WELCOME

Planning Regional Prosperity in the Eastern Upper Peninsula: Infrastructure Focus Group
Michigan’s Regional Prosperity Initiative

- Voluntary, competitive grant process that was included in Governor Snyder’s FY 2014 and FY 2015 Executive Budget.
- Encourages local private, public and non-profit partners to pursue vibrant regional economies.
- Numerous state departments and programs are, if they have not already, aligning themselves with the RPI’s Prosperity Regions.
- State-designated planning regions, metropolitan planning organizations, and regional economic development organizations are eligible applicants for funding.
- Grant awards and scope vary depending the region and what level of funding is being applied for: Collaborative level can receive up to $250,000, Council level can receive up to $375,000, and Board level can receive up to $500,000.
- At the Collaborative funding level, regions are to engage leaders and organizations within the region concerned with education, economic and workforce development, natural resources and tourism, infrastructure, healthcare, agriculture and food systems, and private industry to produce a 5-year plan to achieve the region’s idea of prosperity.
We are on our way!

• The Regional Stakeholder Committee met on July 31st to kick off the planning process and will be meeting again later this month.
• The Advisory Committee has met in September and November, and will be meeting for the third time later this month.
• A memorandum of understanding has been finalized, fully defining the role and responsibilities of the shared-director position between the EUPRP&DC and MI Works!
• High-definition videoconferencing has been installed in Sault Ste. Marie and Newberry.
• Prosperity website with dashboard is in the process of being developed.
• Community and economic development assistance strategy will be finalized by January of 2015.
• CEDS/RPI plan will be finalized by April 30, 2015. Early drafts are currently underway.
• EUPRP&DC has submitted an application to receive RPI funding for 2015.
So why are we here today?
Well...

- Infrastructure is a term which encompasses the means and modes with which we are able travel, transport, power, communicate, and facilitate growth.

- The Stakeholder Committee identified infrastructure as a focus area that needed to be addressed while developing a Regional Prosperity Plan.

- The Eastern Upper Peninsula has major infrastructural assets including the Mackinac Bridge, International Bridge, the Soo Locks, I-75, miles of motorized and non-motorized trails, and broadband in more populated areas.

- Whether traveling to or through the Eastern Upper Peninsula, our infrastructural system has the possibility to positively or negatively impact one’s experience while they are in our region.

- We need to discuss ways that we can maintain our infrastructural assets while continuing to comprehensively improve and upgrade the individual components within our infrastructural network.
Meeting schedule:

Stakeholder Committee meeting:

January 29th, 2015 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Crow’s Nest on the campus of Lake Superior State University
Contact us:

Eric Wedesky, Economic Development Specialist
ewedesky@eup-planning.org

Jeff Hagan, Executive Director
jshagan@eup-planning.org

Phone: 906.635.1581
A PLAN FOR REGIONAL PROSPERITY IN THE EASTERN UPPER PENINSULA