



Some Comments About Recent GVMC Events

Recently, GVMC has been involved in a series of meetings involving over 300 people. I thought you might be interested in a few of the comments I have received from those sessions.

Strategic Visioning Session

April 24, 2014

It was amazing to see the commonality in vision for the future of the metro council and the passion for working together collaboratively to provide necessary public services in the most efficient and effective way for our West Michigan population. The strategic planning session showed that regional leaders are already thinking differently and willing to take further action to step over older notions of boundaries to achieve increasingly better outcomes."

*Al Vanderberg, Ottawa County
Administrator*

The GVMC Visioning Session was an enlightening experience in several ways. First it was encouraging to see that the board members' ideas about the future of GVMC were similar and that they were inclusive so non-MPO members could be engaged in the GVMC activities as well. It was also refreshing to listen to ways GVMC can engage diverse groups around important initiatives to make a difference in the region; Acting as facilitator and coordinator to make good things happen. In addition, for GVMC to be recognized at the State and Federal lev-

els as "experts" in areas such as transportation and environmental stewardship is a tribute to the hard work of the Executive Director and staff.

Rebecca Fleury, MPA
Middleville Village Manager/
Finance Director

Street Summit II

April 25, 2015

It was very apparent how West Michigan is a leader in collaboration. I often hear about difficulties between road commissions, municipalities and MPOs in other parts of the state. Speaking on behalf of the area business community, we greatly appreciate your ability to work together and with the private sector to make the most of the limited resources we have.

Josh Lunger,
Public Policy Coordinator-GRACC

We are also thankful for the trusted relationships and partnerships that continue to drive all of us to seek those bigger picture solutions. I personally enjoyed looking at everyone's 'story boards' and learning more about the local transportation challenges and opportunities. Thanks for inviting MDOT to participate and be a part of this very informative and beneficial community effort.

Roger L. Safford, P. E
Region Engineer—MDOT

Thank you for your role to coordinate the public agencies in the street summit. I really appreciated that Mr. Bolger appeared be-

fore the group and explained his approach. I have to admit that I came away with a greater appreciation for his efforts when he made the point that this is just the start of reaching a solution.

Terry Schweitzer
Community Development Director
City of Kentwood

We appreciate what the Metro Council is doing to move this issue of transportation infrastructure forward. The status quo isn't working. Bringing all parties together was a solid first step.

Mark Murray, Meijer Inc.

LGROW Spring Forum

May 2, 2015

It's great to see GVMC take such an active role in the Lower Grand Watershed effort. The addition of Wendy Ogilvie to team and increase in watershed budget opens opportunities for community involvement in the project.

Bonnie Shupe Blackledge, MMC
Cannon Township Clerk

The presentations by John Alan and Dr. Al Steinman were paired perfectly to emphasize the need for broad thinking in how we manage our most valuable resources in this Blue Economy".

Scott Conners, P.E.
Walker City Engineer

