

Department of Planning and Development
McHenry County Government Center - Administration Building

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To: Charles Eldridge, Chairman, and
Members of the McHenry County Regional Planning Commission

From: Dennis A. Sandquist, Director
McHenry County Department of Planning and Development

Date: March 6, 2009

Re: Population Projections Reconsideration

This item has been placed on the agenda under old business at the request of several Commission Members who noticed errors in the February 18, 2009, memo regarding population projections.

The Community Character subcommittee has projected a County population of 558,232 persons in 2030. The subcommittee's projection is based on an annual growth rate of between a 2.4 and 2.5. Tables with the subcommittee's population projection have been placed on the 2030 website:

www.mchenrycounty2030plan.com/news/PopProjections_flat.pub

www.mchenrycounty2030plan.com/news/pop_proj1980-2030flattened.xls

The LEAM model is based on a population forecast of 521,062 persons. This forecast, which is referred to as the "Ag Deflated" forecast, was prepared by the University of Illinois Regional Economics Applications Laboratory (REAL).

The projection taken from the CMAP website, for a County population of 457,594 persons, was actually prepared by NIPC prior to the formation of CMAP:

www.cmap.illinois.gov/2030_forecasts.aspx?ekmense1=c580fa7b_8_16_1024_4

The projection previously labeled as Census Bureau, was taken from the LEAM website. It appears that this projection for a County population of 443,398 persons was actually prepared by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO):

www.illinoisbiz.biz/dceo/Bureaus/Facts_Figures/Population_Projections

As reported to me by subcommittee members, CMAP representatives indicated that the projections previously prepared by NIPC were low and that CMAP does not approve of NIPC's methodology. CMAP representatives advised the subcommittee members that they were pursuing a new "bottom up" projection for the counties. They indicated that they thought that the subcommittee's methodology was reasonable.