



SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN PLANNING COMMISSION

376 West Main Street, Suite 130, Benton Harbor, MI 49022

Phone: 269-925-1137 • Website: www.swmpc.org

MEMORANDUM

TO: Southwest Michigan Planning Commission

FROM: K. John Egelhaaf

DATE: April 14, 2020

RE: Staff Report for the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission April 21, 2020

Office Updates

A. General Staff Engagement

- a. Marcy Hamilton
 - i. Friends of Berrien County Trails Meeting
 - ii. Regional Leadership Training
 - iii. Black River Watershed Plan Meeting
- b. Kim Gallagher
 - i. Chicago Municipal Agency for Planning Workshop
- c. John Egelhaaf
 - i. MSU Regional Economic Innovation Consultative Panel Meeting
 - ii. Land Information Access Association Meeting
 - iii. Regional Leadership Training
- d. Kris Martin
 - i. Buchanan BARB Trail Meeting
 - ii. Indiana-Michigan River Valley Trail Expansion Stakeholder Group Meeting

COVID-19 Response

- A. Office Closed as of March 24
- B. Business Management Conducted In-Office When Necessary
 - a. Invoicing
 - b. Payroll
- C. Kris Martin – Rural Broadband Challenges
 - a. Occasional Need to Work from Office
- D. Collaboration w/University of Michigan
 - a. Public Transit Policies & Workplace Virus Mitigation
- E. Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) Funding Management
 - a. SWMPC + Michiana Area Council of Governments Oversee Distribution of \$20.4 M
 - i. \$8.5 M to S. Bend Transpo
 - ii. \$753 K to Niles Dial-A-Ride
 - iii. \$11.14 M to Northern Indiana Commuter Transportation District (NICTD) Rail (South Shore Rail)

SWMPC Staff Report – April 21, 2020

- E. COVID-19 Response (continued) CARES Funding
 - b. EDA Infrastructure Funding
 - i. Initial meeting to prepare SWMPC for dramatic increase in available infrastructure funding
 - ii. Likely increase in SWMPC administrative funds

Project Updates

- A. SWMPC Metropolitan Transportation Pre-2021 Unified Work Program Meeting
 - a. Annual Meeting w/State & Federal Transportation Partners
 - b. Combination of Annual Evaluation & Preparation for 2021 Work Program

- B. Berrien Township Master & Recreation Plans
 - a. Township has Approved SWMPC Proposals for Both Plans
 - b. Awaiting Execution of Contract

- C. Galien Township Master Plan
 - a. Proposal Requested to Assist with Plan

- D. Strategic Leadership Council – Housing Diagnosis Project
 - a. Project Underway – Currently in Data Analysis Phase

- E. Niles Area Transportation Study & Twin Cities Area Transportation Study
 - a. Built New Remote Meeting & Engagement Strategy for Monthly Meetings
 - b. 2020 Work Plan Budget Revisions

- F. Palisades Decommissioning Economic Recovery Plan
 - a. Project Summary Developed for Match Funding Requests
 - b. Meetings w/Kinexus – Market Van Buren
 - c. Consultation w/Van Buren County Administrator

- G. SWMPC Website Redesign
 - a. Currently in “Discovery” Phase
 - i. Consultant is gathering data on SWMPC
 - b. Regular Agenda Topic During our Monday Staff Meetings