

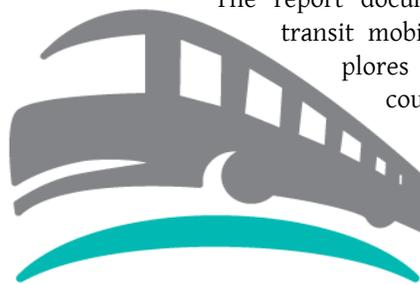
Fall 2015
Volume 4, Issue 4

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Transit Assets Mobility Report Available

TCRPC recently completed a report on our Regional Transit Mobility. The report compliments the Regional Prosperity Initiative (RPI), and is the first phase of a statewide initiative. It was sparked by Governor Snyder's message that, "Michiganders, including many older adults, need regional mobility and transit providers need to become more regionally focused. This is both an urban and rural issue."



The report documents our region's transit mobility assets and explores needs for cross-county or cross-system trips. TCRPC analyzed information available about origin/destination trips, from public participation, and

some economic impacts to assess regional transit mobility conditions. These analyses will allow us to study disbursement of fixed-route and demand-response services as well as locate areas of potential need in our region's transportation network.

Our region's report is in line with a current Michigan Statewide Transit Study led by Michigan 2-1-1, the Michigan Association of United Ways, and the Michigan Department of Transportation's Office of Passenger Transportation. Statewide workshops, facilitated by consultants from KFH Group will help develop a statewide initiative to improve public transportation services. TCRPC's Region #7 Workshop took place on Tuesday September 29. A second opportunity for discussion will be at the [AARP Transportation Summit on October 22 at the East Lansing Hannah Community Center](#). TCRPC's Regional Transit Mobility Report can be found at www.mitrpc.org.

Prosperity Dashboard Updates



MICapitalRegion.com is Prosperity Region 7's dashboard. It provides snapshots of progress toward our region's economic goals. A dashboard works as a barometer of regional prosperity for community leaders and stakeholders. It provides useful and relevant data, encourages interaction and discussion, engages key regional stakeholders, and provides Regional Prosperity Initiative benchmarking.

With the Greater Lansing Regional Prosperity Initiative, the team at Kuntzsch Solutions is updating the year-old website. They will refresh the overall structure and layout of the site to better match

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Ultimate Bus Tour Success

TCRPC hosted its 3rd Annual Ultimate Mid-Michigan Bus Tour on September 23. Forty attendees traveled over 100 miles to visit eleven dynamic locations in Clinton, Eaton and Ingham Counties. The event, organized by TCRPC's Senior Land Use Planner, Harmony Gmazel, successfully showcased our mid-Michigan landscape and the policies that give it shape. Tour sites were chosen for their significance as an economic engine, an example of successful conservation, or a place that sustains a strong sense of community. Each visit included an educational session or tour provided by hosts across the region. The Lonier Family welcomed tour attendees to their working farm on Clark Road in Watertown Charter Township. They spoke about their farm's impact on the region's economy and the support they need from government to ensure that their business is sustainable. The tour included a visit to the ALIVE Center in Charlotte to learn about the im-



portance of native grass plantings and conservation efforts. A delicious, locally-made lunch from Gator Grille was served at Fitzgerald Park in Grand Ledge. There, attendees heard about plans and upcoming programs from the region's three county park department directors. In addition to rural highlights, the tour visited the cities of Charlotte, Mason, and Lansing to see firsthand examples of creative community revitalization efforts. At the end of the day, former

TCRPC Commissioner Dianne Holman hosted a social hour and tour of Working Bugs LLC & Red Cedar Spirits Distillery in East Lansing. TCRPC extends a warm "Thank you!" to the 2015 attendees, hosts and supporters. We look forward to offering such a unique experience to other elected officials and community leaders in the future. For more information, please contact Ms. Gmazel at hgmazel@mitcrpc.org. To see pictures from this year's tour, follow [#UltimateTour2015](https://twitter.com/UltimateTour2015).

