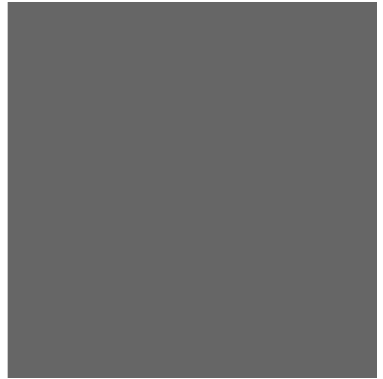
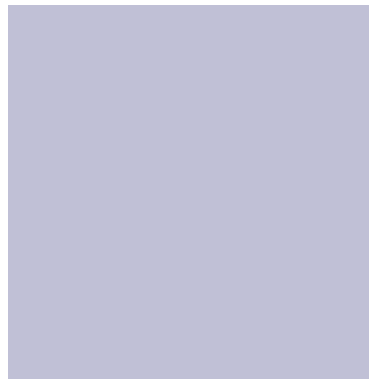


# Award Winning Joint Projects



# 2001 Award Winning Joint Public Services Projects

**October 2001**

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## Abstract

The SEMCOG/MAC Joint Public Services Awards Advisory Council selected the recipients of the fourth annual Joint Public Services Awards. These awards were created to recognize local governments, school districts and private or nonprofit organizations who are working together in delivering community services or programs more economically. This publication summarizes the applications of the entrants which received first place, merit, or honorable mention awards.

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# Executive Summary

This publication summarizes the award-winning entries for the 2001 SEMCOG/MAC Joint Public Services Awards. Twenty-four entries were received. From the entries, four received first-place awards, four received merit awards, and 10 received honorable mentions. Awards were given in the following three categories:

- **Outstanding Leadership in Joint Public Services** — Recognizing individuals who demonstrate leadership in partnering with local governments and/or school districts. This category received four entries.
- **Outstanding Joint Public Services Project** — Recognizing projects or programs demonstrating partnerships between local governments and/or school districts. This category received nine entries.
- **Outstanding Public/Private Partnership** — Recognizing local governments and/or school districts and their private or nonprofit partners in providing public services. This category received 15 entries.

The summaries are based on information submitted in the applications. SEMCOG/MAC do not guarantee the information to be correct. **Each entrant's full application is available from SEMCOG.**

# Table of Contents

<b>Acknowledgments</b> .....	ii
<b>Executive Summary</b> .....	iii
<b>Introduction</b> .....	1
<b>Outstanding Leadership in Joint Public Services</b>	
<b>First Place</b> .....	2
Ted B. Wahby .....	2
<b>Merit Award</b> .....	2
Edward H. McNamara .....	2
<b>Honorable Mention</b> .....	3
Chris White .....	3
<b>Outstanding Joint Public Services Project</b>	
<b>First Place</b> .....	4
Chelsea Area Regional Plan .....	4
<b>Merit Award</b> .....	4
Huron Valley Trail .....	4
<b>Honorable Mention</b> .....	5
Community Wide Planning - Saline .....	5
Detroit Metro Region Motorcycle Safety Program .....	5
"Kids on the Block" Puppet Shows on Youth Substance Abuse. ....	5
South Oakland Narcotics Intelligence Consortium .....	6
Washtenaw/Ypsilanti GIS Services Project .....	6
<b>Outstanding Public/Private Partnership</b>	
<b>First Place</b> .....	7
AAA Road Improvement Demonstration Project .....	7
Carver Subdivision Revitalization .....	7
<b>Merit Award</b> .....	8
Educators and Industry Collaborate on Statistics Curriculum .....	8
Marina Pollution Prevention Program .....	8
<b>Honorable Mention</b> .....	9
DTE Energy Augusta/Grace Substation .....	9
Oakland County Lead Based Paint .....	9
Porritt Barn Project .....	9

# Introduction

This is the fourth year of the SEMCOG/MAC Joint Public Services Awards Program. The purpose of the awards is to honor local units of government, school districts, and private or nonprofit organizations working together to provide outstanding joint public services within Southeast Michigan. The SEMCOG/MAC Joint Public Services Awards Advisory Council reviewed the nominations to ensure they met at least two of the three criteria listed below:

- Costs — The public service demonstrates cost savings or avoidance of future costs to participants.
- Continuing Impact — The effort increased citizen awareness and appreciation of public services and/or benefits of intergovernmental cooperation. Communication and general collaboration among participating communities/school districts also improved.
- Transferability — The cooperative effort can be replicated by other communities/school districts.

