



SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN PLANNING COMMISSION

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Southwest Michigan Planning Commission

FROM: K. John Egelhaaf

DATE: April 10, 2018

RE: Staff Report for the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission April 17, 2018

Office Updates

- A. Patrice Rose – Short Term Disability
 - New knee!
 - Advance payment of typical invoices
 - Team effort covering remaining duties
- B. Consideration of Merit Fiber
 - Possible change from Comcast to Merit
 - Awaiting Merit proposal
- C. Microsoft Surface Hub – Full Function FINALLY!
 - Now able to conduct virtual meetings from our conference room
 - We use Skype for Business as our software
 - Several Beta test have been successful
- D. Recent Training/Conferences Attended
 - Road Asset Management Webinar (TAMC) – BK
 - Watershed Summit (Lansing) – MH
 - PASER Asset Management Training (TAMC) – MG, LD
 - Regional Economic Integration Partnership Conference Call – RF

Project Updates

- A. 7-County Non-Motorized Plan
 - Project kick-off @ end of February
 - Project will span the rest of 2018 and into 2019
 - Assemble the most current non-motorized data
 - Meet w/stakeholders to critique the data
 - Analysis to identify existing and proposed facilities/pathways
 - Develop a non-motorized plan
 - Produce a Road and Trail Bicycling Guide (Map)

SWMPC Staff Report – April 17, 2018

B. Marquette Greenway Extension Efforts

- Collaboration with Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Committee (NIRPC)
 - Our sister regional planning organization for Porter, Gary, etc
- Major collaborative effort with public/private entities in New Buffalo City, Township and beyond
- Genuine opportunity to link the Marquette Greenway to Bike Route 35 (thus, a non-motorized path from Chicago to Traverse City)

C. Corridors for Development EDA Application

- Potential planning project to analyze the industry with the greatest potential for the region
- Then evaluate the criteria most necessary and attractive for those industries
- Map the geographic corridors where there is the greatest intersection of necessary resources
- Generate a product that is effective for the attraction of those prime corridors

D. City of Buchanan Master Plan

- Approved SWMPC proposal in March
- Kick off meeting in April

E. Palisades Nuclear Economic Impact Plan Meeting w/EDA

- KJE met with Lee Shirey from EDA regarding the next steps for the EDA application
- Kinexus also met with Shirey
- Application still being refined

F. Southwest Michigan Local Food Council

- Joint development with United Way SW Michigan
- Received a seed grant from MSU to develop strategies, bylaws, priorities
- First meeting of Council on April 18

G. Napier Corridor Plan

- How can Napier Ave. be rethought to be safer, more accessible for transit, and better for non-motorized users?
- Study is 1/3 done, data collection largely complete
- Two steering committee meetings held + one public meeting

H. Chikaming Township Local Road Asset Management Plan

- Delivered first draft of plan to Chikaming committee
- Working with Berrien Road Department on necessary data to populate the plan