



The June 11, 2010 SCALE meeting opened with a presentation by **Scott County Administrator Gary Shelton** on creating “Intelligent Communities.” Shelton pointed out that all our communities have, as a part of their Comprehensive Plans, a goal to increase the number of jobs in the County.

In the past, conventional needs such as access to transportation, a qualified work force, available land, and the cost of services and taxes were major ingredients necessary to attract commerce; however, in the new “broadband economy” the skills of the labor force and the ability of government and local business to adapt and innovate are the factors that drive job creation.

Shelton emphasized that the new broadband economy is simply another technology based industrial revolution -- like ships and railways, steam and electricity, and the automobile and highways. Now, airplanes, broadband, and electronic media have shrunk the globe in terms of access to commercial markets. The *Intelligent Community* will take advantage of this knowledge in support of economic growth and job creation.

A number of communities looking into this new technological approach were discussed. Shelton recommended adopting some of the characteristics of an *Intelligent Community* including: recognizing the importance of broadband as an essential utility, creating a knowledge-based work force, fostering and attracting innovative businesses, and marketing and branding our community so that the benefits reach all citizens.

Shelton encouraged SCALE members to be present at future meetings for more details on this topic and hoped that SCALE will eventually provide a framework to develop a plan of action.

**Andy Hingeveld from Scott County’s Community Development Department** gave a presentation on GoScottGo.org, a new website that is part of an active living initiative (funded through Minnesota SHIP grants) encouraging putting activity into citizen’s daily lifestyles.

The new website will provide interactive information on the outstanding parks and trails systems in Scott County. There will be mapping features to facilitate personal trips, photos of parks and trails, a calendar of events with information and a directory featuring activity-based businesses in the county.

The website mirrors one in Carver County and is a collaborative effort among all Scott County entities. Each community is sharing its GIS data to ensure success.

**Assistant Prior Lake City Manager Kelly Meyer** presented a handout on behalf of **Prior Lake City Manager Frank Boyles** and the Quality of Life Committee seeking new

members. The committee is currently focusing on four key areas: Emerald Ash Borer, e-government, green ordinances, and crash cars.

- The Emerald Ash Borer is poised to decimate the ash tree population in Scott County, and the committee wishes to coordinate its efforts to maximize efficiency.
- E-government is a movement seeking to identify areas in which Scott County government can quickly transition to current internet innovations.
- Green ordinances refer to community zoning codes addressing green construction practices that are not currently encouraged. The committee seeks a model ordinance that government entities can adopt.
- Crash cars are displayed in high schools around prom week, semester break, or just before the end of the year to remind students of the dangers of inattention, drugs or alcohol.

To become a volunteer or for more information about the Quality of Life Committee, contact Frank Boyles at [fboyles@cityofpriorlake.com](mailto:fboyles@cityofpriorlake.com)

*The mission of SCALE is to forge new and innovative ways in which government entities can collaborate to provide superior services while making the most of limited resources.*