Applicants were asked to submit a nomination form, summary, narrative, list of participants, and letters of support with their entry. Applications were reviewed by staff, and final determination of the awards was made by the SEMCOG/MAC Joint Public Services Awards Advisory Council.

This year's nominations indicate a number of unique joint public services are occurring in area municipalities and school districts. The results of the awards program are two-fold; it recognizes those who are currently maximizing their resources by providing joint public services and it fosters additional joint public services by sharing knowledge of successful efforts. By creating a forum profiling successful work in joint public services, the SEMCOG/MAC Joint Public Services Awards Program contributes to a widespread knowledge of cooperative methods for delivering public services, improving quality of life, and conserving limited public funds.

# Outstanding Leadership in Joint Public Services

## First Place Award

Ted B. Wahby, Chairperson  
Southeast Macomb Sanitary District  
For the Lake St. Clair Clean Water Initiative Project

The Southeast Macomb Sanitary District (SEMSD) functions as a collaborative sewage disposal organization serving the SEMCOG member communities of Eastpointe, Roseville, and St. Clair Shores. As the volunteer chairperson for the SEMSD, Ted B. Wahby is the driving force behind the Lake St. Clair Clean Water Initiative Project, an implementation plan to improve the water quality in Lake St. Clair.

During 1994, Lake St. Clair experienced high bacteria levels that caused the closing of public beaches for swimming. As a result of the beach closings, and with the cooperation of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), Mr. Wahby initiated a study to evaluate the ability of retention basins to provide effective treatment and to determine the operating procedures that provide the maximum level of treatment for all combined sewer overflows. In March 1999, a list of much needed improvements to the SEMSD system were recommended. This environmentally sound, socially acceptable, and cost effective plan is currently being implemented.

Mr. Wahby mobilized the resources of three communities — the cities of Eastpointe, Roseville, and St. Clair Shores — along with the MDEQ, Michigan Department of Transportation, the Macomb County Office of Public Works, and three engineering firms to work toward the common goal of minimizing excess water in the sewer system and curtailing the combined sewer overflow into Lake St. Clair. This included cooperative agreements as to the ownership, operation, and maintenance of each element of the project.

Progress is underway, and the successful completion of the Lake St. Clair Clean Water Initiative Project in 2003 will stand as testimony to Mr. Wahby's leadership, commitment, and passion for preserving the water quality in Lake St. Clair for generations to come.

**Contact:** Mark Wollenweber, City Manager, City of St. Clair Shores; (810) 447-3312.

## Merit Award

Edward H. McNamara  
County Executive, Wayne County  
For the Wayne County CDBG Program

Edward H. McNamara receives this Merit Award **with special commendation for efforts with distressed communities**, from the Joint Public Services Awards Advisory Council. Mr. McNamara's efforts resulted in an increase of \$2.7 million (73.4 percent) to the Wayne County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. This increase not only enabled a 100 percent increase in annual services provided to the Wayne County CDBG Entitlement Jurisdiction, but also enabled these services to reach residents not previously served through a wider service area.

To accomplish this, Mr. McNamara convinced the CDBG Advisory Board (comprised of elected officials from 16 communities) to unanimously agree on a funding distribution change that would favor more distressed communities. This change allowed additional funding to reach the communities of Ecorse, Melvindale, and River Rouge and enabled the communities of Hamtramck, Highland Park, and Inkster to join the county program. The practical benefits of this increased funding are many, but include:

- improvements to 27 additional public facilities,
- 4,785 additional elderly citizens receive services such as meals and transportation, and
- 2,067 additional households receive assistance in the form of housing rehabilitation and repair.

