

Region 2 Planning Commission

Serving Hillsdale, Jackson and Lenawee Counties

November 17, 2015

Mr. Chris Harkins
Legislative Liaison and Policy Advisor
Department of Technology, Management and Budget

Dear Mr. Harkins:

The Region 2 Planning Commission (R2PC) on behalf of the Southeast Michigan Prosperity Region 9 (Hillsdale, Jackson, Lenawee, Livingston, Monroe and Washtenaw Counties) is pleased to submit the attached grant application for Governor Snyder's Regional Prosperity Initiative (RPI) funding. As both an existing regional planning commission and the federally designated metropolitan planning organization (MPO) for the Jackson Urbanized area, the R2PC has served as the planning, research, and advisory arm to local units of government since 1973. R2PC has a history of promoting and achieving intergovernmental cooperation, coordination, and collaboration and assisting local units of government in achieving their respective goals, and is pleased to have been part of the prosperity Region 9 leadership effort for the 2014 and 2015 RPI grants.

Prosperity Region 9 partners have made great progress over the last year in working together to develop a common vision for regional prosperity, and evaluating opportunities for increasing collaboration on, or consolidation of services delivery within the region. Working through transportation, industry talent council, work force and adult education functional groups, we completed our initial five-year *Regional Economic Prosperity Strategy* in January, 2015. Our functional teams have developed and implemented "working to learn together" projects which helped establish a common understanding of needs and issues; identified models for collaboration and/or consolidation; and improved coordination among regional organizations. We look forward to continuing to work together in 2016.

In year 3, proposed RPI funds will be used by regional partners to (1) expand the engagement of our business partners in developing a long-term talent pool by improving career opportunity awareness and establishing common career pathways; (2) strengthen the integration of transportation and land use planning; (3) establish and implement a unified brand for Region 9; and (4) expand and strengthen the outreach and engagement of Region 9 stakeholders in the implementation of the five year Prosperity Strategy. In addition, grant funds will be used to review and update the high-priority actions identified in the five-year *Regional Economic Prosperity Strategy* through ongoing work of the functional teams.

We appreciate the opportunity to apply for these important RPI grant funds and are dedicated to moving forward on our vision for regional economic prosperity.

Sincerely,


Steven M. Duke, Executive Director
Ron Hayes, R2PC Chairperson

Region 9 Management Team:



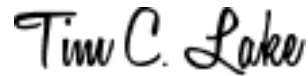
Conan Smith, Washtenaw County Commissioner



Phil Santer, Ann Arbor SPARK



Sarah Hartzler, South Central Michigan Works/
Southeast Michigan Consortium



Tim Lake, Monroe County Business
Development Corporation



Sue Smith, Hillsdale County Economic
Development Partnership



Ryan Buck, Washtenaw Area
Transportation Study

[Signed]

Ken Hinton, Livingston County



Jason Morgan, Washtenaw Community
College

Region 2 Planning Commission

Serving Hillsdale, Jackson and Lenawee Counties

Resolution of Support

FY 2016 Regional Prosperity Plan Initiative Grant Application for Prosperity Region 9

WHEREAS, the Region 2 Planning Commission (R2PC) is the state-designated regional planning and development agency for the Region 2 Area comprising Hillsdale, Jackson, and Lenawee counties, and

WHEREAS, the R2PC is the federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Jackson Urbanized Area, and

WHEREAS, the R2PC was the recipient of a FY 2015 RPI grant for Prosperity Region 9 (Hillsdale, Jackson, Lenawee, Livingston, Monroe and Washtenaw counties), and

WHEREAS, the economic development organizations comprising the Region 2 planning area have a history of successfully collaborating with the other counties in Prosperity Region 9 (i.e. Livingston, Monroe, and Washtenaw) as "Greater Ann Arbor" under the leadership of Ann Arbor SPARK, and

WHEREAS, the RPI grant provides an opportunity for continued collaboration among the various agencies providing adult and higher education, workforce development and transportation services to the residents of the six counties which comprise Prosperity Region 9, and

WHEREAS, the R2PC has agreed to be the FY 2016 RPI grant applicant – on the behalf of its partners in the areas of economic development, adult and higher education, workforce development and transportation – at the November 12, 2015 meeting of the Full Commission, and

WHEREAS, R2PC officials, in close consultation with the Initiative partners, have agreed to apply for a Level 1 grant in the amount of \$225,000 for Prosperity Region 9.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Region 2 Planning Commission supports the FY 2016 Regional Prosperity Plan Initiative grant application for Prosperity Region 9, and

Be it further Resolved, the Region 2 Planning Commission sees the Initiative as a continuing opportunity to drive economic prosperity by enhancing the collaboration which already exists in Prosperity Region 9 and will work in this capacity to respond to opportunities and address the needs that are unique to our Region.



Ron Hayes, Chairperson
Region 2 Planning Commission

11 / 24 / 15
Date

Regional Prosperity Initiative

Fiscal Year 2016 Grant Application Form

The Regional Prosperity Initiative Application Form was developed to facilitate the application process for grants within designated regions throughout Michigan.

The following checklist outlines the sequence of steps needed to complete an application:

