

**U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE PROGRESS REPORT TEMPLATE**

Legal Name:	Tri-County Regional Planning Commission, Lansing MI		
Report Period (from/to):1/1/14 to 6/30/14		Grant Number: MIRIP005611	
POC: Susan Pigg, Exec Director TCRPC		AOR: Steven Cerny, HUD	

I. ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- a. Please describe your progress relative to the milestones scheduled during this reporting period.

**Tri-County Regional Planning Commission HUD Grant #MIRIP005611
A semi-annual summary of work activities
Prepared by S. Pigg and Submitted with as part of Semi-Annual report 7/31/14**

The Mid Michigan Program for Greater Sustainability (MMPGS) successfully completed work tasks and project deliverables during this reporting period of January to June, 2014. We held, hosted, and facilitated many well attended meetings, seminars, and events in support of and to develop our regional sustainability plans. Our June Consortium Gathering, with about 80 participants, was hosted at Agri-Liquid LLC., an agricultural fertilizer company in St. Johns, Clinton County- in the northern area of our region. They have not only built a new Gold LEED certified facility, but they have invested locally to create and retain hundreds of jobs in our region.

The leading accomplishments this report period included successful unveiling of a Vision Plan for the Michigan Avenue-Grand River Avenue Corridor- our regional 'main street'. We completed an extensive study of housing assets and needs. We released test versions of an online Health Impact Assessment tool and an Energy Audit toolkit. A Heritage River Trail inventory and strategic plan development included creation of a smart phone app for a guided Grand River Water Trail. A portfolio or design guidebook of planning and zoning code tools has been drafted and, when complete, will help local communities implement a corridor vision. Safe Routes to Schools awareness is increasing in area school districts due to Complete Streets project outreach and we implemented new mechanisms to drive traffic to our Sustainability Portal- a website at www.midmichgiansustainability.org.

Projects 1 & 2: Affordable Housing Study and Plan

The Affordable Housing Study summary and a collection of data was presented in June to area Housing Task Force partner agencies and organizations, study participants, and the general public in a Seminar Event. Dr. Kim of Michigan State University provided a room of more than 70 participants with an in-depth analysis of regional housing- assets, status, and concerns/issues. The study results are also part of the FHEA development and serve as a basis for the Regional Housing Plan now nearing completion. A promotional campaign to draw in wide participation in the Regional Housing Plan was implemented and includes branding logo, brochures and

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posters, and public service announcements on radio and TV.

Project 3: Community Reinvestment Fund

The Community Reinvestment fund Task Force invited applications for a final round of mini-grants and completed the final reporting collection for grantees from rounds last year. Video clips of some projects are on our website and on partner sites and u-tube (see www.midmichigansustainability.org) on the programs tab to find links. Arrangements have been made to hold two charrettes events with school children in the fall.

Project 4: Energy Study

Energy use profiles of varied building types throughout the test corridor have been completed. Data on energy usage and source of energy was collected from the region's electric utilities and have been entered and geographic layers broken by Traffic Area Zones, which are smaller than census blocks and align well with area municipal boundaries, are also functioning. A trial online tool to view and analyze energy usage by building type is distributed for testing by task force members. When complete, the strategic tool will allow for trying various policy or practice scenarios on energy use and costs to estimate potential impacts.

Project 5: Regional Urban Services Management Area

The Urban Services Management Committee met monthly during this period to identify and discuss specific boundaries for urban services throughout the region's urban-edge municipalities. They have completed participation in developing a Health Impact Assessment tool which is now online for use by the public and officials for assessing the impacts on public health of proposed developments.

Project 6: Greening Mid-Michigan

Videos highlighting the region's green infrastructure including proposed pathway connections and water resources protection activities are in wide distribution. Available on websites, they have also aired on Public Broadcasting Stations (PBS) throughout Michigan. A presentation on the Greening Project was part of a session at the National Association of Regional Councils Annual Conference in Louisville, KY in early June.

Audits of Groundwater Protection Plans were completed and summaries with recommendations for future action are in draft.

Regular meetings with municipal parks and recreation staff continue to identify opportunities to integrate water protection and non-motor trails development with municipal recreation programming.