Mr. McNamara has established a model program, demonstrating that by aggregating service areas, additional funds are available to provide more services. These service improvements have exceeded all expectations regarding scope and magnitude, and the communities of Wayne County benefit greatly from this effort.

**Contact:** June West, Press Secretary, Wayne County; (313) 224-0286.

## Honorable Mention

Chris White

Manager of Service Development, Ann Arbor Transit Authority

For the *getDowntown* program and *go!pass*

In 1997, a group was formed with representatives from the City of Ann Arbor, the Downtown Development Authority, and the Ann Arbor Transit Authority (AATA) to evaluate the increasing demand for parking in the city's downtown. The group, led by Chris White, Manager of Service Development for AATA, introduced the concept of the downtown as one large employer. Mr. White led the group through the development of the *getDowntown* program — a program that assists downtown workers in finding alternative means of commuting. The heart of the program is the *go!pass* — a free, unlimited usage bus pass available to downtown employees and business owners. Over 585 businesses are participating. After one year of operation, a study by the University of Michigan revealed that 39 percent of downtown employees use a mode other than driving as their primary mode of transportation to work, and 30 percent report using the bus more since the program began. Through Mr. White's leadership and creativity, the city's need for parking spaces has been substantially reduced, business owners use the *go!pass* as a hiring benefit, and the overall health and environment of downtown Ann Arbor is improved.

**Contact:** Terri Blackmore, Executive Director, Ann Arbor-Ypsilanti Urban Transportation Study Committee; (734) 994-3127.

# Outstanding Joint Public Services Project

## First Place Award

### Chelsea Area Regional Plan

The Chelsea Area Planning Team (CAPT) was formed by a group of community leaders concerned about growth pressures in and around the Village of Chelsea. CAPT includes representatives from the Washtenaw County Planning Department, the Chelsea Chamber of Commerce; the Chelsea School District; the Village of Chelsea; and Dexter, Lima, Lyndon, and Sylvan Townships.

CAPT determined that the only way to effectively address issues relating to the entire community — growth management, roads, public utilities, manufactured housing, and others — was to create a regional land use master plan. CAPT sought the assistance of the Washtenaw County Metropolitan Planning Commission to help begin the process. The collaborative effort allowed communities to receive technical planning assistance from the county that individual units could not afford on their own. The process also brought together citizens from the entire area to talk about issues, most of which are shared across boundaries.

The result was a joint regional planning effort that spanned more than two years and a regional plan that serves as a basis for coordinating community master plans. The Chelsea Area Regional Plan (CARP) encompasses issues ranging from common land use plan districts, to affordable housing, to the provision of sewer and water services. Participating local units are now in the process of adopting the CARP and amending their local plans in accordance with the policies and recommendations in the regional plan. The regional plan is not meant to usurp local control of land use. Instead, it provides the basis upon which local unit master plans can be developed and, in turn, where zoning and land use decisions are made.

CARP has dramatically improved communication and collaboration on issues of multi-jurisdictional impact, enhanced the technical assistance received from the county, created more efficient provision of public services and land use, and established an innovative toolbox for enhancing quality of life in the Chelsea area.

**Contact:** Erin Perdu, Principal Planner, Washtenaw County Metropolitan Planning Commission; (734) 994-2435

## Merit Award

### Huron Valley Trail

The Western Oakland County Trailway Management Council (Council) was formed in 1997 to build and maintain pedestrian and bicycle trails in western Oakland County. The Council is a collaborative effort of Lyon and Milford Townships, the City of South Lyon, and the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority.

This multi-jurisdictional collaboration made possible the construction of the Huron Valley Trail, a project involving over 10 miles of paved trails for pedestrians, bicyclists, and other non-motorized users in southwest Oakland County. The trail will provide safe, off-road connections between neighborhoods, schools, three town centers, and several regional recreation facilities. It will also provide access to the other trails and amenities in Kensington Metropark, Island Lake Recreation Area, and Lyon Oaks County Park. The Huron Valley Trail

received cooperation from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Michigan Department of Transportation, and the Road Commission for Oakland County, and lends impetus to the completion of an connected trailway system throughout Southeast Michigan.

