



Southwest Michigan Regional Prosperity Initiative

Prosperity Committee

August 6, 2015

2:30 – 4:30 p.m.

New start time

Agenda

- 2:30 p.m. Opening and welcome (Ben Damerow, Chair)
- Action Item: Adoption of Minutes from June 4 meeting
- Introduction of new members, Part 1 (Lee Adams)
-
- 2:50 p.m. Information Items
- RPI subcommittee process (Peter Dams)
 - Updates on state projects with RPI requirements (All)
 - Additional Infrastructure asset maps (Lee Adams)
-
- 3:15 p.m. Action Items
- Adopt *Infrastructure* Subcommittee project area recommendations (Lee Adams)
 - Adopt *RPI Strategy* Subcommittee project recommendation (Corey Carolla)
-
- 4:25 p.m. Next Steps
- September 3: Review initial draft of the Prosperity Plan, Volume 2
-
- 4:30 p.m. Adjourn (Ben Damerow, Chair)



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INFRASTRUCTURE

Encourage expansion and improvement of regional infrastructure

RPI STRATEGIES

Advance regional communication and collaboration

Goals

Opportunities

1. Advance the effective and efficient transportation of goods

- Support regionally impactful infrastructure opportunities for the movement of freight (e.g., support 2nd bridge in Detroit, completion of US 31)
- Recognize intermodal freight transportation opportunities (e.g., reliever port for Chicago and Detroit)
- Promote maintenance and improvement of the freeway system and connecting roads
- Promote maintenance and improvement of state and local roads
- Encourage aviation to better support business
- Take advantage of our existing water infrastructure along the Lake Michigan shoreline for the transportation of freight (e.g., freight harbors on Lake Michigan)

2. Advance the effective and efficient transportation of people

- Promote maintenance and improvement of the existing freeway system and connecting roads
- Encourage passenger rail as a viable transportation option
- Encourage aviation to better support passenger transportation
- Promote coordination of regional bus transportation

3. Assist in cultivating a comprehensive telecommunication system

- Promote region-wide access to telecommunications (broadband, cellular)
- Encourage improved speed and quality of telecommunications infrastructure

4. Explore and promote a sustainable and economically competitive approach to energy supply

- Promote competitive cost of energy
- Encourage increased access and production
- Promote diversification of energy portfolio (e.g., creation of micro grids)

5. Facilitate a collaborative approach to municipal infrastructure

- Promote coordinated administration of regional water and sewer infrastructure to achieve competitive rates
- Encourage coordinated water and sewer infrastructure planning

1. Further RPI organizational development

- Establish bylaws
- Examine membership and structure
- Connect sectors via communication, collaboration, and information sharing
- Establish RPI as clearinghouse (network versus an extra step)
- Create regional brand, identity, and image
- Establish criteria for addressing policy issues

2. Encourage collaboration among public and nonprofit sectors

- Develop or replicate organizational collaboration model for Region 8 to meet needs in a cost-efficient way
- Develop a platform for regular information sharing among the five sectors (learn what others are doing; process for regular information sharing meetings)
- Encourage coordinated strategic asset management across all seven counties
- Explore tribal strategies
- Collaborate on state and federal grants and projects to ensure projects are shovel-ready (e.g., letters of support)
- Encourage emergency management at a regional level

3. Strengthen the interface between the Regional Prosperity Plan and local plans

- Develop a model for creating plans that fit within the regional strategy
- Align with state and federal agencies to inform them about RPI goals
- Encourage individual municipal strategies are tied to the regional prosperity plan (including planning)

Objectives



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Infrastructure Projects - Recommended Priority Areas

