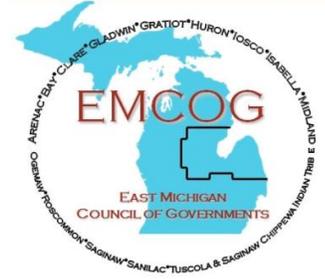


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TO: EMCOG Council and RED Team

FROM: Jane Fitzpatrick, Economic and Community Development Programs Manager

DATE: For March 5, 2021 Meetings

RE: Integrated Economic and Community Development Activities

1. EMCOG FILLS A NEW POSITION, BRINGING SOMEONE BACK HOME TO MICHIGAN

EMCOG received funding from the Department of Commerce EDA CARES Act Supplemental for a new position in support of my work in the implementation of the Pandemic Response and Resiliency Program (PRRP), which is funded by the United States Economic Development Administration (EDA). The PRRP will create an addenda to the region's new Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy or CEDS (see item 5 in this memorandum) and multi-jurisdictional hazard mitigation plans. We have selected someone to fill this position, Cynthia Edwards, who has substantial experience in data analysis and mapping and report presentations in the public sector – community and economic development. She currently lives in Florida and is excited to be coming home to Michigan. Her first day with EMCOG was February 22nd. I am excited to be working with her on this project.

2. EMCOG TRANSPORTATION MANAGER RETIRES

Speaking of staff changes - As announced at our January 15th Council and RED Team meeting, Dave Engelhardt, our transportation manager, is retiring at the end of February. We will miss him. Many of you interacted with him through his rural task force and MPO liaison work throughout the region. As we adjust to his absence and prepare to fill his position any questions regarding the various transportation programs should be directed to our Executive Director, Sue Fortune. sfortune@emcog.org or 989-797-0800, ext 11.

3. EDA RESOURCES

The Department of Commerce EDA website includes several resources such as:

Economic Development Directory with links to EDA regional office contacts, state government contacts, and EDD (such as EMCOG), TAAC, RLF, University Centers and Tribal planning organizations; **Grantee Information** (general information for grantees); Indirect Costs (overview, definitions, instructions); **Research Reports** (best practices and reports and projects funded by EDA); and **Tools for Economic Development**. Information regarding these EDA resources can be found at www.eda.gov/resources

4. INTEGRATED ASSET MANAGEMENT – ASSET MANAGEMENT READINESS

The Asset Management Readiness Assessment Scale tool was officially released on February 20, 2020 by the Michigan Infrastructure Council (MIC). The Michigan Infrastructure Council will be releasing a first quarter report (October – December, 2020) of the assessments completed during this time frame. **To date seventeen (17) infrastructure owners from EMCOG cities, villages, townships and counties have submitted their assessments.**

Infrastructure owners such as local communities, water authorities, road commissions, public or private utilities and communications companies can receive help to understand, measure and advance their asset management proficiencies through this tool using metrics that are consistent throughout the State.

The “Scale” is based on five (5) asset management competencies:

1. People and Leadership;
2. Data and Information;
3. Planning and Prioritization;
4. Policy and Governance; and
5. External Communication and Knowledge Sharing

The MIC IS partnering with the Michigan Association of Regions to help train infrastructure owners with *The Scale* and to collect results that will guide regional and state policy as well as to target resources. EMCOG is assisting with this initiative.

To learn more about the MIC and to download the Asset Management Readiness Scale go to www.michigan.gov/mic. There are also instructional videos at this same website. EMCOG is available to provide guidance to infrastructure owners to complete the Scale and confidentially submit scores. Any data voluntarily provided to EMCOG and/or MIC will be de-identified and be used only in aggregate format to help develop statewide infrastructure asset management policy. You may also contact me directly at jfitzpatrick@emcog.org

4. EMCOG NEW 5-YEAR CEDS APPROVED JANUARY 15, 2021

On January 15, 2021 the EMCOG Council authorized the Regional Economic Development Team (RED Team) and staff to finalize and submit the 2021-2025 CEDS to EDA Chicago. The RED Team convened immediately after the Council meeting to finalize and approve the CEDS.

Approval of the 2021-2025 CEDS is the result of a year long process which began in January of 2020. TIP Strategies, Inc. assisted in the development of the CEDS document with support from EMCOG for both the development as well as facilitation of the stakeholder/public participation. Attendance at 35 public CEDS development meetings from January of 2020 to January of 2021 totaled over 350 participants. Due to the pandemic, these meetings switched to a virtual format beginning in March of 2020.

Post Approval – Now What? Following approval of the new CEDS on January 15th, EMCOG and the RED Team hosted an implementation workshop with breakout groups consistent with the five focus areas of the CEDS: Infrastructure, Workforce, Innovation, Place-making, and Economic Development. The results of this workshop will begin to fill out the CEDS Implementation Matrix by identifying those actions that can be started within the first 60 days along with the implementation partners. CEDS Implementation will be a standing agenda item for the RED Team beginning at their next meeting on March 5th. All meetings are open to the public.

How to View the CEDS - You can view or download the new 2021-2025 CEDS document at www.emcog.org. See the Economic & Community Development section of the website for details and to view or download a copy of the 2021-2025 CEDS. For information on the CEDS or other economic and community development initiatives please contact Jane Fitzpatrick at jfitpatrick@emcog.org