





# East Michigan Council of Governments

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### **East Michigan Council of Governments**

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# East Michigan Council of Governments

## HISTORY OF THE REGION

*East Central Michigan Planning & Development Regional Commission began in 1968 as an U. S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration (EDA) federal Economic Development District (EDD).*

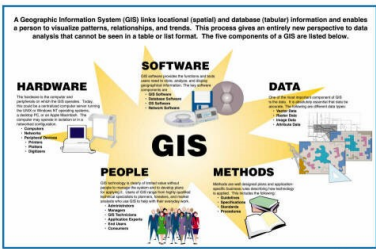
The roots of the East Central Michigan Planning & Development Regional Commission (ECMPDRC) reach back to the formal establishment of the East Central Michigan Economic Development District (ECMEDD) in March of 1968. The office operations began with the receipt of a grant from the U. S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration authorizing the entity as a Economic Development District. The ECMEDD originally operated as an EDD until January 1973 when it became a state designated regional planning agency.

The ECMEDD was originally drawn together for the purpose of creating a multi-purpose, multi-jurisdictional voluntary organization of county representatives to discuss mutual problems, and together, seek solutions to those problems. The purpose of the EMCPDRC encompassed that of the ECMEDD and, its primary goal to promote intergovernmental collaboration, cooperation, coordination and to assist local government in protecting itself utilizing our assistance so that they might better govern themselves.

ECMPDRC was instrumental in the orderly growth of the 14 county region and for an investment of over \$63,000,000 in USDOC/EDA funding. Over the years, the RPC/EDD has been involved in a diverse range of planning activities, ranging from Economic Development, Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice planning to the EPA funded 208 Water quality Plan for the 14 counties within the Saginaw Bay Watershed and with many more planning activities in between. The RPC has developed regional plans and studies to assist in developing the vision for the region's future. ECMPDRC also has worked closely with local member communities on a range of planning activities, and, in accordance with their needs and wishes.

ECMPDRC provided data and multi-purpose comprehensive planning and consultation services to many public and private sector organizations. Financial support was provided from federal, state and local member units of government.

In 2009, the EMCPDRC formally changed its internal structure from an RPC to that of a Council of Governments. With that restructuring also came a name change which was unanimously approved of by our members and the U. S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration. In 2009 the East Central Michigan Planning & Development Regional Commission officially became the East Michigan Council of Governments.





# East Michigan Council of Governments

## Economic Development



EMCOG is a U. S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration Economic Development District (EDD) covering 14 counties in east central Michigan. Federal Economic Development Representatives (EDR's) working for the USDOC/EDA are spread extremely thin. Currently there is one (1) EDR to cover all of Michigan and Ohio. Because of this situation, Regional staff act as liaisons between local units of government and the Federal EDR.



As part of his/her responsibilities, the regional economic development program manager works with the EMCOG Regional Economic Development Team (RED Team) to create the annual update to the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). Inclusion of projects within the CEDS makes them eligible for funding from EDA if the project meets federal criteria.



The RED Team is a standing committee of the Full Council and is also charged with examining economic issues of regional importance. The RED Team's core group consists of one member from each of the Region's 14 counties. RED Team membership however is not limited to just Regional Commissioners. Representatives from the private sector, special districts, education etc., are encouraged to join.

Regional staff are responsible for research to ensure awareness of the most economic policies, develops, maintains and disseminates an extensive data base complete with updated demographic and socio-economic for member counties and responds to requests from public and private users as well.

Staff also provides community/organizational technical assistance and support for planning and implementing economic development projects that diversify and strengthen the District's economy.



EMCOG economic development staff also worked with MSU CCED and the Eastern Upper Peninsula Regional Planning Commission to finalize a regional Export Strategy for the two Regions.

### ECM Prosperity Region 5—Regional Prosperity Plan

In 2014, EMCOG applied for and received a grant offered by the State of Michigan through the Department of Treasury, Management and Budget designed to encourage local private, public and not for profit partners to create a unified economic plan that will support vibrant regional economies. EMCOG applied on behalf of the 8 counties designated as Prosperity Region 5—Arenac, Bay, Clare, Gladwin, Gratiot, Isabella, Midland and Saginaw. The grant awards are being utilized to formalize a collaborative relationship among local and regional partners to create a unified regional strategy for economic prosperity. Having a "Prosperity Plan" ensures that the State of Michigan invests in the success of our regions, their local communities and our economy in ways that are meaningful to the people who work, play and do business there every day.



