

Grand Valley Metropolitan Council
40 Pearl St. NW, Suite 410
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503



GRAND VALLEY METROPOLITAN COUNCIL
**ANNUAL
GROWING COMMUNITIES
CONFERENCE**



INFRASTRUCTURE

*Setting the Foundation for
Smarter Growth and Cooler Cities*

THURSDAY, JUNE 14, 2007

C O N F E R E N C E S E S S I O N S

Please note: Sessions with an asterisk will be repeated in the morning.

Transit, Trolleys and Development *

Portland Transit Official and Peter Varga (ITP). The relationship between well-built and well-run fixed transit lines (lines trolleys, light rail and bus rapids transit) and high quality successful centers of economic development are well established in planning case studies throughout the nation. This session will examine that relationship in Portland, Oregon and what is being proposed right here in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Making Green Neighborhoods – LEED ND *

Laura Watchman of Watchman Consulting. Our metropolitan area has a national reputation for the numerous LEED, (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design), certified buildings that have been built throughout Grand Rapids and West Michigan. The U.S. Green Building Council has developed a pilot version for standards for assessing neighborhood location and design, which will be described in this session.

Grand Rapids Neighborhoods and Infrastructure

Christine Helms-Maletic from the Midtown Neighborhood Association and Lori Stanton from South West Area Neighbors (SWAN). Infrastructure is often overlooked by local residents until it is in need of repair. Neighborhoods in Grand Rapids, however, are becoming more aware of the structures which support their favorite places. This session describes how two neighborhoods in Grand Rapids have been dealing with issues of infrastructure.

Efficient Planning & Management of Infrastructure

Dharmesh Jain, REGIS Agency. The REGIS Agency will discuss how infrastructure demands are increasing and efficient maintenance is more and more important. In addition to day-to-day management of infrastructure, planning across jurisdictional boundaries through disparate databases and stand-alone plan drawings is simply not enough anymore. Municipalities or infrastructure service providers need a system that widely manages infrastructure and integrates with GIS for spatial data and analysis.

Water & Sewer System Planning in GR Metro Area.

Jim Smalligan, P.E., FTC&H. This presentation looks at the water and sewer master planning process as well as the current status of utility master planning throughout the metropolitan area. The presentation will also review how water and sewer master plans mesh with local and regional land use planning efforts.

Septic Systems as “On-Site” Infrastructure

James Hegarty P.E., Prein & Newhof. Infrastructure is not always centralized and one of the most common forms of handling household waste is through on-site, individually owned, septic systems. This session will outline recent efforts in our area to more effectively monitor and maintain the cumulative effect of more widely dispersed infrastructure such as septic tanks and drainfields.

Supporting a New Energy Infrastructure

Panel Discussion. Alternative energy from wind and the sun, as well as new forms of fuel for transportation including ethanol, hydrogen, electricity and various bio-fuels, are becoming increasingly important to all of us. Our panel will consider our existing infrastructure in light of these alternatives and what effect new forms will have on the form and functionality of our cities and neighborhoods.

Context Sensitive Street Designs-Making it Happen

Panel Discussion. It has taken over a decade for planners, engineers and developers to see the need to better match the design of our streets for both traffic and better cities and neighborhoods. However, even with Michigan's Executive Directive No. 2003-25 all but mandating a greater consideration of the effect of state road projects on local governments and communities, it seems like adopting new methods is happening too slowly. This panel assembles many officials involved in street design and construction to explore what can be done to bring about real change in this traditional form of community infrastructure.



KEYNOTE ADDRESSES

Morning Keynote:
"Smart Infrastructure and Great Cities"

Robert Puentes, Brookings Institute.

Policy conversations in many areas, along with new and emerging research, are beginning to demonstrate a clear connection between how places grow physically and how they grow economically. Educated workers—who can increasingly go anywhere in the US—are attracted to places that are distinct, special and livable and also increasingly compact and densely populated. Even a cursory look at the past two decades shows that the successful metropolitan areas in the United States are those places—Seattle, Austin, Denver, the Twin Cities, Boston—that are revitalizing their central cores, even while continuing to sprawl. Those metros that are recognizing these connections are finding themselves better positioned to reinvent themselves and adapt to changing economic needs.

