

# Annual Report

Prepared By :

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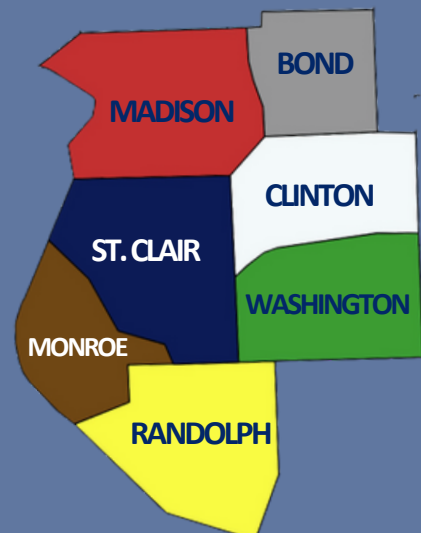
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2024





# About Us

Established in 1963 as a derivative of Illinois statute (70 ILCS 1710/4) the Southwestern Illinois Metropolitan and Regional Planning Commission (SIMAPC) was created. The Illinois General Assembly recognized that the welfare, health, prosperity, moral, and general well-being of all the people in the State of Illinois are largely dependent upon the orderly development (economic, social, environmental) of the Southwestern Illinois Metropolitan and regional counties. In order to provide for such development in the southwestern Illinois region, it is imperative that sound, comprehensive, general and functional plans for the area are devised to guide and coordinate the development of our region.

SIMAPC specializes in planning for the following areas; adequate air and water resources, quality and supply; public utility distribution system or systems; storm water and sewage disposal; surface drainage control and flood abatement; integrated air, water, rail and highway transportation; the orderly arrangements of land for residential, commercial, industrial, public and other purposes; local municipal and governmental services; the provision of social services; stimulation of economic development; improvement of environmental quality, urban esthetics and civic design; and may change to align with future developments.

We are dedicated to fostering sustainable economic development and growth within our communities. Our team is committed to creating opportunities and enhancing the quality of life for all residents. Through strategic planning and collaboration, we aim to build a prosperous future for generations to come.



# Table of Contents

Vision & Mission ..... 3

Economic Development District Overview ..... 4

Letter from our President ..... 5

Tribute to Linda Tragesser ..... 6

Fiscal Review ..... 7

Project Review ..... 8

Board Engagement Results ..... 13

Statutory Existence ..... 17

Our Path Forward ..... 18



# Our Vision

We envision a future where every community, urban or rural, flourishes through collaborative planning, innovative design, and inclusive engagement with all stakeholders while preserving the unique identities of our communities for generations to come.

# Our Mission

Our mission is to support economic diversification and resilience in both urban and rural areas, fostering entrepreneurship, innovation, and job creation while leveraging the strengths of our urban centers and rural landscapes to promote sustainable and equitable growth for all residents.





# Our Value as an Economic Development District

As the Southwestern Illinois Metropolitan and Regional Planning Commission (SIMAPC), we are tasked with compiling and updating the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) every five years. This ongoing responsibility ensures that we stay focused on the economic growth of the seven-county Southwestern Illinois region. The CEDS outlines a shared vision aimed at creating jobs, diversifying the economy, improving living conditions, and enhancing overall regional prosperity.

SIMAPC holds a special designation as an Economic Development District (EDD), a status granted by the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA). This designation, earned through developing a CEDS that meets EDA's criteria, allows our seven-county region to apply for and receive crucial assistance through EDA programs including Public Works and Economic Adjustment programs. Being an EDD significantly enhances the region's ability to secure federal resources and support for key projects that drive economic progress.

The CEDS itself is a strategic document that examines the region's demographics and economic indicators, identifies strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats, and lays out clear regional goals and priorities for future growth. It provides a guiding framework for regional economic development efforts.

As the designated EDD for Southwestern Illinois, SIMAPC plays a pivotal role in fostering collaboration between local jurisdictions, economic development organizations, and the EDA. By aligning regional priorities with federal funding opportunities, SIMAPC ensures that the region secures investments that support long-term economic growth.