**Contact:** Patricia D. Carcone, Chairperson, Western Oakland County Trailway Management Council; (248) 437-2240.

## Honorable Mention

### Community Wide Planning - Saline

Spearheaded by the Coalition for a Quality Community and underwritten by Saline Area Schools, the Community Wide Planning (CWP) encompasses the City of Saline and Bridgewater, Lodi, Pittsfield, and York Townships. CWP invited citizens to participate in a 15-month-long series of meetings to answer the question, "What needs to happen in this community to address growth and the quality of life." Recent outcomes of the CWP project are the building of shared facilities between schools and seniors, and between schools and the area's arts community. A \$125-million-bond issue for school facilities was passed as was a district wide recreation millage. The schools have already benefitted greatly, not only from the bond issue, but from the relationships that have been forged. Elected officials and local leaders now meet monthly as a "Sustainability Circle" to discuss regional planning issues. The community is just beginning to reap the benefits of CWP as many more initiatives are expected in the future.

**Contact:** Nancy Brenton, Community Relations Director, Saline Area Schools; (734) 429-8021.

### Detroit Metro Region Motorcycle Safety Program

Schoolcraft College serves as the Detroit-Metro Area Motorcycle Safety Regional Grant Administrator. The consortium consists of Schoolcraft College, Henry Ford Community College, Macomb Community College, Oakland Community College, St. Clair Community College, and Wayne County Community College. The program provides motorcycle safety education services for beginning, unlicensed, and experienced riders. This is unique in that Schoolcraft College is the central location of resources for the seven community colleges that together train over 2,000 students in the safe operation of motorcycles every year. Centralized logistics combined with creative scheduling and planning allow maximum use of the motorcycles, and the seemingly impossible is accomplished with the limited resources available. Savings are passed on to students in the form of lower class costs — making this vital training accessible to a wider range of cyclists.

**Contact:** Ann Prenger, Coordinator, Schoolcraft College; (734) 462-4448.

### "Kids on the Block" Puppet Shows on Youth Substance Abuse

The Macomb Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (LBPH), with cooperation from the Macomb County Prevention Coalition Team and the Macomb County Intermediate School District, sought to reduce, by 10 percent, pre-adolescent and adolescent use of alcohol, tobacco, inhalants, and marijuana by the 2000-2001 school year through use of the "Kids on the Block" Puppet Shows on Youth Substance Abuse. Capital costs for the program were only \$4,000. The LBPH visited elementary schools and performed puppet shows addressing substance abuse. Creating a Healthier Macomb provided initial funding for the project and members from the Macomb County Prevention Team did follow-up visits to each site two weeks after the performance to reinforce the puppet show's message and answer questions raised by the show.

**Contact:** Linda S. Champion, Assistant Director, LBPH; (810) 412-5993.

### South Oakland Narcotics Intelligence Consortium

The South Oakland Narcotics Intelligence Consortium (SONIC) is a major crime, surveillance, and undercover consortium operated and managed by the Farmington Hills Police Department. Member agencies include the Farmington Hills, West Bloomfield Township, and Novi Police Departments and the Oakland County Sheriff's Department. The chiefs of these local law enforcement offices recognized that federal, state, and county resources could not devote full-time resources to the crime problems affecting Farmington Hills, West Bloomfield, and Novi. The solution the chiefs developed is SONIC, the only Michigan multi-jurisdictional unit of its kind operated by a local city police department. Besides increasing effectiveness through coordinated enforcement efforts, SONIC reduces costs by sharing expense money and property seizures. During the first five months of 2001, SONIC successfully targeted five major drug dealers residing in the three communities.

**Contact:** Charles Nebus, Assistant Police Chief, Farmington Hills Police Department; (248) 473-9684.

### Washtenaw/Ypsilanti GIS Services Project

The Washtenaw/Ypsilanti GIS Services project involves cooperation between the Washtenaw County Equalization Department, Washtenaw County GIS program, Ypsilanti City Assessors Office, and the Ypsilanti City Planning Office. The project resulted in development of a parcel-level mapping system for the City of Ypsilanti. Project participants worked collaboratively to verify existing land descriptions and integrate the county GIS with the city's assessment database to produce a series of map products for the city planning, assessor, and community development offices. These maps include a parcel-level zoning map, homestead-status map, historic district map, accurate address map, and many more. The collaboration has resulted in increased efficiencies for both the county and city, providing planners, city/county officials, and citizens with a more comprehensive view of the physical, economic, and cultural resources Ypsilanti has to offer.