Dashboard

purpose with desired outcomes. They will add and update metrics and website functionality. These are helping us increase community engagement by adding qualitative information and sharing regional success stories.

Check in to see the upgrades for yourself and share a success story with us!

Spitzley Elected Vice Chair



TCRPC is pleased to announce that the Michigan Section of American Water Works Association (MIAWWA) elected Chief Environmental Programs Planner Christine Spitzley to be their Vice Chairperson. MIAWWA is a community of water professionals dedicated to treating, delivering, and protecting clean, safe water for Michigan communities. Ms. Spitzley will be the Chair of the Programs Committee for the 2016 MIAWWA Conference. Ms. Spitzley has been an active member of MIAWWA since 1996. She is a past trustee and most recently served as the Chair of the Internal and External Communications Council. She has also been active in the Community Awareness, Education, Strategic Planning and Program Committees. Ms. Spitzley has over twenty-five years of professional experience and she looks forward to her new role with MIAWWA. For more information about the MIAWWA, go to www.mi-water.org or contact Christine at cspitzely@mitcrpc.org.

Opportunities to Give

The holidays are coming up, and TCRPC is participating in two regional drives to help Clinton, Ingham, and Eaton Counties.

Beginning November 2, we will collect donations for the **Greater Lansing Food Bank**, a non-profit organization providing emergency food to individuals and families in need. There will be a collection at our reception desk until November 20—look for the big turkey!

We will also have a drive to collect donations for **Toys for Tots** from November 23 to December 15. Please place unwrapped, new toys under our tree in the lobby or speak to reception about making a monetary donation.

If you are attending a meeting at the TCRPC offices in the upcoming months, consider donating to one or both of these efforts. Follow our drives this holiday season on our Facebook page: [Facebook.com/TriCountyPlanning](https://www.facebook.com/TriCountyPlanning).

Thank You,
TCRPC Staff

Tri-County Commissioners Corner

The Tri-County Regional Planning Commission's board of directors, the Commissioners, met again on the fourth Wednesday evening of the month. The 19 Commissioners are appointed and elected officials from across our three-county region. The Commissioners oversee and coordinate regional transportation and economic development plans, particularly federal and state-funded projects. They also support programs to research and share best practices in environmental protection and land use planning. Their public meetings each month include decision-making on items that come through TCRPC's various committees. Most meetings also include an informational presentation or discussion.

In September, the Commissioners approved amendments to the federally funded Transportation Improvement Program or "TIP." They approved year-end adjustments to the 2015 fiscal year budget and formally adopted the 2016 fiscal year budget, which begins on October 1. The Commissioners also learned about water protection activities that TCRPC staff are working on with regional partners. The Middle Grand River Organization of Watersheds (MGROW) worked with TCRPC Senior Planner Erin Campbell to develop a Heritage Water Trail on the Grand River that is

supported by waterproof information cards and a smart phone app. Chief Environmental Programs Planner Christine Spitzley gave the Commissioners an overview of a soon-to-be-released analysis of this region's water protection programs and initiatives. The "water gap" analysis surveyed and cataloged the many water testing, protection, education, and conservation activities in the region. TCRPC Planners and the regional advisory committee are now analyzing areas of need or redundancy in water quality protection. Christine shared initial study results with the Commissioners. A full report and recommendations will be issued later this fall. The next Commission meeting will be at 7:00 pm on October 28 in the TCRPC offices.

The Commissioners and staff at TCRPC recognize Ralph Monsma for his long and valuable service. Ralph was a TCRPC Commissioner for more than 30 years and we wish him a wonderful retirement.



Thank You!

The book and school supply drive for the Capital Area Literacy Coalition was a great success. Thank you for participating!



Meet Jim Snell, Chief Transportation Planner at TCRPC



The TCRPC welcomes our newly hired Chief Transportation Planner, Jim Snell. With an impressive twenty-six years dedicated to transportation planning, Snell is excited to take on the many opportunities his new job offers. "I have a solid foundation from my previous experiences, but taking that experience and applying it to the specific tasks here at TCRPC is a challenge I am enjoying a great deal."