- ☐ Study the Regional Prosperity Guidance and boilerplate to understand the requirements and purpose behind the state's approach to regional collaboration and whether you are eligible to apply on behalf of your region.
- ☐ Note any additional requirements beyond the prerequisites of the grant application form (e.g., letters of support, application deadlines, etc.).
- ☐ Fill out the application form completely, using the format provided.
- ☐ If you are a NEW APPLICANT, enclose your organization's incorporating documents and pertinent memorandums of understanding.
- ☐ If you are a NEW APPLICANT, enclose a list of current board members (include member affiliations and any other pertinent information).
- ☐ If you are a NEW APPLICANT, enclose the most recent audited financial statement (if available).
- ☐ Enclose your organization's current year operating budget.
- ☐ Enclose a list of key organizational staff, including titles and main functions.
- ☐ Applications must be accompanied by a cover letter (no more than one page) stating the region's request and proposed use of funds. This letter should be signed by the directors and board presidents of each of the required regional sectors (i.e. economic development, workforce development, community development, transportation, adult education and regional planning)
- ☐ The application for which you are seeking approval is a collaborative effort with other agencies; include letters of support from collaborating agencies. Each category of required sectors must be represented. (A resolution of support from the lead applicant and a letter of support from each co-applicant are due at the time of submission.)
- ☐ Complete the narrative section on p. 4. (Use 12-point font and one inch margins.)
- ☐ If you are a NEW APPLICANT, complete p. 5 of the application. (Use 12-point font and one inch margins.)
- ☐ If you are a RETURNING APPLICANT (your organization received an RPI grant last year), you must complete p. 6 of the application. (Use 12-point font and one inch margins.)
- ☐ If you are a RETURNING APPLICANT, please enclose a copy of your most current regional prosperity plan, a copy of the accompanying dashboard, and a record of the 2/3 or more vote of support on these items. These documents can be submitted electronically by providing links to the appropriate publically available website.
- ☐ Enclose a detailed budget and timeline of the projects for which funds are being sought. Prioritize spending from most to least important for successful implementation of proposed projects.
- ☐ Application is due to DTMB by Dec. 1, 2015. Submit by email: harkinsc1@michigan.gov.

Additional questions may be directed to:

Sara Wycoff McCauley
Senior Strategic Policy Advisor
Executive Office of Governor Rick Snyder
McCauleyS1@michigan.gov

Chris Harkins
Director; Office of Health and Human Services
State Budget Office
harkinsc1@michigan.gov

APPLICANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION

APPLICATION MADE FOR: Southeast Michigan Prosperity Region 9 DATE: 12/1/15
(NAME of REGION)

NAME OF APPLICANT ORGANIZATION:

Region 2 Planning Commission

YEAR INCORPORATED: 1973

Tax ID#: 38-603-2874

ADDRESS: (include street address if different)

Is the name above the same as
it appears on the IRS Letter of
Determination? Yes X No ☐

Jackson County Tower Building

120 W. Michigan Avenue

Jackson, MI 49201

If not, explain: _____

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S NAME & TITLE: Steven M. Duke, Executive Director

CONTACT'S NAME & TITLE (if different): _____

**Note: This will be the individual contacted regarding questions and/or updates about the application's status.*

CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBER: 517-768-6706 EMAIL ADDRESS: sduke@co.jackson.mi.us

NUMBER OF FTE POSITIONS: 3

OPERATING BUDGET TOTAL FOR CURRENT FISCAL YEAR: \$974,970

Fiscal Year: October 1, 2015 September 30, 2016
From To

SOURCES OF INCOME:

Government	Federal	<u>28%</u>	Fees/Earned Income	<u>0</u>	%
	State	<u>35%</u>	Individual Contributions	<u>0</u>	%
	County	<u>12 %</u>	Corporate and/or Foundation Grants	<u>0</u>	%
	City/Township/Village	<u>4 %</u>	Special Events	<u>0</u>	%
			Memberships	<u>21</u>	%
			Other	<u>0</u>	%

Are you applying for (check one of the following):

Regional Prosperity Collaborative X Regional Prosperity Council ☐ Regional Prosperity Board ☐
(TIER ONE) (TIER TWO) (TIER THREE)

Are you applying for funds to complete a feasibility study for the purpose of developing a strategy to move to a different tier (check one of the following):

YES X

NO ☐

ALL APPLICANTS: ELIGIBILITY, FUNDING AND STAKEHOLDER INFORMATION

*****Answers to the following questions may be no more than a total of three pages***

1. Describe why the region is eligible for the funding tier to which you are applying.
2. Identify all partners participating in this application and specifically denote those that are required partners as identified in the boilerplate language. Outline any additional prospective partners you contacted to participate in this effort but that have not yet submitted a formal letter of support. For returning applicants, denote changes to your participant list from the prior year. If an individual or organization has ceased participating, please explain why to the best of your ability.
3. What is the total amount of funding requested? Please provide an itemized and prioritized list of what is intended to be accomplished with the funding. Include a timeline and information about any funds you will leverage in this effort. Discuss any instances of collaboration between Prosperity Regions or sub-regions. If you have carryover money from the last grant cycle, you must acknowledge that in your overall budget proposal.
4. Are the proposed counties to be served in accordance with the regional prosperity map? If not, why not? How do you intend to begin to work in the region outlined in the aforementioned map going forward?

[ANSWERS ON FOLLOWING 3 PAGES]

Question 1: The Region 9 (R9) partners are applying to continue work in Tier 1, although we have progressed toward Tier 2, including the consolidation of three of the region's Michigan Works! Agencies and workforce development boards (the new Southeast Michigan Consortium); shared funding and work among the Greater Ann Arbor Region economic development partners; research on best practices of regional collaboration partnerships; and region-wide stakeholder discussions on what type of organization structure best fits Region 9. In 2016, the region will continue bringing together public, private, and nonprofit regional partners to evaluate and create a formal framework (and related agreements) to become a regional council.

Question 2: The group of stakeholders engaged in the R9 prosperity initiative has grown this year to over 110 businesses, public, education, and nonprofit organizations (up from about 80 organizations last year). In 2016, we will continue to build this partnership, including the addition of new regional partners, such as the Hillsdale, Jackson, and Lenawee County Community Action Agency, Oakland Livingston Human Service Agency, and the Monroe County Opportunity Program. We have attached letters of support from many of our partners (including all required partners), and a complete list of stakeholders is available on our [website](#).

Question 3: The proposed scope of work for 2016 includes work on five major areas that advance the goals of the *Region 9 Five-year Prosperity Strategy*. Region 9's proposed budget for these activities is \$318,300. This includes a \$243,300 request as a regional collaborative and an additional \$75,000 for the feasibility study to move toward a regional council. Budget amounts are identified for each task below and Appendix A provides a comprehensive budget and timeline.