Additionally, SIMAPC's responsibility to update and submit the CEDS every five years underscores our commitment to strong communication and outreach. This ensures that the region fully benefits from the resources and support available from the EDA and other partners.

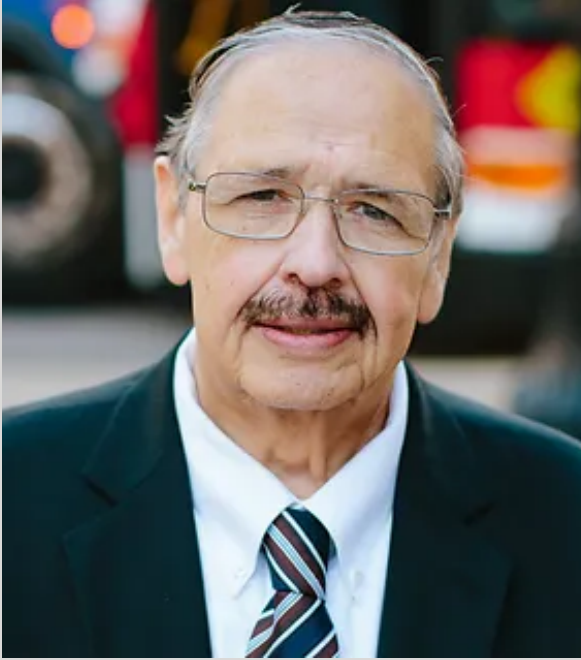
The CEDS document serves as a public resource and will be readily available for stakeholders to consult as they make decisions aimed at improving the regional economy. Its transparency allows local decision-makers to use it as a strategic guide for fostering economic growth and resilience.

In summary, SIMAPC's designation as an EDD is vital for advancing economic development in Southwestern Illinois by facilitating collaboration, securing federal funding, and providing a strategic blueprint for the region's economic future.





# Letter from Our President



## Dear Appointed Commission Members,

As the Board President of the Southwestern Illinois Metropolitan and Regional Planning Commission (SIMAPC), I am filled with excitement and optimism for the future of our organization and the region we proudly serve. Our commitment to driving economic growth, fostering collaboration, and enhancing the quality of life in our seven-county region is stronger than ever.

In recent years we have made significant progress thanks to the collaboration between our local communities, economic development organizations, and valued partners. Together, we have established a shared vision for prosperity that not only drives local growth but also positions our region for broader opportunities on a national and global scale.

Our designation as an Economic Development District (EDD) has opened the door to new resources and support from the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA), allowing us to secure vital funding for transformative projects. These projects will create jobs, diversify our economy, and pave the way for sustainable development across Southwestern Illinois. The next phase of our work will see us building on this foundation, identifying new opportunities for investment, and furthering our role as a leader in regional planning and development.

As we look to the future, I am confident that our planning commission is uniquely positioned to address the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. From comprehensive planning to infrastructure improvements, workforce development, and economic development, SIMAPC will continue to lead with innovative solutions that improve the lives of those who live and work in our region.

I would like to personally thank each of you for your unwavering support and dedication to our shared mission. It is your vision, hard work, and commitment that enable SIMAPC to succeed and make a lasting impact. The future holds great promise, and I am eager to see what we can achieve together.

Let's continue to work together, embrace new ideas, and forge a path of growth and success for Southwestern Illinois.

Sincerely,

Herbert Simmons,  
SIMAPC President





# A Tribute to *Linda Tragersser*



As Linda retires from the SIMAPC, we reflect on the incredible legacy she leaves behind after 24 years of unwavering dedication to the seven-county region. Throughout her career, Linda has been much more than an employee—she has been the face of our organization, the go-to problem solver, and the first-person communities called upon when they needed support.