Project Areas Per July 2 RPI Partner Meeting		Score
15	Recycling should get a bigger push . . . organics, metals, . . . (Regional Solid Waste Master Plan?)	5
17	Extension of the KRVT east to Battle Creek is under consideration. Is this something that can be a part of our project list?	5
5	Telecommunication brings far-reaching advantages. Access to education, health care, work, etc. on-line offers opportunities within rural areas. (Improve telecommunications access)	4
8	Adding lanes to I-94 from I-69 to Benton Harbor	4
12	Maps of sewer and water lines within the region (regional study)	4
1	Identify current telecommunication levels. Cass County is particularly challenged.	3
11	What kind of infrastructure do we have or need that will give us a competitive advantage?	3
3	Transit is spotty . . . need a single transportation pass for the region.	2
4	Research transportation modes and patterns.	2
7	Upgrade of intersection of US-131 and BR 131	2
9	(Very) High speed rail.	2
19	More solar infrastructure would be beneficial for individuals, municipalities, and businesses. (Might cross over into Community Development – Jill)	2
6	Production and availability of energy in MI? (Regional study)	1
13	Municipal infrastructure boundaries limit/impact business development. (assist municipalities with 425 or consolidation agreements)	1



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Project Areas Per July 2 RPI Partner Meeting		Score
14	Highlighting best practices in those communities/counties that are collaborating would be helpful.	1
2	A communications platform across the region	0
10	Increase truck speed limit to 70 mph (or dedicated truck lane).	0
16	Walkable communities are a key element to placemaking strategies being emphasized in MI. A change from an auto-oriented community should be considered by transportation planners. (increase walkability through the build environment and concentrating infrastructure)	0
18	Beneficial to see more reuse centers of housing material to make deconstruction a viable option for the region.	0
20	Creating fast, efficient and accessible (easy to use) public transportation.	0
21	Requiring TMAs for new housing developments seeking funding.	0
22	Focusing on the 'missing middle' housing element in MI. (probably more in the community development camp)	0

Highest Priority areas as Determined by the Infrastructure Subcommittee

Top Tier

- Region-wide recycling
 - Create a region-wide solid waste master plan and/or a region-wide recycling plan
 - This project could also include coordination of recycling strategies and programs among communities in SW MI.
- Regional Trail Support
 - This project idea was mostly focused on the KRVT but could also include trails that tie into or expand our regional trail system (KRVT, Kal-Haven, Van Buren Trail, etc).
 - This was indented as simple monetary support for shovel ready projects.

Second Tier

- Telecommunication (mostly broadband)
 - Identify telecommunication gaps and help to fill them
 - This could empower many to pursue higher levels of education or employment opportunities. It could also enable telemedicine.
- Encourage funding for the expansion of I-94
 - Evaluate the economic impact of the current capacity of I-94 and contrast that with the economic impact of an expanded I-94.
 - Lobby local, state, and federal officials and legislator for funding.
- Map the water and sewer systems in SW MI
 - Create a digital inventory of the sewer and water systems in SW MI.
 - Potentially include capacity in the maps.

Encourage the expansion and improvement of the regional infrastructure

Jill Bland, SWMI First

How do we enhance educational opportunities at all telecommunication levels?

1. Identify current telecommunication levels. Cass County is particularly challenged.

Lotta, Kalamazoo County

Also part of #1 Maps that show where the problems are would be helpful.

Richard Remus

2. A communications platform across the region.

Mike Evans

3. Transit is spotty . . need a single transportation pass for the region.
4. Research transportation modes and patterns.

Jan Frantz

5. Telecommunication brings far-reaching advantages. Access to education, health care, work, etc. on-line offers opportunities within rural areas. (Improve telecommunications access)

Jason

Deregulation of energy . . . is this coming to this region? Will impact costs.

10% of customers in MI are allowed to choose energy provider. (Dennis)

Revision of law under consideration. (Dennis)

6. Production and availability of energy in MI? (Jill)

Consumers Energy has ample power to serve the needs of its customers. (Dennis)

Ron Reid

7. Upgrade of intersection of US-131 and BR 131
8. Adding lanes to I-94 from I-69 to Benton Harbor
9. (Very) High speed rail.
10. Increase truck speed limit to 70 mph (or dedicated truck lane). Fold into number 8

Michael Evans

11. What kind of infrastructure do we have or need that will give us a competitive advantage?

We should focus on projects that increase our competitive advantage or accenting an advantage we already have.

Jill Bland

12. Interesting if we had maps of sewer and water lines within the region.

These maps would help identify (or predict) potential development/growth patterns.

Maps should include capacity and discharge that can be handled.

