



Transportation Funding Presentation

On Thursday November 27th from 10:00-noon, representatives of MDOT and Governor Snyder's Office will meet with GVMC to discuss ideas for long term funding for transportation. The meeting will be held at the Grand Rapids Township Hall.

Last year, a bi-partisan committee of the legislature studied the needs for transportation infrastructure in our state. At that time, it was determined that just to fix existing problems with Michigan's roads and bridges would take an investment of \$1.4 billion. That figure has grown since the study by an estimated \$200 million and now is approximately \$1.6 billion.

Of Michigan's 10,928 bridges, 1,437 of them are judged to be structurally deficient. These numbers will continue to increase unless a long-term sustainable solution is found to the finance needed

repairs and improvements. GVMC through our Legislative Committee and a special Task Force on Transportation Funding has been meeting to discuss this critical need for our future.

The Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce, Right Place, and West Michigan Policy Forum have all identified sustainable long-term transportation funding as a top priority for the economic growth and vitality of our region.

I hope you can join us for this meeting. If you would like to bring others from your communities, please feel free to do so. This is a high priority item for GVMC and our region and we encourage local government and business leaders to attend this meeting to discuss ideas about the future of our transportation infrastructure system.

Board Meeting Highlights

At our November Board of Directors Meeting we welcomed guests that informed us of two significant emerging issues for our state and region.

Jared Rodrigues, President of the West Michigan Policy Forum informed us about the 2012 conference. Over 600 governmental and business leaders attended the event which was held in September.

On Monday, Governor Snyder

attended a luncheon in Grand Rapids that was sponsored by the WMPF, Grand Rapids Chamber and the Economics Club of Grand Rapids. His focus was on the ballot issues.

Also, at our meeting, Ericka Rosebrook from the Governor's Office reported on the state-wide effort to develop an urban agenda for Michigan. This community based effort is being conducted in several of Michigan's largest cities with the goal of combining the efforts from across Michigan into one state-wide strategy.

The Urban Strategy will be used in the future to develop legislation and other initiatives which impact Michigan's urban areas.

Good Luck Clerks

I have had the opportunity to talk to many city and township clerks in recent weeks about their absentee voter turnout and predictions for the next week's general election. All of them are predicting record voter participation.

As a former city clerk, I understand the stress that occurs on a presidential election day and just wanted to wish all our clerks good luck during this busiest of days for them and their election workers. Good Luck Everyone!!!

**Please Email Your Community's
Programs and Ideas for
Cooperation!**