Linda's commitment to serving our region has been nothing short of remarkable. With her extensive knowledge and unrelenting passion for the work, she became a trusted resource for countless communities across Southwestern Illinois. Her ability to step in during critical moments, provide solutions, and help guide municipalities through challenging times earned her a deep respect from everyone she worked with.

More than just a professional presence, Linda embodied the values of service and collaboration that SIMAPC stands for. She approached every challenge with grace and determination, always willing to lend her expertise to ensure that the communities we serve had the resources they needed to thrive.

As we say goodbye to Linda in her official capacity, we celebrate not only her accomplishments but also the lasting impact she has made on the region. Her work has touched so many lives, and her legacy will continue to inspire us as we move forward.

On behalf of the entire SIMAPC team, we offer our heartfelt thanks to Linda for her exceptional service, her friendship, and her leadership. We wish her all the best in her well-deserved retirement, knowing that her influence and spirit will remain with us for many years to come.

Congratulations, Linda, and thank you for everything you have done for Southwestern Illinois.

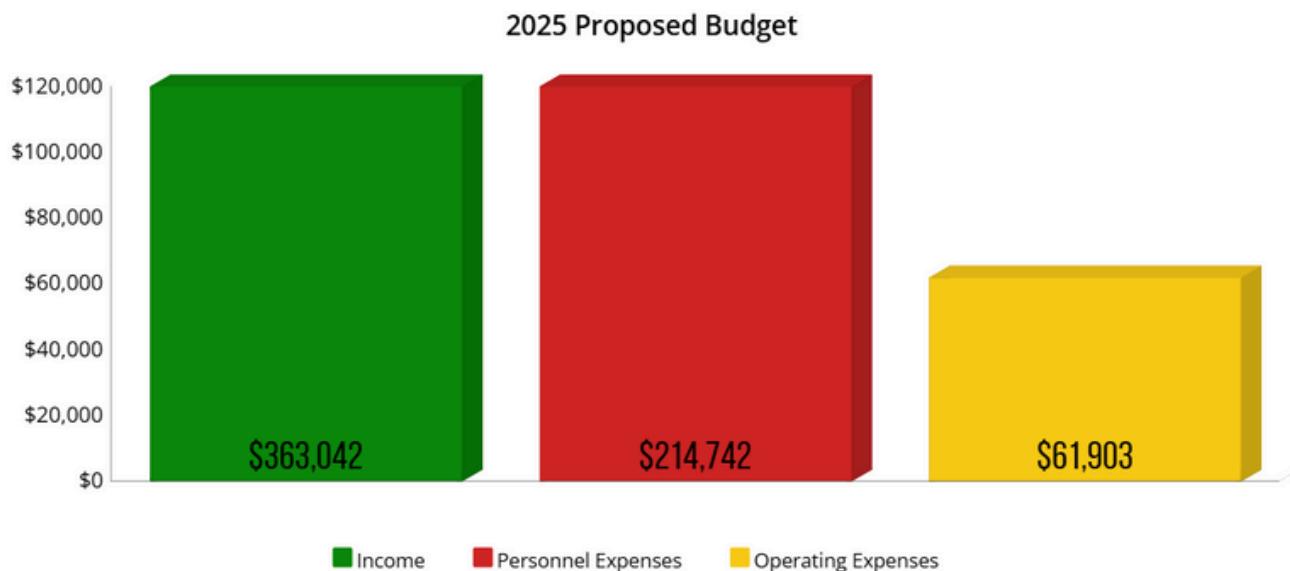
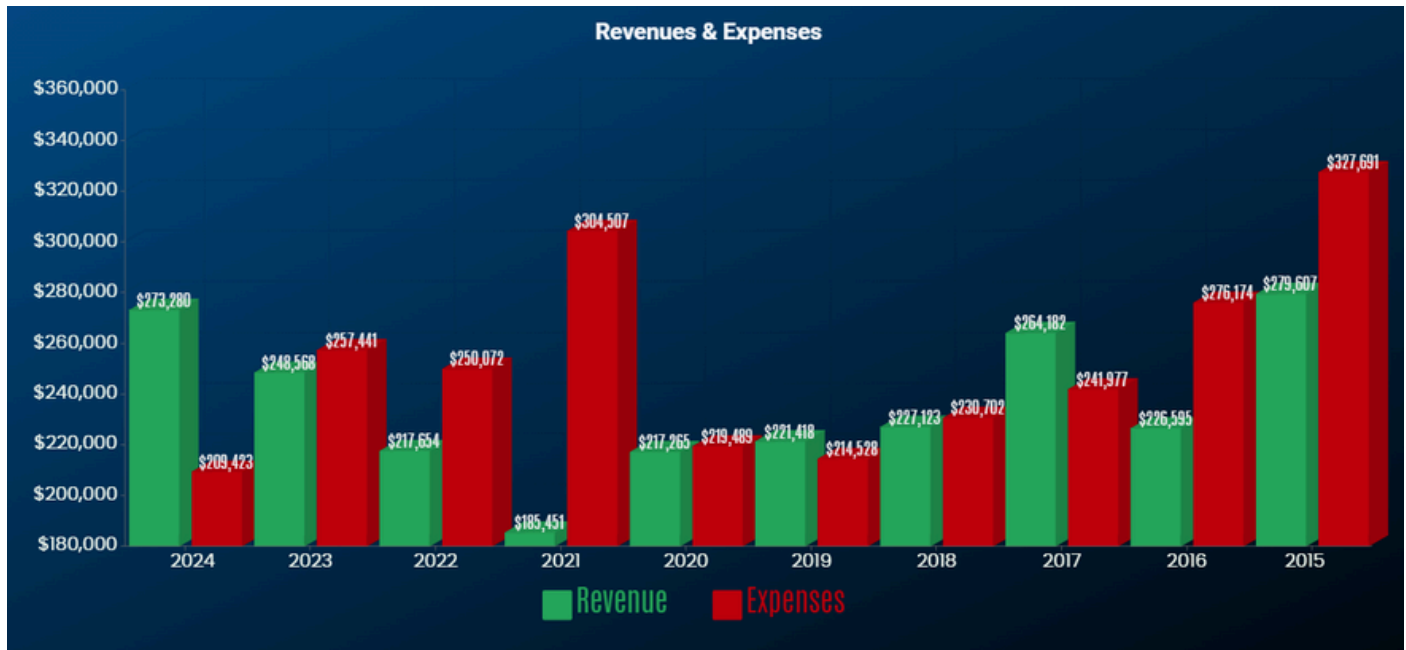


