



Upcoming Dates:

March 13, 2026:

- RSVPs due for Regional Economic Development Summit being held on March 31 (See information in this newsletter)

March 31, 2026:

- Regional Economic Development Summit, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., MTRDC Building, Perry

April 21, 2026

- RHSOC Meeting, 9:30 a.m.

April 28, 2026

- MT Revolving Loan Fund meeting, 1:30 p.m. via Zoom

June 16, 2026

- MMTAC Meeting, 9:30 a.m.
- TAC Meeting, 10:30 a.m.
- Executive Board Meeting, 12:00 noon
- RDC Meeting, 12:30 p.m.

Mark Twain Regional Review March 2026

Local Communities Receive \$2,711,567 in CDBG Funding

In early 2026, the Missouri Department of Economic Development (DED) announced the award of over \$16.7 million, in grants to 43 local projects through the Community Development Block Grant Program. Mark Twain Regional Council of Government (MTRCOG) is excited to share that six applications submitted by MTRCOG were approved for CDBG funding in the amounts listed below, bringing \$2,771,567 of CDBG funding to the communities we serve.

- City of Atlanta Residential and Commercial Demolition Project: \$312,700
- City of Bowling Green on behalf of Pike County Agency for Developmental Disabilities Community Facility Project: \$653,315
- City of Martinsburg Street Project: \$351,308
- City of Moberly Commercial Demolition Project: \$321,000
- City of Shelbina Residential and Commercial Demolition Project: \$299,744
- County of Shelby on behalf of Bethel Community Center Community Facility Project: \$295,500

In addition, Benton City was recently approved for a wastewater project in the amount of \$478,000.

Mark Twain Regional Council of Governments provides a wide range of professional services to its member governments to address important issues that impact the quality of life of the residents within the region. MTRCOG looks forward to working alongside each of these communities to successfully complete these projects and support continued community development.



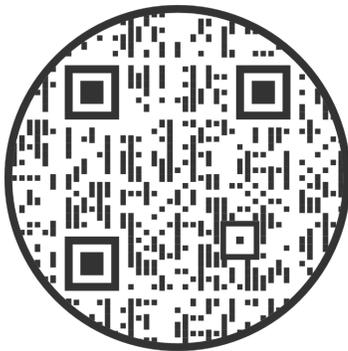


Conklin Recognized at CCAM Commissioner of the Year

Randolph County Presiding Commissioner Sid Conklin was honored as the 2025 County Commissioner of the Year by the County Commissioners Association of Missouri (CCAM) during their 42nd Annual Training Session, held February 25–27, 2026, at the Margaritaville Lake Resort.

The award was presented to Presiding Commissioner Conklin by Past CCAM President Joe Gildhaus, recognizing his outstanding dedication and extensive efforts to strengthen and improve the organization.

Congratulations to Presiding Commissioner Conklin on this well-deserved honor!



Stay connected with MTRCOG and the communities we serve!

Subscribe to our bi-monthly newsletter, *Mark Twain Regional Review* (MTRR), and get the latest updates delivered straight to your inbox.

Scan the QR code to sign up today.



AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT 2021

Missouri's State Fiscal Recovery Funds

Visit <https://moarpa.mo.gov/> for the latest information on Missouri's ARPA funds.



Find us on:
facebook®

Search for us on Facebook and be sure to "Like" and "Follow" us to keep up-to-date on events that are happening at Mark Twain Regional Council of Governments and throughout the eight-county region!

Mark Twain RDC Multi-Purpose Building

We're happy to offer a warm, safe place to keep moving this winter!



INDOOR WALKING

Our building is open to the public for indoor walking.

Monday - Thursday
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

42440 Delaware Lane, Perry



Please follow the **Mark Twain RDC Multi-Purpose Building Facebook page** to check for **updates and closure** notices.

Reminder: Missouri's Hands-Free Law is Now in Effect!

What you need to know:

- Put your phone down while driving.
- Use Bluetooth, speakerphone, or other hands-free devices if you need to make a call.
- Texting, scrolling, or holding your phone is prohibited while driving.



Bowling Green Hosts Comprehensive Plan Open House

The City of Bowling Green hosted a public open house on January 20, 2026, to gather input about the city's 2011 Comprehensive Plan. Residents, business owners, and community stakeholders stopped by to learn more about the Comprehensive Plan update, review draft goals and objectives, and provide input to the updated plan. The Comprehensive Planning Committee has been meeting since April 2025 and recognizes public participation is a vital part of the planning process and encourages everyone to take part in the survey and attend the open house.

On behalf of the City of Bowling Green and Mark Twain Regional Council of Governments, thank you to everyone who attended the event. We appreciate the community's time, input, and thoughtful feedback as we work together to plan for the city's future. Your participation plays an important role in shaping the goals and priorities for Bowling Green in the years ahead.





Speed Trailers & Traffic Counters

Is speeding a concern in your area? Member communities can now request the use of speed radar trailers to help promote safer driving. These portable units display drivers' speeds in real-time, encouraging them to slow down and adhere to local speed limits.

Easy to set up and highly effective, speed radar trailers are a proven tool in reducing speeding and improving road safety. Reserve one for your community today and take a proactive step toward safer streets!

