2015 Annual Report

East Central Regional Development Commission
100 Park Street South
Mora, MN 55051

July 1, 2014
through
June 30, 2015

ST CROIX SCENIC BYWAY

Greetings East Central Minnesota!

I am pleased to present the 2015 Annual Report of the East Central Regional Development Commission (ECRDC). Each year the Commission prepares a report that lists its accomplishments toward fulfilling the ECRDC's mission. This report includes the programs, projects, and related financial information for the period starting on July 1, 2014 and ending on June 30, 2015.

As one of the fastest growing areas in the State, East Central Minnesota is dynamic and in a constant state of change. Inside you'll get a glimpse of the many ways the ECRDC Commission and staff must adapt to meet the ever changing needs in our region. Our work in Scenic Byways, Safe Routes to School, Broadband, All-Hazard Mitigation, and broadband planning are all examples of how we work closely with our local units of government and stakeholders to make East Central Minnesota a better and safer place to live and recreate.

The annual report is also a great time to offer our Hails and Farewells to certain members on our Commission. We want to take this opportunity to thank outgoing Commission Members Lynn Zeleny (Pine County Public Interest); Robert Jensen (Kanabec County Municipalities); Jill Behnke (Chisago County Municipalities); and Frank Grundmeier (Pine County Townships) for their service to the ECRDC over the years. Also, a warm welcome to our newly appointed Commission Members – Bill Schlumbohm (Chisago County Municipalities); Gordon Gullixson (Kanabec County Municipalities); and North Branch Mayor Kirsten Kennedy (Cities 10,000 representative).

Thank you for stopping by to check out our annual report. You can also learn more about our programs and services at our website www.ecrdc.org. We are excited to continue and expand our efforts as we move ahead into 2016!

Sincerely,

Robert L. Voss
Executive Director

ECRDC BOARD MEMBERS

Chisago County
Jill Behnke, Municipalities
Diane Larkin, Township Rep.
Ben Montzka, County Comm.
Steven Kimmel, Public Interest
Bill Schlumbohm, Sr. Municipal.

Isanti County
Greg Anderson, County Comm.
Richard Hansen, Township Rep.
Sue Larson, Public Interest
Marlys Palmer, Municipalities

Kanabec County
Karen Amundson, Public Interest
Kathi Ellis, County Comm.
Gordon Gulixson, Muncipalities
Bob Jensen, Municipalities
Dave Patenaude, Township Rep.

Municipalities over 10,000
Kirsten Haggen-Kennedy

Mille Lacs County
Linda Evans, Public Interest
Genny Reynolds, County Comm.
Thom Walker, Municipalities
Barbara Welty, Township Rep.

Pine County
Frank Grundmeier, Twp Rep.
Steve Hallan, County Comm.
Paul Venhuizen, Municipalities
Lynn Zeleny, Public Interest

School Board Representatives
Tom Lawlor, Southern
Steve Odegard, Northern

Native American Tribal Representative
Carla Dunkley

FINANCIAL

	ADOPTED BUDGET FY2015	ACTUAL UNAUDITED FY2015	ADOPTED BUDGET FY2016
AGENCY WIDE REVENUES (by source)			
County Tax Levy	279,141	281,176	287,515
Central MN Council on Aging (CMCOA)	83,954	143,998	0
Economic Development Administration	52,628	52,628	52,628
MN Dept of Transportation	95,775	137,605	113,000
MN Dept of Public Safety	40,858	51,660	51,250
Contracted Project Revenue	69,575	25,574	11,250
Grant Revenues	0	8,208	15,000
Various Other Sources	24,760	11,830	10,940
Revolving Loan Fund	61,000	83,468	77,500
Total Revenues	707,691	796,147	633,558
AGENCY WIDE EXPENDITURES (by program)			
General Fund	193,594	66,417	230,749
Senior Resource Center	242,505	248,384	0
Economic Development Administration	105,256	108,893	105,324
Transportation / Safety	159,469	268,008	211,072
Revolving Loan Fund:			
Administration	8,615	11,036	9,459
Loans Disbursed	60,000	87,000	60,000
Total Expenditures	769,439	789,738	616,604

Fiscal Year ended June 30, 2015 (Unaudited)	Increase $ 6,409
Fiscal Year ended June 30, 2016 (Projected)	Increase $ 16,954