*Officially  
Retired  
Congrats!*





# Fiscal Review



The 2024 fiscal year was a transitional year for the Commission, as the organization operated with an interim director and limited internal staff. The Commission focused on building out the Executive Committee and hiring an Executive Director to drive the organization forward. The Commission transitioned office spaces to better manage expenses and streamlined technology infrastructure to reduce excessive cost. As the Commission continues into the 2025 fiscal year, our financial reporting process has been simplified to deliver a stronger overview in relation to budget comparison and revenue projections.





# Project Review

## Completed Project: Washington County Hazard Mitigation Plan

The Washington County Hazard Mitigation Plan was successfully completed, providing a comprehensive strategy to reduce the risks and impacts of natural disasters in the county. The plan outlines critical actions to improve community resilience, protect lives and property, and secure funding for mitigation projects. This effort involved collaboration between local governments and stakeholders to ensure a safer future for Washington County residents.

## Completed Project: Nashville Water Treatment Plant Enhancements

The Nashville, Illinois Water Treatment Plant upgrade was funded by the Illinois Department of Commerce through the CDBG program. The project improved the facility's infrastructure by enhancing water quality and reliability for local residents while ensuring compliance with environmental standards.

## Active Project: Kaskaskia Regional Port District

The Kaskaskia Regional Port District has received an Economic Development Administration grant to fund the construction of a laydown yard to supply the plant with storage for coiled steel and a second entrance road at KRPD Dock 2 which is aimed at enhancing capacity and improving infrastructure at one of the port's key terminals.

## Active Project: Baldwin Sewer Project

The Village, covering 0.67 square miles, faces issues with its lift station and gravity sewer system leading to wastewater backups during heavy rains. To resolve this the Village plans to extend the force main to the wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) and upgrade pump impellers. This cost-effective solution is contingent on funding with a grant from the Energy Community Transition Program and anticipated support from the Delta Regional Authority (DRA).



# Project Review

## Active Project: Village of Dupou Industrial Drive Resurfacing

The Industrial Drive Improvements Project is approximately 2.121 miles long beginning 1000-ft north of the S. Main St. intersection northerly to the curve at Falling Springs Rd. The project involves HMA pavement patching, 2-ft widening, milling and overlay, 2-ft wide aggregate shoulders, culvert removal and replacement, fence removal and replacement, and other miscellaneous items. This project is funded from the Department of Commerce and Economic Development Rebuild Illinois Grant.

## Active Project: Randolph County Care Center Renovation

Randolph County, Illinois is transforming an unused portion of its county-owned nursing home into a state-of-the-art behavioral health center to address growing local needs by providing critical long-term mental health care while revitalizing the facility and supporting the community. The project was funded through multiple grants including federal funding from the American Rescue Plan Act and the Delta Regional Authority.

## Active Project: Clinton County Hazard Mitigation Plan

The update of Clinton County's Hazard Mitigation Plan is currently underway, aiming to reassess and improve strategies to reduce the risks of natural disasters. This ongoing process involves collaboration among local governments, emergency responders, and stakeholders to identify vulnerabilities and develop action plans for enhancing community safety. Once completed the updated plan will provide Clinton County with a stronger framework for disaster preparedness and access to additional funding for mitigation efforts.



# Project Review

## Active Project: Comprehensive Economic Development Plan

We are actively engaging stakeholders in the development of a new Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for our region, funded by the Economic Development Administration (EDA). This process involves gathering input from local governments, businesses, and community leaders to create a unified vision for economic growth. As part of this effort, we are also introducing branding under the theme “Stronger Together: A Blueprint for Economic Growth,” which will guide our regional development priorities and foster a cohesive identity for future growth initiatives.

## Recently Awarded: Sauget Monsanto Avenue

The sewer lining project in Sauget covers 2,004 linear feet along Monsanto Avenue in the Sauget Industrial Park targeting three areas to alleviate flooding and improve infrastructure. This effort is vital to sustaining the industrial park’s operations, retaining 2,000 jobs, and creating an additional 50 jobs. By enhancing the sewer system, the project supports the park’s economic stability and growth by ensuring a more resilient infrastructure for continued industrial activities.

## Awaiting Award: Randolph County Workforce Development Plan

The grant application to the Delta Regional Authority seeks funding for a workforce development plan in Randolph County, with Southwestern Illinois College (SWIC) as a supportive partner. The initiative aims to address local workforce needs by enhancing training programs supported by data from the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). This plan focuses on preparing the local labor force for emerging opportunities and strengthening the region’s economic resilience through targeted workforce development efforts.



# Project Review

## Awaiting Award: Bioeconomy Development Opportunity Zone

The grant proposal to the Delta Regional Authority seeks funding to establish a Bioeconomy Development Opportunity Zone by assessing agricultural residues and marketing the region for bio-manufacturing. It includes identifying an industrial site for bio-manufacturing and leverages the Kaskaskia Port District's strategic strengths. The Leadership Council of Southwestern Illinois is a pivotal partner in this initiative and is working collaboratively to promote the region's bioeconomic potential and attract investment for sustainable growth and innovation in bio-manufacturing.