The Middle of the Grand River Organization of Watersheds (MDGROW)

produced quarterly newsletters on water use and protection issues; continue to implement the public education campaign to protect our region's water resources. www.Pollutionisntpretty.org ; and hosted over 1800 middle school youth at a day long "Children's Water Festival" held on the grounds of Michigan State University in May. A smart phone app was developed with assistance from Michigan State University students, to offer an electronic Heritage Water Trail on the Grand River through this region.

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Project 7: Sustainable Corridor Design Portfolio

Re-cap and summary presentations of the Corridor Vision developed over the past year continue with a target of municipal committees, private business groups, and the general public that reside, work, or visit the Grand River Avenue Corridor. Spiral bound Workbooks of the Corridor Plan were distributed to Planning/zoning offices for use at their permit counters. A portfolio of design and code examples to implement the vision are in near final draft and under review by the Corridor Task Force members.

Applications to present the Corridor Vision and Plan were made and TCRPC will participate in sessions at the Michigan Association of Planners annual conference in October.

Project 7: Student practicum-Michigan State University Planning and Design school students worked with the residents and elected officials in the village of Webberville to develop and present 6 different downtown redevelopment proposals that outlined redevelopment potential projects to improve the community and its economic viability. Posters with drawings, themes and descriptions were well received by the Village Council at public meetings in December.

Project 7: Community Workshops and Audit tool- An online tool for assessing the 'sustainability' characteristics of a municipal zoning ordinance and/or master plan document were developed and is in draft testing now.

Project 8: Complete Streets

The Michigan Fitness Foundation held Non-Motorized Transportation Forums in March and May and have developed proposed bike route loops for key locations throughout the region. These were vetted with cyclist and other groups. They are submitted for inclusion in a regional Long Range Transportation Plan currently in development by the area Metropolitan Planning Organization.

Bicycle Friendly Business Designations continue to be issued as businesses learn about the program and adopt the required practices and equipment.

Project 9 (Online Communications Portal): www.midmichigansustainability.org

The 'portal' website is now fully loaded and functional. It includes summaries of project purposes and their progress. Summer interns initiated a renewal campaign, promoting the site and offering training and encouragements to participate. There has been a marked increase and more diversity in the participation online since May.

The Health Impact Assessment Toolkit is now on the Portal and in use. Promotions of its use are underway.

- b. Please describe the percentage completion for each of the major task categories identified in your negotiated workplan.

Project Task Completion Schedule:

Mid-Michigan Program for Greater Sustainability Project	% Complete as of 8/31/13	Aggregated Work Schedule
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1 Develop a 5 year Comprehensive Fair and Affordable Housing Plan	75%	On time
2 Conduct a Regional Fair and Affordable Housing Study	95%	On time
3 Community Reinvestment Fund	90%	Slightly behind schedule
4 Energy Audits of Built Structures on the Demonstration Corridor	75%	On time
5 Build Capacity for a Regional Urban Services Management Area	85%	On time
6 Greening of Mid- Michigan elements Groundwater Protection Audits Establish regional watershed group Develop regional trails and green infrastructure capacities	85%	Slightly ahead of schedule
7 Demonstration Corridor Design Portfolio	90%	On Time
8 Complete Streets Policy and Program developments	70%	Slightly behind schedule
9 Development of a Communications Portal for regional sustainability	95%	On time
OVERALL MMPGS Progress	85%	On time

c. Please describe your progress with contract and sub-award management, including any issues you are experiencing or anticipating:

At present there are no concerns with the sub-recipient contracts nor various other contracts. All work is now on schedule and in align with contracted costs.

d. Please provide an update with regards to the project's match/leverage commitments.

We continue to improve our reporting of Matching Contributions. Most of our small match contributors have now caught up or have fully reported their match. The concern with reporting match continues for our largest match commitment. But a number of unexpected match contributions have been now reported and improve our rate considerably.

e. Please identify newly developed or existing collaborations and the progress they experienced during the reporting period.

Our extensive collaborations with consortium partners continues to expand and we

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now can count more than 60 organizations and agencies in our close collaboration.