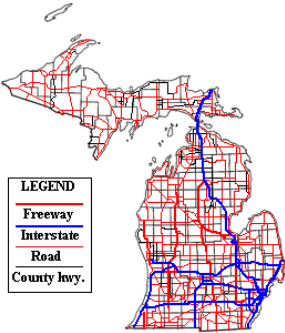
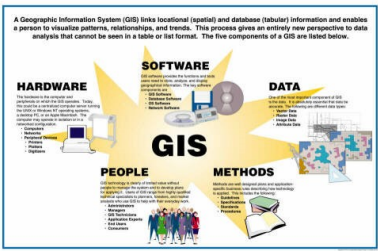
# East Michigan Council of Governments

## Transportation

EMCOG receives an annual Regional Transportation Planning grant from the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) as well as additional funding for projects involving local technical assistance, public involvement, Highway Performance Monitoring Systems, Rural Task Forces, direct assistance to MDOT, etc.

Transportation-related activities:

- Asset Management Pavement Assessment for the 14 counties
- Asset Management PASER surface rating for a number of local municipalities
- Internet Reporting Training for local units to report on transportation related projects
- BCATS and SMATS MPO Policy Committee voting board member
- M-15 Heritage Route technical assistance; to Management Committee including development of the Corridor Management Plan
- Safe-Routes-To-Schools
- National & International Award winning Bay Region Non-Motorized Bike Map;
- Completion of the Non-Motorized Regional Plan for the 13 county MDOT Bay Region
- Management of the Public Participation process for the Rural Task Forces within EMCOG in order to ensure compliance with Federal Highways and MDOT requirements.
- Rural Traffic Safety
- Management of the Rural Task Force process
- **Recipient:** NADO “Excellence in Regional Transportation Award” to the EMCOG Transportation, Land Use & GIS Committee (TLAG) for promoting regional collaboration and Intergovernmental Coordination.” This is the first Committee of its kind in the nation with an ever evolving work program and priority focus areas as determined by the Committee.





# East Michigan Council of Governments

## Heritage Routes (Byways)

Over the years, EMCOG has provided staff expertise to three critical highway corridors; two of which are officially recognized by the State as State Heritage Routes/Byways (US-23 and M-15). These corridors provide resources in heritage tourism, recreation, land use, landscape preservation and economic development. M-15 and the US-23 Huron Side (formerly known as Sunrise Side) Heritage Routes are unique collaborative planning opportunities. Currently, EMCOG provides direct technical and planning assistance only to the M-15 Heritage Route Management Committee.

Established by the Michigan Legislature in 1993, the Michigan Heritage Route Program (now known as the Byways Program) is a grass-roots effort uniting local residents, their government officials, landowners and interested groups in a common cause to preserve the state's unique scenic, historic or recreational highways. This Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) program helps ensure that the rich heritage of local highways and roadsides continues to play an important role in improving Michigan's economy and quality of life.

Michigan residents have an exciting opportunity as individuals, groups or entire communities to come together and bridge their common interests in moving Michigan forward. There are three categories of Heritage Routes:

- Scenic - a state highway having outstanding natural beauty
- Historic - a state highway having outstanding historic buildings and resources along its length
- Recreational - a state highway maintained to serve the recreational driver as well as to capture that recreational setting of the facility or area itself, and set the mood for the recreational experience

EMCOG remains involved in MDOT's Heritage Route program. For additional information, please contact Sue Fortune, Executive Director at [sfortune@emcog.org](mailto:sfortune@emcog.org)





# East Michigan Council of Governments

## Local Planning Assistance



EMCOG has on staff professionals with expertise to assist local units of government in a number of planning areas. One of those areas is in the preparation of Master plans, Recreation plans, Energy plans, Zoning ordinances or review, grant writing services or review. Development of these plans increasingly allow local units to pursue other opportunities or potential funding; especially in the area of Recreation planning. The Council does not compete with the private sector for this business but is available upon specific request.



