

Local Government

Briefings

April 30, 2010, Volume 13, Issue 16 In This Week's Edition:

What's in the News...

In regional news...

New Documents on East-West Gateway's Web Site

East-West Gateway has just posted three documents on its Web site that should be of interest to citizens in the East-West Gateway region:

"The St. Louis Region: Geography, Economy, Politics, and People"

This document provides an overview of the East-West Gateway region, the agency's priorities and activities, and regional demographics.

"St. Louis Regional Housing Conference - April 23, 2010"

East-West Gateway, the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis and the University of Missouri-St. Louis recently co-sponsored a conference: "Creating Whole Communities: Housing, Transportation, Energy, and Education." Presentations included information on commute patterns and the demand for workforce housing in St. Louis and maps showing commute patterns for low and moderate income workers.

"Additional Flood Insurance Costs Resulting from the Federal Emergency Management Agency Flood Insurance Rate Map Modernization Program in the American Bottom"

Because the Federal Emergency Management Agency intends to deaccredit the Mississippi River levees in Southwestern Illinois, many residents and businesses in the region will be required to purchase flood insurance.

East-West Gateway was asked to estimate the insurance costs that could result from levee deaccreditation. The total estimate of additional insurance costs that will be paid by residents and businesses in the American Bottom as a result of FEMA's actions is \$50 million per year. The study was prepared for the Southwestern Illinois Flood Prevention District Council.

Access these documents from East-West Gateway's Web site: www.ewgateway.org.

In national news...

Public Space Creation in Three Midwestern Cities - Making the Center Bold

This piece from *The Architect's Newspaper* takes a look at three Midwestern cities that have recently benefitted from outside investments in their urban centers.

Des Moines, Iowa, Grand Rapids, Michigan and St. Louis, Missouri have become the benefactors of philanthropies and industrial interests who are investing in new public spaces and downtown attractions. Des Moines, for example, is focusing on a riverfront development.

"Powered by insurance industry giants and presidential politics, Des Moines has long taken pride in its status as a globally connected hub. Now new initiatives, including an ambitious Riverwalk development and transit center, are reconnecting the city's downtown neighborhoods with civic-spirited design."

Read the full story at http://archpaper.com/e-board_rev.asp?News_ID=4428.
