



The Role of Regions in Strengthening Local Governments and the State

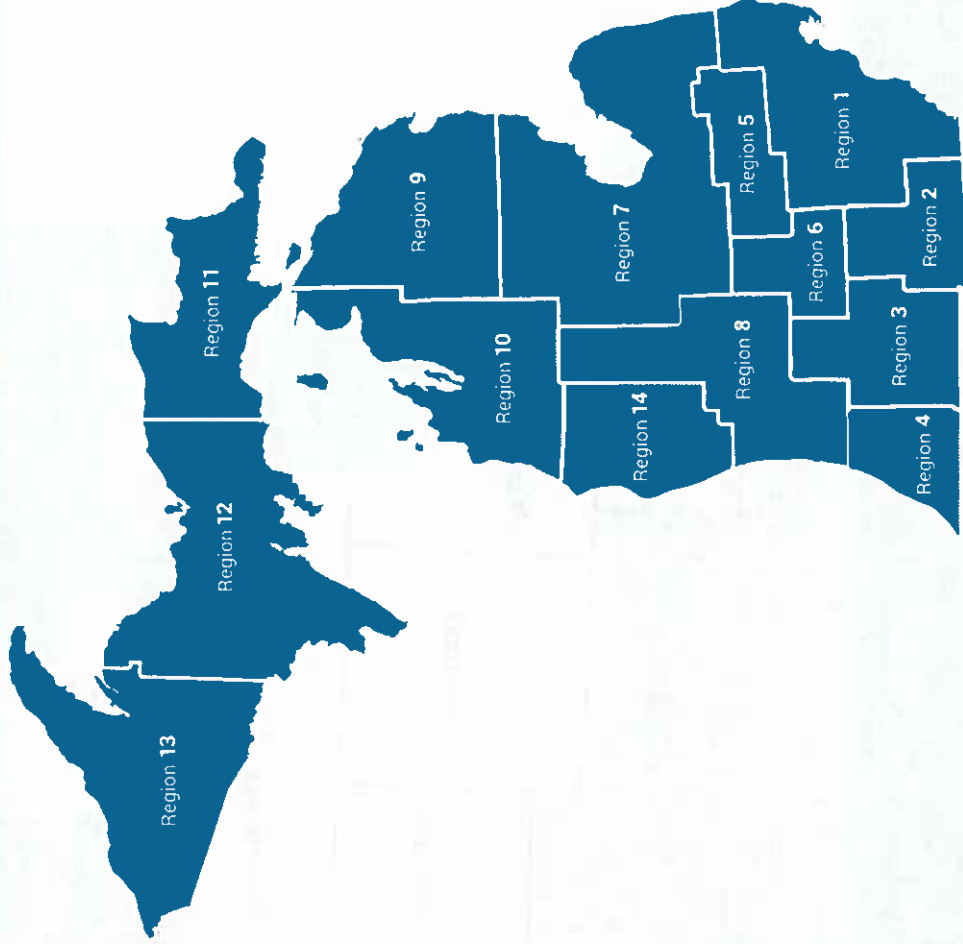
Amy O’Leary, Executive Director, SEMCOG
Dave Bee, Executive Director, WMRPC

Why are Regions Valuable Partners?

- Research and Data
- Engage and disseminate information
- Liaison with state/federal partners
- Technical Assistance
- Funding and grant guidance
- Regional Plans promote connectivity
 - Regional Transportation Plan, 2019
 - Economic Development Strategy, 2021
 - Broadband Framework, 2022
 - Water Infrastructure Plan, 2023



Michigan Association of Regions



The Michigan Association of Regions (MAR) is committed to the advancement and advocacy of Michigan's 14 planning regions as a means to support sustainable, collaborative communities and a strong state.

What is the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments?



