

New !

# VIEW *From the* VALLEY

July 2020



## COVID-19 Business Recovery

COVID-19 is the infectious disease caused by the novel coronavirus. This new virus and disease were unknown to the population before the outbreak began in China in December 2019. America and our local economy will struggle to recover from this pandemic. There are multiple resources and guidance available for businesses to sustain and re-open. Iowa Public Health Department provides health updates and guidance at [www.coronavirus.iowa.gov](http://www.coronavirus.iowa.gov)

Local businesses can find ideas and resources at [www.reopenmainstreet.com](http://www.reopenmainstreet.com). Suggestions are provided for retail establishments, dining places, service businesses, and cultural attractions. The “normal” business approach as we knew it previously must be adapted. Companies can also discover alterations for public relations, business & real estate development, marketing & promotion, as well as changes in environment & design. In addition to standard grant programs available, there are the following funds: EDA has \$1.5 billion Economic Development Assistance Programs. USDA-RD \$20.5 million for Rural Business Cooperative Service; \$100 million in grants for ReConnect Program. HUD has \$5 billion for the Community Development fund enabling additional HUD support for CDBG. DOT- FTA has \$25 billion for public transportation operation, maintenance, capital and administrative expense.

In accordance with recommendations from public health officials, CVPD is taking steps to combat the spread of Coronavirus. This includes cancelling public meetings, planning meetings, and working remotely. Our procedures will also be altered in the foreseeable future. Our staff remains available to assist you via email at [nmoore@charitonvalleyplanning.com](mailto:nmoore@charitonvalleyplanning.com)

Stay safe and healthy friends!

## CEDS Acceptance from EDA

CVPD began working on the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) update in 2019 when Indian Hills Community College began identifying future development needs on the Centerville Campus. An effective CEDS will guide regional economic development, encourage partnerships & collaboration, and improve economic outcomes and overall quality of life in the region. Critical topics in the plan include housing, quality of life, economic development, land use, infrastructure and economic resilience. The CEDS planning process identified economic strengths and weakness in the region. The document is a locally based, regionally driven economic development planning document. A CEDS plan is a critical document that allows regions to maximize economic development potential by engaging in US Economic Development Administration (EDA), USDA and other federal partners to receive infrastructure & technical assistance grants. Verbal acceptance was given by EDA in March 2020 and official notice will be coming soon.



## NEW PROGRAM

IEDA Rural Housing Assessment Grant Program CVPD is looking to partner with communities in applying for the new Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA) Rural Housing Assessment Grant program. This grant supports housing maintenance and development by ensuring the appropriate ordinances, development codes and incentives are in place. This \$10,000 grant requires a \$5,000 community match.

## **CVPD Completes another Successful Audit**

Chariton Valley Planning & Development Council of Governments completed their annual audit in February of 2020. The Independent Auditor’s Reports indicate no matters of noncompliance.

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## PASSENGER TRANSIT PLANNING— CENTERVILLE HISTORIC TROLLEY

Centerville's Historic Trolley service is provided by the Centerville Historic Preservation Corporation (HPC). The trolley provides services to Centerville/Appanoose County and beyond. Narrated historic tours are available by appointment and tours can be customized to fit any group's needs. The trolley is frequently rented for weddings, events, and tour groups! The ADA accessible trolley is available year-round, and the bench seating accommodates 22 to 28 adults.



The valued volunteers of HPC recently found themselves in a challenging situation. The volunteer responsible for booking trips and market has recently retired. The committee struggled with how to proceed and approached CVPD for support. Historic transportation preservation is cherished component of Chariton Valley Transportation Planning Affiliation. CVPD is now assisting the corporation to ensure operation of the trolley for the future.

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## COMPLETE THE 2020 CENSUS TODAY!!!



The information gathered in the census is used to identify communities and counties who qualify for state/federal assistance funds. The summary of your community can be inaccurate if citizens do not take the time to complete the questions. For example, the counties in CVPD's service area (Appanoose, Lucas, Monroe, & Wayne Counties) have been identified among the poorest counties in Iowa. However, 75% of the communities in these counties currently do not qualify for income-based grant funds because the census data shows they are above the income threshold. This reflects the lack of participation by residents that represent the majority population in this region.

Shape Your Future! The census can shape many different aspects of your community including health clinics, daycares, fire departments, infrastructure, roads, and highways. The form is easy and takes just minutes to complete. <https://my2020census.gov/>

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## PROGRAM RESOURCES

**RISE Local Development Program:** Funding to provide road/street access to expand business parks and development areas (Eligible: local governments) July 1

**Alliant Hometown Safety Grants:** Grants up to \$2,000 to purchase emergency equipment, such as Jaws of Life, AEDs I public buildings, thermal imaging cameras, and more (Eligible: response agencies and property owners served by Alliant Energy) July 15

**Alliant Energy Foundation Community Grants Program:** Grants for playgrounds, health and wellness projects, public safety, education, culture and arts, and other local needs (Eligible: local governments and non-profits in communities served by Alliant Energy) July 15