ECRDC STAFF

JULY 1, 2014 - JUNE 30, 2015

ROBERT L. VOSS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MICHELE BOLLENBECK
TOWARD ZERO DEATHS COORDINATOR

ROBERT BOLLENBECK
TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM DIRECTOR
TOWARD ZERO DEATHS COORDINATOR

TAMMIE BREMER
FINANCE OFFICER

LYNDA HAYEK
EAST CENTRAL SENIOR RESOURE CENTER
CAREGIVER CONSULTANT

JAYNE MUND
EAST CENTRAL SENIOR RESOURE CENTER
CAREGIVER CONSULTANT

FRANCES NELSON
EAST CENTRAL SENIOR RESOURCE CENTER
OUTREACH SPECIALIST

JENNIFER RUSSELL
COMMUNITY/ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

JENNIFER RUSSELL
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

TRISH RYDLUND
INFORMATION/OFFICE MANAGER

PENNY SIMONSEN
EAST CENTRAL SR RESOURCE CENTER DIRECTOR
COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

ANITA SPARKS
EAST CENTRAL SENIOR RESOURCE CENTER
CAREGIVER CONSULTANT

AMY TVEDT
EAST CENTRAL SENIOR RESOURCE CENTER
OUTREACH SPECIALIST

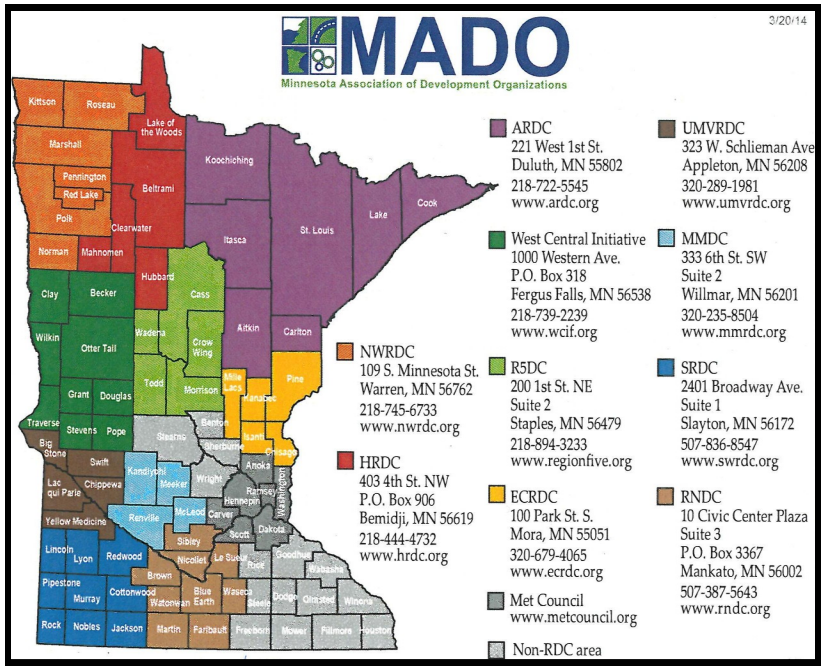
EAST CENTRAL REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

The East Central Regional Development Commission (ECRDC) is a public agency. The board members are represented by officials appointed by county boards, townships, municipalities, school boards and citizens at large.

The ECRDC is funded through a local tax levy and planning/program grants and contracts from state agencies, federal agencies and foundations.

MISSION OF THE EAST CENTRAL REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

The mission is to provide leadership and direction through creative problem solving. We do this by initiating projects and programs that lead to creative solutions to regional problems, providing technical assistance and identifying and developing available resources. We serve in a leader-ship role as an advocate for East Central Minnesota to bring about positive change.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Revolving Loan Fund loan made to Freedom Center in Princeton. Pictured (l-r) Jennifer Russell—ECRDC Economic Development Director, Cheryl Minks –Owner, Robert Voss—ECRDC Executive Director, Cindi Naumann - Owner, Mark Karnowski—Princeton City Administrator, and Ben Montzka—ECRDC Chairman

Minnesota Association of Development Organizations (MADO):
ECRDC is working with MADO to develop a strong statewide development strategy called Develop MN. This document will highlight common development opportunities and identify strategies that will accelerate business growth and job creation in rural MN. The group has built consensus around four areas and has been collecting and reviewing statewide data regarding the changes in these areas.

Economic Development Partnerships: The ECRDC partners regularly with the following organizations: Central MN Workforce Investment Board, Central MN Housing Partnership, Minnesota Housing Partnership, Lakes and Pines, GPS 45:93, Minnesota Association of Development Organizations (MADO), and City / County Administrators & Economic Development Professionals. Example of positive results gleaned from these meetings include: regional marketing initiatives, regional housing study and a regional housing website, business development in local communities.

Revolving Loan Fund (RLF): The ECRDC RLF provides gap financing for businesses looking to open, expand or relocate to Mille Lacs, Pine, Isanti, Chisago & Kanabec Counties. The ECRDC employs the RLF as a tool in recruiting new businesses, maintaining and expanding existing ones, creating and retaining good paying jobs and strengthening the economic base of East Central Minnesota. Currently there are 11 active loans to small businesses in the region and approximately $80,000 is still available to lend. Loan amounts typically range from $10,000 to $60,000 with terms up to 7 years. Informational brochures were recently updated and signs promoting the RLF program are often placed at benefitting businesses. Applications for the RLF are available on the ECRDC website at www.ecrdc.org.

RLF Committee	
Brian Anderson	Sue Larson
Wayne Bekius	Bruce Montgomery
Leonard Bonander	Jim Neely
Frank Christopherson	Beth Thorp
Nancy Dahlin	Michael Weinand
Nancy Hoffman	

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

St. Croix Scenic Byway
The 124 mile St. Croix Scenic Byway route passes through three Minnesota counties: Washington, Chisago and Pine. Today, the cities along the route offer visitors unbeatable scenery, a range of activities and a variety of businesses to explore.

Robert Voss, Executive Director and Jennifer Russell, Economic Development Director reviewed and assessed the St. Croix Scenic Byway plan and developed a taskforce of local government officials and regional stakeholders.

A series of meetings located along the byway were conducted to obtain input on potential projects, discussion of the Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) its purpose and intent, and characteristics of the byway. The taskforce determined that there was an abundance of potential projects that could be executed to emphasize the amenities along the St. Croix Scenic Byway. The projects that were selected showed the most interest from the taskforce and were to increase recognition and awareness of the St. Croix Scenic Byway. Project ideas consisted of a round-a-bout at the intersection of State Highway 95 and Highway 8 near the Franconia Sculpture Park, improvement on a current scenic overlook and the trail connection between Taylors Falls CBD and Interstate Park.