SEMCOG's 2023-2024 Legislative Priorities

- Policies key to Southeast Michigan's health/economic prosperity
- Grounded in SEMCOG's data/expertise
- Reflects bipartisan consensus of local officials





- Adequate transportation funding and infrastructure asset management
- Connecting infrastructure investment with economic development
- Preparing for the future transportation system (EV charging, grid modernization)
- Full deployment of affordable high-speed broadband
- Modernizing aging underground infrastructure (water, sewer, stormwater)
- Resources for water affordability and flood damage to private property

Infrastructure Coordination



How do we overcome the challenges of coordinating infrastructure projects across service sectors?



Calling all infrastructure managers, owners, designers, engineers, and planners

SEMCOG, in partnership with MDOT, the Michigan Infrastructure Council, and the American Council of Engineering Companies in Michigan, is working to improve the coordination of infrastructure projects across public and private sectors to ensure efficient investment of resources.

Please take our survey (linked below or available through the QR code to the left) to provide feedback on your experience:

survey.monkey.com/InfrastructureCoordination



Register for our upcoming workshop:

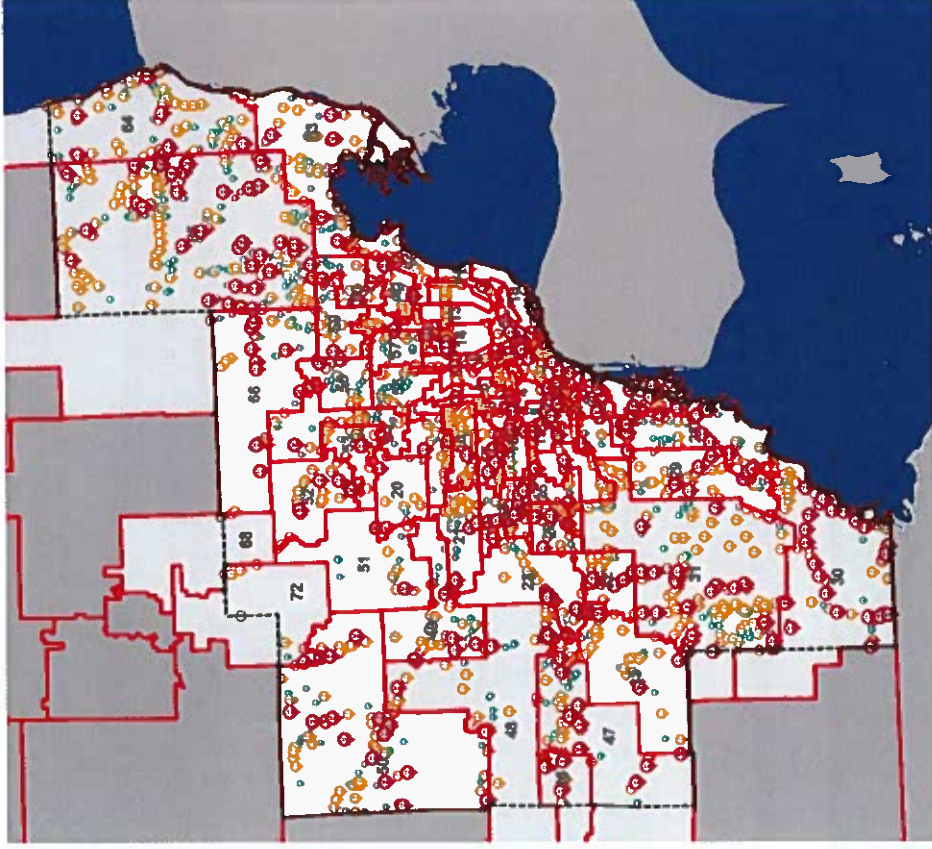
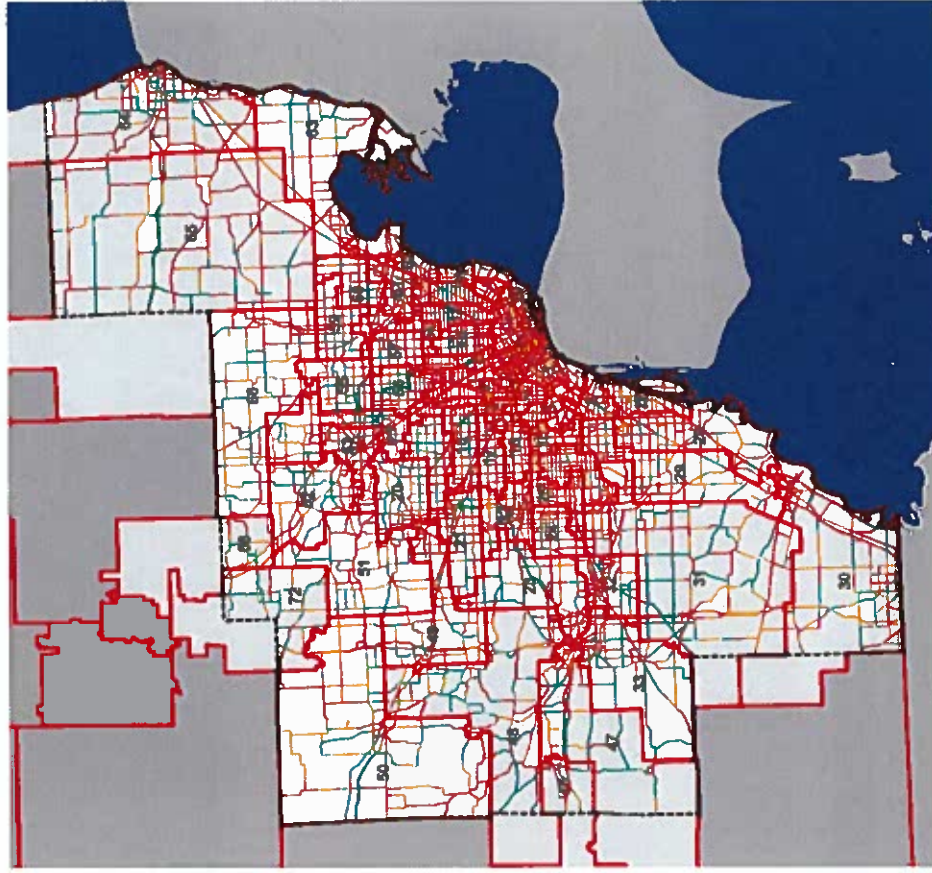
Thursday, April 19, 2023 • 10am – 2:30pm