For more information or to schedule a trailer, contact Anna Hudson at ahudson@marktwaincog.com.

Pike County Hazard Mitigation Planning Meeting Held January 15, 2026

There was a great turnout at Pike County's Hazard Mitigation Planning meeting, which was held in Bowling Green at the Pike County Courthouse. Commissioners, along with Anna Hudson, Devyn Campbell, and Ashley Long of MTRCOG, and a wide variety of stakeholders focused sharing ideas to help build a more resilient Pike County. The County and MTRCOG are very appreciative of the collaboration and look forward to the next steps of the planning process.



Missouri Department of
Economic Development

Students Invited to Enter MoDOT's *No MOrE Trash!* Contest



Missouri schools are asked to join the fight against litter! Applications for MoDOT's "Yes You CAN Make Missouri Litter-Free" trash-can-decorating contest are accepted until March 13. Schools or home school programs can enter one of four grade categories: K-2, 3-5, 6-8 and 9-12. Entries should include a large, decorated trash can with the "No MOrE Trash!" logo and a litter-prevention message. There is no entry fee and prizes will be awarded. To learn more, visit <https://www.modot.org/trash-can-contest>.



RHSOC Regional Homeland Security Oversight Committee

The quarterly meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 21, 2026, at 9:30 a.m.

Region B allocated \$173,705.72 to 5 projects for the FY 2025 State Homeland Security Program – Regionalization grant round.

<i>Applicant</i>	<i>Project</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Adair County Health Department	Missouri Region B ID Badging	\$13,310.00
Macon Fire Department	MOSWIN Mobile and Portable Radios	\$11,000.00
Monroe County Sheriff's Office	Interoperable Communications Completion Project	\$30,822.16
Hannibal Police Department	Vehicle Barrier System	\$38,349.00
Moberly Police Department	Communications Upgrade Project	\$80,224.56

Mark Twain Revolving Loan Fund

The next quarterly meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 28, 2026, at 1:30 p.m. ZOOM

If you are a new or expanding business in need of gap financing, reach out to Devyn Campbell at dcampbell@marktwaincog.com to see if your project is a good fit. There is currently around \$90,000 in loan capital available. Additional information on the RLF and the loan application can be found here: <https://www.marktwaincog.com/programs/revolving-loan-fund>

Current Loan Portfolio

CARES Act Loans

- Pratt's on Monroe – Mexico, MO
- Classy Cuts – Moberly, MO

Legacy Loans

- Warbonnet Enterprises – Macon, MO

Hazard Mitigation

Hazard Mitigation Plans are updated every 5 years to better protect the people and property of a county from the effects of natural hazard events. By keeping their plans up to date and current, jurisdictions within or the county itself can be eligible for federal disaster assistance and hazard mitigation funding. To be eligible

for funding, jurisdictions must participate in the planning process during the update of the County's Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Upcoming planning updated and meetings:

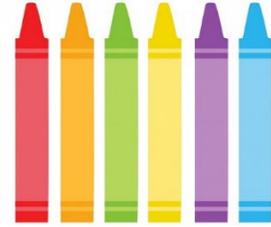
- Ralls County – Draft plan will be available for public comment late March/April.
- Marion County – To Be Announced
- Pike County – Draft plan will be available for public comment late March/April.

All Hazard Mitigation Plans (draft and final) can be found on our website: <https://www.marktwaincog.com/regional-hazard-mitigation-plans>





Collection will reopen again in the spring.



Mark Twain Regional Council of Governments accepts Crayons for recycling! Please contact Ashley Long for more information (along@marktwaincog.com).

S | S
4 | A

Safe Streets and Roads for All

Safe Streets and Roads for All's (SS4A) mission is zero fatalities on our nation's roadways. A core concept of SS4A is that death and serious injury on our streets and roads is unacceptable. Key components of the Safe Systems Approach to roadway safety include:

- The prevention of fatalities and serious injuries
- Designing a transportation system to accommodate certain human mistakes
- All stakeholders that create and use the system are responsible
- Proactivity identifying risks and addressing them before crashes happen
- Significantly eliminating fatalities and serious injuries.

Through funding provided by the SS4A program, Mark Twain Regional Council of Governments will be working with Macon, Marion, Ralls, and Randolph Counties to analyze road and safety data in each of these counties and develop a Safe System Approach plan to address each county's individual needs.



Source: FHWA.

CDBG in Action Throughout the Region

New Grantee Meeting Held on February 26, 2026

Communities that were recently awarded CDBG funding gathered at the MTRDC building in Perry for a New Grantee Meeting. Ryan Griffin, CDBG Compliance Specialist, led the general information portion of the meeting, while Kiaya Flower, CDBG Financial Risk Specialist, met with individual communities to complete the required risk assessment. MTRCOG is pleased to be the grant administrator for each of these projects!



City of Clifton Hill and Pike County Participate in CDBG Program Audit

During the week of February 17, 2026, Compliance Specialist Ryan Griffin and Aaron Perillo of CLA met with Bevely Dodson, Clifton Hill City Clerk, and Olivia Ledford, Pike County Treasurer, to review documents associated with recent projects.