GPS 45:93 Collaboration: The ECRDC continues its economic development partnership with the GPS 45:93 in attracting high technology firms to Region 7E. GPS 45:93 is a regional economic development consortium strategically located along Interstate 35 between Minneapolis/St. Paul and Duluth. This makes it an ideal location for those companies serving the Twin Cities and Duluth area.

The mission of GPS 45:93 is to better position the region to attract high wage, technology based jobs, collaborate on business retention and expansion and encourage entrepreneurial activity.

The virtual business incubator was opened in 2014 is located at Pine Technical College in Pine City. The purpose is to connect local entrepreneurs with the kind of services they need to grow their businesses. GPS 45:93 is working with Chamber of Commerce, banks and other local partners to support businesses in the region

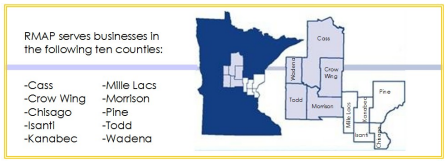
St. Croix Scenic Byways Taskforce meeting, Taylors Fall, MN

SCORE: The ECRDC continues to market their satellite office of the St. Cloud chapter of SCORE. SCORE provides one-on-one counseling to entrepreneurs and those wanting to start a business on a variety of topics free-of-charge. SCORE also facilitates business related educational classes to assist entrepreneurs with sharpening their business skills.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

RMAP
Rural Microenterprise Assistance Program
Equal Opportunity Lender

Micro Loan Fund: The ECRDC continues its partnership with the Region Five Development Commission based in Staples, MN, in creating and micro-lending program to serve the ten counties served by our two Regional Development Commissions. This micro-loan fund was created by the USDA Rural Development's Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program (RMAP). This micro-loan fund nicely complements our EDA Revolving Loan Fund, Currently, there have been three loans approved and closed on from this fund in Region 7E.



Administrators City/County Clerks, & Economic Development Professionals Meetings:
The ECRDC organizes City Administrator meetings quarterly to discuss mutual key issues occurring in the Region 7E communities. Past topics include financing opportunities for local units of government and businesses, customized training and workforce needs, business recruitment and expansion initiatives, entrepreneurship, and regional marketing initiatives. The City Administrator meetings have evolved into a best practices approach to city economic development. Issues and speakers are selected that provide insight that will assist local governments and communities.

Jen Russell introduces John Masson, MN/DOT District 3, at a recent City Clerks/ Administrators luncheon to discuss key issues taking place in Region 7E.

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS): The ECRDC is in the final year of implementing the 2011-2016 CEDS. The CEDS tracks the region's demographic trends and economic conditions, identifies weaknesses and threats, and identifies strategies that have the potential to help mitigate roadblocks to the region's prosperity. A valuable planning process for regional economic development takes place in the development of a CEDS. An approved CEDS is required to maintain East Central Minnesota's designation as a federal Economic Development District.

Economic Development Districts (EDDs) are eligible to apply for various funding opportunities available through U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA). For example, the ECRDC accesses the Partnership Planning grant to develop and implement the regional CEDS. More importantly, our local units of government may include regionally significant projects in the CEDS. Eligible projects may apply for federal funding through EDA's Public Works grant program on a competitive basis. The Public Works program seeks to empower distressed communities to revitalize, expand, and upgrade their physical infrastructure to attract new industry, encourage business expansion, diversify local economies, and generate or retain long-term, private sector jobs and investment.

The ECRDC begins the development of the 2017-2022 CEDS during our next fiscal year and it must be completed by December 2016. Over the next several months, the ECRDC will seek input from our regional stakeholders and local units of government to ensure the new CEDS reflects the economic development needs in East Central Minnesota. The current CEDS can be found on our website at www.ecrdc.org.

East Central Regional Development Commission

East Central Senior Resource Center

ECSRC Volunteers—Sharon Toenies, Betty Jean Ladda, Harriet Johnson, Rosie Westmoreland, and Fran Caron.

The East Central Resource Center (ESCRC) completed its final year of operation on December 31, 2014. The mission of the ESCRC was to "Foster development of and access to resources for older adults in East Central Minnesota". The ESCRC served thousands of older adults, their families, the communities where they reside, and the providers of the services and programs they access for over a decade.

The ESCRC accomplished this by implementing three major program areas – Caregiver Consulting, Information Referral & Assistance, and Program Development & Coordination. The Commission was able to make these programs possible, in part, through a contract with the Central MN Council on Aging who is responsible for administering funding from the federal Older American's Act.

Caregiver program helped caregivers manage and live their life while caring for another person by offering expert advice, assisting with the development of unique personal action plans, and connecting caregivers to community resources. Each year approximately 300 caregivers were served and over 2,000 hours of direct client time was provided.

Program Development & Coordination (PD&C) program worked through various senior service provider networks in each county as a venue to discuss possible partnerships and communicate about ways to develop new services to better serve the older adult population. The PD&C program also was instrumental in providing agencies and businesses access to possible funding for these initiatives through the State of Minnesota's Community Services/Service Development (CS/SD) program which is administered through the State's Department of Human Services.

Information, Referral, & Assistance program was delivered through a statewide network known as the Senior LinkAge Line®. The Senior LinkAge Line® is a telephone based information and assistance service. Staff provided one-on-one assistance with accessing prescription drug programs (including Medicare Part D), understanding medical bills, insurance claims, and Medicare coverage. Annually, this program responded to approximately 1,200 face-to-face clients and over 8,500 phone clients.

