



March 17, 2022

Dear Capitol Caucus,

On behalf of our regional organizations in the Greater Lansing region, we are pleased to provide you with key requests that focus on economic development, job creation, and infrastructure. As the State Legislature continues to look at ways to maximize the state's share of federal relief funds, we believe these projects are necessary and transformational investments that will help the region achieve long-term goals that are vital to our recovery and growth. Additionally, although not mentioned specifically, we encourage caucus members to secure funding that can provide our public transit authorities incentive to work together and deliver a seamless public transit plan for our regions' residents, employers, employees, and visitors in both our urban and rural communities.

**Regional Investment Priorities  
for Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham counties**

**Regional Priorities**

**Downtown Lansing Conversion = \$325M**

Due to the impact of the COVID-19 global pandemic, downtowns, specifically, downtown Lansing, have been devastated from remote work policies. With the state of Michigan being the largest employer in our urban core and reducing their footprint, we are advocating for the state to provide federal funds to create a statewide downtown multi-story building conversion program. The conversion to office to residential will offset main street business losses as well as offset losses to the city.

**Downtown Lansing Inc. Comprehensive Market Analysis = \$5M**

We are supportive of Downtown Lansing, Inc. request from the state for \$5 million in funding that will help support their plan to:

- Reduce downtown vacancies through incubators and entrepreneurial programming.

- Implement a Downtown Revolving Loan Fund to support small businesses and local small-scale developers looking to rehab and make necessary improvements to their buildings. Buildings must be reconfigured for more flexible uses.
- Provide small business support grants to existing and new small business owners in the downtown Lansing business district, with a priority on supporting women and ethnic owned small businesses
- Provide rent/mortgage support grants to recruit and aid businesses in the downtown district.
- Enhance outdoor community spaces to provide COVID safe seating and gathering spaces to support residents and local businesses within the district.
- Add capacity to the Downtown Lansing Inc. team as they lead the comprehensive market analysis and actionable plans to chart a course forward for the heart of Lansing.

### Michigan Joint Training Innovation Center = \$15M

The Michigan Joint Training Innovation Center will be a shared public-private resource that will be located at the former Sears in Frandor that will drive the following activity:

- Developing the content development skills that will be central to the creation of economic opportunities in the new digital world.
- Creating the content to provide training and upskilling to meet the needs of Michigan's evolving workforce.
- Delivering the training needed by Michigan's employers.
- Distributing the training statewide using advanced technologies.

The Michigan Joint Training Innovation Center will give Michigan citizens and businesses access to state-of-the-art technologies that will drive the digital economy. The facility will incorporate the following technologies to support Michigan workforce goals:

- **Virtual Production Studio** - Using the latest digital tools to drive down the cost of video and film production to be used in training content and commercial applications.
- **Motion Capture Studio** - Using performance capture technology to create and expand business, training, and cultural opportunities.
- **Audio Recording** - Deploying the latest in audio science to deliver audio assets to support immersive training and learning.
- **Competition Venue** - Multi-use meeting space to support student enrichment and competition as well as large team training.
- **Human Wellness and Performance** - Deploying digital tools to support the physical and mental wellbeing of employees.
- **Unreal Engine Academy** - The facility will host the only Unreal Engine Academy located outside of New York City and Los Angeles.

The creation of this facility will provide a one-of-a-kind environment for developing our current and future workforce.

### **Tri County Regional Trails Construction – Phase I = \$18 million**

The Tri-County region has long been considered the place where regional trails go to die. With 3 statewide trails that enter the region and no connections to other trails in the region, a large hole exists within the statewide non-motorized trail system. In conjunction with the US Park Service and our regional partners, Tri-County has developed the basis for a (yet to be named) regional trail network within the region that will link the statewide trails (CIS in Clinton County, Paul Henry Thornapple in Eaton, and the Lakelands Trail in Ingham County) to the Lansing River Trail. Phase I of the construction of the regional trails will include the design and construction of up to 36 miles of regional trails. As with other trails in the state, the presence of a robust trail system will enhance the quality of life in the region and provide a much-needed tourism draw.

### **Intelligent Transportation Systems deployment = \$12.5 million**

The Lansing region is home to the state headquarters of the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) and all their operational research and development facilities. Yet the region is woefully behind when it comes to using technology for traffic management and information dissemination. While travelers in other urban areas of the state receive up to date traffic information as they enter and traverse, only a few select corridors in the Lansing region have been instrumented using the latest equipment. Local corridors are not immune to this shortfall. Many of the major corridors in the region are not yet equipped to handle the latest in traffic control devices. This project would allow for continued instrumentation of the freeways that lack the most efficient equipment. In addition, improvements would be completed along the major corridors in the region that desperately need better communications and enhanced technology.