**Contact:** Kimberly Wraight, GIS Coordinator, Washtenaw County; (734) 222-6551.

# Outstanding Public/Private Partnership

## First Place Awards

### AAA Road Improvement Demonstration Project

The Detroit Road Improvement Demonstration Project began in the fall of 1996 after Detroit Mayor Dennis Archer asked the insurance industry whether there were any measures that could be implemented to help reduce auto insurance rates in the city.

In response, AAA Michigan developed an innovative roadway improvement strategy where private dollars are contributed towards road improvements at targeted high-crash locations in the City of Detroit. The primary objective of the program is to demonstrate that safety analysis and relatively inexpensive engineering modifications can reduce crashes and injuries in Michigan's urban areas. In addition to its interest in reducing human suffering by reducing crashes and injuries, AAA Michigan viewed its contributions as an investment in loss prevention and loss reduction.

To accomplish this, a steering committee was formed consisting of representatives from the City of Detroit, AAA Michigan, Wayne County Road Commission, Michigan Department of Transportation, Wayne State University, Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning, and SEMCOG. The primary task of the steering committee was to approve targeted high-crash locations and road improvement demonstration projects, discuss funding agreements, and oversee construction planning.

So far, the projects have been at urban signalized intersections on arterial roads. Improvements at these intersections include installing new and larger signals, replacing missing or worn signs, and enhancing protection for left-turning traffic. More than 40 intersections have already been improved in Detroit. By the end of 2002, more than 150 intersections will be completed, resulting in a tremendous public safety benefit.

**Contact:** Jeffrey Bagdade, Traffic Engineer, AAA Michigan Community Safety Services; (313) 336-1405.

### Carver Subdivision Revitalization

The Carver Subdivision Revitalization Program is a cooperative venture designed to redevelop a distressed neighborhood in the southeast portion of the City of Westland. The Carver Subdivision is geographically isolated from the rest of Westland and has been an area of concern for crime, drug use, and social malaise. The effort represents a collaboration among many entities, including the City of Westland, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Southeast Homeowners' Association, Peoples' Community Baptist Church, Peoples' Community Hope for Homes (PCHFH), Michigan State Housing Development Authority, and Bank One. The initial goals of the revitalization effort include:

- enhancing safety and living conditions and improving neighborhood aesthetics,
- encouraging new growth and development of a residential character, and
- making residents feel connected to the rest of the City of Westland.

Objectives include:

- removing abandoned and deteriorated structures,
- improving public infrastructure and condition of existing homes,
- constructing new subdivisions and in-fill homes on vacant lots, and
- involving many neighborhood entities in the redevelopment effort.

Results to-date have been extensive. Examples of the project's success include:

- eight dilapidated and abandoned structures demolished,
- two homes rehabilitated and six new homes constructed by PCHFH,
- concrete plans for construction of a new subdivision of 35 homes,
- road, water, sewer, and emergency infrastructure improvements, including plans for a new fire station in the revitalized subdivision,
- targeted social and public services programs, and
- development of a charter school proximate to the neighborhood.

The combined resources of the city and key public, private, and nonprofit organizations are bringing renewed growth and stability to the Carver Subdivision.

**Contact:** Tod J. Kilroy, Director of Planning, City of Westland; (734) 467-3266.

## Merit Awards

### Educators and Industry Collaborate on Statistics Curriculum

The Macomb Intermediate School District (MISD), with the help of General Motors, Ford Motor Company, Merck Research, and local educators has developed curriculum units for local district high-school students. The lessons help students become statistically literate, analyze the interaction of multiple variables in an experiment, and make informed decisions. Both general and advanced students are learning college-level skills. They are also developing skills that will help business and industry to test products, improve quality, and reduce costs.