Join us as we consider our ability to build and support smart infrastructure, a subject which has never been more challenging than it is today, especially in Michigan. What choices are there to establish new lines of revenue to support our roads, highways and bridges? How do we separate the quick fixes from new long-term trends in funding? How can we significantly tie together smarter development patterns and the infrastructure which supports those patterns? What new demands shall we place on our politicians and policy-makers and what new programs must we tolerate to rebuild our aging infrastructure built to the specifications of the era of unchecked growth and suburban sprawl?

Robert Puentes is a fellow at the Brookings Institution's Metropolitan Policy Program in Washington, DC. The purpose of the Metro Program is to provide decision makers with cutting-edge research and policy ideas for improving the health and prosperity of cities and metropolitan areas. Robert will discuss metropolitan infrastructure issues in expanded terms by focusing on how demographic changes are repositioning the competitiveness of U.S. cities and older suburbs, how transportation and other investments must change to respond and prepare for these changes, and what lessons can be learned internationally as other nations boldly move to remake themselves.

Luncheon Keynotes:
"Connecting with our Future"

AT&T Michigan.

AT&T is currently deploying new infrastructure for our state which will allow for more direct fiber connections throughout the highly connected metro areas of Michigan. As with all types of infrastructure, the success of this new system will depend on many factors including customer demand, sound economics and a regulatory environment that encourages these investments. Remembering that the "T&T" of AT&T stands for telephone and telegraph, it is easy to see just how far we have come in communications technology. Join us for this lunch session to find out where we may be going and how we can best prepare ourselves for new ways of connecting our state, locally and globally.

"Michigan's Road Home"

Kirk T. Stuedle, P.E., Director MDOT

The Michigan Department of Transportation has a well established and distinguished history of providing streets, highways, policies, programs, technology and finances to keep our state moving. Widely recognized as the automobile capital of the world, we have led the nation in numerous innovations aimed at making travel convenient, comfortable, safe and affordable. As Michigan forged ahead, the nation joined us as we literally paved the way for mass-producing new residential settlements across the countryside offering up a fast-track to the post-war "American Dream": a country house in the suburbs.

However, as we unpack the new millennium, it is clear that we need to deliver a new transportation program. Today we move ideas with fiber optics and bandwidth and we move people and products to better fit the concepts of community and sustainability. We are asking ourselves, "how can we build it better, smarter, safer, and to last longer?" And all of this with a smaller piece of our long-standing automobile industry pie.

This is the world of our lunch speaker Kirk T. Stuedle, Director of the Michigan Department of Transportation. Appointed by Governor Granholm in 2006, he presides over 9,716 miles of state trunkline and 4,400 state highway bridges, a department with 2,800 employees, and multi-modal transportation programs that include transit, rail, air, marine/port and non-motorized transportation. Mr. Stuedle is the point person who must now ensure even more active, viable multi-modal choices for our residents, and provide smarter roadway improvements which better fit existing communities while guiding new ones into the right place at the right time. Join us for what is sure to be an enlightening lunch presentation.

LOCATION



Date & Time: June 14, 2007, 8:00 AM – 3:30 PM

Location: Calvin College
Prince Conference Center
1800 East Beltline SE
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49546
(616) 526-7200

Parking: Parking is available at the Prince Center.

REGISTRATION

Conference Attendees

Name _____

Organization _____

Title _____

Address _____

City/State _____

Phone _____

Fax _____

E-Mail _____

I require a vegetarian meal:

Name _____

Organization _____

Title _____

Address _____

City/State _____

Phone _____

Fax _____

E-Mail _____

I require a vegetarian meal:

Payment

Advance Payment Required. Cash/Checks Only.

\$75.00 per person

\$85.00 per person if postmarked after May 26, 2007

Send payment along with registration form to:

Grand Valley Metropolitan Council

Attn: Gayle McCrath

40 Pearl St. NW, Suite 410

Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503

Cancellation Policy

Full refund before May 26, 2007. 80% refund between May 26 and June 2, 2007. No refunds after June 6, 2007.

For More Information

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METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT BLUEPRINT AWARDS

This year's Metropolitan Blueprint Awards winners will also be recognized during the luncheon break.