



# Rural Communities Peer Group Meeting

*July 29, 2026*

## Share your Feedback on Today's Meeting



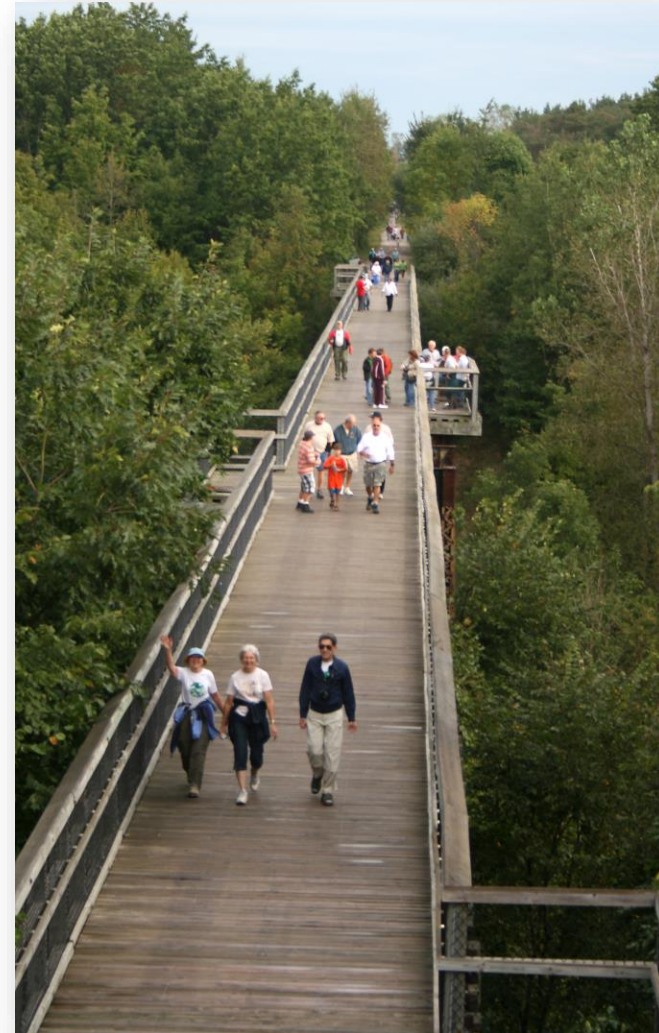
# Agenda

- 1) Welcome & Introductions
- 2) SEMCOG General Updates
- 3) 2030 Local Updates to Census Addresses
- 4) 2027-2028 SEMCOG Legislative Policy Platform
- 5) Open Discussion/Information Sharing



# Welcome & Introductions

Tell us who you are and what community/organization you represent



# General Updates





# SEMCOG Peer Groups Initiative

## Types of Peer Groups:

- Urban Communities
- Suburban Communities
- Small Communities
- Rural Communities
- Education

## Goals of Peer Group Committees:

- Providing space for collaboration & knowledge sharing
- Connecting peers to information & resources
- Ensuring needs & challenges are heard & recognized in regional planning
- Working with federal & state partners to ensure priorities & resources reflect the unique needs of all communities

# March 19 Meeting Recap



- Overview of SEMCOG services & resources
- Funding opportunities
- Open discussion topics:
  - ❑ *Data centers*
  - ❑ *Housing preemption legislation*
  - ❑ *Stormwater management*
  - ❑ *Managing growth*
  - ❑ *Transportation/Gravel road maintenance*
  - ❑ *Parks and recreation*

# **NEW!** Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)

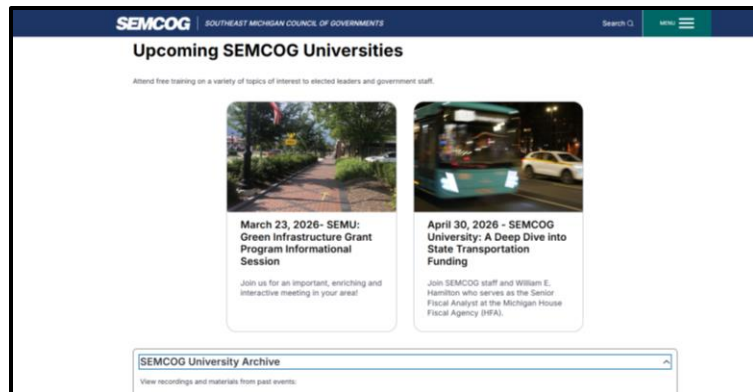
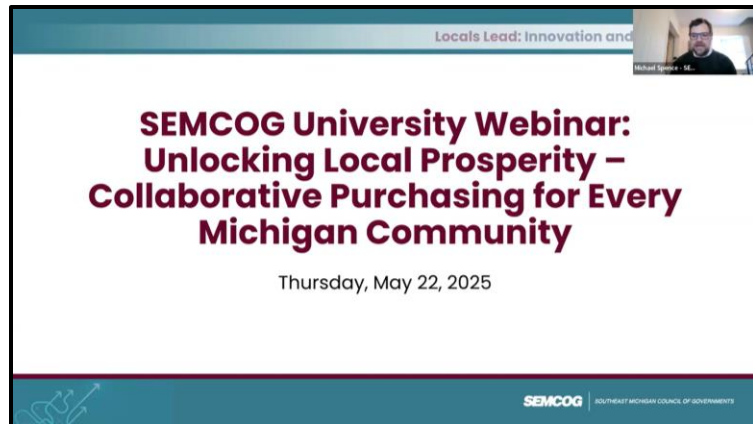


