

ECICOG EXPRESS

SERVING LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN BENTON, IOWA, JONES, JOHNSON, LINN AND WASHINGTON COUNTIES FOR MORE THAN 30 YEARS

Your input sought at economic development summit

ECICOG and the Corridor Business Alliance want to know what you think the future holds for the region: Where should we be headed, and what do we need to get there? The Regional Economic Development Summit will be held on Thursday, **April 7**, at The Hotel at Kirkwood Center, Kirkwood Community College in Cedar Rapids.

Attendees will have plenty of opportunity to share their thoughts on issues such as transportation and workforce development and their relationship to our growth as a region. Input gathered at the summit will be used in the formation of a regional comprehensive development plan.

The half-day event will begin with a keynote address by Dr. Robert D. Atkinson, founder and president of the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation, a Washington, DC-based technology policy think tank. Atkinson has an extensive background in technology policy, he has conducted ground-breaking research projects on technology and innovation, is a valued adviser to state and national policy makers, and has appeared in various media outlets including CNN, Fox News, MSNBC, NPR, and NBC Nightly News.

There is no cost to attend, but pre-registration is appreciated, and can be completed at: www.ecicog.org/attend. The formal program begins at 8:00 a.m., and a full summit agenda is available at www.ecicog.org/agenda.

The Regional Economic Development Summit is sponsored by Kirkwood Community College and receives support from the Economic Development Administration and the Iowa Department of Transportation.

ECITransit TRANSPORTATION

ECITransit an invaluable resource for families of pre-school children

For the past ten years, ECITransit has been offering rides to Iowa County pre-school children in the Marengo and Williamsburg area. This service has been extremely well received by parents, daycare providers and grandparents who would otherwise need to alter time in their schedules to transport these kids to and from five different preschools. Rides are scheduled between the children's guardians and Iowa County Transportation, and the service is available five days per week during normal operating hours.

In the 2009-2010 school year nearly 9,000 rides were given to these children. The majority of trips were in-town (75%), while the service also offers rides up to 20 miles out of town and has arranged for field trips. There are nearly 75 children who regularly use this service, while numerous others schedule rides infrequently. The convenient aspect of pre-school families utilizing this public transit service is the flexibility in arranging and only paying for rides that are needed.



Iowa County Transportation is one of the six entities contracted to provide public transit services through ECITransit. Providers in the other five counties served by ECITransit offer rides for pre-school children in non-metro areas, and much like Iowa County, the families of children have come to appreciate and rely on this important public transportation service.

For more information on ECITransit, along with contact information for each county, visit the website: www.ecicog.org/ecitransit.

As these youngsters show, riding ECITransit can be a fun part of the pre-school experience.

Regional clerks workshop

Thursday, March 17, 2011
Hiawatha Community Center/City Hall
Hiawatha, Iowa

See page two for details.

Regional clerks workshop

City clerks in and near the ECICOG region are encouraged to attend a workshop on Thursday, March 17, at the Community Center in Hiawatha. Agenda topics include new gun laws, grant writing, commercial real estate tax roll-back legislation, TIF, and more. Attendees at the day-long event will receive seven hours toward their Clerk or Finance certification. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m.

The cost to attend is \$12, and lunch is provided. Pre-registration is appreciated, and can be accomplished on line at: www.ecicog.org/clerks.

This workshop is an IMFOA preferred provider.

Staff Notes

Bart Knox began his duties in February as the Iowa Waste Exchange (IWE) resource specialist for the ECICOG region. Knox is a graduate of the Urban and Regional Planning Program at the University of Iowa. The IWE is a free, confidential program that actively promotes the reuse and recycling of Iowa business and industry

Calendar

- March 17** Regional Clerks Workshop, Hiawatha Community Center/City Hall, 101 Emmons Street, Hiawatha, 8:30 a.m.
- ECICOG Business Assistance RLF Loan Review Committee, ECICOG offices, 700 16th Street NE, Cedar Rapids, 2:00 p.m.
- March 24** Housing Fund for Linn County Board of Directors Meeting, ECICOG offices, 700 16th Street NE, Cedar Rapids, 5:15 p.m.
- March 31** ECICOG Board of Directors Meeting, ECICOG offices, 700 16th Street NE, Cedar Rapids, 1:00 p.m.
- April 7** Regional Economic Development Summit, The Hotel at Kirkwood Center, 7725 Kirkwood Blvd. SW, Cedar Rapids, 7:30 a.m. (registration)
- April 13** Region 10 RPA Transportation TAC, Johnson County Secondary Roads, 4810 Melrose Avenue, Iowa City, 1:00 p.m.
- April 14** ECICOG Solid Waste TAC, location TBA, 1:00 p.m.
- April 20** ECICOG Business Assistance RLF Loan Review Committee, ECICOG offices, 700 16th Street NE, Cedar Rapids, 2:00 p.m.
- April 28** ECICOG Board of Directors Meeting, ECICOG offices, 700 16th Street NE, Cedar Rapids, 1:00 p.m.
- Region 10 RPA Policy Board Meeting, ECICOG offices, 700 16th Street NE, Cedar Rapids, 2:00 p.m.

ECICOG was established in 1973 to promote regional cooperation and provide professional planning services to local governments in Benton, Iowa, Johnson, Jones, Linn and Washington Counties. ECICOG also provides solid waste planning services to Tama County and transportation planning services to Cedar County.

Members of the ECICOG

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ECICOG Staff

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EAST CENTRAL IOWA
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
YOUR REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCY

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