SEMCOG Office

1001 Woodward Ave., Suite 1400

Detroit, MI 48226

Infrastructure Data Mapping (by district)



Southeast Michigan Broadband Planning Hub



- Reduce reliance on property taxes/
Allow more diverse revenue options for local governments
- Encourage voluntary collaboration/consolidation
- Support protections against unfunded mandates
- Preserve local control/authority
- Resources for local governments dealing with OPEB challenges
- Facilitate aging in place
- Greater resources for mental and physical health

Local Government Operations

ARPA Funds - Do you know what you're doing? What about your peers?

FEBRUARY 22, 2022



AUTHOR

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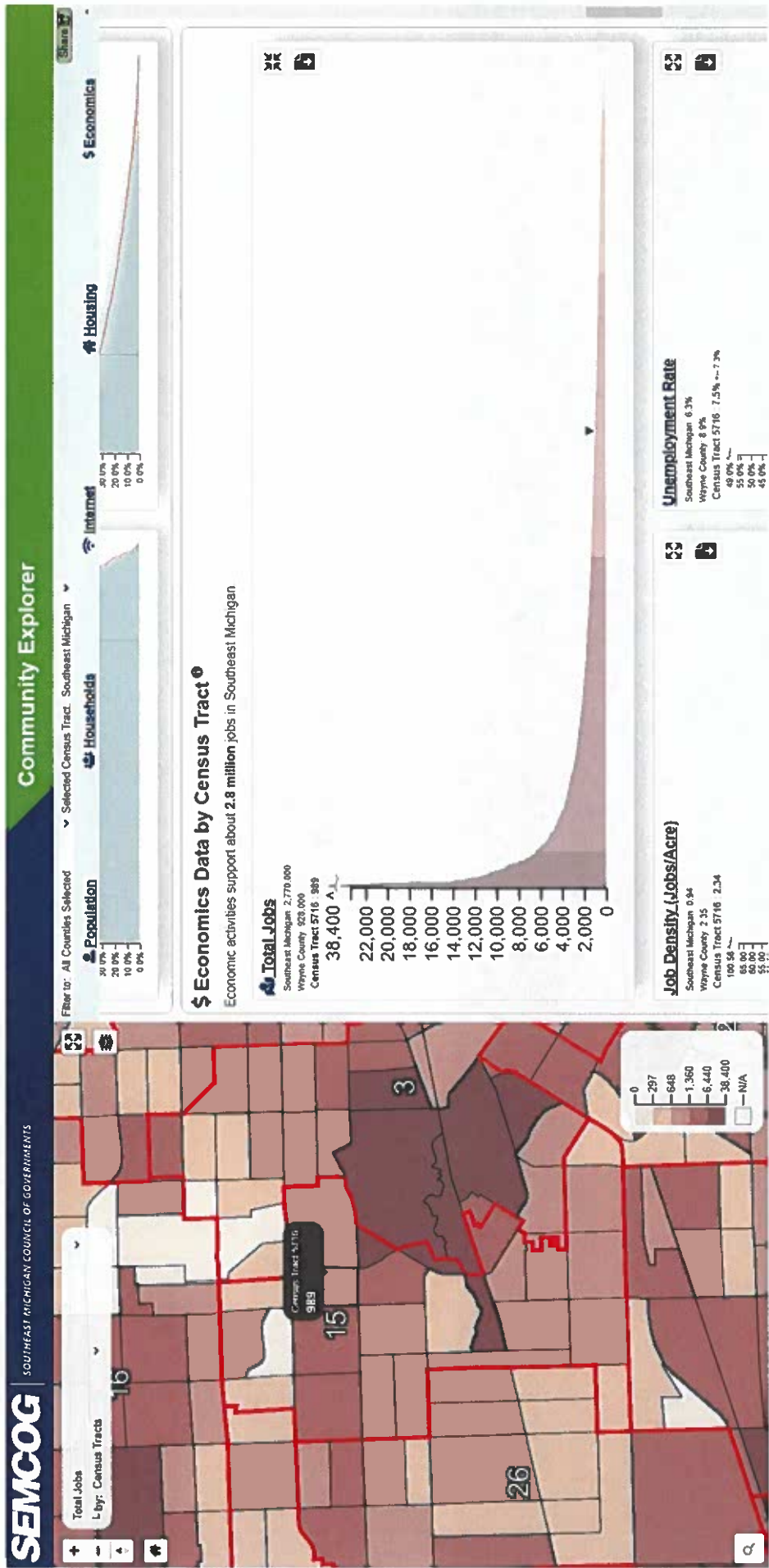
SEMCOG is working to support communities in their efforts to use American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) dollars, and we have set up a brief survey to help us better understand the challenges of the process as well as the types of projects being funded. Results of this survey will help us to plan webinars, roundtable discussions, and additional resources to support your community's effort to spend ARPA dollars to maximum effect. Please complete the survey [for your community now!](#)

- Convening community leaders to discuss operational/fiscal challenges
- Sharing best practices
- Growing community of local administrators
- Surveying/polling to understand regional trends



- Support the region's priority industry clusters
- Maintain the region's skilled workforce via upskilling, reskilling, retraining
- Address workforce participation challenges through initiatives that remove barriers to employment
- Stabilize K-12 funding and account for the increased cost for special needs, counseling, mental health, and at-risk populations.
- Preparing students for rapidly-changing economy via education, training, experiential learning

Socio-Economic Data (by district)