- A place-based, regionally driven economic development planning process.
- Regions must update their CEDS at least every five years to qualify for EDA assistance – conduit for resources to the region.

# Experience Southeast Michigan



# SEMCOG University Workshops



# SEMCOG Community Green Infrastructure Grant Program



- \$3.2 Million from USEPA for Green Infrastructure Implementation
- Pass-Through Funding for Subawards:
  - ❑ *12-15 Projects*
  - ❑ *\$50,000-300,000*
- Call for Projects **May 2026 – August 2026**
- Implementation from **Spring 2027 – June 2030**
- Demonstrate annual stormwater runoff reduction
- **Application deadline is extended to September 18, 2026**



If your community is interested in applying for this opportunity or in receiving technical assistance, fill out this survey!

# 2030 Local Updates to Census Addresses (LUCA)

*Knowing Where to  
Count People*



# LUCA Timeline

- The **Census Address List** helps the Census Bureau identify where people live, contact them for census counts, and conduct follow-up activities to ensure a complete count.
- An accurate census count depends on an accurate address list, and there is only one time to get it right – during the LUCA process

## 2026 – early 2027

### LUCA Groundwork

Local governments should identify priority census blocks and update address lists for those areas.

## October 2027 – March 2028

### LUCA Review

submit suggestions to add, delete, or update the geographic location of residential addresses.

### LUCA Invitation, Training, Preparation

Register for LUCA and conduct a block level address count comparisons.

## May 2027 - August 2027

### Feedback and Appeals

Local governments receive address-level feedback and may submit appeals.

## August 2028 – March 2029



# SEMCOG Resources for Communities to Conduct LUCA

- Interactive web-based mapping application:
  - *Visualize housing unit change from 2020 census to latest available data*
  - *Compare Census Bureau's housing unit counts with SEMCOG housing unit estimates derived from current buildings data at census block level*
  - *View the locations of group quarters (GQ) facilities throughout the region*
- Member communities requiring technical assistance or additional guidance should contact Sirisha Uppalapati ([uppalapati@semcog.org](mailto:uppalapati@semcog.org))

# Legislative Update

*Recent Advocacy Efforts  
& Task Force Input*



# Federal Legislative Update

- Proposed changes to the Uniform Grants Regulation, Part 2, CFR 200
- 21<sup>st</sup> Century ROAD to Housing Act passes Congress

Scan the QR code to learn more information about proposed rule changes



# State Legislative Update

- Budget passed on July 3, 2026, with over 60 policy bills alongside
- Statutory revenue sharing kept flat:
  - \$333 million for CVTs
  - \$291 million for counties
- Constitution revenue sharing is down about 2% due to last year's proposal
- Public safety revenue sharing remained constant at \$50 million

## Policy bills affecting local government:

- **SB 721 and 722:** Commercial Redevelopment Act sunset extension
- **HB 6074:** Prohibits large institutional investors from purchasing a single-family home
- **SB 966, HB 5806 and 5807:** Provides for a low-income housing tax credit
- **HB 5570 and 5571:** Allows single-exit stairways in multiple-unit dwellings
- **HB 5232, 5233:** Mandates local governments provide 26 days of paid leave serving in the Army or Air National Guard or in the reserves
- **HB 4644:** Allows CVTs with populations under 65,000 to authorize the operation of golf carts on local streets

# Legislative Policy Platform Task Force

Prior to each new session of Congress and Michigan's Legislature, SEMCOG forms a Legislative Policy Platform Task Force to guide development of a new policy platform.