ECSRC Volunteers

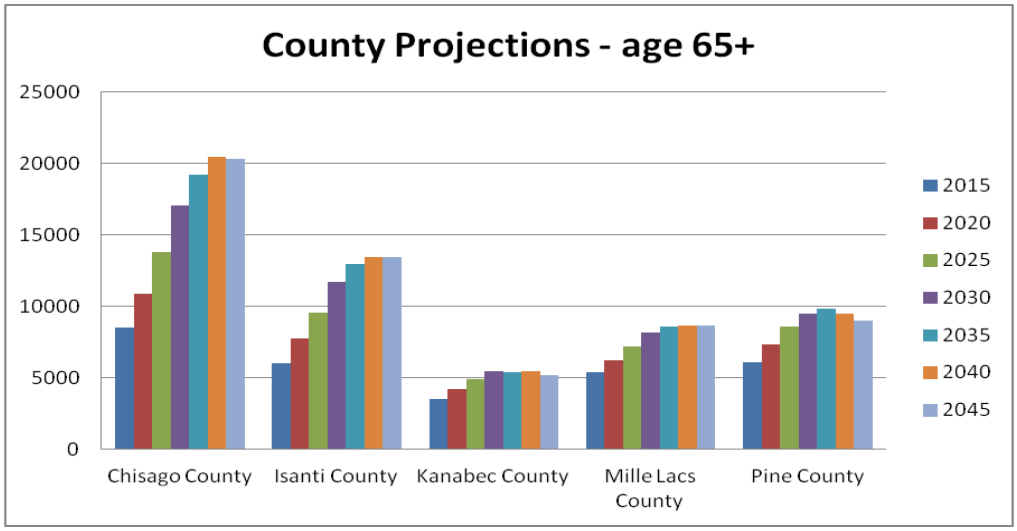
Elva Anderson
Diann Boser
Kayetta Calander
Gene Carlson
Sally Carlson
Frances Caron
Marbelene Healty
Harriet Johnson
Nadean Johnson
Betty Jean Ladda
Ella Martens
Joyce Rebischke
Eileen Stitz
Connie Strandberg
Sharon Toenies
Rose-Marie Westmoreland

East Central Senior Resource Center

The Commission was fortunate to provide these services many years. Starting in January 2015, however, the Commission was faced with increased costs and relatively flat revenue sources making it extremely difficult to continue the operation of the ESCRC. The decision was made to hand over control of the ESCRC programs to the Central MN Council on Aging (CMCOA) and increase focus in the areas of Economic Development, Community Development, and Transportation planning. Fortunately, CMCOA has found a way to continue the delivery of these valuable services in East Central Minnesota on their own or through contract arrangements with other non-profit organizations utilizing former ESCRC staff. The Commission wishes to thank our many ESCRC volunteers; Caregiver Consultants Jayne Mund, Lynda Hayek, and Anita Sparks; Senior Resource Specialists Amy Tvedt and Frances Nelson; and Director Penny Simonsen for their many years of outstanding and dedicated service to the ESCRC programs!

Frances Nelson, left, of the East Central Senior Resource Center, helped Dave Andert navigate the Internet, while volunteer Rosey Westmoreland guided Dianne Langhoff on how best to use a computer.

Photo by Adam Hoogenakker



Key Findings for Minnesota

- The number of Minnesotans turning 65 in this decade (about 285,000) will be greater than the past four decades combined.
- Around 2020, Minnesota's 65+ population is expected to eclipse the 5-17 "K-12" population, for the first time in history.
- The total number of older adults (65+) is anticipated to double between 2010 and 2030, according to our projections. By then, more than 1 in 5 Minnesotans will be an older adult, including all the Baby Boomers.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Safe Routes to School

Safe Routes Minnesota provides funding to community and school groups to make improvements to the routes your children use to walk and bike to school and get the exercise they need.

In order to increase opportunities for children to walk and bicycle to school safely, the 2005 federal transportation bill, SAFETEA-LU, provided funding for Safe Routes to School in all 50 states. The federal Legislature created SRTS, in part, to help reverse the alarming nationwide increase in childhood obesity and inactivity. The program has numerous benefits to local communities including reducing traffic congestion, improving air quality and helping kids arrive to school focused and ready to learn.

Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Planning took place in both Hinckley and Kanabec County Schools (Ogilvie and Mora) included parent surveys, community walk and bike audits and subsequent data collection into the national database. The planning processes ask for several meetings, with specific agendas and deliverables which support communities and school districts embracing safety and health benefits for those who walk or bike.

In addition to the SRTS planning activities, Mini Grants were awarded to Kanabec County Schools ($4,000) and North Branch Schools ($504) to secure items supporting their SRTS initiatives.

Hazard Mitigation

Mitigation significantly reduces or permanently eliminates future risk to lives and property from natural hazards, by community planning and implementing projects. The purpose of hazard mitigation assistance is to reduce the impact of life and property due to natural disasters and develop resilient communities by planning and projects. Per the Stafford Act, states must have an approved plan to be eligible for public assistance and hazard mitigation assistance. The Minnesota All-Hazard Mitigation Plan requires local mitigation plans, approved by FEMA, from counties, cities, other government units and private non-profits to be eligible for hazard mitigation assistance funding.

Hazard mitigation planning processes includes: 1) organizing resources; 2) hazard identification; 3) risk assessment; 4) structural vulnerability; 5) capability assessment; 6) mitigation actions; and 7) plan maintenance.

Isanti County completed their All-Hazard Mitigation planning process, and now have a FEMA approved plan. The ECRDC provided the planning function for the development of the plan.

Kanabec and Mille Lacs County contracted with the ECRDC to provide the planning function for the development of their plans to be completed in 2016.