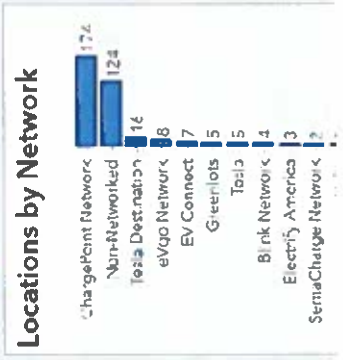
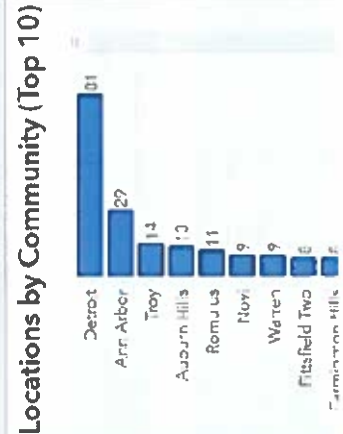
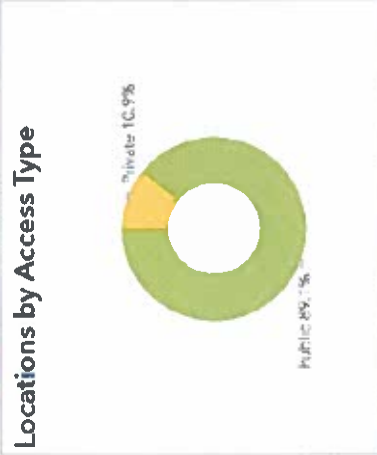
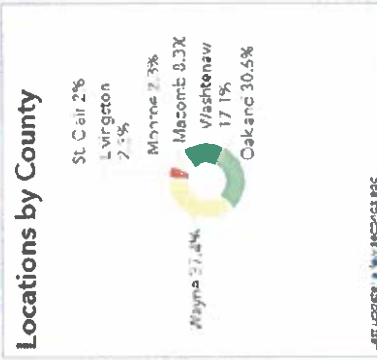
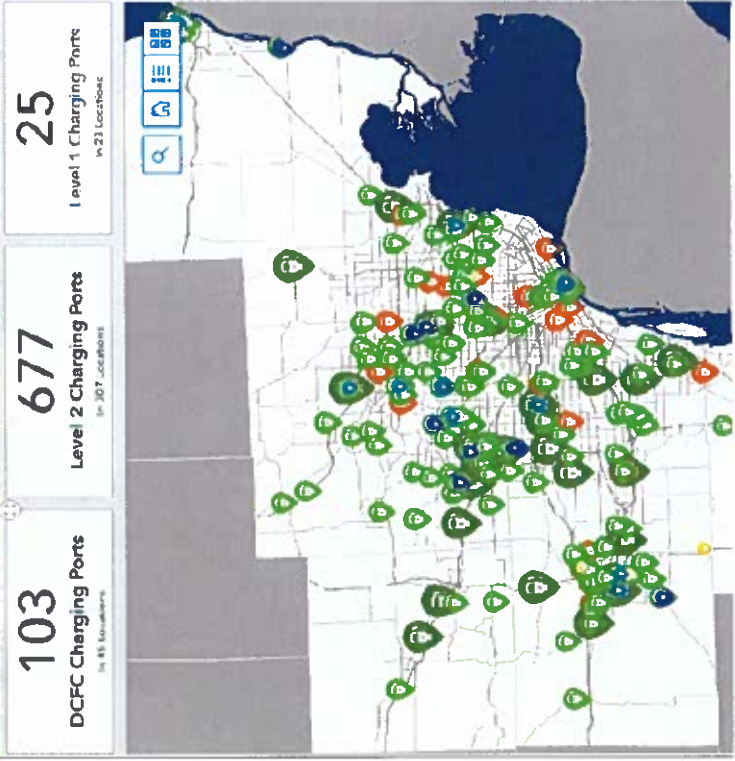


Community & Economic Development: Electric Vehicles

Southeast Michigan

Electric Vehicle Resource Kit and Planning Hub

A one-stop destination for communities, organizations, and stakeholder groups to learn more about what is going on in Southeast Michigan regarding EVs and EV Infrastructure.