Ford Motor Company gave a start-up grant of \$75,000 to initiate the project, while the State of Michigan contributes \$60,000 annually through a Challenge Grant. MISD consultants give demonstration lessons, train teachers, team teach with local educators, and use interactive TV to support the curriculum.

The curriculum and teacher training is unique in the nation and introduces concepts traditionally taught in college undergraduate and graduate courses. The fact that the Warren Center recently won four of the top five prizes in the Detroit Area Science Fair can be attributed, in part, to the excellence of the methods being taught in this curriculum.

**Contact:** Bob Peterson, Math Consultant, Macomb Intermediate School District; (810) 228-3485.

### Marina Pollution Prevention Program

The Macomb County Health Department, with financial and consultative support of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, implemented the Marina Pollution Prevention Program over 21 months, ending in September 2000.

The goal of the project was to identify and prevent surface water pollution which may originate from marinas along Macomb County's 30-miles of Lake St. Clair frontage. A Citizen's Program Advisory Committee was critical to program operations. After locating all marinas and marine facilities in the county, program staff recruited 34 businesses as voluntary participants in the program. Emphasis was placed on non-regulatory, totally voluntary aspects of pollution prevention.

Major accomplishments of the MCHD/business partnership were conducting pollution prevention assessments at each facility; developing individual, site-specific Pollution Prevention Plans for each facility; and evaluating pollution-prevention improvements at 17 businesses. These improvements are expected to reduce pollutant discharges into Lake St. Clair. Seven businesses were presented awards for their efforts in the program during a meeting of the Health Services Committee of the Macomb County Board of Commissioners. The program developed new relationships between the MCHD and the marina industry and lay the groundwork for ongoing efforts to improve the water quality of Lake St. Clair, which is vital to the health of the marina industry and the quality of life in Macomb County.

**Contact:** Elwin Coll, Director, Environmental Health Services, Macomb County Health Department; (810) 469-5236.

## Honorable Mention Awards

### DTE Energy Augusta/Grace Substation

The townships of Washington, Shelby, and Macomb have experienced unprecedented growth during the past 10 years, far surpassing the capabilities of utility infrastructure. A point of impasse was reached in late 2000, when continued growth threatened the capability of water and sewer systems as well as electrical distribution systems. Six entities with a stake in resolving the issues — the three townships, DTE Energy, Lombardo Land Holding LLC, and Michigan Production Machining — all worked together to negotiate a six-way, win-win agreement. In less than seven months, a solution was reached that met the needs of each interest and provided the communities and businesses with a new electrical substation.

**Contact:** Michael Chriss, Regional Manager, Detroit Edison Company; (810) 412-3206.

### Oakland County Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Program

The Oakland County Home Improvement Program upgrades 250-300 single-family homes annually throughout 50 diverse communities. Over 80 percent of the county's aging housing stock contains potential lead-paint hazards. To protect homeowners and their children from lead-based paint poisoning, Oakland County collaborates with area residential contractors, the Oakland County Health Department, and the Michigan Department of Community Health. This public service partnership maximizes scarce resources, creates a new comprehensive residential lead-based paint hazard reduction program, trains and certifies a critical shortage of lead abatement contractors, and provides ongoing technical assistance. The new program creates innovative approaches to homeowner education, home inspections, risk assessments, specification writing, construction methods, and completions to ensure that residents and contractors are safe from lead contamination and homes are lead safe.

**Contact:** Karry L. Rieth, Manager, Oakland County Community & Home Improvement Division; (248) 858-5403.

### Porritt Barn Project

A developer in Orion Township bought a farm from one of the township's founding families, the Porritts. The developer was willing to donate the farm's historic, gothic barn (circa 1920) to the township with the condition that the barn be moved from the property. At the same time, the Orion Township Parks and Recreation Department was in need of a new storage facility and had \$25,000 slated for its construction. Working with the Orion Historical Society, the recreation department instead applied the construction money towards the cost of moving the barn six miles to Friendship Park, where it could function as the needed storage facility. Additional funds were secured, including in-kind services and donations. The result was that a unique part of Orion Township history was saved for future generations and will be utilized as a productive part of the community.

**Contact:** Rock Blanchard, Director, Orion Township Parks and Recreation; (248) 391-0304.