## 2027-2028 TASK FORCE CHAIRS

### Legislative Policy Platform



Robert McCraith  
*Mayor, City of Romulus*



Scott Benson  
*City Councilmember, City of Detroit*



# Task Force Members

**Chairperson**  
**Robert McCraight**  
Mayor  
City of Romulus

**Vice-Chairperson**  
**Scott Benson**  
Councilmember  
City of Detroit

**Emily Bauman**  
Councilmember  
City of Westland

**Shea Benjamin**  
Executive Project & Special Events  
Coordinator  
Detroit Area Agency on Aging

**Debbie Binder**  
Clerk  
West Bloomfield Township

**Quentin Bishop**  
City Manager  
City of Marysville

**Erica Briggs**  
Councilmember, Ward 5  
City of Ann Arbor

**Abdullah Hammoud**  
Mayor  
City of Dearborn

**Eric Szor**  
Councilperson  
City of Lincoln Park

**Lisa Hansknecht**  
Government Relations and  
Community Services  
Oakland County ISD

**Donald Hubler**  
Vice President  
Macomb ISD

**Michael Lesich**  
Mayor  
City of Fraser

**Irv Lowenberg**  
Treasurer  
City of Southfield

**Melody Magee**  
Councilmember  
City of Warren

**Aaron Martinez**  
Councilmember  
City of Novi

**Robert McCann**  
Executive Director  
K-12 Alliance of Michigan

**Darwin McClary**  
Village Manager  
Village of Lake Orion

**Mike McCready**  
Supervisor  
Bloomfield Township

**Douglas McDonough**  
Township Manager  
Northfield Township

**Nicole McKee**  
Director, Government Relations  
Macomb Community College

**Matt Pfeiffer**  
Treasurer  
Orion Township

**Al Prieur**  
Supervisor  
Bedford Township

**David Randels**  
Executive Director  
Oakland County ISD

**Trish Reilly**  
Supervisor  
Pittsfield Township

**Nicole Rice**  
Mayor Pro Tem  
City of Saline

**Larissa Richardson**  
Director of Regional  
Partnerships, Mayor's Office  
City of Detroit

**Theresa Rich**  
Mayor  
City of Farmington Hills

**Erik Rick**  
Councilmember  
City of Mount Clemens

**Megan Sellers**  
Legislative Director  
Oakland County

**Kevin Spicher**  
Supervisor  
Genoa Township

**Mark St. Charles**  
Township Manager  
Green Oak Township

**David Swartout**  
Commissioner, Dist. 7  
Monroe County

**Andrew Swift**  
Mayor  
City of Riverview

**Miliana Jones**  
Councilwoman  
City of Pontiac

**Ronald Taylor**  
President & CEO  
Detroit Area Agency on Aging

**Sheila Tomkowiak**  
Mayor  
City of Grosse Pointe

**Erik Tungate**  
City Manager  
City of Oak Park

**Kenneth Voigt**  
Mayor  
City of Belleville

**Jim Wagner**  
Trustee, District 7  
Wayne County Community College  
District

**Teri Weingarden**  
Treasurer  
West Bloomfield Township

**Rachel Witherspoon**  
Manager  
City of Gibraltar

**Eric Woody**  
Government Affairs Director  
Wayne County

**Eunice Jefferies**  
Government and Community Affairs  
Director  
Oakland County Community College

**Laura Kropp**  
Mayor  
City of Mount Clemens

**Frank Viviano**  
Supervisor  
Macomb Township

**Joe LaRussa**  
Mayor  
City of Farmington

**Jonathan Kinloch**  
Commissioner, Dist. 2  
Wayne County

**Anne Marie Graham-Hudak**  
Supervisor  
Canton Township

**Lori Stone**  
Mayor  
City of Warren

# Task Force Timeline

- July/August 2026 – Peer Group input discussions
- **July 17, 2026 – Task Force Meeting #1**
  - Introductions, task force objective, breakout groups to share initial feedback
- August 2026 – Task Force Policy review
- **September 14, 2026 – Task Force Meeting #2**
  - Review all policies, develop needed/missing policies
- October 2026 – SEMCOG Staff draft platform policies, legislative priorities document
- **November 9, 2026 – Task Force Meeting #3**
  - Final review of legislative platform policies and priorities document
  - Recommendation to Executive Committee
- **December 4, 2026 – Presentation to Executive Committee for approval**



# Input Discussion

- What operational and fiscal challenges are impacting your community? (e.g., staffing shortages, inflationary pricing)
- What unique challenges are rural communities working through right now?
- What infrastructure needs is your community facing?
- What types of economic development tools are most beneficial for your community? (e.g., state tax credits to attract large-scale investments, placemaking grant programs, brownfield/blight elimination programs)



# Contact us!

## **Michael Spence**

*Government Affairs & Strategic Coordination Manager*

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## **Nikki Hartley**

*Government Affairs Specialist II*

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# Open Discussion





# Readiness & Capacity

- What are your biggest challenges when it comes to readiness & capacity?
  - ❑ *Planning: master plans, recreation plans*
  - ❑ *Zoning ordinances*
  - ❑ *Public engagement*
  - ❑ *Writing grant applications*
  - ❑ *Administering grant awards/Reporting requirements*
- What tools and resources do you need to improve readiness or address capacity gaps?



