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# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Dubuque County Smart Planning Consortium Formed**

DUBUQUE, Iowa – Dubuque County, the City of Dubuque, six small cities – Asbury, Cascade, Dyersville, Epworth, Farley, and Peosta – and the Upper Catfish Creek Watershed have formed the Dubuque County Smart Planning Consortium to develop a regional sustainability plan using a joint Smart Planning Local Comprehensive Planning Grant from the State of Iowa.

The consortium, with staff support from East Central Intergovernmental Association (ECIA), is utilizing the Sustainable Dubuque plan and the Iowa Smart Planning legislation's recommended format for comprehensive plans to create the Dubuque County Smart Plan as a model for other local governments.

Vision, goals, and objectives are being reviewed/refined through consortium meetings using input obtained from public input meetings. Input is also being accepted online at [www.dubuquesmartplan.org](http://www.dubuquesmartplan.org). A public input meeting was held in Peosta on Nov. 1 and seven additional meetings are scheduled. The public is invited to attend.

- Tuesday, Nov. 15, 6 p.m. – Meadows Golf Course, Asbury
- Wednesday, Nov. 16, 5:30 p.m. – Historic Federal Building, Dubuque
- Thursday, Nov. 17, 7 p.m. – City Hall, Cascade
- Tuesday, Nov. 22, 7 p.m. – City Hall, Epworth
- Wednesday, Nov. 30, 7 p.m. – Memorial Hall, Farley
- Monday, Dec. 12, 6:30 p.m. – City Hall, Dyersville
- Tuesday, Dec. 20, 7 p.m. – Dubuque County Emergency Responder Training Center, 14928 Public Safety Way, off Seippel Road

The goals will provide a general overall guideline for the development of the plan with smart planning principles. Specific methods to reach the goals will be described in the implementation strategies and will be presented in the final portion of the update comprehensive plans.

Existing conditions and background information are being collected. Analyses, reports, studies, and census information will be utilized for consortium-wide comparative data sets (e.g. urban to rural). Inventories include demographics, land use, transportation, public services and infrastructure, economic development, education, floodplains and wetlands, soils, recreation facilities, and housing needs.

Future land use and municipal extraterritorial jurisdictions, proposed transportation improvements, infrastructure, recreation, and public facilities/services development will be identified and discussed. The consortium will play a role in identifying the methodologies for using data analysis tools to create guidelines for future land use development and a methodology to help with prioritization of the projects.

ECIA will work with each individual member community to review their existing comprehensive plan and highlight areas that need to be updated to make them compatible with regional vision, goals, and objectives.

Common visions and goals amongst the participating communities are being developed that can be incorporated into each community's comprehensive plans. The common visions and goals will not replace any comprehensive plans or chapters. Project specific common goals will be incorporated into Dubuque Metropolitan Area Transportation Study (DMATS) planning and transportation related activities.

The City of Dubuque's Planning Services, Housing and Community Development, and Economic Development Departments as well as the City's Long-Range Planning Advisory Commission serve as supporting partners for this project.

For additional information, visit [www.dubuquesmartplan.org](http://www.dubuquesmartplan.org) or contact Dubuque County Zoning Administrator Anna O'Shea at 563-589-7827.

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