



Legislative Alert:

House Bill 5016, has been introduced in the Legislature. The Bill requires state and local road agencies to reimburse telecommunications providers for the cost of relocating their equipment in the road right-of way when necessitated by a road improvement project.

Currently, the telecom companies can place their equipment within the road right-of way, at no cost to the company. The telecoms do this with the understanding that the property they are using is a public road right-of-way and if the public good requires them to move their equipment they do so at their own cost. If they don't want that risk, they can always purchase their own right-of-way for their cables or equipment.

Steve Warren, Managing Director of the Kent County Road Commission stated "*I don't think this is how the public wants their transportation dollars spent – to assist for-profit companies relocate their facilities at the expense of improving the roads.*"

Board Vacancies

We have 2 vacancies for at-large members of our Board of Directors. If you know someone that might be interested please have them contact us.

Best Wishes to Retiring Friends of GVMC

At the end of the year, three special friends of GVMC will be retiring. Each of these people have supported GVMC and assisted with our success in their own special way. We wish them all the best in their retirement years.



Roger Safford is Regional Engineer for the 13 county Grand Region of the Michigan Department of Transportation. Roger is a member of our West Michigan Prosperity Alliance. He has played a pivotal role in developing our prosperity alliance and has worked closely with GVMC for many years on our award winning transportation program. Roger is a strong advocate for GVMC and our members within MDOT. He is a trusted advisor and friend.



Jane Bush is Secretary to the Mayor of the City of Grand Rapids. Jane has served the city for 31 years. Jane works "quietly" and sometimes "not so quietly" in the background helping us to coordinate schedules and facilitate our interactions with the City. Jane has always ensured that the Mayor and senior staff were available when GVMC needed them to work on a regional issue, contact a legislator, or analyze potential legislation.



Elias Lumpkins has been a Grand Rapids City Commissioner for 9 years and is also a member of our GVMC Board of Directors. He has represented GVMC and our West Michigan Prosperity Alliance by attending our sessions in Ludington and at the Governor's Economic and Education Summit. Elias is always a positive voice for GVMC and his City and is an outspoken advocate for communication and collaboration.

Best Wishes in the Future Roger, Jane and Elias!