## Awaiting Award: Water Quality Management Program

The Southwestern Illinois Metropolitan and Regional Planning Commission is seeking grant funding from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency to support a three-county Water Quality Management Program for Madison, Monroe, and St. Clair Counties. This program will align with the Illinois EPA Water Quality Management Plan by introducing Clean Water STEM Kits for schools, developing a Stormwater Story Map for St. Clair County, and updating the Water Quality Management Plan for the region. The initiative aims to enhance water quality, engage the community in sustainable practices, and ensure long-term environmental resilience.

## Awaiting Award: Kaskaskia Port District

The grant proposal to the Delta Regional Authority, in partnership with Egyptian Electric and the Kaskaskia Port District, aims to fund electrical enhancements to support the expansion of TMW. This project will help boost local infrastructure by enabling the creation of 25 new jobs and enhancing the operational capacity of the Kaskaskia Port District which is vital to the region's industrial growth. This collaborative effort will strengthen the area's economic foundation while supporting long-term development and job creation.



# Project Review

## Awaiting Advancement: Nashville Emergency Shelter

The community of Nashville, Illinois has submitted a pre-application for BRIC (Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities) funding to address mitigation strategies outlined in the Washington County Hazard Mitigation Plan. They are currently awaiting an invitation to advance to the full application stage. This funding would support critical infrastructure improvements to mitigate disaster risks and enhance long-term resilience for Nashville and the surrounding area.



**\$4,252,060**

**TOTAL  
AWARDED**

**AWAITING  
AWARD**



**\$5,157,258**



# Board Engagement Survey Results

**16 OUT OF 24**

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS  
EXPRESSED ACTIVE ENGAGEMENT WITH  
SIMAPC BY PARTICIPATING IN THIS SURVEY**