TCRPC Executive Director Susan M.C. Pigg, CECD facilitated the process to select Snell. "TCRPC conducted a national search and was pleased to find a candidate with excellent experience in transportation planning. He offers us the added bonus of knowing Michigan and our region's transportation concerns quite well."

Snell has extensive experience implementing an automated pavement condition data collection system, Safety Manage-

ment System development and ITS Deployment in the Grand Rapids Area. As a new team member at TCRPC, Snell intends to maintain the department's current stellar caliber of work. "My passion for this work lies in the knowledge that we, as an agency, are doing a good job and our members are happy with the products we produce."

Snell is joining the TCRPC team just in time to release the recently produced the 2040 Regional Transportation Plan. Snell will take the lead on upcoming projects like renewing the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). "He will offer a new perspective of our region," said Pigg. "With Jim's help we will be able to improve the quality of regional transportation planning for the Tri-County region. We look forward to implementing the region's goals for a more sustainable, effective regional transportation network."

For more information about the region's transportation network and our region's transportation plans for the future, visit www.mitrpc.org or contact Jim at jsnell@mitrpc.org.

Sue Says:

TCRPC had a warm, thoughtful summer. We hosted discussions, analyzed our region's needs, and explored opportunities.

Water quality is important to the health of mid-Michigan. We rely on safe groundwater to drink and healthy surface waters support our quality of life. TCRPC's environmental planners convened discussions about our region's waters. They talked about water quality monitoring, how we implement best practices, and how we educate folks about protecting our waters. They went searching for overlaps and inefficiencies in our region's water quality protection. Spoiler alert! They found some gaps instead. They will recommend ways our region can up its game in water protection.

The mobility of mid-Michiganders is important to our economy and prosperity. Transportation users and planners shared their concerns about getting around and through our region. They talked about how people get to work in the next county at all hours. They discussed how public transportation meets the needs of our elderly or disabled residents. They learned that our region has a surprising number of transit options. They started generating ideas to expand and coordinate more transportation services and meet our region's future mobility needs.

The ways we manage growth and regional land use are important to our competitiveness and our future quality of life. In July, a dedicated group of community leaders went exploring for inno-

vative land use approaches. Elected officials, land use planners, housing, and economic developers participated in a national peer exchange. They travelled to Oregon to tour sustainable developments and learn about programs that prevent sprawl and encourage wise land use. They brought back renewed energy to celebrate our region's assets and to "Imagine Mid-Michigan" with a sustainable land use future.

The lush green of summer has bright sparks of color now. Fall is in the air. There is a crisp breeze blowing. I can hear the rustle of change coming to our region. Enjoy the energy of this season!

Sue

Susan M.C. Pigg
TCRPC Executive Director

Don't Miss These Opportunities!

Oct. 8, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Lansing Center — [Creative Placemaking Summit](#)

Oct. 22, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. at the East Lansing Hannah Community Center — [Capital Region Transportation Forum](#)

Nov. 2 - 20, 8:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. at TCRPC Office — Thanksgiving Drive for the [Greater Lansing Food Bank](#)

Nov. 23 - Dec. 15, 8:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. at TCRPC Office — Holiday Drive for [Toys for Tots](#)

Oct. 12, Nov. 11, 26-27 & Dec. 24-25, & 31 — TCRPC Office closed for holidays.

For more information about upcoming events and opportunities, visit www.mitrpc.org.

Transportin' Tibbles

On September 11, Tibbles and TCRPC staff travelled to Leslie to begin developing a pavement asset management plan for the City. When complete, the asset management plan will help city staff develop a cost effective and efficient plan for improving pavement conditions there. TCRPC offers this assistance to any municipality with road ownership in the region. The process is easy to understand. It is also inexpensive to develop and maintain. Contact Laura Tschirhart at LTschirhart@mitrpc.org at TCRPC for more information.

To follow Tibbles' awesome adventures with the planners of the TCRPC, [follow him on Twitter: @TravelinTroll](#).