- 1. Expanding and deepening the engagement of business partners in talent pipeline development (\$75,000; high priority).** A subcommittee of industry, government, education, and nonprofit organizations will develop and build on existing programs to connect business and community partners with middle- and high-school students to help understand career opportunities in, and training needs for, advanced manufacturing and autonomous vehicle industries. These industries, particularly the emerging autonomous vehicle industry, offer significant opportunities to engage with business and education partners to address some of the emerging talent needs. The subcommittee will identify priority actions (such as offering reverse career fairs or apprenticeships), establish metrics of success for these programs, and conduct an end-of-year review on successes and challenges. The work will incorporate data collected by the Workforce Intelligence Network (who will be represented on the subcommittee), and utilize updated regional branding and outreach materials (see item C below) **(\$35,000; high priority; Q1 TO Q3).**

Prosperity initiative grant funds will also be used to help accelerate the success of the MI Bright Future pilot effort underway in Livingston County and expand its use to Monroe and Hillsdale Counties. This will include hands-on assistance to schools and businesses to get them engaged and interested in the program and drive participation among both partners **(\$38,000; medium priority; Q1 TO Q3).**

Finally, the R9 management team will reach out to the Prosperity Regions 6 and 10 to convene a joint meeting of our leadership teams, as well as other relevant stakeholders (e.g., MichAuto) to discuss the supply chain, labor needs, and potential transportation-land use impacts (see item B below) of the emerging autonomous vehicle/connected vehicle industry and identify key actions steps the regions could take together to help address opportunities **(\$2,000; medium/low priority; Q1).**

2. **Transportation and land use.** In 2015, regional partners completed an excellent study on how transportation issues are affecting access and retention of jobs in the region. The study found that transportation is a very significant part of the talent puzzle, and that there are many unmet needs. As a follow-up to this work, partners will map regional transportation options (e.g., public transit, on-demand services, rail, nonmotorized) options throughout the region. The data will be used to conduct a gap analysis of how well the region's current transportation meets the workforce needs identified by businesses and workers in the 2015 study, and what, if any, access issues the region should make a priority **(\$47,000; high priority; Q1 and Q2).**

In addition, partners will evaluate the land use policy impacts associated with emerging autonomous/connected vehicle industry. This industry could bring many job, economic development, and quality of life benefits to the region. There are also potentially significant land use and other policy impacts that this region (and others) will need to consider in coming years. Issues around safety (e.g., pedestrian-auto interactions), parking, funding, maintenance, and connections to other forms of transportation such as public transit will need to be considered as regional partners update transportation and land use plans. Regional partners will form a workgroup to identify key policy questions and issues, and work with academic and private sector partners to conduct research on some of the potential policy implications. The workgroup will make recommendations regarding how regional partners can integrate potential policy options into land use and transportation plans and how the region can serve as a voice for potential state policy changes that may be required **(\$23,000; medium priority; Q2 to Q4).**

3. **Unified voice and brand.** At our November 2015 prosperity summit, regional partners identified the importance of having a unified voice and brand for the region. The six-county economic development organizations established and having been working under the Greater Ann Arbor Region brand in their efforts to attract and retain business (<http://greaterannarborregion.org/>). When this brand was established, there was significant discussion regarding the benefits and drawbacks. In 2016, we will build on these discussions and work with stakeholders across the region to get input and consensus on a unified vision and brand. Once we have agreement within the region, we will update R9 prosperity initiative materials to reflect the new brand **(\$11,000; high priority; Q1 to Q2).**
4. **Complete a feasibility study and action plan for moving to the Regional Council tier.** In 2015, regional partners conducted research on successful regional economic prosperity/collaboration models to understand key elements of success, challenges, necessary stakeholders, and benefits and drawbacks of various collaboration structures (see accomplishments section). In 2016, we will continue building on this effort and complete a

feasibility analysis and action plan for moving to a regional council structure as defined by DTMB. Based on the discussion at our recent Prosperity Summit, the R9 coordinator will finalize research on applicable models and make initial recommendations regarding potential council structure. We will convene a regional meeting in the second quarter to further discuss the regional council model and refine the recommendations and action plan. The results will be shared with regional stakeholders, and the RPI coordinator and management team will meet individually with County Boards of Commissioners to discuss key options and elements. After getting input and agreement in concept among the six counties, the RPI coordinator will summarize recommended options and convene a workgroup of management team members and other regional leaders that will draft relevant organizational agreements **(\$75,000; high priority; Q1 to Q4)**.

5. **Communications and engagement strategy.** In 2016, we will expand the scope and frequency of our outreach efforts. First, we will develop a communications and engagement strategy that defines key messages about the region and the initiative, who to disseminate information to, what types of information they need, and how they prefer to receive it. Based on the results of the new communication strategy and voice/branding discussions, the RPI coordinator will make updates to and create new communication pieces and mechanisms, such as newsletters and an updated website **(\$17,000; high priority; Q1 and ongoing)**.

In addition, regional partners will host a networking event to update partners on progress, provide information on emerging regional issues, identify priority prosperity issues to include in the next prosperity strategy update, and provide opportunities for regional partners to connect on issues of mutual concerns and continue building relationships **(\$9,500; high/medium priority; Q3)**.

Finally, the management team and the RPI Coordinator will continue to reach out to and meet ad hoc with regional organizations who have not yet engaged in the RPI effort but who could serve as partners moving forward. The purpose will be to help them understand what the R9 Prosperity Initiative is, how it relates to their organization's mission, and identify ways these partners would like to be involved with the RPI effort **(\$3,000; medium priority; Q1 to Q4)**.

In order to move forward on these initiatives, regional partners will once again work with Region 2 Planning Commission staff and a regional prosperity initiative coordinator to move forward on the implementation of the R9 Prosperity Initiative **(\$57,800; high priority; Q1 to Q4)**.

Question 4: Yes.

RETURNING APPLICANTS ONLY: NEEDS, GOALS AND ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

*****Answers to the following questions may be no more than a total of four pages***

- 1. WEB PRESENCE:** Please indicate the appropriate website at which the required grant documents can be viewed, including the region's published plan, dashboard and transparency documents (meeting notices, agendas, minutes) for the 2015 Fiscal Year.

