



GRAND VALLEY METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

ADA TOWNSHIP • ALGOMA TOWNSHIP • ALLENDALE TOWNSHIP • ALPINE TOWNSHIP • BELDING • BYRON TOWNSHIP • CALEDONIA TOWNSHIP • CANNON TOWNSHIP • CASCADE TOWNSHIP • CEDAR SPRINGS COOPERSVILLE • COURTLAND TOWNSHIP • EAST GRAND RAPIDS • GAINES TOWNSHIP • GEORGETOWN TOWNSHIP • GRAND RAPIDS • GRAND RAPIDS TOWNSHIP • GRANDVILLE • GREENVILLE • HASTINGS HUDSONVILLE • IONIA • JAMESTOWN TOWNSHIP • KENT COUNTY • KENTWOOD • LOWELL • LOWELL TOWNSHIP • MIDDLEVILLE • OTTAWA COUNTY • PLAINFIELD TOWNSHIP • ROCKFORD SAND LAKE • TALLMADGE TOWNSHIP • WALKER • WAYLAND • WYOMING

RESOLUTION TO RESTORE FUNDS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND FIX OUR ROADS

March 6, 2014

WHEREAS, for more than a decade municipalities in the State of Michigan have been confronted with significantly reduced revenues due to economic recession, decline of property values and extensive and repetitive reductions in State Shared Revenue by the State of Michigan; and

WHEREAS, the combined impact of the Headlee Amendment and Proposal A make it impossible for municipal revenues to recover even as property taxes rise; and

WHEREAS, due to this unrelenting fiscal pressure, many Grand Valley Metropolitan Council member communities have been compelled to reduce staffing and the level of municipal services historically provided to residents, businesses and schools in our community; and

WHEREAS, these municipal services protect the health, safety and welfare of our citizens and are an essential component of building a strong local economy and maintaining a vibrant community; and

WHEREAS, despite the demonstrated fiscal care taken by Grand Valley Metropolitan Council member communities and even with reduced staffing and services, this reduction in revenue has resulted in deficit budgets for many; and

WHEREAS, as a result of significant declines in both federal and state investment in transportation infrastructure, GVMC projects a gap between the region's identified transportation improvement needs and available funding totaling \$2.5 billion over the next 25 years; and

WHEREAS, GVMC member counties, cities, townships and villages support wise and thoughtful public investment in transportation infrastructure at a level sufficient to meet the region's long-range needs and the development of a comprehensive, long-term solution to Michigan's transportation funding issues; and

WHEREAS, on January 10, 2014 a State budget surplus was announced which in part is a result of the Governor and Michigan Legislature taking approximately \$6 billion over the past decade that by law was to go to local communities to fund police and fire services, road maintenance, snow plowing, parks and more;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council urges the Legislature to use the identified State budget surplus for transportation improvements and to restore funds to local governments; replacing those local revenues that were taken to plug holes in the state budget resulting in the fiscal crises facing many local communities across Michigan.

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