

**THE MID-MICHIGAN PROGRAM FOR GREATER SUSTAINABILITY (MMPGS)  
PROGRESS REPORT TO TCRPC COMMISSION, DECEMBER 2012**

We are pleased to provide a progress report on the Mid-Michigan Program for Greater Sustainability (MMPGS), a Sustainable Communities Category II Planning. Since completing agreements with U.S. Housing and Urban Development, our program subcommittees and task groups were formed and project work is underway. The tasks in each project are currently proceeding in a timely way in accord with the Aggregated Schedule of Work and an overview is provided here. Please note that it is a summary overview with values rounded. Detailed budgets and reports are available from our office and on our website.

**Mid-Michigan Program for Greater Sustainability Progress  
Financial Overview for February-October 2012**

<b>Budget Categories</b>	<b>HUD \$ Budget</b>	<b>Expended to Date</b>	<b>YTD Matching Contributions</b>
<b>Grant Total</b>	<b>\$3,000,000.</b>	<b>\$422,027</b>	<b>\$79,474</b>
TCRPC (Urban-Rural Services, Greening, Groundwater, MGROW,)	\$ 306,854	\$62,211	\$47,400
Indirect	\$191,442	\$38,318	--
Special Projects (videos, demos, etc.)	\$115,050	0	--
TCRPC in/out region Travel	\$20,588	\$4,596	--
Other Direct (advertising, printing, etc.)	\$24,440	\$4,162	--
TCRPC general SC Supplies	\$12,450	\$3,964	--
Charrettes Planning Processes (National Charrettes Institute)	\$500,000 (+ \$75,000 MSHDA)	\$0	--
<b>Sub-recipients</b>			
MI Energy Options (Energy Audits, Portal)	\$550,000	\$122,359	\$7095
MidMI Environmental Action Council (Reinvestment Fund, Complete Streets)	\$530,000	\$78,340	\$14,010
Grtr Lansing Housing Coalition	\$175,000 (\$75,000 MSHDA)	\$7,100	\$2,780
Michigan State University (Housing, Corridor Design)	\$500,050	\$92,552	Semi-annual report pending
Meridian Township	\$24,990	\$5,756	\$6,734
Michigan Fitness Foundation(Complete streets, Safe Routes to Schools)	\$49,176	\$2705	\$1455

**Overall Project Organization and Administration:** During 2012, three Consortium gatherings were held. Over 120 local stakeholders including agency and organization representatives, local government officials, grant project partners, and the general public participated in each event. The meetings are held throughout the region and were hosted in East Lansing (Hannah Community Center), Bath Township (Bengal Wildlife Center), and Charlotte (HGB Hospital Alive! Wellness Center). During the first semiannual reporting period, the MMPGS partners have explored and examined project strategies and work plan details. We have established a preliminary administrative structure, initiated meaningful analysis and identified performance measures and calculated indicator baselines. We have worked together as a regional team to refine some strategies, convened a consortium of stakeholders and expanded it. TCRPC compiled and shared an overall project matrix and activities schedule and all information has been placed on the TCRPC website [www.mitcrpc.org](http://www.mitcrpc.org) in interest of full transparency.

In keeping with our Sustainability goals for this program, TCRPC has actively pursued and assisted our partners this year in applying for and securing federal and foundation funding for complementary programs that can effectively leverage our activities for the long term benefit of the community. These include a successful grant for housing planning and charrettes planning from the Michigan State Housing Development Authority, a regional brownfields grant application to US EPA, food hub and rural water systems grant applications to USDA, a 4-by-4 Healthy Achieve grant from Michigan Community Health, and Robert Wood Johnson Pew Trust grant applications for health impact assessment tools.

### **Grant Projects and Task Groups Progress**

The core team of sub-recipients met regularly to strategize and share goals and obstacles. Through regular sharing, we integrate the different planning projects. We developed work agreements with each so that each of the project areas is administered by sub-recipients or TCRPC staff and each has established task groups or advisory committees of key stakeholders, community or agency representatives, agency aexperts, and others.

We have invested time to initiate and develop important working relationships with State of Michigan Departments and local representatives that will help us leverage existing planning activities and enhance our regional integration. These key partnerships are particularly with the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA), the Michigan Department of Transportation, and the Michigan Economic Development Corporation. We included our HUD Sustainability Officer Martin and met regularly with our HUD Grants contact Steve Cerny.

### **Projects 1 and 2: Develop a regional 5 year Comprehensive Fair and Affordable Housing Plan; Conduct an Regional Affordable Housing Study**

A data and demographic analysis of the regional housing conditions and needs has been conducted by by Dr. Suk-Kyung Kim of Michigan State University and Katherine Draper, Director of the Greater Lansing Housing Coalition (a local nonprofit). An overview of housing conditions in the MMPGS demonstration corridor was added to the work and will be reported on also. All research activities are on track with the original timeline and community-based focus groups to begin the Housing Plan development will start in January 2013.

