



**New Program Provides  
Additional Funds for  
Transportation Alternatives**

We have been notified that under the new Transportation Alternatives Program an additional \$668,000 will be available to GVMC members. This program is designed by Congress for specific activities that enhance the inter-modal transportation system and provide safe alternative transportation options. Another \$16.5 million is available state-wide and will be administered by MDOT. This is a new program that is competitive in nature and the final rules for awarding funds is not yet finalized.

Eligible Activities Include:

- Safe Routes to Schools
- Facilities for pedestrians and bicyclists
- Safe routes for non-drivers
- Conversion of railroad corridors for trails
- Turnouts, overlooks and viewing areas
- Historic preservation of transportation facilities
- Inventory, control and removal of outdoor advertising
- Vegetation Management
- Archaeological Activities
- Environmental Mitigation

GVMC members are eligible for funding for our allocation. Applications for the state process are currently being finalized. In order to be eligible for the "Safe Routes to Schools" program, a school-based planning process must first take place in order to develop an action plan to make walking and biking safer for kids around a particular school. See [www.saferoutesmichigan.org](http://www.saferoutesmichigan.org) for more information.

The Safe Routes program does not require the normal 20 percent match for transportation funding. All others require the local match and like always a higher local match is given extra consideration. Contact Abed Itani or myself if you have questions.

**GVMC ON THE ROAD**

I recently had the opportunity to be a guest speaker at the West Michigan Regional Planning Commission. My topic of course was GVMC. We discussed our goals, activities, some of the upcoming ballot proposals, how we are organized, REGIS, LGROW, our legislative and transportation priorities, and how GVMC serves local government in our area.

I want to thank GVMC members Wyoming City Councilman Sam Bolt and Grand Rapids City Commissioner Ruth Kelly who also serve on the WMRPC Board for participating in the discussion. At the end of presentation several of members requested to be put on the email list for the GVMC Weekly Update.

We are committed to continuing to promote cooperation and collaboration and are pleased to have the opportunity work with other agencies like the West Michigan Regional Planning Commission.

If you are a member of an organization that might be interested in learning more about Grand Valley Metro Council, please feel free to contact me.

**Reserve Your**



**Quarterly Luncheon**

**Tickets**

for

Oct. 8th with

Attorney General Bill Schuette

Price: \$25.00 per person

RSVP to Gayle at [mccrathg@gvmc.org](mailto:mccrathg@gvmc.org)

**Please Email Your Community's  
Programs and Ideas for  
Cooperation!**