

The Mid-Michigan Program for Greater Sustainability

By Tri-County Regional Planning Commission and its many partners
in the Greater Lansing Michigan Region of Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham Counties.

Funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Program

The Tri-County Regional Planning Commission joined with a many partners in the greater Lansing community of Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham Counties to submit a proposal to the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant program. Our proposal, "The Mid-Michigan Program for Greater Sustainability" is awarded \$3 Million over the next three years

for regional planning efforts that integrate housing, land-use, economic and workforce development, transportation, and infrastructure development in a comprehensive and inclusive manner. TCRPC, its local partners, and the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) offered more than \$5,200,000 in local matching contributions of services, expertise, participation and funds to make this program worth over \$8.3 million. With HUD funding and regional community participation, we are empowered to consider how all of these factors will work together to bring economic competitiveness and revitalization to the Greater Lansing three-county region.

Tri-County Regional Planning Commission places a priority on regional collaborations between local governments; social service, neighborhood, and community groups as well as through economic development, arts and culture, and environmental protection efforts. Together, we all bring innovative ideas to the regional planning process. In 2005 the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission completed a regional visioning initiative with our partners. "Regional Growth: Choices for Our Future" produced a recognition by area leaders and residents that we must collaborate to rebuild our strong core cities, support healthy live-able communities in our area, and move our entire region towards economic, social, and environmental sustainability. To date, collaborative efforts by Tri-County's many partners have included master planning, shared services initiatives, housing support and redevelopment programs, increased bike-able, walk-able, and healthy communities initiatives, and efforts to address climate change, energy efficiency, and our regional green infrastructure. This proposal builds on the cooperative momentum in the mid-Michigan region.

With this HUD grant award, our region can fully plan for a regional transformation that manages our declines in population, employment, and fiscal capacity while improving our economic opportunity, social equity, and environmental quality. Through this partnership and support from the HUD Sustainable Communities Planning Grant Program, we will make Mid-Michigan into a 21st century model of sustainability.

For questions, concerns, or to be included as an interested participant in this regionally significant project, please contact us at:

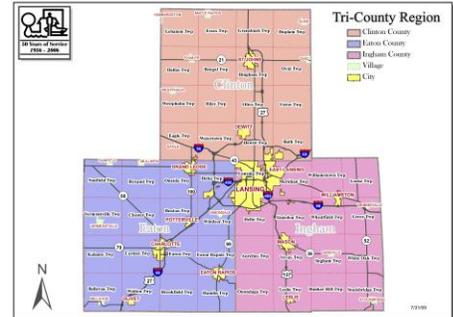


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Planning for the Region since 1956***

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The Mid-Michigan Program for Greater Sustainability

is by the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission and partners for Greater Lansing's region of Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham Counties, Michigan. **Activities are funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Program, Michigan State Housing Development Authority, and our many local partners.**

Over three years beginning in 2012, Tri-County Regional Planning Commission and its lead implementation partners Michigan State University, Greater Lansing Housing Coalition, Mid-Michigan Environmental Action Council, Michigan Energy Options, Michigan State Housing Development Authority, and other local partners including agencies and municipalities, will implement planning activities in Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham Counties to meet the goals of this sustainability planning initiative. The effort will include demonstration projects along the 19-mile Michigan Avenue-Grand River Avenue corridor stretching from the state Capitol through Lansing, East Lansing, Meridian Township, Williamstown Township, City of Williamston, Leroy Township and the Village of Webberville. The corridor includes a range of development areas including urban and small town central business districts, older neighborhoods and student housing, suburban commercial tracts, agricultural and rural areas. It is the region's "main street" with over 1.7 million transit trips annually.

The primary planning products or projects of this grant funded sustainability planning effort will be:

1. **A 5-year Comprehensive Regional Fair and Affordable Housing Plan** for the tri-county region. This project will provide local governments with the data and strategies they need to address trends in housing supply, and demand.
2. **A Regional Affordable Housing Study** to provide an accurate diagnosis of current housing and set practical achievable goals to improve housing affordability across the region.
3. **A Community Reinvestment fund to build capacity** in the region for traditionally underserved and marginalized populations. This fund will support techniques, programs, and initiatives that facilitate involvement by our area's traditionally underserved or marginalized communities in planning and development activities in our community. This effort will influence a change in our regional mindset and increase understanding of the important roles that all of our community members play in revitalizing our region.
4. **Develop an energy audit study of built structures.** Energy audits will be part of a complementary Corridor Design portfolio to educate and offer guidance on sustainable land use and transit developments. This project will provide data and tools for addressing identified energy efficiency issues for various types of buildings.
5. **Build capacity for a regional urban services management area** to address and preserve quality, sustainable public services such as water and sewer throughout the urbanized area while protecting our farmlands, open spaces, and rural quality of life in undeveloped areas. Project 5 will continue to tackle issues of public water and sewer infrastructure extensions and offer recommendations on the efficacy of related policies.
6. **Promote a multi-faceted and prioritized green infrastructure system.** Through our area's Greening of Mid-Michigan project, we worked together to identify our region's 'green' infrastructure-our parks, paths, and natural areas. Now, we continue to identify the benefits of open space and watershed protection while planning sustainable low impact development strategies for the region.
7. **Develop a Sustainable Corridor Design Portfolio.** Our region's 'main street', the Michigan/Grand River Avenue Corridor includes examples of the array of design transects in our region including rural, suburban, urban, small town and city neighborhood. Based on previous regional inventory and analysis, we will develop a best practice toolkit to educate citizens and local officials, developers and others on sustainable planning practices like Complete Streets, Transit Oriented Design, housing access and affordability, greenhouse gas reduction, green infrastructure and many others. With this portfolio, we can provide guidance on land uses and development/redevelopment.
8. **Build capacity for Complete Streets planning and implementation.** Complete Streets integrate multi-modal transportation with traffic calming, safety, and accessibility. This activity will focus on improving safe routes to school and identifying other areas where we can plan change and integrate plans for our transportation infrastructure, land uses, and transit options with access to jobs, housing, and education.
9. **Create an online portal for sharing information, evaluating, and promoting sustainability** efforts in our region and beyond. This new portal will build connections and help us remain connected to share and embrace sustainability practices in our everyday activities.