, 2025: [SEMCOG Freight Task Force Tours Key Freight Rail Facilities in Southwest Detroit: Showcasing the Strong Public-Private Collaboration in Southeast Michigan](#)
- June 12, 2025: [SEMCOG Year in Review: 2024-2025](#)
- June 12, 2025: [2025 Regional Showcase Award](#)

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, included in Regional Update, and also posted on social media. News releases were delivered 11,713 times in the fiscal year. The open rate was 33.2%. The click rate was 7.3%. The unsubscribe rate was 0%.

A representative sample of news releases:

- July 25, 2024 – [SEMCOG Secures Funding for Southeast Michigan Water Quality Monitoring](#)
- September 4, 2024 – [SEMCOG Joins National Call to Action to Reduce Roadway Fatalities](#)
- October 21, 2024 – [Road Safety Audit Program Call for Projects](#)
- October 15, 2024 – [This fall, be a champion for transportation safety](#)
- November 13, 2024 – [Gwen Markham, Oakland County Commissioner, Begins Term as SEMCOG Chairperson](#)
- December 12, 2024 – [Regional stats show increase in traffic crashes but drop in speeding-related crashes and fatalities](#)
- February 3, 2025 – [In Special Election, SEMCOG Executive Committee Elects Two New Vice Chairpersons](#)
- April 25, 2025 – [SEMCOG Executive Committee adopts 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program \(TIP\)](#)
- May 2, 2025 – [May Commuter Challenge Aims to Improve Air Quality, Reduce Single-Occupancy Vehicles on Roads](#)
- May 30, 2025 – [Air Quality Advisory \(AQI Orange\) Declared for Friday, May 30 until 6 a.m. Saturday, May 31 in Southeast Michigan](#)
- June 10, 2025 – [SEMCOG invites public comment on its Public Participation Plan and Americans with Disabilities Act \(ADA\) Transition Plan](#)
- June 17, 2025 – [Safe Streets Southeast Michigan Campaign Video Wins Telly and Michigan Emmy Awards](#)
- June 26, 2025 – [SEMCOG announces \\$11.6 million in funding for active transportation projects in Southeast Michigan](#)

Media advisories are notifications to the media of impending SEMCOG public events and meetings. 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. Public notices of actions related to plans (amendments, approval, adoption) are sent to the entire SEMCOG mail database (7,000+, including media list), included in *Regional Update*, and posted on social media. A representative sample:

- July 10, 2024 – [SEMCOG invites public comment on FY 23/26 TIP Amendment 24-3 \(Full\)](#)
- January 27, 2025 – [SEMCOG invites public comment on Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Work Program](#)
- June 10, 2025 – [SEMCOG invites public comment on its Public Participation Plan and Americans with Disabilities Act \(ADA\) Transition Plan](#)

This product also tracks our contacts with media and earned media. A representative sample of articles published based – at least in part – on SEMCOG media engagement.

6/23/2025	Oakland County Times	Oakland County Celebrates 25 Years of Main Street Program
6/23/2025	Macomb Daily	Smaller high school graduate counts forecasted for Southeast Michigan
6/9/2025	Oakland Press	Pedestrian traffic deaths raise concerns in Oakland County
6/9/2025	Oakland Press	National trend in graduation numbers is felt in Oakland County: Oakland County ISD ready to help where needed
5/5/2025	Detroit News	Here's how Canadian wildfires are impacting Michigan air quality
5/3/2025	Detroit News	Turning to nature to fight flooding: How cities are using bio-retention basins, rain gardens
4/8/2025	WEMU 89.1	SEMCOG launches traffic survey
2/5/2025	Detroit News	Why it's hard to buy and protect land for conservation in Metro Detroit
12/12/2024	Crain's	Detroit's inner-ring suburbs are at a crossroads
11/25/2024	WEMU 89.1	City of Ypsilanti awarded state funds for Harriet Street improvements project
11/4/2024	WHMI 93.5FM	City of Chelsea Receives SEMCOG Grant for Sidewalk Improvements
9/19/2024	Hoodline Detroit	Lake St. Clair at Center of Sewage Discharge Dispute Between Macomb and Oakland Counties
9/17/2024	Planet Detroit	What Metro Detroiters should know about wetlands
8/5/2024	The Sun Times News	Scio Township Gets Some Help with its Jackson Corridor Complete Streets, Safety Study and Implementation Plan
7/31/2024	C&G Newspapers	Aging bridge on Paint Creek Trail to be replaced with grant funding
7/30/2024	Port Huron Times Herald	\$1.5 million from state to support monitoring at 7 St. Clair County water intake sites
7/19/2024	Macomb Daily	SEMCOG doles out planning assistance grants to Macomb County and four local cities

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.