The R9 website is at: <https://sites.google.com/a/pscinc.com/r9-prosperity-initiative/>. In 2016, we will develop a more versatile, engaging website after the development of the communications strategy.

- 2. DEMONSTRATION OF SUCCESS:** Please illustrate how collaborative planning has led to meaningful action. Define success for your region and explain your method for measuring it. When defining the region's success, please pay careful attention to the deliverables proposed in the prior year's grant application, evidence of engagement from community partners, adherence to your budget, timeline and the open meetings act, as well as the ability to leverage additional funding.

The region has made significant progress in achieving the objectives we identified as priorities in 2015. We recently created a fantastic video on the R9 Prosperity Initiative that highlights some of the regional collaboration's successes and benefits. The video was shown as part of a recent regional summit, and will be shared with regional partners on an ongoing basis in order to help engage stakeholders. (Available at:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q4keM_I0KfU&feature=youtu.be)

There have been many key accomplishments in 2015. To date, the region has:

- Consolidated Washtenaw, Livingston, and South Central Michigan Works! Agencies into the newly established Southeast Michigan Consortium. Partners led by a team of elected officials, business leaders, and workforce development representatives created a PA-7 agreement, identified members of a new consortium board and workforce development board, and created operating bylaws for those organizations. The PA-7 agreement was approved by Gov. Rick Snyder in September, 2015, and partners are continuing to work together to transition to the new organization.
- Developed a [*Southeast Michigan Prosperity Region 9: Regional Workforce Alignment Plan*](#), which leveraged federal Department of Labor funding to help the region prepare for meeting Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act requirements. The plan¹ identifies four key areas of service alignment among the (then) four Michigan Works! Agencies in the region. Even with the consolidation of the Livingston, Washtenaw and South Central agencies, the service alignment plan still lays out tangible and specific objectives for how the (now) two workforce agencies will work together to improve service delivery.

¹<https://docs.google.com/a/pscinc.com/viewer?a=v&pid=sites&srcid=cHNjaW5jLmNvbXxyOS1wcm9zeGVyaXR5LWluaXRpYXRpdmV8Z3g6NTk4ZGYyZjVhZDIjYTViMA>

- Researched different models of regional structures/frameworks that have been used to advance regional prosperity in other parts of the country. Models examined included the Allegheny Conference, Greater Minneapolis-St. Paul, Northeast Ohio (Team NEO and Fund our Future), Grand Vision/Northwest Michigan, and East Bay Economic Development Alliance (northern California). Our prosperity region coordinator summarized the initial findings from Region 9 and used the research to identify key questions for partners regarding potential models of formal collaboration and/or consolidation of services. The research also helped identify regional leaders to participate as panelists at our recent Prosperity Summit, and is being used to develop an action plan for next steps in establishing a more formal regional implementation structure.
- Hosted the Regional Prosperity Summit in November 2015, which focused on discussing models and options for the establishment of a more formal regional implementation structure (e.g., Council) and identify priority goal and action items for the 2016 workplan. At the summit, regional partners heard about best practices for regional collaboration and consolidation from other regions, provided input (through an interactive polling activity) on the most desired elements for a future regional council/implementation structure, and worked in groups to identify specific actions for advancing the *Region 9 Five-year Prosperity Strategy*.
- Completed the Working to Learn project that evaluated how transportation impacts the ability of workers to seek and retain jobs and/or job training. The project included interviews with over a dozen industry leaders, over 400 Michigan Works! clients, and Michigan Works! staff to identify when and how transportation limits job placement and retention, what types of services Michigan Works! agencies are using to help address transportation gaps, and what employers see as key transportation needs in the region. The study found that:
 - Transportation is strongly connected to finding and maintaining employment
 - A significant share of Michigan Works! support service funding goes to help with transportation needs
 - Additional transportation options (such as transit) are needed
 - Business leaders see opportunities for engaging on worker transportation issues
 The final report—*Connecting to Opportunity: Transportation, Jobseeking, and Economic Development*—is available at: <https://docs.google.com/a/pscinc.com/viewer?a=v&pid=sites&srcid=cHNjaW5jLmNvbXxyO S1wcm9zcGVyaXR5LWluaXRpYXRpdmV8Z3g6MmY1MDA5ZWFiM2IxZWVlOQ>.
- Hosted two regional stakeholder webinars that highlighted the regional transportation and workforce project as well as the workforce service alignment and consolidation efforts. Over 50 people participated in the two webinars.
- Established a challenge grant program to support the implementation of some of the most strongly supported and timely strategies included in the *Region 9 Five-year Prosperity Strategy*. We developed and issued a request for proposals to regional partners, which required a 1:1 match of grant and leveraged dollars. Seven projects were funded through the challenge grant process in September and are just getting underway on their proposed work.

- Held monthly management team meetings/conference calls to check in on project progress, discuss upcoming tasks and respond to stakeholder questions, and identify opportunities.
- Made presentations to the Washtenaw County and Lenawee County Boards of Commissioners on the regional prosperity initiative and progress to date on the workforce consolidation efforts.

3. APPLYING LESSONS LEARNED: What lessons will you take from last year's grant award? What are the most significant challenges to the region's collaborative success in for the coming year? How can the region's previous work and a renewed Regional Prosperity Grant inform a strategy for the upcoming year and increase opportunities for success?

One of the key lessons learned from last year is that it is challenging to get strong engagement among stakeholders unless there is a focus on a clear and targeted objective or project. We had enormous success in quickly moving forward on the workforce service alignment and consolidation because we brought stakeholders together with a specific charge and used a rigorous process to facilitate and move the discussion. We had less success garnering interest in participation for ongoing functional team meetings; by late spring, we shifted gears to do webinars and project-specific meetings around transportation and workforce.