**ITC/ IRDC "Power of Connection" Community Grant Program:** Grants up to \$5,000 for capacity building, strategic planning, studies or assessments for a variety of community programs and issues (Eligibility: rural communities) Ongoing

**Highway Safety Improvement:** Provides grants for low-cost, systematic safety improvements in the \$10,000/mile range, focusing on lane departure crashes. (Eligible: local governments) Ongoing

**Traffic Engineering Assistance Program (TEAP):** Provides 100 hours of engineering assistance for operations and traffic safety issues. (Eligible: local governments) Ongoing

**Empower Rural Iowa:** The Rural Innovation Grant program seeks to support creative, non-traditional ideas that focus on current issues and challenges faced by rural communities associated with the themes of community investment, growth and connection. Grants range from \$1,000 to \$20,000

# COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING

Comprehensive planning is a process that determines community goals and aspirations in terms of community development. The outcome of comprehensive planning is a document that helps dictate public policy.

It is an opportunity for residents to create a shared vision for their community. Participants will identify issues and opportunities for land use, infrastructure, public facilities, economic development, transportation, housing, and natural resources. These findings will help establish public priorities and action steps to improve the quality of life in a community or county.

The fundamental purposes of a Comprehensive Plan are:

To provide a legal basis for land use regulations. Section 414 of the Code of Iowa enables cities/counties to adopt land use regulations such as zoning and subdivision ordinances, to promote the “health, safety, morals or general welfare of the community.” These regulations govern how land is developed within a municipality.

The plan presents a unified and compelling vision for a community and establishes the specific actions necessary to fulfill that vision. A comprehensive development plan defines a shared vision and presents a unified action program that will implement the city’s/county’s goals. The plan is designed to be a working document that both defines future goals and provides for flexible implementation.

Monroe County Comprehensive Plan and the City of Albia Comprehensive Plan are both near the end of completion. Public input is critical and will continue throughout the summer. Residents will have opportunities to attend meetings and open houses once social distancing restrictions are lifted. Please watch social media and local advertisements for specific information.

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## CVPD VISITS - ‘HOMES FOR IOWA’ SITE

Many communities across the region are struggling with both adequate housing and adequate workforce to fill jobs. Solutions to the problem are incredibly challenging. “Homes for Iowa is a common-sense solution that will close the housing gap in rural Iowa while bringing a new pool of talent to the workforce and open doors for Iowans on the road to redemption,” said Gov. Kim Reynolds.

Homes for Iowa is a new non-profit to help create new affordable stick-built homes. This program is modeled after the successful South Dakota Governor’s House Program that has been established for 23 years. Chariton Valley Planning & Development Council and our other Iowa Council of Government Partners are teaming up with Homes for Iowa to implement this program in the region and the state respectively. Successful implementation of this program de-

pends upon building local community partnerships.

The homes can be constructed in approximately 120 days. The structures are available to purchase by residents, organizations, and communities. CVPD is currently working with several residents about possible acquisition of a home and toured the Newton facility. The craftsmanship of the stick-built homes is superb. For more information or a possible tour, please contact CVPD!



## CVPD PROJECTS BY COUNTY

### **Appanoose County**

Ongoing transportation administration to county, county engineers, & transit providers; Passenger Transit Mtgs, Administration of Centerville CDBG Water grant ; Public informational meetings for Transit Planning, Regional Trails & Long Range Planning; County Transportation Brochures distributed, Consultation to develop a Housing Task Force.

### **Lucas County**

Ongoing transportation administration to county, county engineers, & transit providers, Public informational meeting for Transit Planning, Regional Trails & Long Range Planning. Passenger Transit Mtgs, County Transportation Brochures distributed, Lucas County Employee Manual , meetings with LCDC & Chariton for community growth, monthly legislative coffees

### **Monroe County**

Ongoing transportation administration to county, county engineers, & transit providers, and beginning Public informational meeting for Transit Planning, Regional Trails & Long Range Planning. Passenger Transit Mtgs, County Transportation Brochures distributed, Interim Planning & Zoning Administration, public meetings & data gathering for County comprehensive plan; Public meetings & data gathering for City of Albia Comprehensive Plan.

### **Wayne County**

Ongoing transportation administration to county, county engineers, & transit providers; Public informational meeting for Transit Planning, Regional Trails & Long Range Passenger Transit Mtgs, Planning. County Transportation Brochures distributed, collaboration for home placement & site visit to ‘Homes for Iowa’ site in Newton.