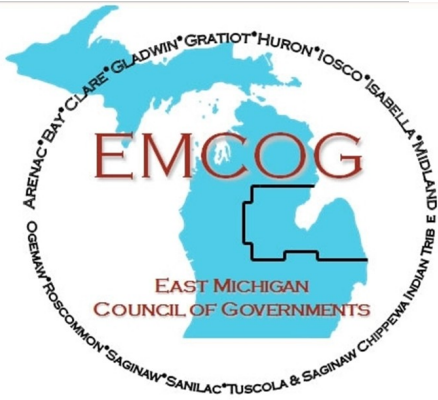
Following are recent Local Planning Assistance projects undertaken on behalf of EMCOG constituents.

- **Village of Breckenridge (Gratiot County) Recreation Plan**
- **Gladwin County Master Plan**
- **Hazard Mitigation Plans (6 counties)**
- **Arenac County Master Plan**
- **Deep River Master Plan, Recreation Plan and Zoning Ordinance**
- **Secord Township Master Plan update**



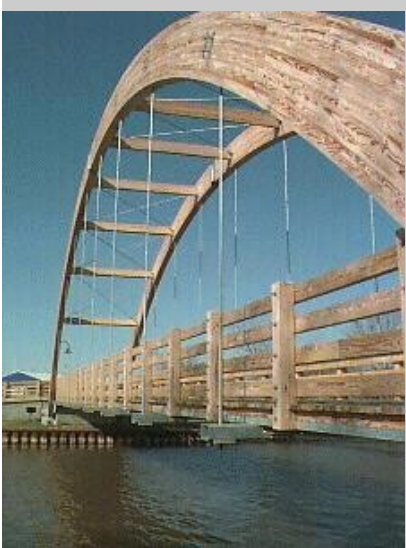
For additional information on LTA services, pricing, etc, please contact the office at 989-797-0800.





# East Michigan Council of Governments

## Coastal Zone Management



EMCOG has worked on and been involved with Environmental and Water Quality issues since 1975. Beginning in 2008, the Council worked in concert with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, Coastal Zone Management Division on three projects. They were:

- **Tuscola County Coastal Needs Study**

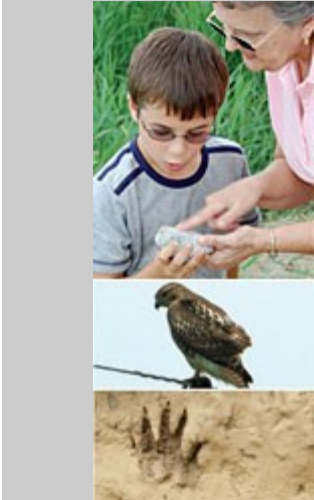
EMCOG worked with local representatives from Tuscola County, MDEQ/CZM, MDNR, Michigan Sea Grant and local entrepreneurs to do a coastal analysis of the facilities currently available in the County. This project was done because the County is in need of expanded economic development possibilities and it was the desire of the County/Committee to explore ways to enhance that capacity. This project included a land use, economic, zoning, infrastructure and marketing analyses.

- **Arenac County Coastal Access Study (and brochure)**

EMCOG completed a Coastal Access brochure under a MDEQ/CZM grant. The Arenac County EDC and EMCOG worked closely on this program which included the development of a list of public coastal access points for potential increased tourism and economic development promotion within the area.

- **Saginaw Bay Coastal Resource Guide**

EMCOG developed the Saginaw Bay Coastal Resource Guide. The Guide consist of several GIS layers. EMCOG was assisted in this process by an advisory committee of DEQ and DNR staff and Saginaw Bay coastal community representatives, county officials, Land Conservancies, MI Sea Grant and recreation, tourism and conservation organizations. This Guide is designed to serve as a reference and resource guide for coastal land use, conservation, recreation and tourism planning and economic development.







# East Michigan Council of Governments

## ***EMCOG Officers***

**2013-2014**

**William Rhode, Chairperson**

**Kathy Methner, 1st Vice-Chairperson**

**Robert Moffit, 2nd Vice-Chairperson**

**Carol Wetzel, Secretary**

**Zygmunt Dworzecki, Treasurer**

## ***EMCOG Staff***

**Sue Fortune, Executive Director**  
[sfortune@emcog.org](mailto:sfortune@emcog.org)

**Lynne Parker, Office Manager/  
Planning Assistant**  
[lparker@emcog.org](mailto:lparker@emcog.org)

**Jane Fitzpatrick, Program Manager—Economic Development**  
[jfitzpatrick@emcog.org](mailto:jfitzpatrick@emcog.org)

**David Engelhardt, Program Manager—Transportation, Land use/GIS**

[dengelhardt@emcog.org](mailto:dengelhardt@emcog.org)