We also learned that pushing forward to establish a regional council has required patience and a slightly slower process. It required some research to help regional stakeholders understand the value proposition of more formal regional collaboration. In 2016, we will be moving ahead on an action plan and framework for a more formalized structure, but this will require some continued conversation of what regional partners are willing to give to this effort and what they hope to get from it. We were able to gather some great feedback on the types of structures that stakeholders feel will help in implementing the prosperity strategy, and this information will be used in making recommendations for formal agreements.

4. NEEDS STATEMENT: Explain the need for a continued collaborative economic strategy in your region. Identify the needs a renewed grant would fulfill. Acknowledge similar existing projects or agencies, if any, and explain how your proposal differs, and what effort will be made to work cooperatively.

The R9 partners have made significant progress in advancing regional prosperity and implementing the *Region 9 Five-year Prosperity Strategy*. We have several efforts underway that we hope to continue building on (e.g., connecting transportation to workforce needs), and have identified several new activity areas that are key to making progress in achieving the goals identified in our strategy. An additional year of funding is critical to identify additional areas that support economic prosperity (such as housing and community services improvements) and continue making progress in implementing the strategy and establishing a regional council.

5. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Please address anything else about your organization or project you think is relevant to the proposal.

In 2015, we expanded the Region 9 Prosperity Management Team to include representation of all of the required sectors, and ensure geographic diversity. The team includes:

1. Conan Smith, Washtenaw County Commissioner

2. Sarah Hartzler, South Central Michigan Works! Agency
3. Steven Duke, Region 2 Planning Commission
4. Ryan Buck, Washtenaw Area Transportation Study
5. Tim Lake, Monroe County Business Development Corporation
6. Sue Smith, Hillsdale County Economic Development Partnership
7. Ron Hayes, Region 2 Planning Commission
8. Ken Hinton, Livingston County
9. Jason Morgan, Washtenaw Community College
10. Phil Santer, Ann Arbor SPARK

Region 2 Planning Commission staff who will be involved in the regional prosperity effort are:

- Steven Duke, executive director: General office/program administrative activities, urban and regional transportation planning, economic development
- Grant Bauman, principal planner: Community planning activities and assistance
- Susan Richardson, senior planner: Transportation planning, traffic safety program, and nonmotorized transportation

Appendix A: Comprehensive Budget and Timeline

Budget Item	Total Requested
Deepening business engagement in developing the long-term regional talent pool	\$ 75,000
Business-student engagement ¹	\$ 35,000
Accelerate and expand MiBright Future	\$ 38,000
Organize and host joint R6, R9, and R10 meeting	\$ 2,000
Transportation and land use	\$ 70,000
Transportation mapping and gap analysis	\$ 47,000
Policy impacts associated with emerging autonomous/connected vehicle industry	\$ 23,000
Unified voice and brand	\$ 11,000
Meetings with regional partners to get input and buy-in on regional brand	\$ 7,500
One-page regional economic prosperity mission, vision, and overview	\$ 3,500
Feasibility of moving to a regional council	\$ 75,000
Final research on models and initial recommendations regarding structure	\$ 5,000
Regional meeting to refine options/recommendations	\$ 10,500
Revised recommendations and meetings with county boards (Q2 and Q4)	\$ 12,500
Workgroup meetings to draft agreements and final action plan	\$ 33,000
Legal and administrative assistance/review	\$ 14,000
Communications and engagement strategy and implementation	\$ 29,500
Develop communications strategy and update website	\$ 17,000
Stakeholder update meeting/networking event	\$ 9,500
Outreach and meetings with new partner organizations	\$ 3,000
Program administration/project management	\$ 57,800
R2 grant administration and reporting	\$ 17,000
RPI coordination/management ²	\$ 40,800
Subtotal	\$ 318,300
Carryover from 2015	\$ (44,609)
TOTAL REQUESTED FUNDS	\$ 273,691

¹

Budget includes organizing and facilitating subcommittee and implementing recommended program options. Implementation will likely include development of general labor market and industry information engagement materials (e.g., putting data collected by WIN into marketing materials) and coordinating with participating businesses and schools. We anticipate leveraging significant private sector resources for this activity as business leaders participating in the program will provide their time and talent marketing materials (e.g, company- and industry-specific)

²

Includes organizing and summarizing management team meetings, check-in calls, reporting, and serving as ongoing resource for stakeholder questions and needs. RPI coordinator also provides project-specific assistance as needed, and that funding is incorporated into the budget items above.

Tasks	2016 Timeline			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Deepening business engagement in developing the long-term regional talent pool				
Business-student engagement ¹				
Accelerate and expand MiBright Future				
Organize, host, and summarize joint R6, R9 and R10 meeting				
Transportation and land use				
Transportation mapping and gap analysis				
Policy impacts associated with emerging autonomous/connected vehicle industry				
Unified voice and brand				
Meetings with regional partners to get input and buy-in on regional brand				
One-page regional economic prosperity mission, vision, and overview				
Feasibility of moving to a regional council				
Final research on models and initial recommendations regarding structure				
Regional meeting to refine options/recommendations				
Revised recommendations and meetings with county boards				
Workgroup meetings to draft agreements and final action plan (3 to 4 meetings)				
Communications and engagement strategy and implementation				
Develop communications strategy and update website/materials				
Ongoing progress/dashboard updates, newsletters, communication				
Stakeholder meeting/networking event				
Outreach to new partners				
Program administration/project management				
R2 grant administration and reporting				
RPI coordination/management ³				

Letters of Support



**The Enterprise Group
Of Jackson, Inc.**

December 1, 2015

Mr. Steven M. Duke, Executive Director
Region 2 Planning Commission
Jackson County Tower Building
120 W. Michigan Ave.
Jackson, MI 49201

Re: Regional Prosperity Initiative Letter of Support

In recognition of our continued support for, and engagement in, the Region 9 Prosperity Initiative, The Enterprise Group of Jackson, Inc. is writing to support the application from the Region 2 Planning Commission on behalf of the Region 9 partners for additional Regional Prosperity Initiative grant funding in 2016.