Alan

13. Municipal infrastructure boundaries limit/impact business development. (assist municipalities with 425 or consolidation agreements)

Jason

14. Highlighting best practices in those communities/counties that are collaborating would be helpful.

Have a meeting with providers to move toward efficiency.

Ron Reid

15. Recycling should get a bigger push . . . organics, metals, . . . (Regional Solid Waste Master Plan?)
 - a. Incorporate #18

Michael Evans

Wind turbine industry . . . keep expertise in the region.

Jill Bland

Where do police and fire service fall in our discussion?

Collectively discussed under Community Development. (Lee)

These services are ripe for a collaborative approach.

Public transportation is similar in nature. (Lotta)

Efficient provision of services is the key. (Lee)

Alex

16. Walkable communities are a key element to placemaking strategies being emphasized in MI. A change from an auto-oriented community should be considered by transportation planners. (increase walkability through the build environment and concentrating infrastructure)

Jan Frantz

17. Extension of the KRVT east to Battle Creek is under consideration. Is this something that can be a part of our project list?

This represents the final segment . . . and is already under design and part of a shore to shore trailway. (Dennis)

Yes . . . could be part of our RFP process in our project selection phase. (Lee)

If regional impact from the trail can be identified . . . then makes sense as an RPI project. (Michael)

Let's look at other trail projects too

Look at how to connect all trail projects in the region

Emily Petz

- ~~18. Beneficial to see more reuse centers of housing material to make deconstruction a viable option for the region.~~

19. More solar infrastructure would be beneficial for individuals, municipalities, and businesses. (Might cross over into Community Development – Jill)

As the industry advances, can be an important provider of energy.

20. Creating fast, efficient and accessible (easy to use) public transportation.
 - a. Consider nodes for multiple forms of public transportation (trolleys, etc.).
 - b. Incorporate elsewhere

Also part of 16 MSHDA a primary sponsor of the placemaking initiative in MI.

21. Requiring TMAs for new housing developments seeking funding.

Goal is to be more targeted in their funding approach. TMAs allow for consideration of project funding specific to responding to the market potential of a community.

22. Focusing on the 'missing middle' housing element in MI. (probably more in the community development camp)

Also part of #21 Reference to strategic, creative, and tactical placemaking approaches.

Peter's observations: Michael Evans made the point that projects should be selected that advance RPI's vision: "Southwest Michigan is recognized as a region where successful, thriving, and innovative people, businesses, and communities prosper through sustainable practices and collaborative development." He asked: What will make us more competitive?

RPI Strategies Subcommittee – Report to Prosperity Committee

August 6, 2015

RPI STRATEGIES

Advance regional communication and collaboration

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Subcommittee Purpose:

- Execute the "RPI Strategies" goal set.
- Be the team with expertise in potential "RPI Strategies" implementation.
- Share that expertise with the RPI Prosperity Committee.

The Prosperity Plan says we need a tool to assist in **COLLABORATION & COMMUNICATION**

Opportunities

Can we use the **asset mapping** we've generated to help us collaborate?

Can we **connect RPI Partners and State & federal departments/agencies** in one place?

Can we quickly **solicit letters of support** across all the RPI partners?

Can we **maximize the assets** available and **reduce or eliminate redundancy** between us?

Let's explore the potential application of a tool that has been used to connect a much larger region (than ours) in California.

- Many aspects of the California example match very closely with ours. Their emphasis areas are also: Economic Development, Workforce Development, Education, Infrastructure.

Available RPI Funds:

2014 Total Remaining Funds - \$143,699 (25% = \$35,924)

2015 Total Remaining Funds - \$154,261 (25% = \$38,565) minus administrative funding through remainder of 2015.

What has the Subcommittee Done?

Investigated Business U Software

- What can it do? How has it been customized for some of its current users?

Webinar with Business U

- Discussed in detail the capabilities, cost (generally), and implementation process.
- Phases of adoption, customization for RPI, user ramp-up

The **Business U** Tool - The East Bay Implementation



- Tool used to define and utilize Regional Assets
- Provide work flow assignments across sectors and partners
- East Bay Example: 10 Community Colleges, 5 Workforce Investment Boards