



New Public Spaces Grant Opportunity

The Michigan Economic Development Corporation is rolling out a creative funding mechanism for its Public Spaces Community Places initiative in partnership with the Michigan Municipal League and the Michigan-based crowdfunding platform Patronicity.

This opportunity mobilizes community members, residents and general supporters to make individual contributions while promoting their efforts to others. Communities, non-profits and other business entities can submit projects by applying for a Patronicity crowdfunding online donation campaign. Projects meeting fundraising goals can receive a matching grant from MEDC of up to \$100,000.

Public Spaces Community Places projects include:

- Public Plaza & Green Space Development
- Access to Public Amenities
- Farmer's Markets, Community Kitchens, Pop-Up Retail/ Incubator Space
- Alley Rehabilitation
- Any other place based (or public space improvement) project

The open application process began July 9 at patronicity.com. For more information, visit crowdfundingmi.com.

Communities, non-profits and other business entities can submit projects through Patronicity.

Applications will be accepted until all funds have been disbursed.

Highway Trust Fund At Risk

GVMC, along with the City of Grand Rapids and the Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce recently signed a letter to our federal representatives regarding the Highway Trust Fund.

DOT Secretary Anthony Fox recently warned state officials that without Congressional action by August 1st, the Federal Highway Administration will begin implementing cash management restrictions that will significantly impact state and local infrastructure projects.

The Highway Trust Fund is expected to be depleted in August. If this happens, states will receive bi-monthly allocations as tax receipts are deposited into the Trust Fund. According to the DOT, this manner of reimbursement will not only exacerbate current problems of traffic congestion and road damage, but could also put at risk about 700,000 jobs.

In addition, MAP-21, the primary financing authorization for transportation will expire in September. The uncertainty of federal funding makes it impossible for states and local governments to conduct long-term asset management for our critical infrastructure needs.

GVMC appreciates the public/private collaboration between our organizations to help resolve this critical issue.