Blandin Broadband Initiative

The Blandin Foundation's Broadband Community Initiative, an opportunity to come together to promote and encourage expansion of internet services in the "Central Woodlands" area (northern reaches of Mille Lacs, Kanabec and Pine counties plus southern Aitkin county). By receiving the designation as a Blandin Broadband Community allows opportunities for funding specific to internet needs. The ECRDC received $1,000 from Blandin to start the process, through kick-off events - one in Isle and one in Sandstone. Good representation and good project ideas came from the gatherings in late February/early March. This work lead to the ECRDC making application for a Blandin Broadband project, which we received $10,000.

The ECRDC did apply to Blandin to conduct an inventory and offer an assessment of existing broadband services in the Central Woodlands area. We were selected, and that work has begun by Simonsen. Other applicants for funding include Depot Studios in Isle, Audubon Center of the Northwoods, Aitkin County and Mille Lacs County Economic Development office, and Isle Public Schools. A steering committee led by the ECRDC reviewed the project ideas and recommended to Blandin several projects for future funding.

BORDER TO BORDER
BROADBAND
NO COMMUNITY LEFT BEHIND

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation Funds/ATP Process

The ECRDC assists the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) in implementing the Federal Transportation Bill in Region 7E. The ECRDC conducts a two-year solicitation. We successfully conducted a local project solicitation last year, so this fiscal year we implemented the recommendations approved by the ECRDC. Projects brought forward for the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) included transit replacement vehicles in Chisago, Isanti, Kanabec and Mille Lacs Counties as well as road projects in Kanabec and Mille Lacs counties.

We are pleased to also report that improvements to State Hwy 70 in Pine County became a reality this year. State Hwy 70 is a critical river crossing between Minnesota and Wisconsin.

Statewide Projects

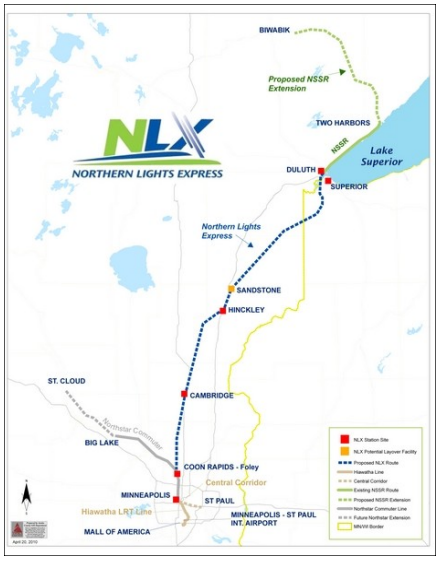
Working with MnDOT, Transportation Staff successfully conducted a functional classification review and submitted recommended changes to DOT. Several adjustments were made. The Functional classification of roads establishes a hierarchy of roads and is used in determining eligibility for federal funding.

ECRDC staff also is participating on a Traveler Safety committee related to the Statewide Multimodal Transportation Plan.

Minnesota GO
A Collaborative Vision for Transportation
Statewide Multimodal Transportation Plan

NLX Development

ECRDC continued to support efforts and participated in meetings related to Northern Lights Express passenger rail linking the Twin Cities to Duluth.



Scenic Byways Planning

This past year two Scenic Byways projects were implemented in Region 7E. Staff facilitated planning projects for the Veterans Evergreen Memorial Scenic Byway in Pine County and St. Croix Scenic Byway in Chisago and other counties. The project served to make local communities aware of potential funds to improve their Byways.

Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)

Region 7E is fortunate to have an excellent Transportation Advisory Committee which provides recommendations to the full ECRDC regarding transportation issues as well as funding for projects.

The TAC is comprised of county engineers, state-aid cities, township, local transit, and MN/DOT representatives. The TAC also provides a forum for regional transportation issues.

Transportation Advisory Committee			Others
	Todd Blank	Richard Heilman	Bryan Anderson
	Bruce Cochran	Mike Moilanen	Adam Josephson
	Mark LeBrun	Chad Gramentz	Kelvin Howieson
	Mike Fetzek	Barbara Welty	Jon Mason
	Joe Triplett	Shawn Williams	Steve Voss
	Brad Dewolf		Brian Isaacson
	Craig Rempp		

ISANTI COUNTY TOWARD ZERO DEATHS

Traffic Safety in Region 7E

The ECRDC implemented traffic safety measures in two counties during the past year. The Isanti County Toward Zero Deaths Program was established more than 10 years ago while the Kanabec Safe Roads Program has been operating for the past five years. This past year mock crashes were conducted in each county with the cooperation of the local high schools. These programs were well done and provided a vital message to not drink or text while driving. Hundreds of students in each area participated in the event.

The Isanti County Safe Cab continued to operate successfully. Two service providers make available the rides for local liquor serving businesses. To date the program has given more than 700 rides to well over 13,000 persons. This program has also likely contributed to the reduced DWI arrest rate in Isanti County.

Traffic safety applications for TZD funds were submitted to Dept of Public Safety for three counties in Region 7E. We are pleased to report that in additional to Isanti and Kanabec Counties, ECRDC will coordinate a safe roads program in Mille Lacs starting October 1, 2015.

Isanti County TZD

The ECRDC has coordinated the Isanti County TZD program for more than ten years. One of the significant programs developed during this time was the establishment of a viable Safe Cab service for the community. Safe Cab was begun in 2005 with few rides given. But now has become a significant part of the reduction of DUI arrests in Isanti County. In fact, the Isanti County Safe Cab program has become a model for other rural counties. Isanti TZD has now helped to develop similar programs in neighboring counties such as Wright, Pine, Kanabec, and Sherburne. Minnesota Safe Ride, Inc. now administers Safe Cab. To date, Isanti County Safe Cabs have provided more than 7,000 rides to over 13,000 persons.