### **Cargo Ramp Expansion at Capital Region International Airport = \$5.2M**

This project includes the expansion of the existing cargo ramp at the Capital Region International Airport (LAN) to accommodate current and future cargo operations at LAN. The project received \$8.183 million in federal funding, which was included in the Federal Budget Bill for Fiscal Year 2022. In order to complete this project, an additional \$5.2 million is needed.

Approximately 60.7 million pounds of cargo is moved annually through LAN, and that number continues to increase each year. Expanded infrastructure is necessary to accommodate current operations, as well as support continued growth. This infrastructure investment will help spur economic growth and development throughout the entire tri-county region, and will help our region compete more effectively in the global economy.

This project is expected to create more than 200 short-term jobs in a variety of construction disciplines needed to complete the project. The expansion will allow the

cargo operators at LAN to continue to grow and both create and maintain jobs, and provides the opportunity for other companies to expand their cargo operations in the mid-Michigan region utilizing facilities at LAN. This investment in the airport's infrastructure will be a catalyst for new businesses, new jobs and economic growth for the entire region.

#### **Port Lansing Readiness Project for at Capital Region International Airport = \$5.1**

This project includes the utility infrastructure and site readiness to create 13 new shovel-ready parcels for future development of airport owned property at the Capital Region International Airport (LAN). Site readiness includes:

- Sanitary sewer expansion
- Storm sewer expansion
- Electrical infrastructure
- Fiber infrastructure
- Water main relocation

The site readiness project is for potential expansion of the Port Lansing Global Logistics Centre, with approximately 37 acres of land of prime manufacturing, industrial and warehousing space available for development. Creating build-ready sites allows LAN to better target new businesses to the community, specifically those in advanced manufacturing and biotech engineering. Additionally, this development would give current businesses the opportunity to expand and create a pathway for future growth that would attract new businesses and investment to the region and to the state of Michigan.

#### **Roadway Improvements at Capital Regional International Airport = \$7.1M**

This project includes roadway improvements and upgrades to Port Lansing Road from Global Logistics Drive to Airport Road, and Capital City Blvd. to support future economic development and growth of airport owned property at the Capital Region International Airport (LAN), including increased semitruck and cargo traffic on airport-owned roadways. Additionally, it would allow for the installation of a new pedestrian walkway to increase walkability and safety of pedestrians along Grand River Ave. to the terminal building, as there is currently no walking path for pedestrian traffic.

### **Ingham County**

#### **Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements: \$60 million**

The city of Lansing is mandated to eliminate all combined sewer overflows by 2035, which is estimated to cost over \$300 million. Based on this mandate, capital projects at the Wastewater Treatment Plant have been deferred for at least a decade. A recent study indicated that there are over \$55 million in improvements that should be made at the treatment plant to processes (aeration, solids & sludge handling etc.) and up to \$5 million in repairs to the structures (roofs, HVAC, security, building envelope). Funding for these improvements would assist in minimizing rate increases to fund these necessary

repairs and upgrade.

**Pennsylvania Avenue Road Rehabilitation: \$1.6 million**

Pennsylvania Avenue is one of the busiest streets under the jurisdiction of the City of Lansing and provides a parallel route and detour to Cedar Street. The section between Mt. Hope Avenue and St. Joseph Street carries an important transit and commuter route but is subject to flooding at the railroad underpass just north of the Red Cedar River/Potter Park Zoo. Reconstructing the road between Mt. Hope Avenue and St. Joseph Street and replacing the stormwater pumps at the CN railroad underpass will ensure this important link remains viable to all users for decades.

**Collins/Dunckel Roundabout and Pathways: \$1.5 million**

The opening of McLaren's new hospital and ancillary medical buildings is bringing increased traffic to the Dunckel and Collins corridors. A roundabout was constructed at the intersection of Collins and Forest, however, traffic would benefit from a roundabout at the Collins/Dunckel intersection to replace the existing traffic signal. A non-motorized facility to connect the residential area bounded by Dunckel, Jolly and I-496/US-127 with McLaren and the existing non-motorized facilities along Forest would benefit these residents as well as McLaren staff and visitors.