Region 9 partners have made great progress over the last year in implementing our Five Year Prosperity Strategy, including significant changes to our regional workforce system, research on transportation and workforce issues, partnering on business attraction and retention efforts, evaluating and incorporating labor market data into our workforce programs, and continuing to evaluate and discuss options for moving toward a more formal regional implementation structure.

The activities outlined in the grant proposal continue to advance these efforts by further building relationships within our region, more actively engaging the region's business leaders in the development of our talent pipeline, building on work to date regarding transportation gaps in the region, and evaluating the workforce, transportation, and land use impacts of our emerging autonomous/connected vehicle industry.

As an organization with a vested interest in economic and community prosperity in our region, we recognize the importance of Region 9 receiving this grant and are committed to supporting the implementation of the proposal outlined in the application. We look forward to continued work with you on this effort.

Sincerely,

Tim Rogers, President & CEO
The Enterprise Group of Jackson, Inc.



RECEIVED

NOV 25 2015

Per _____

November 23, 2015

Mr. Steven M. Duke, Executive Director
Region 2 Planning Commission
Jackson County Tower Building
120 W. Michigan Ave.
Jackson, MI 49201

Re: Regional Prosperity Initiative Letter of Support

In recognition of our continued support for, and engagement in, the Region 9 Prosperity Initiative, **Concordia University** is writing to support the application from the Region 2 Planning Commission on behalf of the Region 9 partners for additional Regional Prosperity Initiative grant funding in 2016.

Region 9 partners have made great progress over the last year in implementing our Five Year Prosperity Strategy, including significant changes to our regional workforce system, research on transportation and workforce issues, partnering on business attraction and retention efforts, evaluating and incorporating labor market data into our workforce programs, and continuing to evaluate and discuss options for moving toward a more formal regional implementation structure.

The activities outlined in the grant proposal continue to advance these efforts by further building relationships within our region, more actively engaging the region's business leaders in the development of our talent pipeline, building on work to date regarding transportation gaps in the region, and evaluating the workforce, transportation, and land use impacts of our emerging autonomous/connected vehicle industry.

As an organization with a vested interest in economic and community prosperity in our region, we recognize the importance of Region 9 receiving this grant and are committed to supporting the implementation of the proposal outlined in the application. We look forward to continued work with you on this effort.

Sincerely,

Curtis Gielow
Chief Campus Executive
Concordia University
4090 Geddes Road
Ann Arbor, MI 48105



Economic Development Partnership Of Hillsdale County

*Creating an environment to support opportunity, growth and
Encouragement to innovate - for all communities, business and citizens.*

Board of Directors

Rick Schaerer
Jonesville Paper Tube Corp.,
Chairperson

Duke Anderson
Hillsdale Community
Health Center
Vice Chair

Tom Condon
Condon, Hecht, Bisher,
Wade & Co., PC,
Treasurer

Vicki Morris
Century Bank
Secretary

Susan Smith
Executive Director

Ned Bever
Bever Farms

Kym Blythe
Reading City Manager

David Mackie
Hillsdale City Manager

Ruth Brown
Hillsdale County Commissioner

John Condon
Hillsdale Terminal

Don Germann
Hillsdale County National Bank

Jeff Gray
Jonesville City Manager

Sarah Hartzler
South Central Michigan Works!

Tracy McCullough
The Cardinal Group

Ronna Steel
Hillsdale County
Intermediate School District,

Hillsdale County Board of
Public Utilities

Doug Terry
Litchfield City Manager

Maxine Vanlerberg
Community Action Agency,

Mark Wiley
Hillsdale County Commissioner

Mr. Steven M. Duke, Executive Director
Region 2 Planning Commission
Jackson County Tower Building
120 W. Michigan Ave.
Jackson, MI 49201

Re: Regional Prosperity Initiative Letter of Support

In recognition of our continued support for, and engagement in, the Region 9 Prosperity Initiative, the **Economic Development Partnership of Hillsdale County (EDP)** is writing to support the application from the Region 2 Planning Commission on behalf of the Region 9 partners for additional Regional Prosperity Initiative grant funding in 2016.

Through the EDP's partnership with the Prosperity Initiative Hillsdale County has benefitted in many ways. Having a regional platform to work with our surrounding counties has broadened our opportunities for marketing, information sharing and joint projects like the upcoming "Wage and Benefit Survey." The work from the Region 9 partners have made great progress over the last year in implementing our Five Year Prosperity Strategy, including significant changes to our regional workforce system, research on transportation and workforce issues, partnering on business attraction and retention efforts, evaluating and incorporating labor market data into our workforce programs, and continuing to evaluate and discuss options for moving toward a more formal regional implementation structure.

The activities outlined in the grant proposal continue to advance these efforts by further building relationships within our region, more actively engaging the region's business leaders in the development of our talent pipeline, and building on work to date regarding transportation gaps in the region.

The EDP is vested in economic and community prosperity in our region and we recognize the importance of Region 9 receiving this grant. We look forward to continued work with you on this effort.

Sincerely,

Susan M. Smith, Executive Director

Economic Development Partnership of Hillsdale County



Jackson County ADMINISTRATOR/CONTROLLER

Michael R. Overton, Administrator/Controller

Adam J. Brown, Deputy Administrator

Mr. Steven M. Duke, Executive Director
Region 2 Planning Commission
Jackson County Tower Building
120 W. Michigan Ave.
Jackson, MI 49201

Re: Regional Prosperity Initiative Letter of Support

In recognition of our continued support for, and engagement in, the Region 9 Prosperity Initiative, Jackson County is writing to support the application from the Region 2 Planning Commission on behalf of the Region 9 partners for additional Regional Prosperity Initiative grant funding in 2016.

Region 9 partners have made great progress over the last year in implementing our Five Year Prosperity Strategy, including significant changes to our regional workforce system, research on transportation and workforce issues, partnering on business attraction and retention efforts, evaluating and incorporating labor market data into our workforce programs, and continuing to evaluate and discuss options for moving toward a more formal regional implementation structure.