A small group of leaders from our regional program participated in Leadership Training sessions offered by a HUD Capacity Contractor. Held in Arlington, VA this spring, the team gained a number of new resource partners for our collaboration. Also, through our Corridor Plan project which highlighted and renewed efforts to establish a Bus Rapid Transit Route in our regional corridor, we have secured more regular and active involvement by transit and highways planning staff at the Michigan Department of Transportation as well as the Federal Highways Administration and Federal Transit Administration.

The Development Firm that has acquired a large lot, a former municipal golf course in the 'Frاندor" area of our regional Corridor has become actively engaged and hired additional professionals to facilitate a design Charrettes series to seek public input into their development plans for the area. They used our data and information and built upon it with more detail for their development proposal.

- f. **Please describe progress with outreach, engagement, and decision-making activities targeting populations traditionally marginalized in the planning process (include costs spent on these activities):**

We continued to see increases in the number and frequency of participation from underserved populations this report period, particularly through the Housing Study and Plan development activities, the Greening Trails development, and the Safe Routes to School activities which are connecting with Parent Teacher Organizations as well as school district officials. Through presentations and cross-purposed meetings, we have expanded our partnerships with the Power of We, a coalition of social services agencies serving our region. Director Pigg now sits on their alignment committee (advisory board).

II. CHALLENGES AND EFFORTS TO OVERCOME THEM:

- a. **Scheduled Milestones/Targets that were not achieved:**
None

- b. **Management deficiencies:**
We have implemented improved reports of in-kind matching contributions. We continue to seek professional engineering expertise as needed for non-motorized path and trails development assistance.

- c. **Deviations from the Work Plan**
None this period.

- d. **Detail the actions you will take to address identified deficiencies or workplan deviations described above (include what is to be done, who is responsible, and when it is due).**

We continue to monitor all projects and maintain communications to adjust course or resolve concerns before they limit our effectiveness in meeting work plan goals.

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III. ANALYSIS OF WORK TO DATE

a. What lessons are you learning as you move forward that will strengthen this process? *What assumptions about planning for sustainability are being confirmed and which are being challenged as you move forward? Can you apply these lessons into your work in real time?*

Meaningful and proactive efforts to involve underserved populations in planning decision making can be challenging and requires constant effort. It continues to be important to identify and recognize that concepts of sustainability must extend well beyond the reach of “environmental protection” and that planning for a sustainable future is more challenging than just “acting sustainable” when it is obvious or convenient. Sustainability is a long-term planning concept that must be embedded in all areas of planning practice.

b. Are you staying on target for the overall goal of the initiative? *To what extent are the overall program outcomes and workplan deliverables a helpful reference point?*

Yes. The Work Plan is a critical reference point and we use it every day to guide decision making. The overall program outcomes of sustainability over a three year grant will be more difficult to demonstrate in such a short term. We can demonstrate participation, but not all outcomes.

c. What evidence do you have that this plan will translate to concrete impact and actual implementation in the months and years to come? *Has the quality of the implementation taken on a different character because of the approach that you have taken in the planning process (e.g., emphasis on engagement and equity)?*

The continued growth and diversity of people participating in all various aspects of our MMPGS indicate that it is a “practice of sustainability” that is becoming embedded into our community culture. The concern that there are not enough “ribbon cutting” or single sound-bite events may actually suggest that we are creating a new norm of sustainability planning.

IV. NEED TO AMEND THE COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT:

	Yes/No	Explanation/Reason for Deviation
Scope	NO	
Schedule	YES	Housing Study is complete now and the Plan deliverables are on time. Community Reinvestment fund has added another round to complete the fund use. The Energy Audit reports and summaries are now in testing and near completion.

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Budget	YES	Matching funds offered by the Greater Lansing Housing Coalition and the Ingham County Land Bank included the value of some properties. We have ascertained that this may be inappropriate/unacceptable .We submitted a request to reduce the match commitment accordingly.
Key Staff or AOR	NO	

V. Need for Technical Assistance

We hope to find more funding sources to continue our work when the planning grant ends next period. We continue to seek expertise in sharing and describing our large and diverse planning program effectively to our many audiences.

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 1.5 hours. This includes the time for collecting, reviewing, and responding to questions. The information is being collected for mandatory semi-annual reporting and will be used for tracking implementation of HUD-approved work plans. Response to this request for information is required in order to receive the benefits to be derived. This agency may not collect this information, and you are not required to complete this form unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. No confidentiality is assured.