### **Project 3: Community Reinvestment Fund**

The mission of this activity is to solicit and fund practical approaches to involving the public, particularly underserved populations, in the planning processes in their community. The MMPGS's overall steering committee, a sub-committee of the Tri-County Regional Commissioners established a 'fund board' with representatives of each of the three counties, the City of Lansing, and agencies that work with underserved populations. Procedures were developed and the first round of applications for grants under \$5000 was issued and grants awarded to 5 local non-profit agencies. These will be presented at the Commission meeting on December 20, 2012. A second round of applications has been invited and will be awarded in early 2013.

### **Project 4 – Energy Baseline Study of Corridor**

Michigan Energy Options staff will conduct the audits and has been developing baseline data sets and contacting local property owners for input on how to best implement this activity. The study area focus for this project is specifically along the 25-mile transect between Webberville and the Michigan State Capitol. Project Partner John Kinch, MEO director, attended HUD grantee sessions in Washington and met with HUD and Department of Energy officials regarding procedures under this program and will pursue complementary funding for this effort. We will continue to define the buildings within the study area and gather energy consumption data. We are also discussing with GIS experts the creation of an interactive map that to represent the iterative findings of the study.

### **Project V: Build Capacity for a Regional Urban Service Management Area**

Monthly meetings of the regional Urban Services management area committee focused on adding additional members to fill out the committee's perspectives. They identified key action steps to take and initiated a public outreach plan for activities to promote and extend understanding in the community. A student intern assisted the subcommittee and area municipalities in developing draft recommended ordinance language.

### **Project VI: Greening of Mid -Michigan**

**Element 1: Groundwater Management Board:** The Groundwater Management Board has identified a tentative schedule of groundwater protection audits with the refinement of an audit tool. **Element 2: Middle Grand River Organization of Watersheds (MGROW):** This new umbrella group to assist and coordinate watersheds protection efforts and was formed after kick-off meetings with more than 50 area citizen, water enthusiasts, and representatives of the region's water sports and watershed area protection organizations. MGROW has now adopted bylaws, identified officers and a membership structure to assure long term viability while they initiate regional activities. A stakeholders needs assessment was completed with an interactive electronic survey with results to steer MGROW's activities and prioritize their efforts.

**Element 3: Greening Mid-Michigan Visioning Process:** Partner Meridian Township and HOM TV developed videos about the MMPGS and offered outreach materials through local newsletters. The Green Shows are locally produced films that present sustainability issues and practices and will showcases greening efforts. They created the shared "Green Calendar" for

use by partners and the public <http://bit.ly/greatergreen> and began filming promotion for our crowd-sourcing “Mindmixer” Site: at <http://ideas.midmichigansustainability.org>.

### **Project 7: Sustainable Corridor Design Portfolio Project**

The Project 7 Corridor Design Portfolio project partner is Michigan State University- particularly the Land Policy Institute (LPI) and the Center for Community Economic Development (CCED). LPI convened two large visioning and needs/goals setting meetings with stakeholders and municipalities along the demonstration corridor from the Capital in Lansing to Webberville.. They hosted a Sustainability Training for local planning commissioners with 19 from our region. LPI staff and graduate students have also begun development of an **Audit Tool**, a prototype tool that addresses the needs of local municipalities and developers and includes accepted sustainable best practices and regional stakeholder priorities. The CCED is working with planning professors at MSU to create a **Student Design Studio** and met to begin shaping design project activities, timelines and schedules that accommodate the students’ practicum classes as well as collection of basic data from most of the jurisdictions regarding the status of local planning and zoning along the corridor.

### **Project 8: Complete Streets**

The Mid-Michigan Environmental Action Council (MidMEAC) and Michigan Fitness Foundation(MFF) are developing and promoting Complete Streets ordinances, support for Smart Commutes and Walk-Bike programs. The MFF partners convened and facilitated a gathering of bicycle and walking organizations to establish an umbrella support coalition, the “Mid-Michigan Active Transportation Coalition” with more than 30 participants now. They convened a strategic visions work session for the Red Cedar Golf Course Area along the demonstration corridor to seek input from the walk-bike communities on access issues and possible design components. They are contacting regional transportation planning offices and compatible intermediate school district offices regarding future safe routes to schools audits and programs in the region.

### **Project 9 – On Line Communications Portal**

The MMPGS “portal” is a collection of applications and web-based platforms that allow both the consortium and the citizens of Eaton, Clinton and Ingham counties in mid-Michigan to explore and interact with the projects funded by this grant and the sustainable development of their region. Michigan Energy Options has implemented a crowd sourcing portal “mind mixer” and its now available on the TCRPC website. It provides an online forum for conversation of sustainable practices. The participation continues to expand organically with over 1000 participants registered to date. All information about the various projects and activities under the grant will migrate to the Portal when complete. For now, they are hosted at Tri-County’s website, primarily on the “Sustainability”

Several website applications will complement the MMPGS efforts such as a Green Review Checklist for Businesses used for funding source. A Home Energy Checklist will help homeowners and renters explore opportunities to reduce energy use. A Health Impacts Assessment Tool will help the public explore how the decisions they make, as a community, affect public health.