The activities outlined in the grant proposal continue to advance these efforts by further building relationships within our region, more actively engaging the region's business leaders in the development of our talent pipeline, building on work to date regarding transportation gaps in the region, and evaluating the workforce, transportation, and land use impacts of our emerging autonomous/connected vehicle industry.

As an organization with a vested interest in economic and community prosperity in our region, we recognize the importance of Region 9 receiving this grant and are committed to supporting the implementation of the proposal outlined in the application. We look forward to continued work with you on this effort.

Sincerely,

Michael R. Overton
County Administrator/Controller

Mr. Steven M. Duke, Executive Director
Region 2 Planning Commission
Jackson County Tower Building
120 W. Michigan Ave.
Jackson, MI 49201

Re: Regional Prosperity Initiative Letter of Support

In recognition of our continued support for, and engagement in, the Region 9 Prosperity Initiative, the Jackson County Intermediate School District is writing to support the application from the Region 2 Planning Commission on behalf of the Region 9 partners for additional Regional Prosperity Initiative grant funding in 2016.

Region 9 partners have made great progress over the last year in implementing our Five Year Prosperity Strategy, including significant changes to our regional workforce system, research on transportation and workforce issues, partnering on business attraction and retention efforts, evaluating and incorporating labor market data into our workforce programs, and continuing to evaluate and discuss options for moving toward a more formal regional implementation structure.

The activities outlined in the grant proposal continue to advance these efforts by further building relationships within our region, more actively engaging the region's business leaders in the development of our talent pipeline, building on work to date regarding transportation gaps in the region, and evaluating the workforce, transportation, and land use impacts of our emerging autonomous/connected vehicle industry.

As an organization with a vested interest in economic and community prosperity in our region, we recognize the importance of Region 9 receiving this grant and are committed to supporting the implementation of the proposal outlined in the application. We look forward to continued work with you on this effort.

Sincerely,



Kevin Oxley, Superintendent
Jackson County Intermediate School District



Steven Duke, Executive Director
Region 2 Planning Commission
Jackson County Tower Building
120 W. Michigan Ave.
Jackson, MI 49201

Re: Regional Prosperity Initiative Letter of Support

The Jackson Area Manufacturers Association (JAMA) is writing in support of the application from the Region 2 Planning Commission on behalf of the Region 9 partners for additional Regional Prosperity Initiative grant funding in 2016.

Region 9 partners, of which JAMA is one, have made great progress over the last year in developing and implementing our Five Year Prosperity Strategy, including significant changes to our regional workforce system, conducting research on transportation and workforce issues, partnering on business attraction and retention efforts, evaluating and incorporating labor market data into our workforce programs, and continuing to evaluate and discuss options for moving toward a more formal regional implementation structure.

The activities outlined in the grant proposal continue to advance our collective efforts by further building relationships within our region, more actively engaging the region's business leaders in the development of our talent pipeline, building on work regarding how to address transportation gaps in the region, and evaluating the workforce, transportation, and land use impacts of our emerging autonomous/connected vehicle industry.

As an organization with a vested interest in economic and community prosperity in our region, JAMA recognizes the importance of Region 9 receiving this grant and we are committed to supporting the implementation of the proposal outlined in the application. We look forward to continued work with you on this effort.

Sincerely,

Bill Rayl, Executive Director
Jackson Area Manufacturers Association

November 23, 2015

Mr. Steven M. Duke, Executive Director
Region 2 Planning Commission
Jackson County Tower Building
120 W. Michigan Ave.
Jackson, MI 49201

Re: Regional Prosperity Initiative Letter of Support

Mr. Duke,

In recognition of our continued support for, and engagement in, the Region 9 Prosperity Initiative, Livingston Essential Transportation Service is writing to support the application from the Region 2 Planning Commission on behalf of the Region 9 partners for additional Regional Prosperity Initiative grant funding in 2016.

Region 9 partners have made great progress over the last year in implementing our Five Year Prosperity Strategy, including significant changes to our regional workforce system, research on transportation and workforce issues, partnering on business attraction and retention efforts, evaluating and incorporating labor market data into our workforce programs, and continuing to evaluate and discuss options for moving toward a more formal regional implementation structure.

The activities outlined in the grant proposal continue to advance these efforts by further building relationships within our region, more actively engaging the region's business leaders in the development of our talent pipeline, building on work to date regarding transportation gaps in the region, and evaluating the workforce, transportation, and land use impacts of our emerging autonomous/connected vehicle industry.

As an organization with a vested interest in economic and community prosperity in our region, we recognize the importance of Region 9 receiving this grant and are committed to supporting the implementation of the proposal outlined in the application. We look forward to continued work with you on this effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Greg Kellogg", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Greg Kellogg, Deputy Director

Livingston Essential Transportation Service (L.E.T.S.)

Mr. Steven M. Duke, Executive Director
Region 2 Planning Commission
Jackson County Tower Building
120 W. Michigan Ave.
Jackson, MI 49201

Re: Regional Prosperity Initiative Letter of Support

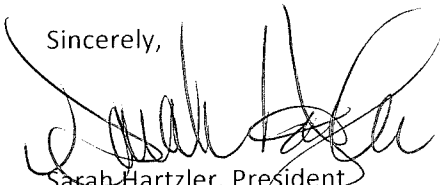
It is with extreme unwavering pleasure that the Southeast Michigan Works Consortium supports the application and work of the Region 2 Planning Commission on behalf of the Region 9 partners for additional Regional Prosperity Initiative grant funding 2016.

Throughout the last year a tremendous amount of action and effort has been dedicated to the implementation of the Five Year Prosperity Strategy which has resulted in significant changes in our regional workforce system, the utilization of regional labor market data into program operation and strategic planning initiatives throughout the region. The joint efforts in addressing business attraction and retention efforts for the region, as well as regional discussion and study to address issues surrounding transportation has all joined toward moving the region to a more formal and unified regional structure.

