

MANAGEMENT TEAM

CONFERENCE CALL

Thursday, May 2, 2019, via Zoom | 9:30–10:00 AM

MEMBERS PRESENT (VIA PHONE)

Steven Duke, Region 2 Planning Commission
Jim Van Doren, Lenawee Now
Ken Hinton, Livingston County
Ryan Buck, Washtenaw Area Transportation Study
Bill Sleight, Michigan Works! Southeast
Sue Smith, Hillsdale Economic Development Partnership
Phil Santer, Ann Arbor SPARK
Rachel Kuntzsch, Public Sector Consultants
Kristin Hofman, Public Sector Consultants
Patrick Lyons, Public Sector Consultants

CHALLENGE GRANTS

As of May 2, no challenge grant proposals have been received and the deadline is May 7, 2019. This is not unusual, however—in previous years, proposals have often been submitted on the last day. PSC will develop contingency plans should there be a lack of proposals on May 7.

The meeting to review the challenge grant proposals will take place on May 28 from 1:30–3:30 PM, at Lenawee Now (the Lenawee Economic Development Corporation) at 5285 West US 223, Suite A, Adrian, Michigan 49221. Kristin Hofman of PSC will create a Web portal as in past years for accessing the proposals and will facilitate the meeting alongside Patrick Lyons.

The goal for the proposal review meeting is to review all applications, including identifying all questions for potential grantees, to meet the June 7 deadline for award notification.

ASSET MANAGEMENT COMMUNICATION AND COORDINATION SUMMIT

The Michigan Infrastructure Council (MIC) is holding a series of Asset Management Communication and Coordination Summits across the state to facilitate a collaborative, coordinated, and consistent infrastructure asset management strategy in Michigan.

The goals of the summit are to:

- Represent all stakeholders who use and manage Michigan's infrastructure

- Remove barriers that hinder efficient and effective infrastructure asset management
- Align standards and resources across all infrastructure assets—transportation, water, utilities, and communications

PSC confirmed that the Greater Ann Arbor Region (GAAR) summit will be held on June 4 from 9:30 AM–12:30 PM at Weber’s in Ann Arbor—RSVPs will be handled through an online form. The MIC will lead the event and provide content, and lunch will be offered during the event. For more information, view [the invitation](#) on the GAAR website.

Additional notes regarding the summit are as follows:

- The first half hour will be reserved for registration, with the program beginning promptly at 10:00 AM.
- A brief lunch break will begin at 11:10 AM, prior to the breakout activity.
- Region 9 will supply staff for registration and will provide name tags, pens, note paper, and sticky notes for participant use.
- PSC is still waiting for information on some utility contacts. Reach out to PSC if there are any other individuals that should be added to [the list of invitees](#). Target invitees include public officials, public and private individuals involved in managing infrastructure assets, and anyone impacted by recent asset management legislation.
- Additional summit developments (e.g., speakers, new program information, etc.) should be sent to PSC to include in promotional emails.
- PSC will send an initial invite and two to three reminder emails to all contacts. A postcard invite may be sent if RSVPs are low after the first week of promotion.

The GAAR management team agreed to add no new content to the meeting and to defer to the MIC’s agenda for the summit. They will also assist in sharing the invite with their networks.

SUCCESS STORIES

After summit discussion, PSC proposed that, rather than updating the GAAR Five-year Strategic Plan, a progress report covering successes in the region as a result of the Regional Prosperity Initiative (RPI) program should be created. This report will update relevant data and incorporate success stories from grantees and other GAAR projects. It would also include recommended next steps for the region. The management team approved this approach, and PSC will develop the framework for a report and present it to the management team at a future meeting.

LOOKING FORWARD THROUGH 2019

Funding for the RPI was not specifically included in Gov. Gretchen Whitmer’s 2020 budget. Rather than lobby to renew money specifically for RPI purposes, the Michigan Association of Regions advocated for \$4 million to be granted to the prosperity regions for general use, not strictly activities tied to the RPI.

A GAAR summit is included in the current grant. One idea for the new summit is to share the progress report and facilitate a conversation around recommended next steps for the region. This summit could take place in fall 2019.

MEETING SCHEDULE MOVING FORWARD

The management team agreed to continue the practice of alternating between phone and in-person meetings but are open to adjusting should a meeting agenda require in-person participation.

Proposed Meeting Breakdown

One-hour call: June, August, October, and December.

In-person management team meeting: July, September, November, and January.

Some agenda items for these meetings include:

- Discuss how to spend transportation-specific funds during the June call
- Discuss progress report structure and content during June call and July meeting

The in-person meetings for the remainder of the year will feature a presentation from a challenge grant grantee. PSC is developing a list of possible grantees for the management team to review.

NEXT STEPS

- PSC will send the Asset Management Communication and Coordination Summit invite this week. Management team members will help share to their networks.
- PSC will share proposals via Web portal to make challenge grant review details available before the May 28 meeting.
- PSC will begin drafting the progress report outline.
- PSC will send the management team a list of past grantees indicating who has presented previously to identify possible presenters for future management team meetings.
- PSC will post [Connecting to Opportunity: A Region 9 Report on Transportation, Jobseeking and Economic Development](#) as a blog entry.