Safe Cab Statistics

- 67.6 percent decrease in DUI arrests from 2006 to 2014
- Safe Cab has provided 7,062 rides for 13,000 patrons
- 83 percent reduction in DUIs from bars using Safe Cab
- Safe Cab program offers bar patrons a safe ride home seven days a week
- Safe Cab service is free for patrons' rides up to $15. For rides exceeding the $15, the patron is responsible for the difference.

Successes of Isanti County Safe Cab highlighted during symposium held by Congressman Nolan

KANABEC COUNTY TOWARD ZERO DEATHS

Kanabec Co. TZD/Safe Roads sponsored the "I Got Caught" campaign held at the Ogilvie and Mora High Schools. This project was designed to increase seatbelt safety.

. **Kanabec County TZD/Safe Roads**

This year, as in all grant years, our major focus was the coordination of a coalition of the "4Es, (Enforcement, Engineering, Emergency Services, and Education), to analyze and respond to local concerns in traffic safety. This has been done by: providing educational materials to the public via the newspaper, radio interviews, and assorted educational resources; assisting Ogilvie High School with parent education for the Driver's Education class; having two "I Got Caught" seat belt events, and providing a Mock Crash for all high school students in the county, followed by an impact presentation by a father whose daughter was in a fatal crash while texting.

Mock crash held for Mora and Ogilvie students

Ogilvie and Mora high school students along with local emergency responders acted out a terrifying car accident for an audience of students from both schools. This activity as an effort to reduce distracted driving for teens.

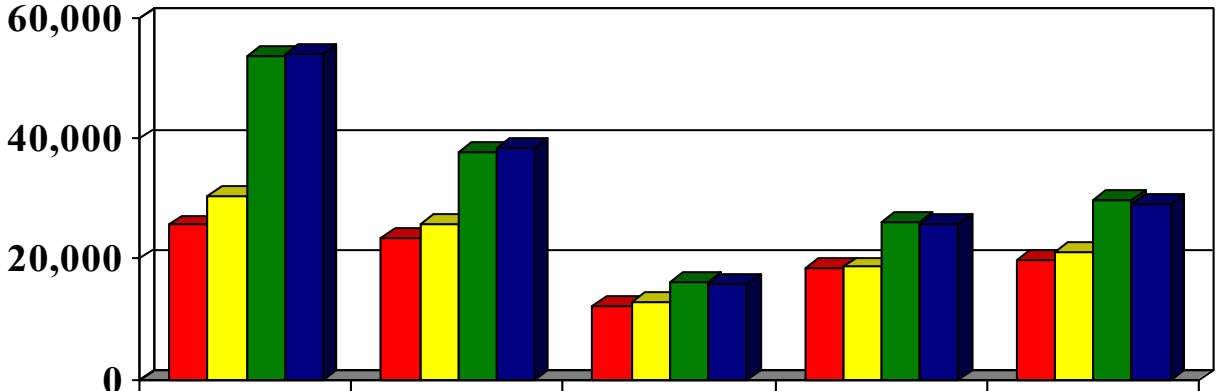
Matt Logan, a parent of a teenage girl who died as a result of distracted driving, encouraged the students to make wise choices while driving.

Matt lost his daughter in 2012 when her car ran into the back of a stopped school bus just after texting a message.

DEMOGRAPHIC SERVICES

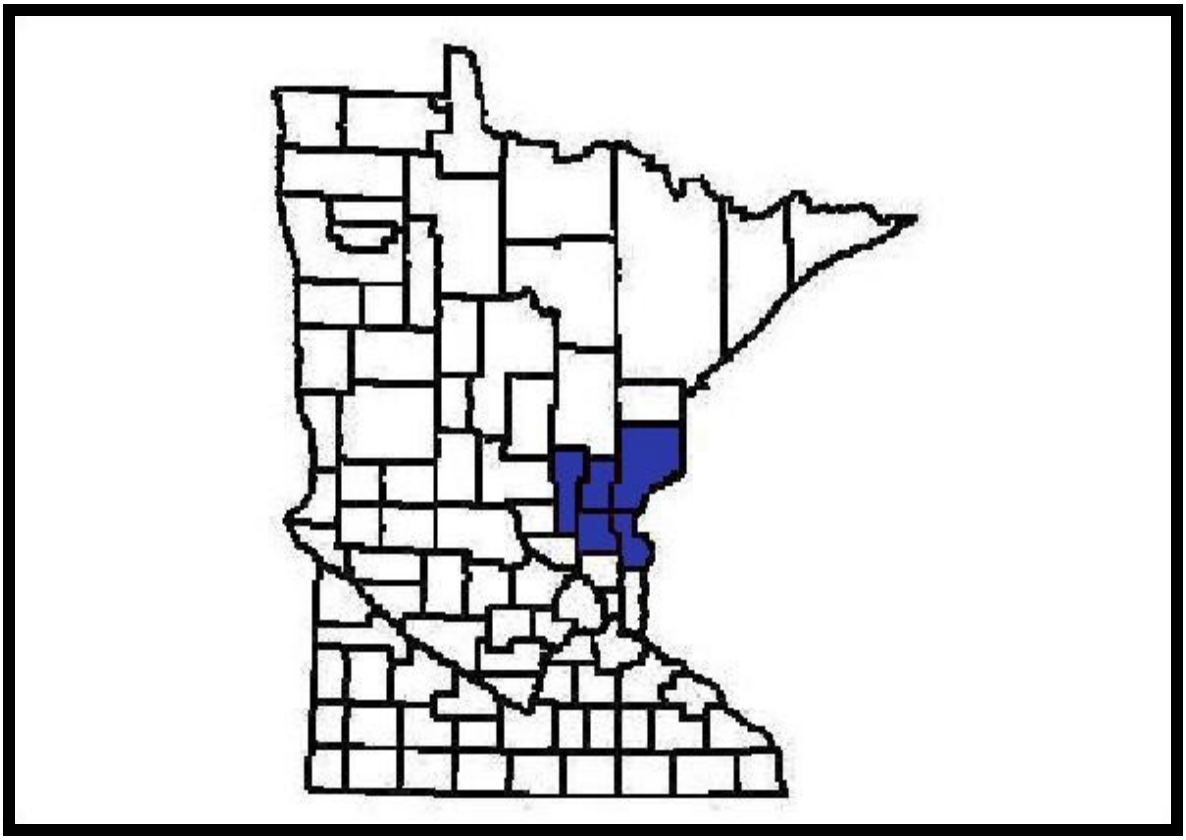
Area	1980	1990	2000	2010	2014 Est.
Chisago County	25,717	30,521	41,101	53,887	54,066
Isanti County	23,600	25,921	31,287	37,816	38,397
Kanabec County	12,161	12,802	14,996	16,239	15,966
Mille Lacs County	18,430	18,670	22,330	26,097	25,862
Pine County	19,871	21,264	26,530	29,750	29,091
Region 7E	99,779	109,178	136,244	163,789	163,382
Minnesota	4,075,970	4,375,099	4,919,479	5,303,925	5,453,218

