



## SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN PLANNING COMMISSION

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### MEMORANDUM

TO: Southwest Michigan Planning Commission

FROM: K. John Egelhaaf

DATE: February 9, 2018

RE: Staff Report for the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission February 20, 2018

#### Office Updates

##### A. Weekly Staff Meetings

- Monday afternoons
- Discussion of:
  - Project developments
  - Administrative items
  - Issues in the community
- Recent focus on development of draft
  - Vision statement
  - Mission statement
  - Values

##### B. Hosted Governor's Staff & Indiana Lt. Governor's Staff

- Governor Snyder's office reached out to ask for us to host meeting
- On December 7 reps from both offices met in SWMPC conference room

##### C. SWMPC Holiday Party

- Austrian lunch at Moser's Café (New Carlisle)
- SWMPC Christmas gift to staff
  - A shared CSA subscription for Klug Farm

#### Project Updates

##### A. Economic Development Administration Planning District

- Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for the southwest region completed
- Submitted in December 2017
- Collaboration with Michigan State University's EDA University Center
  - Economic Innovation Fellow
  - Share and build expertise in public participation strategy
  - Potentially in place by 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter 2018

## **SWMPC Staff Report – February 20, 2018**

### **B. Westrain**

- SWMPC orchestrates a group that determines how promotional funding is spent on the Amtrak Pere Marquette rail line
- A collaborative effort between MDOT Passenger Rail Division, Amtrak, Metropolitan Planning Organizations in Holland, Grand Rapids, and SWMPC, Economic Development Organizations in each area, and major public transit providers

### **C. Seven-County Non-Motorized Plan**

- SWMPC has begun a partnership with MDOT
- Build the best inventory of non-motorized infrastructure in southwest Michigan
- Build a plan for the improvement of same

### **D. Infrastructure Asset Management Pilot Project**

- KJE selected to participate in Governor's Infrastructure Asset Management pilot
- Bi-Monthly Lansing meetings of a committee to oversee two projects
- Two pilots – west Michigan area (Muskegon - Grand Rapids area & Detroit area)
- An attempt to answer the question; what does it take to gather quality data on existing infrastructure (water, sewer, broadband, etc) and build a plan to optimize the maintenance of that infrastructure?

### **E. Rural Transportation Funding (RTF) Meetings**

- SWMPC is the lead organization to orchestrate planning process
- Transportation funding to rural communities throughout 3-county region
- Essentially mirrors the MPO transportation planning process in rural areas (but much less detailed)

### **F. Extension of the Marquette Greenway Non-Motorized Trail**

- TIGER Grant submitted to US Department of Transportation
- Major collaborative project between Indiana (Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Committee) and SWMPC
- Non-Motorized trail from Chicago to potential corridors in southwest Michigan

### **G. Southwest Michigan Local Food Council Formation**

- Funding through MSU to build a Local Food Council
- The Council would look to influence components of the regional food network
  - Locate gaps where economic opportunity resides
  - Recommend policy that will promote prosperity for regional food producers

### **H. Chikaming Township Local Road Asset Management Plan**

- Millage approved in November 2017 to fund local roads
- SWMPC solicited to build a 10-year plan to optimize the way the funds are spent
- As local road millages become more likely, local road asset management planning is also more likely