



GVMC Hosts Sessions on Governor Snyder's Plan to Finance Michigan's Roads and Bridges

Focusing on the emerging issue of deterioration of our infrastructure, GVMC this week hosted over 50 leaders from our region in meetings with MDOT and the Michigan Transportation Team. Attendees included mayors, city managers, road commission representatives, township elected officials and public works leaders representing local governments from four different counties. Also attending were representatives of The Right Place, the Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce and the West Michigan Policy Forum.

Scott Greenlee from the MTT discussed the \$1.4 billion problem with Michigan's roads and bridges. For example, of the 10,928 bridges in our state, 1,437 of them are judged to be structurally deficient. He also informed the groups about Governor Snyder's plan of future funding and received a great deal of feedback from participants. Thank you to all who attended and for providing your honest opinions.

Reminder: The GVMC Board Meeting will be held at 10:30 Monday April 9th at the Prince Center. It will be followed by the April Quarterly Luncheon with Special Guest Mark Murray.

April Board of Directors Meeting

Monday, April 9th is our next Board of Directors Meeting. It will be at Calvin College's Prince Center beginning at 10:30 am. The agenda will include a presentation by Peter Haefner, CPA of our final audit for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2011. Treasurer Cy Moore along with our Finance and Executive Committees have been working with Peter to finalize the audit.

Also, the Board will have an opportunity to meet our new financial consultant, Mr. Chris Brown, CPA. Chris has a great deal of experience as a CPA, but also with an agency like ours through his 5 years of service with the Macatawa Area Coordinating Council. Privatizing our finance department using Chris on a part-time contractual basis will result in cost savings of approximately 70%.

Also on the agenda will be brief communications updates, legislative updates specifically on our Michigan Transportation Team sessions and the work being done on the Personal Property Tax issue.

I have asked Mark Murray to join us prior to the lunch for a casual discussion/conversation with the Board. We will adjourn the Board Meeting at 11:45 for our Quarterly Luncheon.

Spotlight on Cooperation

Many of you know that GVMC owns a Pavement Condition Data Collection Vehicle. Purchased in 2005, using federal and local funds, this technically sophisticated van is used to survey and collect pavement conditions and sign data.

The data from the van is shared with all members of GVMC. Pavement Management and Sign Management are critical and essential parts of the asset management system required by the state and federal governments.

Each year, GVMC collects data on 1,620 miles of the federal aid system, (mainly major roads). We also assist local governments with their roadway systems by analyzing 800 miles annually. This scientific data is used to program and prioritize future road improvement projects.

As GVMC members the cost of this service is dramatically less than the current market cost using a private consultant. Thirty-two units of government participate through GVMC. In addition, the communities of Novi, Meridian Township, and Portage have also utilized our Pavement Management Vehicle on a fee for service basis.