**William (Bill) Ernat, Regional Planner-Hazard Mitigation**  
[bernat@emcog.org](mailto:bernat@emcog.org)

## ***Other***

### **FEDERAL PROJECT REVIEW/SINGLE POINT OF CONTACT (SPOC)—SUB-STATE CLEARINGHOUSE REVIEW (E.O. A-12372)**

Since its establishment as a Regional Commission/Council, EMCOG has served as the SPOC for Sub-State Clearinghouse Review for projects submitted from within the Regional area to various granting agencies for funding. All projects, subject to E. O. A-12372, must be submitted for Regional review as part of the review/funding process. This review determines consistency with regional goals, policies and objectives. The Council does not provide a specific review for non-member projects but the projects are assigned a number as part of the process. Applicants must contact the appropriate State (SEMCOG) Single Point of Contact to find out about, and to comply with, the State's process under Executive Order 12372.

### **CDBG GRANT ADMINISTRATION**

EMCOG staff are certified to administer MEDC-awarded CDBG grants.

### **CENSUS AFFILIATE**

EMCOG is the Census affiliate for the 14 counties. EMCOG's Data Information Clearinghouse provides easy access to useful data, map sources and publications for members. The office maintains detailed data breakdowns of per capita, per capita trends, population and land mass, economic indicators, economic impacts on prison closures, County property tax percent comparisons by classifications, detailed demographic trends, population projections, individual county economic data breakdowns and analysis to name a few.



### **REGIONAL FOOD SYSTEMS ASSESSMENT PLAN**

EMCOG has been instrumental in developing a regional food systems assessment through USDA grant funding in 2011-2012. We were the pilot program in the State of Michigan. This Plan not only enables detailed research on food and farm economies but also plans for future actions to strengthen growth and spread awareness about local food systems. EMCOG has been funded in 2014 to complete Phase II of the Regional Food Assessment Plan.





# East Michigan Council of Governments (EMCOG)

## *The Council Today*

**T**he East Michigan Council of Governments (EMCOG) is one of fourteen multi-jurisdictional State Planning & Development Regions (SPDRs) in Michigan. In Michigan, regions were created under a 1968 Executive Order by the Governor, then organized as either Commissions or Councils of Government by Resolution in 1973 and enabled by Michigan Public Act 281 of 1945, as amended. EMCOG is also a federally created Economic Development District under the purview of the U. S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration (USDOC/EDA).

EMCOG was originally known as the East Central Michigan Planning & Development Regional Commission (ECMPDRC). In October 2009, the ECMPDRC voted unanimously to reorganize itself as a Council of Governments. Official recognition of that change was granted by our federal host agency, U. S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration in September 2009. Changing from an RPC to a COG has allowed for increased program and membership flexibility and benefits.

EMCOG federal economic district serves the counties of: Arenac, Bay, Clare, Gladwin, Gratiot, Huron, Iosco, Isabella, Midland, Ogemaw, Roscommon, Saginaw, Sanilac and Tuscola as well as the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan. Membership is voluntary. We are a not-for-profit professional planning resource.

EMCOG is staffed by professional planners that work directly within program areas funded by agencies such as: MDOT, USDA, USDOC/EDA, DNR-E, USGS, EPA, et al. EMCOG also provides local technical or management assistance, serves as an intergovernmental forum to address regional issues and administers programs its membership deems appropriate while remaining consistent with adopted region-wide planning and development goals and policies.