# Other Issues

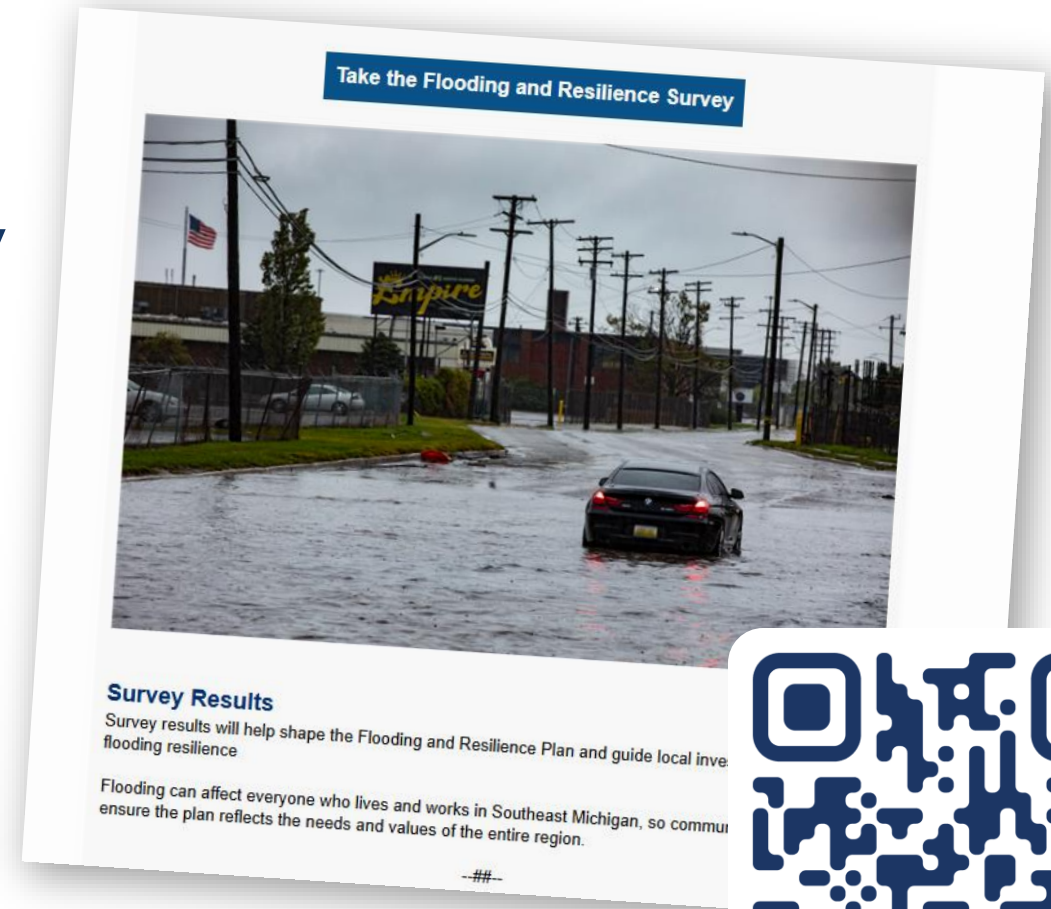
- What other issues or challenges are your community experiencing?
- What's new on the data center front?
- What future topics would you like SEMCOG to dig deeper into?

## Share your Feedback on Today's Meeting



# Flooding and Resilience Survey

- Shape the plan to help guide investments in resilience strategies
- Understand how flooding impacts residents across the region
- Prioritize efforts to build resilience
- What communities need to build resilience to flood events



<http://bit.ly/4gkRzx8>





# Upcoming Meetings/ Workshops

- **July 30** | Small Communities Peer Group Meeting
- **August 5** | Urban Peer Group Meeting
- **August 20** | SEMCOG University: Housing for Everyone
- **September 2** | E-Bikes in Southeast Michigan: How to Ride Safe
- **September 18** | Legislative Roundtable
- **September 30** | Member Meetup: Title IX Plaza, Washtenaw County
- **October 15** | General Assembly, Wayne County Community College NW Campus