Natural Assets

- Support for green infrastructure (habitat, invasive species, stormwater)
- Resources for agricultural land, green space, resilient landscapes (trees, wetlands)
- Ensure polluters, not private property owners and local governments, are required to pay for clean-ups
- Provide resources to address flooding and basement backups by reducing stormwater runoff
- Support parks funding for acquisition, development, rehabilitation close to the state's population centers



GREEN Task Force

SEMCOG
SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS



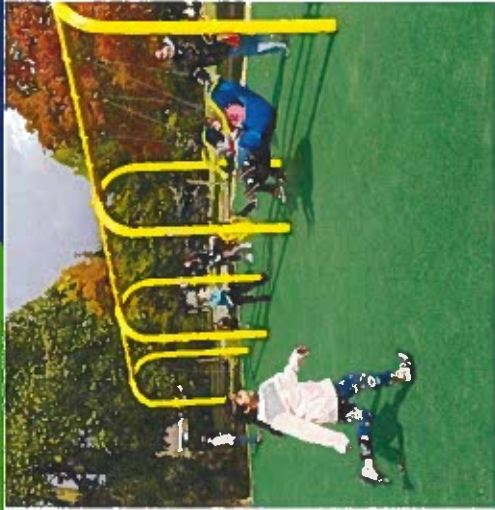
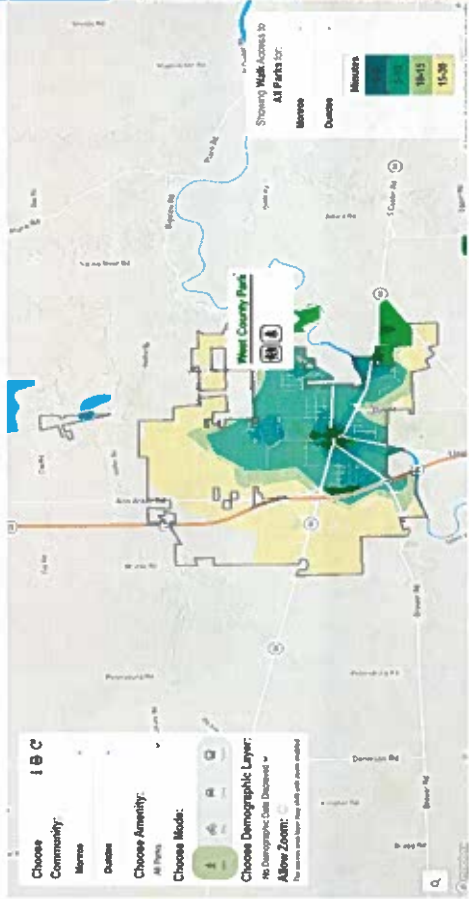
Southeast Michigan **GREEN**

Growing our Resilience, Equity, and Economy with Nature



Environment

SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN ParkFinder™



2023-2024

SEMCOG Legislative Policy Platform



Explore SEMCOG Resources

[Economic Indicators](#)

[High-Frequency Economic Dashboard](#)

[Broadband Availability and Usage Tool](#)

[Southeast Michigan's Labor Force](#)

[Participation Rate Trends](#)

[Future Skills](#)

[Equity Emphasis Areas](#)

[Laborshed – Linking Workers to Workplaces](#)

[School District Forecast](#)

[Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for Southeast Michigan](#)

[Shop Local](#)