# East Michigan Council of Governments

## *Chairman's Report*

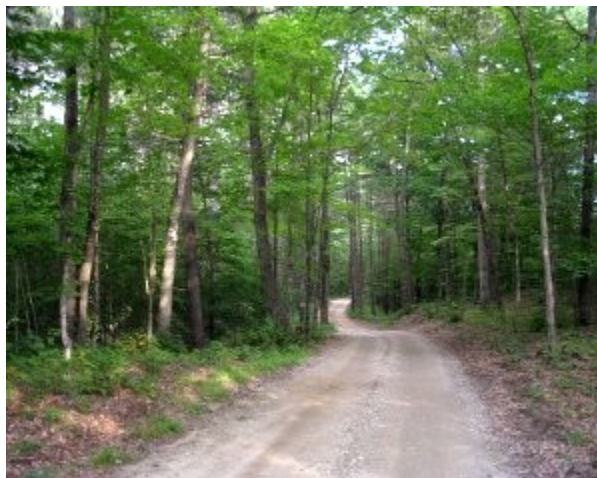
Local, regional and world events are changing at an unprecedented rate as are the challenges faced by local, state, and federal governments. At the State level these changes have led to a rethinking of regional approaches as an efficient and powerful way to approach these challenges. Today, there is renewed focus on areawide/regional approaches to comprehensive planning as well as the potential for local shared services as a way to maximize efficiency, save money and strengthen local government. EMCOG has become a center focus for this regional innovation. We welcome this challenge and opportunity.

EMCOG has refocused its mission, purpose and ability to deliver services over the past year. Additionally, each year we have continued to develop our expertise and ability to respond to requests for service, technical assistance and intergovernmental coordination, collaboration and cooperation.

We hope you find this Catalog informative. If you have never utilized our services, we hope this report encourages you to call. For our valued members, who we count on for advice, collaboration and inspiration, we thank you for another progressive and successful year.

Sincerely,

***William Rhode, Chairman***





# East Michigan Council of Governments

## *From the Director*

The East Michigan Council of Governments (EMCOG) is pleased to provide this summary of our activities and projects.

This report is designed to showcase accomplishments on behalf of our member localities. We are proud of the work we do for each of our fourteen member localities. Many of the things we do on an annual basis for the local jurisdictions take place “under the radar,” even though these activities represent some of our best work.