FY 2025 recorded 871,158 total views, a sharp increase of 44.7% compared to 602,187 views in FY 2024. This surge reflects the impact of improved digital engagement strategies, content development, and possibly user experience enhancements. Notably, the months of March, November, October, and February saw the highest activity in FY 2025, with March leading at 95,864 views. These peak months contributed over 41% of the total annual traffic, indicating strategic periods of high user interest, potentially tied to seasonal park use, planning cycles, or campaign launches. Additionally, the SEMCOG site continues to dominate with 657,164 views, representing over 75% of total web traffic, while Maps drew 145,878 views and Open Data 68,116. Usage patterns show that map-related content was especially active in early spring (March and April), likely aligning with increased outdoor planning, while Open Data usage peaked in April, perhaps in connection with open government or Earth Day initiatives. Across the board, every month in FY 2025 outperformed its FY 2024 counterpart, with particularly dramatic growth in March (+92%), September (+68%), and November (+68%).

- Total Pageviews – 871,158 (602,187 in FY 2024)
- Most visited pages
 - Crash and Road Data – 336,366
 - Home – 42,166
 - Community Profiles – 25,390
 - Search results – 15,857
 - Traffic counts – 13,457
 - Data and Maps – 13,457
 - Event Calendar – 8,237
 - Map and Apps Gallery – 6,750
 - Traffic Crash Data – 5,907
 - Careers – 5,807

The "Crash and Road Data" page far surpasses all others with 336,366 views, indicating it is the most critical resource for users, likely due to its relevance to safety, transportation planning, and public interest. The homepage ranks second with 42,166 views, serving as a major access point. Other pages such as "Community Profiles" and "Search Results" follow but at significantly lower levels, suggesting more niche use. Pages like "Traffic Counts," "Data and Maps," and "Traffic Crash Data" also show moderate engagement, highlighting a general interest in data-driven content. The "Careers" page, while the least visited in the top 10, still garners attention, likely from job seekers or internal stakeholders.

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.

Ongoing social media efforts as of June 2025:

- X (Twitter) has 3,634 followers (down 163 from 3,797 followers in July 2024)
 - 176 posts
- Facebook has 3,436 followers (up 79 followers from 3,357 in July 2024)
 - 234 posts
- LinkedIn has 2,263 followers (up 419 followers from 1,844 in July 2024)
 - 129 posts
- Instagram has 858 followers (up 131 followers from 727 in July 2024)
 - 131 posts
- TikTok has 94 followers (up 15 followers from 79 in July 2024)
- 25 posts

Promotional videos

SEMCOG produces videos to communicate with our members and the public.

Videos created and/or promoted and views in this fiscal year are tracked in the 25908 progress reports.

More than 45,254 organic video views (only includes what is trackable on SEMCOG YouTube and social media platforms) were tracked for SEMCOG videos this fiscal year.

A representative sample of videos produced in FY 2025:

- July 2, 2024: [PEAC Video – “Mean Streets”](#) for 2050 Regional Transportation Plan
- August 29, 2024: [Experience Brighton](#)
- October 9, 2024: [“Driving Store” transportation safety video \(this video won a Michigan Emmy and two Telly awards\)](#)
- October 22, 2024: [Experience Southfield](#)

- November 15, 2024: [Locals Lead – Madison Heights](#)
- June 12, 2025: [Regional Showcase Award – Dearborn Peace Parks](#)
- June 12, 2025: [Year in Review](#)

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. A representative sample:

