



April 6, 2017

## Governor Snyder Announces 21st Century Infrastructure Pilot

On Monday, Governor Snyder held a press conference in west Michigan to sign an Executive Directive and announce a new 21st Century Infrastructure Pilot.

*“In order for Michigan to continue on the right path toward our future, we need modernized, reliable infrastructure,”* Gov. Rick Snyder said. *“Partnering with west Michigan for this infrastructure pilot further proves the region’s reputation of working well together, and I appreciate their leadership. I look forward to seeing the results of this project that will help us develop a statewide framework for asset management in Michigan.”*

We will be working on this project in all 13 counties of the West Michigan Prosperity Region. Grand Valley Metropolitan Council will serve as lead agency for this effort.

Through our work with the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance we have built relationships throughout our region. We were asked to participate and develop a proposal for our pilot under a very tight timeframe. Working together with the **Steve Bulthuis** from the Macatawa Area Coordinating Council, **Erin Kuhn** of the West Michigan Shoreline Development Commission, **Eric DeLong** of Grand Rapids, **Curtis Holt** from Wyoming, and **Rick Chapla** of Right Place, and with advice from many others, we met the deadline.

The Governor has organized the Pilot in a unique and exciting way. There will be one Pilot that will involve both west Michigan and



southeast Michigan. Infrastructure specialists from our area and the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) will partner with leaders of 8 state agencies to develop the Pilot.

This gives all of us in our region the opportunity to partner with our colleagues to develop a process for utilizing “integrated asset management” as a way to plan for the future needs of our infrastructure.

The Governor stated in the Executive Directive, *“As Michigan’s economy and vibrant communities continue to accelerate our economic comeback, we must find solutions to preserve, maintain and improve our infrastructure now and in the future.”*

*“Currently, infrastructure in Michigan exists in silos. There are 700 separate road and drain agencies, 79 transit agencies, 1,390 drinking water systems, 1,080 wastewater systems, 116 electric utilities, 10 natural gas utilities, and 43 broadband providers.”* The Infrastructure Pilot will work to create a standard-

ized and systematic way across jurisdictions and infrastructure types to improve coordination and reduce costs.

One of the first steps in the process will be to create an infrastructure Advisory Board. This board will consist of representatives from the state, region and local governments, along with technical experts and stakeholders. This group will be responsible for coordination of the project and provide policy direction and guidance for recommendations on implementation of the pilot.

In our region we will create a similar Advisory Board as well as a series of subcommittees working together on special asset categories like water, sewer, stormsewer, energy, broadband and transportation. Technical experts in these specific areas will work together to determine the key factors and metrics for their area of expertise. Our goal is to bring together west Michigan’s knowledge and experience with our colleagues to develop a new integrated approach to infrastructure.