**Lake Lansing Road reconstruction and operational improvements = \$9 million**

The Lake Lansing Corridor has become a shining example of the positive impacts that proper land use planning and access management can provide. The corridor has become a regional destination. With the development and expansion of the Eastwood Towne Center on the western end of the corridor and the dense employment development to the east, the Lake Lansing corridor has quickly become one of the most heavily traveled corridors in the region. While growth and continued development have positive economic impacts on the region, the corridor itself is in desperate need of pavement rehabilitation and operational upgrades. This project would reconstruct the roadway between Wood Street and Harrison Road and provide operational (enhanced signalization and traffic flow).

**Potter Park Zoo - \$4.5M**

Potter Park Zoo, a valued community asset in the capitol region, needs \$4.5 million dollars in capital and endowment funds for building a new veterinary facility that will satisfy two urgent needs: Ensure the zoo's continued ability to care for its animals' health as well as retain accreditation from the Association of Zoos and Aquariums.

**Ingham County Fairgrounds new grandstand = \$2.5M**

**The Ovation Center | Downtown Lansing - \$11M**

**Pleasant View School - \$1M**

**Walter French Plaza & Façade - \$5M**

**Atrium Building | Downtown Lansing - \$5M**

**Washington Square Façade, Lighting - \$1M**

**Land Bank Housing - \$1M**

**Michigan Avenue Corridor Façade Improvement - \$500,000**

## **Clinton County**

### **Chandler Road extension = \$7.5 million**

Like many of the roadways in southern Clinton County, Chandler Road has become ground zero for residential growth in Clinton County. The roadway was designed to serve free flowing rural traffic, but now serves a denser population with numerous access points, making the corridor inefficient with a perception that it can be dangerous to drive. This project would involve a major reconfiguration of the roadway including the covering of a very large drainage ditch. This will allow for improved traffic flow and increased safety while allowing for the economic development in area to thrive unincumbered by the limitations of the roadway.

### **Fred Meijer CIS Trail = \$6M**

The 42-mile Fred Meijer CIS (Clinton, Ionia, Shiawassee) Trail passes entirely through Clinton County and significant parts of Ionia and Shiawassee Counties, spanning between the general vicinities of Ionia and Owosso, Michigan and this Trail would be a prime candidate for the proposed federal funds, where the three counties comprise nearly 200,000 residents.

## **Eaton County**

### **Delta Township Water Resources Recovery Facility - \$90M**

Delta Township has been planning a complete rebuild of its Wastewater Treatment Plant. Phase I is slated to begin in 2022. The first phase is estimated at \$53 million, while Phase II was estimated at \$40 million. The estimates have grown unfortunately due to cost escalations caused by supply chain issues, extreme volatility in material and equipment costs.

This project addresses clean water, critical infrastructure repair, economic development, and wastewater treatment efficiency.

**St. Joe Watermain replacement and pathway project - Waverly Road to Creyts - Pathway cost - \$1.2M**

This project replaces very old watermain currently in the roadway on St. Joe. Watermain breaks continually undermine the roadway. The new project would replace the watermain outside of the road right of way. In addition, it would also build a connector pathway that would connect the new Waverly pathway to Waverly High School. The Waverly pathway will eventually connect to the Lansing River Trail to provide Waverly Schools and Delta Township with a regional connection. Estimated costs include \$2.5 million for new watermain and \$1.2 million for pathway. Delta is currently obtaining easements to construct this project.

**Waverly Road Phase II Non-motorized trail = \$4M**

This long awaited/much needed link in the regional trails network in Eaton County includes the addition of a safe Grand River crossing along Waverly Road and connections to Dimondale to the south via a powerline trail. Currently this area serves many existing trails, but the existence of a major barrier is presented by the Grand River. This project would greatly improve safety and encourage the use of non-motorized facilities in this part of the region. This segment has also been identified as a critical link in the overall development of a regional trails network. This project builds off the critical multijurisdictional efforts of Phase I between Delta Township, Lansing Township, City of Lansing, Ingham County Road Department, MDOT, and Eaton County Road Department.

**Crandell Lake Park Development = \$2-4M**

**M-43 = \$7M**

Road rehabilitation from Jenne Street to Market Place

**Billwood Highway = \$1.1M**

Road rehabilitation from Canal Road to Creyts Road

**Holt Highway = \$1.8M**

Road rehabilitation from Dimondale Village Limits to Waverly Road

Thank you for your consideration and effort on securing funding for these critical community projects in the Greater Lansing region.

Sincerely,

Kam Washburn  
Chair  
Clinton County Board of Commissioners  
Capital Council of Governments

Jeremy Whittum  
Chair

Eaton County Board of Commissioners  
Capital Council of Governments

Bryan Crenshaw  
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