**PARTICIPANTS PREFER  
MEETINGS TO BE HELD IN THE**

**EVENING**

**AFTERNOON**

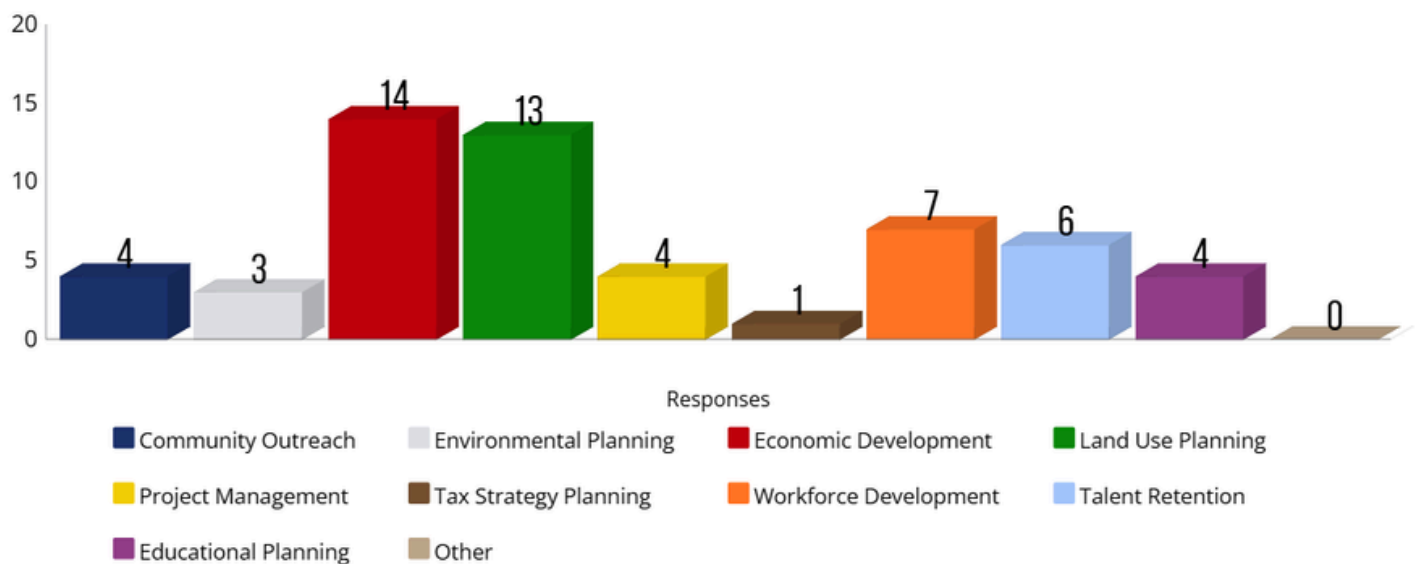
**MORNING**





# Board Engagement Survey Results

I would like to see the Commission pursue programmatic funding to support planning in the following categories:



## What are your areas of concern for the board going into 2025?

Continuing the improvement of simply being operational

Cohesiveness of the region, and full Commission onboarding

Lack of education to the counties moving forward, plus financial shortfalls

Resolving past hurts and staying on track moving forward

Local support

I would like to see improved networking and collaboration among like agencies

I think we need to strike a balance with meetings and board member assignments. I know we are rebuilding, and a strong foundation needs to be set, but we are very busy people who have a lot of other responsibilities.

Participation and quorums

Planning

Being able to stay on point

Show Value

Political party agenda creeping in. A split between R's and D's.

Sustainable Vision

Continue to focus on Economic Development and further solidify the SIMAPC board.



# Board Engagement Survey Results

How would you rate the Executive Director (4 Months in Role)?



## What key priorities would you like to see SIMAPC address or evolve into?

Funding opportunities for low-income communities & unincorporated county growth planning.

Continuing to contact all stakeholders about the mission of SIMAPC and actually show results through services and grant monies provided.

Successfully completing the projects started; increasing visibility and professionalism for the organization; being looked at as a leader.

Education of the Commission Mission.

Assistance educating local governments on the importance of business recruitment, the benefits of dedicated space for industrial/commercial development, the need for economic incentives for economic progress and priority.

I think that right now, we are still in the rebuilding phase. I think we should proceed thoughtfully and make sure our foundation is strong. Then we should work toward being a cohesive group working toward the region's success.

Fully support the mission of the organization, stick to that.

Planning

Responsible use of funds and impress on counties the value of working together to meet challenges of future

National outreach to bring development to our area.

Communication with Counties, developers, grant authorities and committee members.

Not Sure

Bring EDA dollars to the region. Identifying future opportunities and make sure needed studies or planning is in place to secure those opportunities.



# Board Engagement Survey Results

## What aspects of the board meetings do you find most valuable?

Nothing yet.

Listening to fellow board members discuss the projects in the communities.

Get it done; though some discussion items seem to drag on forever.

Report from Executive Director.

Receiving updates on the progress of grants - this should be in a report and then discussed/explained at the meetings.

I am new and have not attended board meetings to date.

People working together and trying to make sure we focus on the big things and not get too caught up in the past dysfunction.

Prepared materials available ahead of time.

Discussion.

Progress towards goals.

Information and networking.

All areas

Updates on projects

Still keeping quiet and learning

## What do you see as areas of the strength for the Commission going into 2025?

Commitment by all participating counties

New Director understands why SIMAPC exists and is just beginning reaching out to stakeholders

Good core group, good leadership with vision and a go-get-it attitude

A new Executive director.

Assisting in economic development

New director and new board members and the opportunity to implement new initiatives

Very committed and active director, 7 counties who are coming together for group success, and a positive shared vision for the future!

Our new Exec Director

Using talent

Commitment of the staff and committee members

Communication

Since I'm relatively new and what I heard, and area of strength is the director

The current desire to be a part of the organization and the benefits brought through participation.



# Statutory Existence

The Southwestern Illinois Metropolitan and Regional Planning Commission (SIMAPC) exists as a statutory body established in 1963 by Illinois statute (70 ILCS 1710/4) to ensure the orderly and sustainable development of the Southwestern Illinois region. Recognizing the critical importance of this region to the welfare, health and prosperity of Illinois residents, the Illinois General Assembly tasked SIMAPC with creating sound, comprehensive plans that guide development in the areas of economic growth, infrastructure, and environmental management.

