



Press Release

COMMUNITY VISION FOR LANSING AREA'S REGIONAL MAIN STREET
READY FOR REVIEW – Michigan Avenue/Grand River Avenue Corridor
Charrette Report Announced

Public input invited

Lansing Michigan, February 7, 2014: After two hands-on charrette weeks and more than 2,700+ cumulative person-hours of community participation, the results are in. The Capitol Corridor Vision Report captures the essence of the public input received during the visioning exercise with graphics, photographs and text.

A summary presentation is planned for February 26, 2014 at the Hannah Community Center in East Lansing. Doors will open at 5:30 pm with appetizers available. The feature presentation will begin at 5:45 pm. Immediately following the presentation, the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission will accept comments and questions on the report. The public is encouraged to attend.

The feature presentation will be given by Bill Lennertz of the National Charrette Institute and Victor Dover of Dover, Kohl and Partners. The National Charrette Institute, an expert in collaborative leadership, is the project manager. Dover, Kohl and Partners, a nationally recognized town planning firm is the principal author of the Capitol Corridor Vision Report. Local team partners include Mead & Hunt, Inc. and Landscape Architects and Planners, Inc. – both of Lansing.

The draft report is available for review at www.migrand-charrette.com. Comments on the report are welcome by email at reception@mitcrpc.org.

A charrette week in May considered the 19-mile corridor from Michigan Avenue at the Capitol east to Grand River Avenue through East Lansing, Meridian Township, Williamston and Webberville. An October charrette week took a more detailed look at three focus areas: one around Sparrow Hospital, a second around Frandor and another around the Meridian Mall.

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The Michigan Avenue / Grand River Avenue Corridor design charrette has been, in part, a planning exercise to define a sustainable community vision for this major east-west thoroughfare. It has also been a demonstration project – an opportunity for planners, community leaders and residents in the region to participate in two separate, seven-day charrette weeks.

A charrette is a planning tool that has been described by the National Charrette Institute as a combination between a barn raising and a town meeting. It is an effective planning tool that is being used throughout the US to resolve challenging planning and design questions in a short timeframe.

The Michigan Avenue / Grand River Avenue Corridor design charrette was one of many activities funded and carried out through the Mid-Michigan Program for Greater Sustainability (MMPGS). The MMPGS was created after the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission, with a local consortium of businesses and organizations from Ingham, Eaton, and Clinton counties applied for and received a \$3 million grant from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development. The MMPGS partners are working together to implement nine distinct projects. Each will help communities in the region realize their own visions for building more livable, walkable, and environmentally sustainable regions. For more information, visit www.midmichigansustainability.org.

For more information, contact Susan Pigg, Executive Director of the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission. 517-394-0342 or spigg@mitcrpc.org. Project Website: www.migrand-charrette.com

SAVE THE DATE: A press conference will be held on February 26, 2014 at the Hannah Community Center in East Lansing at 5:00 pm. At this time, leaders of the charrette project will be available for questions and comments from the press including:

- Susan Pigg, Executive Director of the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission
- Bill Lennertz, Director of the National Charrette Institute
- Victor Dover, Principal Partner of Dover Kohl and Partners

Visual images will be available at this event to the press from the summary presentation and the Vision Report. For more information on the press conference, contact Lynn Wilson at 517-243-0065 or lynn.wilson@meadhunt.com.

All meetings offer opportunities for public comment and are open to all. Agendas with locations and further information are available at www.mitcrpc.org.

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