



Southwest Michigan Regional Prosperity Initiative

Prosperity Committee

June 4, 2015

3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

Agenda

- 3:00 p.m. Welcome and Introductions
- 3:05 p.m. Housekeeping
- Election of Secretary (Lee Adams)
 - Incorporation of new members (John Egelhaaf)
- 3:20 p.m. Review RPI Subcommittee Structure and Process (John Egelhaaf)
- 3:25 p.m. Adopt Updated Education Goal (John Egelhaaf and Michael Evans)
- Updated goal (page 2)
 - Original goal (page 3)
- 3:40 p.m. Identify Education Priority Project Areas (All)
- 4:25 p.m. Next Steps (Lee Adams)
- Establish champions for the Infrastructure survey
 - July 2: Partner Meeting "Infrastructure"
- 4:30 p.m. Adjourn



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Education Goal

Promote talent development and retention *to encourage growth and sustainability in all facets of the local economy.*

Education Opportunities & Objectives

1. Promote accessibility and opportunities to participate in education and skilled training programs
 - a. Tailor programs to market demands
2. Promote the coordination, and encourage a larger number, of internships and apprenticeships across the region and across the continuum of learners
 - a. Regional clearinghouse and website that publicly houses internship/apprenticeship opportunities
 - i. MI internship/apprenticeships website (June? 2015)
 1. College, secondary ed, established and under-skilled workers
 - b. Webpage with links to existing opportunities
 - c. Inventory existing opportunities
 - d. Connect interns to job opportunities
3. Encourage a culture of learning
 - a. Provide opportunities for all learners
 - b. Encourage, and promote the personal and regional economic benefits of, lifelong learning
 - c. Promote digital literacy
4. Encourage infrastructure development and interconnectivity to better support education, training, and employment
 - a. Increase mobility: transit and non-motorized
 - b. Increase access to technology: broadband and access to equipment
5. Support work of, and develop a communication conduit for, existing education organizations
 - a. Adult education
 - b. Credential acquisition
 - c. Career exploration
 - d. Functional literacy
 - e. Skilled trades
 - f. Employers



REGIONAL COLLABORATION GOALS AND OPPORTUNITIES

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Improve the livability of our region's communities to attract and retain talented workers

1. **Create a more diversified transportation system**
 - Create walkable neighborhoods
 - Encourage new transportation patterns that support efficient multi-modal transportation options
 - Support community development that is transit-oriented
2. **Encourage development of additional recreational opportunities and amenities**
 - Encourage an environment where social interactions can occur
 - Promote existing and support development of new trails and natural areas (e.g., parks, recreation areas, rivers, and lakes)
3. **Encourage increased access to housing options regarding density, cost, style and location**
4. **Support sustainable development**
 - Develop infrastructure that can be sustained financially and environmentally over the long term
 - Maintain or improve environmental quality

EDUCATION

Promote talent development and retention

1. **Promote the coordination of internships, apprenticeships, and academic and skills training across the region**
2. **Encourage broad lifelong learning**
3. **Encourage transit interconnectivity to better support education, training, and employment**
4. **Support work of existing organizations in the following areas:**
 - Adult education
 - Career exploration
 - Functional literacy
 - Skilled trades

Goals

Opportunities

Objectives



INFRASTRUCTURE

Encourage expansion and improvement of regional infrastructure

- 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

RPI STRATEGIES

Advance regional communication and collaboration

- 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)