

Southwest Michigan Regional Prosperity Initiative

July 2, 2015 Meeting Notes

Welcome and Introductions

Introductions of Committee members and regional partners in attendance were made. Lee Adams, Peter Dams, and Rebecca Harvey were also present.

Region 8: Infrastructure

Peter Dams provided an overview of the Regional Prosperity Initiative (RPI) and the work completed by the Region 8 RPI Committee in Year 1 (2014). He referenced the RPI Plan adopted by the Committee on September 22, 2014, highlighting the Vision Statement and the four (4) major goals of regional collaboration set forth in the Plan.

Lee Adams presented the RPI Infrastructure Goal and Opportunities:

Goal: *Encourage expansion and improvement of regional infrastructure.*

Opportunities:

- *Advance the effective and efficient transportation of goods.*
- *Advance the effective and efficient transportation of people.*
- *Assist in cultivating a comprehensive telecommunication system.*
- *Explore and promote a sustainable and economically competitive approach to energy supply.*
- *Facilitate a collaborative approach to municipal infrastructure.*

RPI Subcommittee Process

Lee Adams reviewed the RPI Subcommittee Process, noting the following: 1) The RPI Infrastructure Subcommittee will meet to: – discuss the feedback provided at this meeting – recommend project areas to the full Committee. 2) The full Committee will select and prioritize project areas. 3) A letter of inquiry (LOI) will be sent to interested organizations. 4) RFPs will be sent to those organizations that had appropriate projects listed in their responses to the LOI. 5) The full Committee will select projects to receive funding.

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Infrastructure Asset Inventory/Survey

Lee Adams presented the results of the inventory of assets related to the subject of Infrastructure.

The following mapped assets were reviewed:

- intercity bus service
- railroad system
- passenger intercity rail system
- freight movement (truck)
- projected freight movement - 2040 (truck)
- freight mode distribution
- broadband internet access
- broadband service providers
- active solid waste landfills
- landfill capacities & lifespans
- imported waste by origin
- energy producers

In summarizing the results of the Infrastructure Survey, he noted that the survey was sent to around 250 organizations in the region that ranged from municipalities to for-profit consulting firms to non-profit and for profit service providers. A total of 59 responses to the survey were received for a response rate of approximately 24%.

The following observations/comments were provided by attendees:

- Additional information/more detailed maps regarding the following assets would be useful:
 - Freight movement: include Canada;
 - Broadband: indicate available speed, perhaps via color;
 - Energy production: create a new map showing private plants (e.g., Pfizer, WMU) versus public providers; the level of capacity needed; the energy amount given back to the grid;

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- Sewer and water lines within the region to help identify (or predict) potential development/growth patterns. Include capacity and discharge that can be handled.
- Consider adding the word “efficient” in the Infrastructure goal statement.

Infrastructure Potential Project Areas

- See Attached List

Next Steps

The RPI Committee is scheduled to meet on August 6, 2015 to consider the project area priorities recommended by the Infrastructure Subcommittee and select 3-4 projects areas for issuing letters of intent.

Adjournment