For current information visit  
**CHARITON VALLEY  
PLANNING &  
DEVELOPMENT** on Facebook or  
[www.charitonvalleyplanning.com](http://www.charitonvalleyplanning.com)



## FUNDING

### OPPORTUNITIES

- ◆ IEDA's program- Nuisance Property and Abandoned Building Remediation program.
- ◆ Small Town Sign Replacement Program through Iowa DOT.
- ◆ Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) from the local Transportation Planning Agency (administered by CVPD). Provides grant funds for trails, safe routes to school, environmental enhancement, etc. Applications are due December 1 annually.
- ◆ Communities need to contact Emergency Management Coordinators about possible FEMA grants. NOI maybe due August.
- ◆ CDBG Water & Sewer grant applications are now due quarterly each year (Jan 1, April 1, July 1, Oct 1). Housing Rehab applications are due in May, however the process needs to begin 6 months prior. To begin it, contacting CVPD to get on the calendar!!
- ◆ Communities that want to improve city roads need to complete the 'Small Community Application'. Planning and budgeting are critical in order to have local matching funds.
- ◆ REAP grants for parks & rec/open space/conservation are due to Iowa DNR in July.
- ◆ Monroe County Endowment Fund applications due in the fall.
- ◆ Living Roadways Community Visioning applications due September.
- ◆ Federal Recreational Trails due October
- ◆ Solid Waste Management Grant Program applications due in December.

## RPA-17 SMALL COMMUNITY APPLICATION

RPA 17 has now established an application process for small communities to apply for regional funds. The annual application is due on or before October 1st. Communities can use funds for road surfacing, bridge repair, sidewalk development, etc. The application will be completed and reviewed by the TAC & Policy Committee. Once a project is awarded local funds, a project agreement and concept statement must be completed

through the IDOT. Any project materials and labor contracts must be let through the Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT). An engineer (licensed in Iowa) must prepare plans and specifications for the project. Additionally, the engineer must oversee work on the project. These are costs that should be planned for in the project application.



## MONROE COUNTY PLANNING & ZONING

Monroe County is the only county in the CVPD region that has the entire land zoned. The Unified Development Code outlines the purpose for each zoned district, land uses and the process to which residents can further develop on the land. Regular office hours are held in the Monroe County Board of Supervisor's room each Wednesday from 9am until noon. Residents can stop by or make an appointment. Permit applications are available in the Board of Supervisor's office during the week and will be accepted anytime. Applications will be reviewed by the zoning administrator and presented to Zoning Commission and/or the Board of Adjustments for official approval on a monthly basis.

Monroe County BOS has also contracted with CVPD to provide zoning ordinance updates. The public review will begin in the summer of 2020 and public input is critical to make the zoning ordinance effective and enhance local growth.

### QUICK FACT:

Monroe P&Z

Hours:

Wednesdays 9am  
to 12pm

BOS office



Nichole L. Moore, Executive Director  
Julie Pribyl, Program Support  
308 North 12<sup>th</sup> Street  
Centerville, Iowa 52544  
641-437-4359

[nmoore@charitonvalleyplanning.com](mailto:nmoore@charitonvalleyplanning.com)  
[jpribyl@charitonvalleyplanning.com](mailto:jpribyl@charitonvalleyplanning.com)

## MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS—CONTRACTED SERVICES

- Provide administrative, management assistance, Technical Assistance, Project Development
- Prepare updates to model codes , Assist local governments in preparation or revision of local ordinances.
- Coordinate on new or updated comprehensive plans or other functional plans.
- Prepare local government brochures, fact sheets, or other promotional materials.
- If there is a service you need assistance with, just ask. We can provide outreach to consultants when needed.
- Transportation Planning
- Grant Administration ,Community Assessments , Grant/Funding Alerts , Community Profiles , Funding Searches
- Environmental Planning , Hazardous Mitigation Planning
- Personnel Policy Development & Updates
- Lead Inspections
- Regional Planning Services – Zoning

Some services require additional contract billing for costs. (Contact Nichole with questions)

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## RPA 17 UPDATING TRANSPORTATION PLANNING DOCUMENTS

DOT's Regional Planning Affiliations are funded through FHWA and FTA sources, as well as local financial support. RPAs provide the Iowa DOT with the following required items.

- **Transportation Planning Work Program (TPWP)**—outlines the annual transportation planning activities each MPO/RPA will undertake during the next state fiscal year.
- **Public Participation Plan (PPP)**—outlines the process each MPO/RPA will follow to adequately involve the public in the their transportation planning activities.
- **Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)**—provides direction and guidance for each MPO/RPA to make efficient transportation investment decisions over a 20-year planning horizon.
- **Passenger Transportation Plan (PTP)**—promotes joint, coordinated passenger transportation planning programs and provides needs-based justification for passenger transportation projects.
- **Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**—identifies the capital and non-capital transportation projects proposed for federal-aid funding or action for each MPO/RPA over the next four-year period.

RPA 17 (CVPD) will be completing new PTP, PPP and LRTP over the next two years. Annual document completion include TPWP and TIP.

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## CVPD EXECUTIVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

<b>Larry Davis</b>	Lucas County Supervisor	Chairperson
<b>Neal Smith</b>	Appanoose County Supervisor	Vice Chairperson
<b>John Hamilton</b>	Private Sector	Treasurer
<b>Denny Amoss</b>	Monroe County Supervisor	Member
<b>David Dotts</b>	Wayne County Supervisors	Member