- Michigan Central Station invites
- Finalization of the Experience Southeast Michigan Video Project Collaboration Agreement
- Year in Review
- Membership Materials
 - Membership Map (updated)
 - Member Contacts (updated)
 - Explore SE Michigan (updated)
- Safe Streets
 - Roundabout Visual Board
 - Trivia Cards
 - Tip cards
- Environmental Output Report Template
- DNR Trust Fund tour guidebook
- June GA Materials
- Reports
 - ADA Transition Plan Report Design
 - Public Participation Plan Report Design
 - Oakland County Report
 - Legislative Policy Platform
 - Updated Member Services Guide
 - FY 2026 – 2029 Transportation Improvement Program Narrative / Appendix
 - Partners for Clean Water report
- Targeted Mailing Template updates
- Freight Plan graphic
- Freight Plan handout
- Seven-county map for Main Street Revitalization SEMCOG University
- Handout on Transportation Alternatives Program
- Flooding one-pager
- LOCUS handout
- ParkFinder tip card

- Revenue Sharing one-pager
- Legislative Reception boards
- Regional Showcase display

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 information in a more engaging manner.

- For the FY 2024-2025, the Communications Department has added new 422 images, icons, and QR codes

PROJECT 25910, GENERAL PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

GRANT/TASK	GRANTOR	LOCAL	TOTAL
ZSS25, 25910	\$0	\$262,868.80	\$262,868.80

Product 1: Administration memoranda and correspondence

Includes a variety of internal communications that support SEMCOG operations. These products include memos to Finance regarding payroll, promotional, or departmental updates, or action items and agenda materials for SEMCOG’s Executive or Finance & Budget Committee.

Product 2: Monthly progress reports and expenditure summaries

Progress reports and project activity 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 resource activities include the on-boarding and off-boarding of employees, ongoing administration of fringe benefits, and dispensing information to staff such as the bi-weekly staff newsletter and notices related to agency-wide training, staff development, and staff forums.

PROJECT 25920, ENABLING REGIONAL DECISION MAKING

GRANT/TASK	GRANTOR	LOCAL	TOTAL
ZSS25, 25920	\$0	\$1,107,038.33	\$1,107,038.33

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 two new members this year: Berlin Township and Oceola Township

Committee Orientation

Committee members were elected at the June GA. Orientations will take place as necessary.

SEMConnect/iMIS

SEMCOG evaluated other AMS providers and determined that continued use of iMIS is the best course of action. We interviewed and hired a new consultant to provide database administration services, included streamlining the current configuration of our system and increasing the capacity to generate member reports and track and report activity within the database. 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

SEMCOG no longer maintains a subscription to GrantFinder. This member benefit has been replaced with the introduction of scholarships to training offered by Grants USA at SEMCOG offices. Scholarships are available for up to 10 members at each of two training sessions per year: one grant writing session and one grant management session.

Member Meet-ups

SEMCOG continued these informal member gatherings and tours of community projects. Four meet-ups have been held Michigan Central Station Tour, Howell, Detroit International Wildlife Refuge, St. Clair Shores Blossom Heath Park. These tours and networking have been invaluable in highlighting important regional assets and 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 continue to be a focus.

Executive Committee

These meetings continue to offer members opportunities to engage on priority regional issues. Speakers included Hayley Murphy, Detroit Zoological Society CEO; Daniel Mahoney, DTE Energy; and Mike Compagnoni, Midwest Strategy Group.

Amendments to the 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program were approved, as were the 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program, 2025-2026 Legislative Policy Platform; Transportation Performance and Safety Targets; and Advisory Body Operating Procedures.

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. The new Economic Development Council is guiding development of the regional economic development strategy.

Task Forces

The Legislative Policy Platform Task Force concluded its work and the Freight Task Force began work on developing a regional freight plan.

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 Chris Barnett, Orion Township Supervisor and Kathleen Lomako, Vice Chairperson, Michigan Infrastructure Council and retired SEMCOG Executive Director.

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. Dearborn's PEACE Parks initiative 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. Bloomington Township Treasurer Michael Schostak and Grosse Pointe Mayor Sheila Tomkowiak were named in 2025.

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

Gwen Markham

Chairperson
Commissioner, Oakland County

Laura Kropp

First Vice Chairperson
Mayor, City of Mount Clemens

Ann Marie Graham Hudak

Vice Chairperson
Supervisor, Canton Township

Joe LaRussa

Vice Chairperson
Mayor, City of Farmington

Diana McKnight-Morton

Vice Chairperson
Trustee, Washtenaw Community College

Frank Viviano

Vice Chairperson
Supervisor, Macomb Township

Amy O'Leary

Executive Director