Our focus is to address the diverse needs of the seven-county region by developing functional plans that focus on essential areas such as air and water quality, flood control, transportation infrastructure, land use planning, and public services. SIMAPC also plays a key role in stimulating economic development, improving urban aesthetics, and addressing social service needs all to improve the well-being and prosperity of our communities.

At SIMAPC, we collaborate closely with local governments, businesses, and community leaders to develop strategies that ensure our region's future growth is both sustainable and aligned with modern developments. By focusing on transportation, utility infrastructure, environmental conservation, and the coordinated use of land for residential, commercial, and industrial purposes, we provide a roadmap for a vibrant and thriving region. Our statutory mandate allows us the flexibility to adapt our focus to meet the region's evolving needs by ensuring that Southwestern Illinois continues to grow and prosper.

We are proud to serve the region and remain committed to fulfilling our role as outlined by the Illinois General Assembly to support the long-term development of Southwestern Illinois.



# Our Path Forward

**Dear Commission Members,**

As we chart our course for the future of Southwestern Illinois, it is essential to align our regional vision with the transformative power of emerging technologies and the opportunities within new markets. Our vision of creating a prosperous and resilient economy hinges on preparing our workforce for the future while ensuring talent retention and economic attraction.

By embracing technological innovation and incorporating these advancements into our workforce and economic planning, we can ensure that Southwestern Illinois remains a competitive hub for growth and opportunity. Renewable energy, advanced manufacturing, automation, and digital infrastructure are reshaping industries, and we are uniquely positioned to seize these opportunities. To fully leverage these shifts, we will work closely with educational institutions, businesses, and community stakeholders to provide the necessary skills and training that align with the demands of tomorrow's economy.

Our efforts will not only attract new investments to our region but will also foster an environment where local talent can thrive. By aligning our strategic initiatives with the broader, fast-changing landscape of emerging markets, we will create a resilient economy that drives long-term success, setting our communities up for sustainable growth and prosperity.

Together we will build a future that ensures Southwestern Illinois remains an attractive and thriving region, both for its residents and businesses. Thank you for your continued support as we move forward on this exciting path.

Sincerely,  
Rebecca Kenison, MBA  
Executive Director



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Website

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# SIMAPC Executive Committee

## *Executive Officers*

**Herbert Simmons, President**

*Village President East Carondelet*

**Randy Bolle, Vice President**

*Superintendent, Village of Dupont*

**Dave Meyer, Secretary/Treasurer**

*Washington County Chairman*

## *Committee Members*

**Bernard Myers**

*Bond County Chairman*

**Brad Criner**

*Bond County Zoning Administrator*

**Brad Knolhoff**

*Clinton County Chairman*

**Kurt Prenzler**

*Madison County Chairman*

**Paul Nicolussi**

*Madison County Board Member*

**Dave Tanzyus**

*Madison County Administrator*

**Adam J. Walden**

*Madison County Engineer*

**Dennis Wilmsmeyer**

*America's Central Port*

**George Green**

*Monroe County Chairman*

**Aaron Metzger**

*Monroe County Engineer*

**Dave Holder**

*Randolph County Commissioner*

**Ronnie White**

*Randolph County Chairman*

**Marc Kiehna**

*Randolph County Commissioner*

**Susan Harbaugh**

*Mayor of Red Bud*

**Roy Mosley Jr.**

*St. Clair County Board Member*

**Mark Kupsky**

*Mayor of Fairview Heights*

**Norm Etling**

*St. Clair County Engineer*

**Eric Brammeier**

*Washington County Board Member*

**Gerald Brockmeier**

*Washington County Planning  
Commission*

**Pam Poetker**

*Monroe County Economic  
Development Corporation*



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