County	2015	2020	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045
Chisago County	60,491	63,671	65,941	68,071	69,718	70,610	70,939
Isanti County	41,857	44,172	45,748	47,263	48,495	49,499	50,200
Kanabec County	17,423	17,924	18,182	18,312	18,283	18,197	18,095
Mille Lacs County	28,844	30,335	31,346	32,168	32,838	33,673	34,571
Pine County	31,532	32,257	32,540	32,563	32,328	31,963	31,490
Region 7E	182,162	190,379	195,782	200,407	203,697	205,982	207,340



	Chisago	Isanti	Kanabec	Mille Lacs	Pine
1980	25,717	23,600	12,161	18,430	19,871
1990	30,521	25,921	12,802	18,670	21,264
2010	53,887	37,816	16,239	26,097	29,750
2014 est	54,066	38,397	15,966	25,862	29,091

COUNTY PROJECTS



Serving the counties of:

Chisago
Isanti
Kanabec
Mille Lacs
Pine

FY15 Programs/projects

Region 7E	Community Development	Regional trails planning through funds from the State Health Improvement Program (SHIP)
Pine County	Economic Development	Assisting in seeking EDA grant funding for the Sandstone Medical Campus
Northern Pine County	Community Development	Blandin Broadband project - conducting inventory and offering assessment of existing broadband services in this area.
Region 7E	Transportation	Transportation Planning Grant agreement with the State of Minnesota
Isanti County	TZD	Applied for and obtained funding through the Department of Public Safety for the Toward Zero Deaths program for period 10/1/15 through 9/30/16
Northern Mille Lacs County	Community Development	Blandin Broadband project - conducting inventory and offering assessment of existing broadband services in this area.
Northern Kanabec County	Community Development	Blandin Broadband project - conducting inventory and offering assessment of existing broadband services in this area.
Kanabec County	TZD	Applied for and obtained funding through the Department of Public Safety for the Toward Zero Deaths program for period 10/1/15 through 9/30/16
Milaca, Mille Lacs county	Transportation	Milaca school crossing project selected for funding at the state level
Mille Lacs County	TZD	Applied for and obtained funding through the Department of Public Safety for the Toward Zero Deaths program for period 10/1/15 through 9/30/16
Region 7E	Economic Development	Minnesota Housing Partnership taskforce member
Mille Lacs County	Economic Development	Mille Lacs County Economic Strategic Plan
Region 7E	Economic Development	City Administrator and Economic Development Professional luncheons held quarterly
Region 7E	Economic Development	Minnesota Association of Development Organization member
Region 7E	Economic Development	"DevelopMN" - statewide economic development plan
Hinckley, Pine County	Community Development	Safe Routes to Schools planning for the Hinckley Schools
Kanabec County	Community Development	Safe Routes to Schools planning for the Mora and Ogilvie schools
Kanabec County	Community Development	Hazard Mitigation plan
Mille Lacs County	Community Development	Hazard Mitigation plan