City of Bevier Drainage Project Underway

On January 23, 2026, a preconstruction meeting was held for the Bevier Drainage Project. The project is for drainage improvements within the City of Bevier, and it includes \$500,000 in CDBG funding. McClure Engineering is the engineer for the project, and Hydrovac of Missouri LLC is the general contractor and MTRCOG are the administrators for the project.



Missouri Department of
Economic Development



mark twain regional
council of governments

Associate Membership Program (AMP): Become an Investor in Community & Economic Development

A strong economy is important to you and your business...

You want to see the Mark Twain Region prosper because that's good for your business. We, too, want to see the Mark Twain Region prosper because it is part of our mission. MTRCOG's work in community and economic development has one focus: Improve the quality of life for people in the Mark Twain Region.

Our economic development efforts can be enhanced by your involvement. MTRCOG is looking for committed partners—investors, if you will—to complement its economic development work in the Mark Twain Region. We represent and market the entire eight-county area. Once a new company has settled in a location, or an existing company has decided to expand, we work with the company to help secure needed financing and with the community infrastructure needs.

Your investment will make a positive difference!

For more information, call us at (573)565-2203 or email Cindy Hultz, Executive Director, at chultz@marktwaincog.com.

Current AMP Members

Platinum Members

- Chariton Valley
- MO Electric
- Northeast Power
- Howe Company

Gold Members

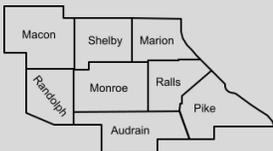
- Barlett & West
- MECO Engineering

Silver Members

- Cochran Engineering
- Commerce Bank
- HNB Bank
- Klingner & Associates, P. C.
- McClure
- Monroe County IDA
- RCEC
- TPNB Bank



Cindy Hultz, Director
chultz@marktwaincog.com



MTRCOG EXECUTIVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chairperson: Alan Winders Vice Chairman: Dustin Wasson Secretary/Treasurer: Chuck Herron

AUDRAIN COUNTY

Presiding Commissioner | Alan Winders
City of Mexico | Bruce Slagle
Waters Funeral Home | Nick Johnston

MACON COUNTY

Presiding Commissioner | Dean Still
City of Macon | Mayor Tony Petre
Macon Chamber of Commerce | Sharon Scott

MARION COUNTY

Associate Commissioner | Lacey Miller
City of Palmyra | Mayor Rusty Adrian

MONROE COUNTY

Presiding Commissioner | Curt Wheeler
Virtual Images | Chuck Herron
City of Paris | Superintendent Barb McCall

PIKE COUNTY

Presiding Commissioner | Bill Allen

RALLS COUNTY

Presiding Commissioner | John Lake
South Lake Designs | Dustin Wasson

RANDOLPH COUNTY

Presiding Commissioner | Sid Conklin
Associate Commissioner | Austin Kyser
Moberly Chamber of Commerce | Kaylee Paffrath

SHELBY COUNTY

Associate Commissioner | Ray Bacon

The Mark Twain Regional Council of Governments, in partnership with area Economic Developers, is excited to announce the

Regional Economic Development Summit

We hope you will join us for an engaging and informative day filled with valuable resources, practical tools, and insights you can take back and put to work in your communities.



With Special Guest:

Jaclyn Rowe

Jaclyn Rowe is a Missouri entrepreneur, Personality Expert, Corporate Etiquette Trainer, and international speaker. A business owner, community leader, and recent breast cancer survivor, she brings practical insight and real-life experience to her message, *Dealing with Difficult People*. Attendees will walk away with practical tools to navigate challenging personalities with confidence and clarity.

Date

March 31, 2026

FREE to attend!

Event Location

Mark Twain RDC
Multi-Purpose Building
42440 Delaware Lane
Perry, Missouri 63462



Please **RSVP** by **March 13th** to along@marktwaincog.com or contact our office at **573-565-2203**

Agenda

9:00 a.m. -
11:00 a.m.

Funding Sources

Please join us for a morning with funding resources from across the state. Representatives will provide brief, information-packed presentations designed to help your community better understand available grant opportunities, how to apply for funding, and how to effectively utilize the programs and resources they offer.

11:00 a.m. -
12:00 a.m.

Bridging the Workforce Gap

Learn practical, proven strategies from the WRAP program to reduce turnover, strengthen communication, and improve employee retention in businesses of any size.

12:00 p.m. -
1:30 p.m.

Lunch and Interactive Session

Lunch and refreshments will be provided. An interactive session will follow, giving attendees the chance to connect with presenters, ask questions, and grab a treat!

1:30 p.m. -
3:15 p.m.

Guest Speakers

Join us after lunch for additional guest speakers, including Jaclyn Rowe, who will present on maintaining professionalism and keep the ball moving forward when the community pessimist, gossip, sarcastic, or blunt person is derailing progress.

3:15 p.m. -
4:00 p.m.

Economic Development Panel

We'll conclude the event with a panel of local economic developers who will answer questions and share practical insights to support your community's goals and development efforts.

We look forward to working together to make the Mark Twain Region a better place!