Sincerely,

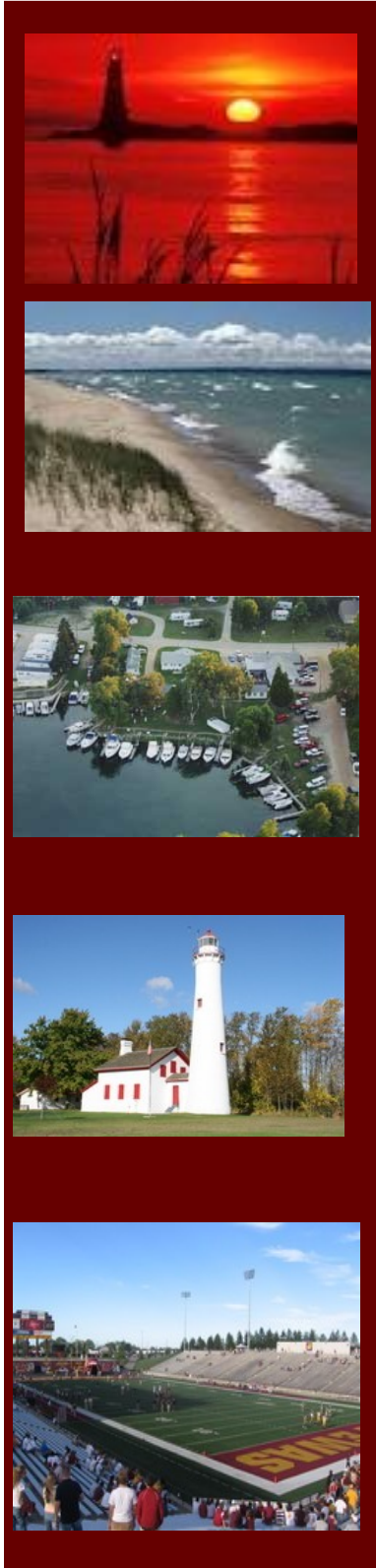
*Sue Fortune*  
*Executive Director*





# East Michigan Council of Governments

## *The 2013-2014 Members*



**Arenac**  
David Munson (BOC)  
Curt Hillman (EDC)

**Bay**  
Sharon Stalsberg (Pinconning Twp.)  
JoElla Krantz (City of Auburn)

**Clare**  
Lynn Grim (BOC)  
Tracy Byard (BOC)

**Gladwin**  
William Rhode (BOC) (EMCOG  
Chair)  
Robert Moffit (City of Gladwin)

**Gratiot**  
Carol Wetzel (GGDC) - EMCOG Sec-  
retary  
Scott Showers (BOC)

**Iosco**  
Jay O'Farrell (BOC)

**Isabella**  
Tim Nieporte (County)  
Kathy Methner (Michigan Works) &  
(EMCOG 2nd Vice Chair)

**Ogemaw**  
Ron Quakenbush (BOC)  
Mandi Chasey (Michigan Works)

**Roscommon**  
Rosalie Myers (EDC)  
Marc Milburn (BOC)

**Saginaw**  
Steve Jonas (SFI)  
Dwayne Parker (Buena Vista Twp.)

**Sanilac**  
Lou LaPonsie (Marlette)  
Clint Holmes (Brown City)

**Tuscola**  
Zygmunt Dworzecki (Akron) - EMCOG  
Treasurer  
Steve Erickson—EDC

## ***STAFF***

**Sue Fortune, Executive Director**  
**Jane Fitzpatrick, Program Manager (Economic Development)**  
**David Engelhardt, Program Manager (Transportation)**  
**William (Bill) Ernat—Regional Planner (Hazard Mitigation)**  
**Lynne Parker, Office Manager/Planning Assistant**



# East Michigan Council of Governments

## *Local Technical Assistance*

### *CLIENT PROJECTS*

#### Arenac County

- Deep River Township Master Plan, Recreation Plan and Zoning Ordinance (2013-2014)
- Arenac County Master Plan (2011)
- Big Creek Watershed Project
- Arenac County Solid Waste Plan (including updates)
- Whitney Township Master Plan
- City of Standish Master Plan
- Lincoln Township Master Plan & Zoning Ordinance Update
- US-23 Heritage Route project
- Arenac County Hazard Mitigation Plan
- Arenac County Asset Management Pavement Assessment (2003-2014)
- EDA funding eligibility
- Regional Prosperity Plan (2014)

#### Bay County

- City of Auburn Recreation Plan
- Pinconning Township Parks Plan
- Williams Township Recreation Plan
- Merritt Township Recreation Plan
- EDA funding eligibility while members
- Regional Prosperity Plan (2014)

#### Clare County

- Hamilton Township Master Plan & Zoning Ordinance
- Clare County Master Plan
- Clare County Hazard Mitigation Plan
- Clare County Asset Management Pavement Assessment (2003-2014)
- EDA funding eligibility
- Regional Prosperity Plan (2014)

#### Gladwin County

- Billings Township Master Plan
- Gladwin County Recreation Plan
- Gladwin County Comprehensive Master Plan Update (2007-2012)
- Gladwin County Solid Waste Management Plan (including updates)
- Second Township Zoning Ordinance & Master Plan-2013-2014
- Gladwin County Hazard Mitigation Plan
- Gladwin County Asset Management Pavement Assessment (2003-2014)
- EDA funding eligibility
- Regional Prosperity Plan (2014)