FY15 Programs/projects

Chisago County	Transportation	St. Croix Scenic Byways planning
Pine County	Transportation	Veteran's Memorial Scenic Byways planning
Region 7E	Transportation	Regional Trailing Planning - regional trails planning meeting coordinated by Congressman Nolan's office
Chisago, Isanti, and Mille Lacs counties	Transportation	Hwy 95 Corridors of Commerce Coalition
Chisago County	Transportation	Participate in Metro ATP process
Pine County	Transportation	Participate in District 1 ATP process
Isanti, Kanabec, and Mille Lacs counties	Transportation	Participate in District 3 ATP process
Pine County	Transportation	Participated in TH70 ground breaking ceremony
Region 7E	Transportation	RDC Transportation Planners meetings
Kanabec County	TZD	Participated in Business Expo at the Kanabec County Fairgrounds
Kanabec County	TZD	Coordinated a Mock Crash for students of Ogilvie and Mora High Schools
Kanabec County	TZD	Sponsored a recognition lunch for outstanding service in traffic safety for law enforcement
Mora, Kanabec County	TZD	I Got Caught Campaign held at Mora High School
Ogilvie, Kanabec county	TZD	I Got Caught Campaign held at Ogilvie High School
Cambridge, Isanti County	TZD	Mock Crash held at the Cambridge High School
Cambridge, Isanti	TZD	I Got Caught campaign held at Cambridge High School
Region 7E	Economic Development	GPS 45:93 Workforce Participant
Region 7E	Economic Development	FPS 45:93 Fiscal Agent
Region 7E	Economic Development	Participated in Lender Summit
Kanabec County	Economic Development	Member of the Kanabec County EDA Advisory Committee
Kanabec County	Community Development	Safe Routes to Schools Mini-grant awarded to Kanabec County Schools
North Branch, Chisago County	Community Development	Safe Routes to Schools Mini-grant awarded to North Branch Schools
Pease, Mille Lacs County	Community Development	Possible application to DEED for Small Cities Development Grant funding
Bock, Mille Lacs County	Community Development	Possible application to DEED for Small Cities Development Grant funding

FY15 PROGRAMS/PROJECTS

Area	Program	Description
Region 7E	Economic Development	10 active Revolving Loan Fund Loans throughout Region 7E
Region 7E	Economic Development	55 Revolving Loan Fund loans since inception throughout Region 7E
Region 7E	ECSRC	Caregiver consulting
Region 7E	ECSRC	Train and retain the 16 ECSRC volunteers to provide good quality customer service using accurate information and a wide-range of aging specific topics. Also recruit new volunteers
Region 7E	ECSRC	Participated in Braham Pie Day
Region 7E	ECSRC	"New to Medicare" classes held throughout the region
Region 7E	ECSRC	Senior LinkAge Line® services provided to over 3,600 callers
Chisago/Isanti Counties	ECSRC	Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) outreach. 40 education sessions, over 80 actual screenings and more than 40 applications submitted.
Region 7E	ECSRC	New to Medicare Classes held throughout the region
Region 7E	ECSRC	Hosted Senior Surf events
Chisago and Isanti Counties	ECSRC	Respite Care Program - continue adult day programs and in-home respite services
Region 7E	ECSRC	Provided Rapid Screen training for senior services staff
Chisago County	ECSRC	Hosted and displayed an Outreach Booth at the Chisago County Fair
Region 7E	ECSRC	Publication of annual resource guide
Mille Lacs County	ECSRC	Participated in Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Associate Wellness Fair
Pine County	ECSRC	Participated in Hinckley for the Mille Lacs Band Senior Expo
Region 7E	ECSRC	Appointment to the SHIP committee
Kanabec County	Community Development	Safe Routes to School projects for Mora and Ogilvie School Districts
Hinckley, Pine County	Community Development	Safe Routes to School project for Hinckley School Districts
Region 7E	Transportation	Participated with Congressman Nolan in a "Safe & Sober" forum
Chisago County	Transportation	Participates in TH 8 Task Force
Region 7E	Community Development	Blandin Broadband Community Initiative
Region 7E	Community Development	USDA Rural Development meeting regarding funding opportunities for local food initiatives and entrepreneurship
Region 7E	Community Development	"Blandin Broadband Community" designation

FY15 PROGRAMS/PROJECTS

Area	Program	Description
Mille Lacs County	Economic Development	Mille Lacs County Economic Development Strategic Plan
Kanabec County	ECSRC	Participated in a hospice utilization taskforce host by Stratis Health
Mille Lacs County	ECSRC	ACT on Alzheimer's Initiative
Isanti County	ECSRC	ACT on Alzheimer's Initiative
Region 7E	Economic Development	Participated in DEED workshop to learn proper implementation of Minnesota Investment Fund
Region 7E	ECSRC	Volunteer recognition held at Father Hennepin State Park
Region 7E	ECSRC	Held Tech Tuesday sessions
Region 7E	Economic Development	Participated in tourism meeting sponsored by Hinckley Convention and Visitors Bureau
Region 7E	Economic Development	Attended Regional Economic Development Conference in Chicago
Isanti County	Community Development	Finalized the Isanti County Hazard Mitigation Plan
Region 7E	Economic Development	Regional Competitiveness meeting co-hosted with the Initiative Foundation
Region 7E	Economic Development	Minnesota Association of Development Organization member
Region 7E	Economic Development	Participated in Economic Development Administration site visit
Region 7E	Transportation	Implementing Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) involving three federal programs - Scenic Byways, Safe Routes to Schools, and Transportation Enhancements
Chisago, Isanti and Pine counties	Transportation	Participate in development of Northern Lights Express Passenger Rail
Region 7E	TZD	Click It or Ticket mobilization campaign
Region 7E	TZD	Speed Enforcement mobilization campaign
Region 7E	Economic Development	7 Micolending Loans with 2 in Region 7E
Region 7E	Economic Development	Manages Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies for Region 7E
Region 7E	Economic Development	JOBZ administrator
Region 7E	Economic Development	Service Corps of Retired Executives satellite office
Region 7E	Transportation	Mileage verification meeting held with local units of government
Region 7E	Transportation	Promoted Speed and Impaired Driving mobilizations

ANNUAL REPORT

EAST CENTRAL REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

100 PARK STREET SOUTH

MORA, MN 55051

JUNE 30, 2015