

MANAGEMENT TEAM

CONFERENCE CALL

Wednesday, June 26, 2019, via Zoom | 1:30–2:30 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT (VIA PHONE)

Steven Duke, Region 2 Planning Commission
Jim Van Doren, Lenawee Now
Ken Hinton, Livingston County
Ryan Buck, Washtenaw Area Transportation Study
Bill Sleight, Michigan Works! Southeast
Sue Smith, Hillsdale Economic Development Partnership
Phil Santer, Ann Arbor SPARK
Kristin Hofman, Public Sector Consultants
Patrick Lyons, Public Sector Consultants

ASSET MANAGEMENT SUMMIT

The Asset Management Summit was held on June 4, 2019, at Weber's Restaurant and Boutique Hotel in Ann Arbor and convened 41 participants from the six-county region. The majority of participants were from Washtenaw and Jackson, with heavy representation from utilities. This event was designed to bring together representatives who manage water, transportation, utilities, and communication infrastructure for an introductory conversation on how these entities can better collaborate.

The event kicked off with an introduction to the Michigan Infrastructure Council (MIC), Water Asset Management Council (WAMC), and Transportation Asset Management Council (TAMC). These councils were established at the recommendation of the Governor's 21st Century Infrastructure Commission, a group tasked by Rick Snyder, former governor of Michigan, to make recommendations for improving Michigan's transportation, water systems, public utilities, and broadband access.

MIC is focusing on collecting data on Michigan's infrastructure systems and building a database that will eventually inform a 30-year strategy for investment and management. WAMC concentrates specifically on water systems, such as drinking water, wastewater, and storm water, while TAMC concentrates on roads and bridges. Each of the councils share the goal of aligning resources and removing barriers to effective asset management throughout the state of Michigan.

The event facilitated a conversation about failures, opportunities, success, and barriers to effective and efficient asset management within the six-county region. While more information sharing across counties and new technology are helping collaboration, attendees still recognized a great need for better uniformity and long-term solutions to asset management issues.

The councils will reconvene asset managers in the fall for a more robust workshop that will include more interactive problem solving to some of the region's most pressing asset management barriers and opportunities. The management team will be asked to play a more substantial role in direct outreach to local governmental contacts to ensure appropriate representation.

CHALLENGE GRANTS

Management team members on the call unanimously approved grants for Bedford Adult Education, the Charter Township of Ypsilanti, Monroe Vineyard Church, and SOS Community Services, who were conditionally recommended for funding at the last management team meeting. Bill Sleight communicated that Michigan Works! Southeast would like to move forward with the MI Career Quest event in Hudson next April and would like to use challenge grant funding to hire an event planner to work with employers to design and develop educational exhibits on specific occupations. The management team approved this use of funds and requested a new budget by the week of July 8.

Public Sector Consultants (PSC) will provide memoranda of understanding to Steve Duke for all approved awards prior to sending to grantees.

TRANSPORTATION PROJECT

The GAAR has approximately \$40,000 of earmarked funds to support a transportation-related project in 2019. This funding was originally intended to build on research conducted in 2015 to expand transit availability across the six-county region to address workforce development needs. However, due to the difficulty of pursuing this type of project with relatively limited funding, the management team had decided to explore other opportunities. Steve Duke, Ryan Buck, and Phil Santer convened to discuss project ideas to present to the management team. This team decided to explore the potential for micromobility, a subset of transportation that include scooter- and bike-share programs.

This smaller group then met with consultants from Toole Design, a consulting firm in Portland, Oregon, specializing in micromobility, to discuss the parameters of a potential report. There was a focus on broadening the scope of the report so that the final product provides value to every part of the region and not just the urban communities. The final scope of work included:

- Analysis of the six-county region regarding the potential for micromobility to improve workforce outcomes
- Examples of shared transportation best practices and solutions for the communities where micromobility is not feasible/practical (rural areas)
- Strategic framework for boosting the impact of micromobility in the regions where it will be most effective, including suggestions regarding land use, regional partnerships, and metrics/outcomes to track

This potential project was then presented to the full management team for discussion. The management team supported the goals of this project and agreed to move forward, with Toole Design developing a full proposal. However, management team members requested that the final scope of work include stakeholder engagement, either through a single convening or a series of interviews. PSC contacted Toole Design and asked that they develop a proposal that meets the updated scope of work.

Once Toole Design delivers a proposal, PSC will present it to the management team who will have an opportunity to discuss and tweak the scope of work before agreeing to move forward.

PROSPERITY INITIATIVE RESULTS REPORT

PSC and the management team have been discussing the development of a report this fall that highlights successes and lessons learned through the GAAR. The final report would include an overview of the regional prosperity initiative (RPI) and two action areas (talent and transportation), an overview of challenge grant activity and project spotlights on some grantees, lessons learned through the regional collaboration, RPI five-year metrics, and next steps for the region.

This report outline was shared with the management team for discussion and was approved. PSC will continue developing this final report and update the management team as needed. Discussions are still ongoing about the best way to share and promote the report, including possibly holding a fall event to celebrate the initiative.

NEXT STEPS

The next management team meeting will be held Wednesday, July 17, 2019, from 2:00–3:00 PM at the Chelsea Police Department Council Chambers. This meeting will include a presentation from the Monroe County Learning Bank, a 2018 challenge grant recipient. The meeting will also discuss a potential fall event and the transportation project scope of work.