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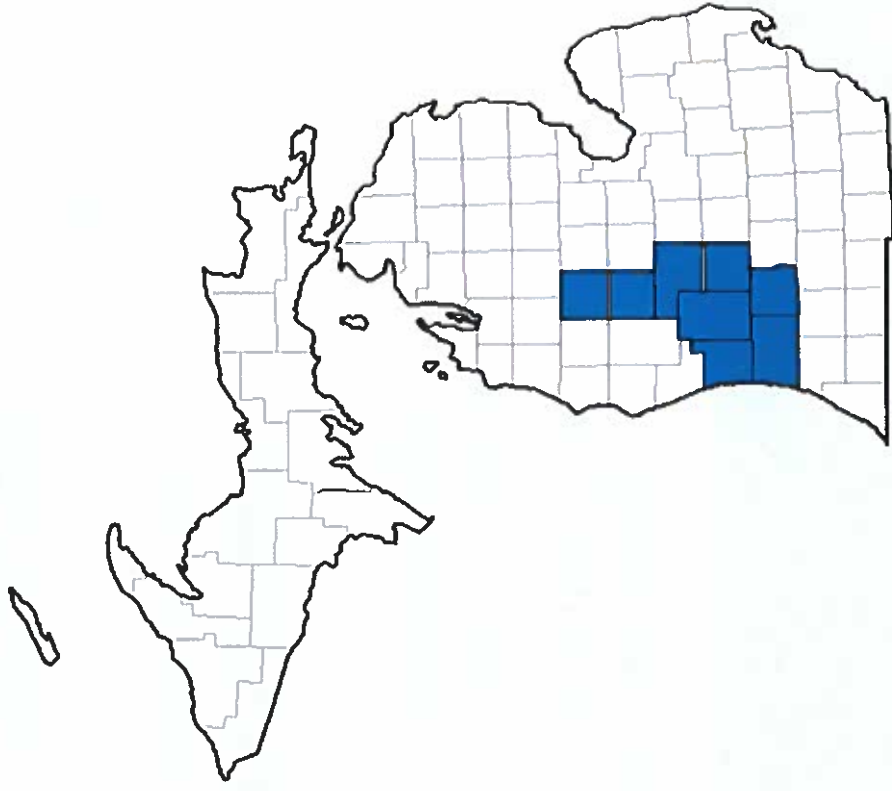
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SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

West Michigan Regional Planning Commission



- **Allegan, Barry, Ionia, Kent, Mecosta, Montcalm, Osceola, and Ottawa counties**
- **Commission includes:**
 - County and local elected officials and administrators
 - Businesses
 - Higher-Ed
 - Chambers of Commerce
 - Economic Developers
- **Collaboration!**