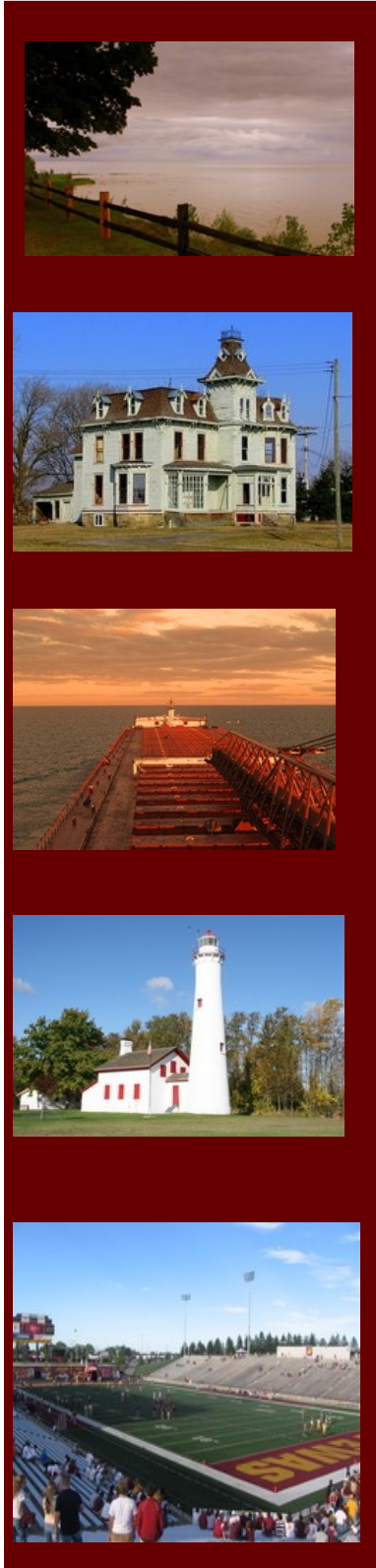


*LTA PROJ.*





# East Michigan Council of Governments



## Gratiot County

- Village of Breckenridge Recreation Plan—2008
- Wheeler Township Ordinance
- Wheeler Township Master Plan
- Gratiot County Asset Management Pavement Assessment (2003-2014)
- EDA funding eligibility
- Regional Prosperity Plan—2014

## Huron County

- Caseville Township Recreation Plan
- Huron County Solid Waste Management Plan
- M-53 Transportation Corridor Study
- Huron County Asset Management Pavement Assessment (2003-2014)
- M-25 Attribute Study
- EDA funding eligibility while members

## Iosco County

- Iosco County Master Plan
- Alabaster Township Master Plan
- Iosco County Solid Waste Management Plan (including updates)
- Iosco County Hazard Mitigation Plan
- US-23 Heritage Route Corridor Study
- Iosco County Asset Management Pavement Assessment (2003-2014)
- EDA funding eligibility

## Isabella County

- Isabella County Hazard Mitigation Plan Update (2013-2014)
- Fremont Township Zoning Ordinance
- Union Township Parks & Recreation Plan
- City of Mt. Pleasant Traffic Study (CMU campus)
- M-20 Corridor Study
- City of Mt. Pleasant Access Management study
- Isabella County Asset Management Pavement Assessment (2003-2014) (selected streets)
- EDA funding eligibility
- Regional Prosperity Plan—2014

## Midland County

- M-20 Corridor Study
- M-30 Corridor Study
- Midland County Asset Management Pavement Assessment (2003-2013)
- EDA funding eligibility while members
- Regional Prosperity Plan—2014

## Ogemaw County

- Ogemaw County Master Plan
- Ogemaw County Recreation Plan
- Ogemaw County Solid Waste Management Plan (including updates)
- Ogemaw County Hazard Mitigation Plan
- Ogemaw County Asset Management Pavement Assessment (2003-2014)
- EDA funding eligibility
- Mills Township: Grant assistance



# East Michigan Council of Governments



## Roscommon County

Roscommon County Solid Waste Management Plan (including updates)  
 Higgins Lake Partnership Project  
 Roscommon County Hazard Mitigation Plan  
 Roscommon County Asset Management Pavement Assessment (2003-2014)  
 Denton Township Recreation Plan (2007)  
 EDA funding eligibility

## Saginaw County

City of Saginaw Parks and Recreation Master Plan  
 Zilwaukee Master Plan  
 City of Saginaw Parks and Recreation Plan Update (1997)  
 City of Saginaw Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update (2002)  
 EDA funding eligibility while members  
 Regional Prosperity Plan—2014

## Sanilac County

Sanilac County Solid Waste Management Plan (including updates)  
 Sanilac County Solid Waste Management Plan Amendment - 1997  
 Sanilac County Hazard Mitigation Plan  
 Sanilac County Asset Management Pavement Assessment (2003-2014)  
 M-25 Attribute Study  
 Flynn Township grant application review and technical support  
 EDA funding eligibility while members

## Tuscola County

Tuscola County Needs Study—2008  
 Arbela Township Master Plan  
 Fairgrove Township Zoning Ordinance & Land Use Plan  
 City of Vassar Parks & Recreation Plan & Community Survey  
 Owendale Master Plan  
 Tuscola County Solid Waste Management Plan (including updates)  
 Tuscola County Asset Management Pavement Assessment (2003-2014)  
 Review of Tuscola County Development Plan (2008)  
 Work on reopening Vanderbilt Park (2007-2008)  
 M-25 Attribute Study (Heritage Route designation)  
 EDA funding eligibility while members

## Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe

Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe Economic Development Strategy  
 Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe Land Acquisition Strategy  
 Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe Marketing Strategy

## Other:

Saginaw Bay Coastal Resource Guide—2010  
 MDOT Bay Region Bike Map—Update (2013)