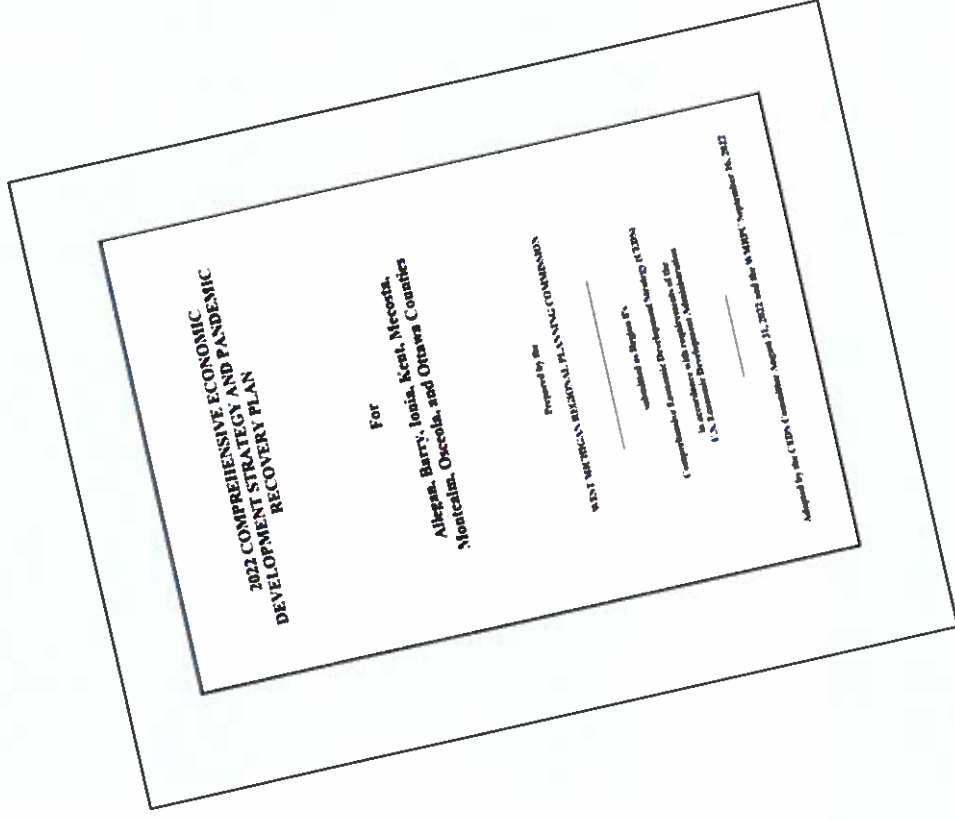
WMRPC supporting communities



- Population projections
- Regional reviews of grant applications, land use plans, and recreation plans
- Planning assistance
- Grant applications support
- Grant and loan opportunities for communities
- Bipartisan communication on important issues
- Linking grants to community needs
- Serving on a variety of boards
- One-on-one meetings with community leaders
- Source for distributing information

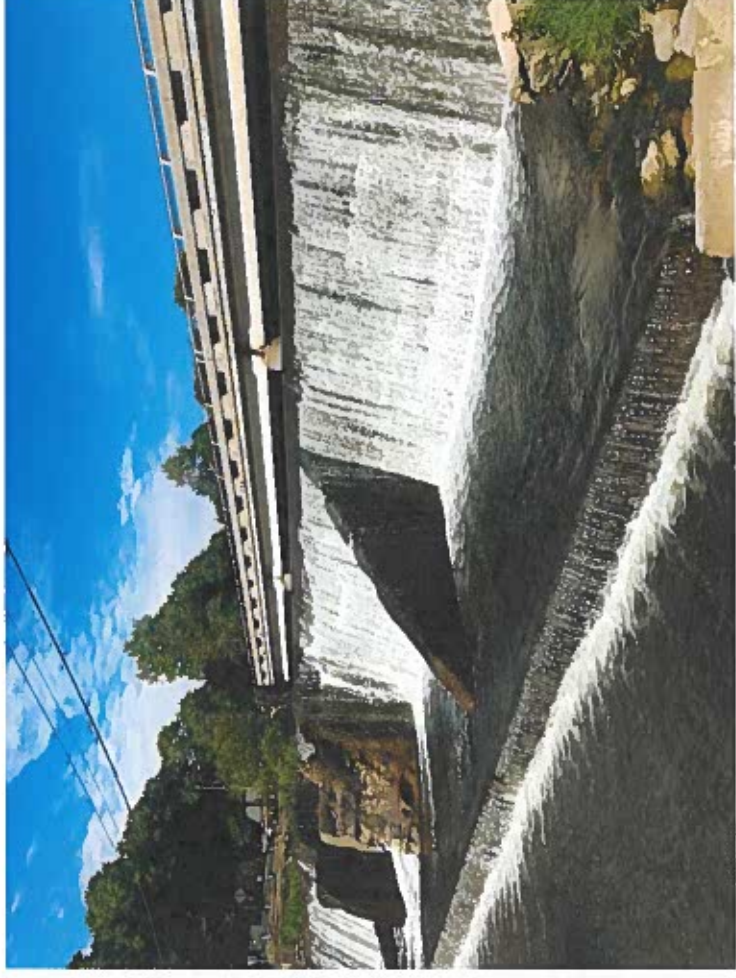
Serving as the region's Economic Development District

- Maintains region's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)
- \$48M through CEDS Process to CVTs for:
 - Public works related to economic development
 - Water and sewer
 - Road construction/reconstruction
 - Industrial park development



Linking Communities and MDOT

- Rural Task Force program
- Small Urban program
- Transportation Asset Management program
- Work with MDOT on planning/public participation
- Corridor Committees



Contact WMRPC