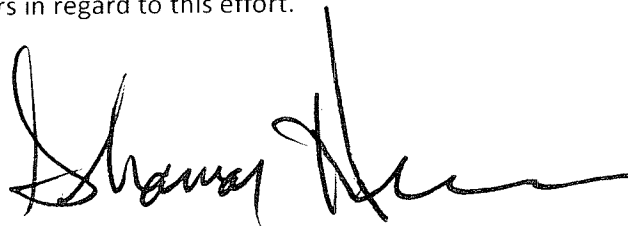
The activities outlined in the grant proposal continue to advance these efforts by further building relationships within our region, more actively engaging the region's business leaders in the development of our talent pipeline, building on work to date regarding transportation gaps in the region, and evaluating the workforce, transportation, and land use impacts of our emerging autonomous/connected vehicle industry.

We recognize and highly support the need for even greater focus of these unifying activities within Region 9 as movement continues toward effecting a vibrant cohesive collaborative region. As an organization not only concerned with the economic standing of the region but also committed to the successful uniting of the regional partners in the creation and development of the regional vibrancy, the Southeast Michigan Consortium recognizes the crucial role the implementation of the recommended proposal in the application plays in assisting in the achievement of the regional goals. It is our continuing pleasure to work toward that end with our regional partners in regard to this effort.

Sincerely,



Sarah Hartzler, President
South Central Michigan Works!



Shamar Herron, Workforce Development Manager
Washtenaw County Michigan Works!



William Sleight, Director
Livingston County Michigan Works!

November 24, 2015

Mr. Steven M. Duke, Executive Director
Region 2 Planning Commission
Jackson County Tower Building
120 W. Michigan Ave.
Jackson, MI 49201

Re: Regional Prosperity Initiative Letter of Support

In recognition of our continued support for, and engagement in, the Region 9 Prosperity Initiative, the Hitachi Automotive Systems is writing to support the application from the Region 2 Planning Commission on behalf of the Region 9 partners for additional Regional Prosperity Initiative grant funding in 2016.

Region 9 partners have made great progress over the last year in implementing our Five Year Prosperity Strategy, including significant changes to our regional workforce system, research on transportation and workforce issues, partnering on business attraction and retention efforts, evaluating and incorporating labor market data into our workforce programs, and continuing to evaluate and discuss options for moving toward a more formal regional implementation structure.

The activities outlined in the grant proposal continue to advance these efforts by further building relationships within our region, more actively engaging the region's business leaders in the development of our talent pipeline, building on work to date regarding transportation gaps in the region, and evaluating the workforce, transportation, and land use impacts of our emerging autonomous/connected vehicle industry.

As an organization with a vested interest in economic and community prosperity in our region, we recognize the importance of Region 9 receiving this grant and are committed to supporting the implementation of the proposal outlined in the application. We look forward to continued work with you on this effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard C. Currie". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and a long, sweeping underline.

Richard C. Currie
Director, Human Resources



LIVINGSTON COUNTY ADMINISTRATION

LIVINGSTON COUNTY, MICHIGAN

304 E. Grand River Avenue - Suite 202 - Howell MI 48843

TEL: (517) 546-3669

E-MAIL: KHinton@livgov.com

KEN HINTON

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

December 1, 2015

MR. STEVEN M. DUKE - EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

REGION 2 PLANNING COMMISSION

JACKSON COUNTY TOWER BUILDING

120 W. MICHIGAN AVENUE

JACKSON MI 49201

RE: REGIONAL PROSPERITY INITIATIVE LETTER OF SUPPORT

Dear Mr. Duke:

In recognition of our continued support for, and engagement in, the Region 9 Prosperity Initiative, the County of Livingston is writing to support the application from the Region 2 Planning Commission on behalf of the Region 9 partners for additional Regional Prosperity Initiative grant funding in 2016.

Region 9 partners have made great progress over the last year in working together to develop a common vision for regional prosperity and evaluating opportunities and models for increasing collaboration and/or consolidation in delivery of services. The activities outlined in the grant proposal continue to advance these efforts by further building relationships within our region, more actively engaging the region's business and philanthropic leaders, implementing some of the priority transportation, talent, and education strategies identified in the five-year prosperity strategy, and moving toward a more long-term, sustainable structure for regional collaboration. These efforts will cement and expand on the progress made this year, resulting in meaningful improvements to Southeast Michigan's economy.

As an organization with a vested interest in economic and community prosperity in our region, we recognize the importance of Region 9 receiving this grant and are committed to supporting the implementation of the proposal outlined in the application. We look forward to continued work with you on this effort.

Sincerely,

KEN HINTON

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

KH/csj



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
LANSING

KIRK T. STEUDLE
DIRECTOR

December 1, 2015

Mr. Steven M. Duke, Executive Director
Region 2 Planning Commission
Jackson County Tower Building
120 W. Michigan Ave.
Jackson, MI 49201

Re: Regional Prosperity Initiative Letter of Support

In recognition of our continued support for, and engagement in, the Region 9 Prosperity Initiative, the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), University Region Office, is writing to support the application from the Region 2 Planning Commission on behalf of the Region 9 partners for additional Regional Prosperity Initiative grant funding in 2016.

Region 9 partners have made great progress over the last year in implementing our Five Year Prosperity Strategy, including significant changes to our regional workforce system, research on transportation and workforce issues, partnering on business attraction and retention efforts, evaluating and incorporating labor market data into our workforce programs, and continuing to evaluate and discuss options for moving toward a more formal regional implementation structure.

The activities outlined in the grant proposal continue to advance these efforts by further building relationships within our region, more actively engaging the region's business leaders in the development of our talent pipeline, building on work to date regarding transportation gaps in the region, and evaluating the workforce, transportation, and land use impacts of our emerging autonomous/connected vehicle industry.

As an organization with a vested interest in economic and community prosperity in our region, we recognize the importance of Region 9 receiving this grant and are committed to supporting the implementation of the proposal outlined in the application. We look forward to continued work with you on this effort.

Sincerely,

Paul C. Ajegba, P.E.
University Region Engineer



Mr. Steven M. Duke, Executive Director
Region 2 Planning Commission
Jackson County Tower Building
120 W. Michigan Ave.
Jackson, MI 49201

Re: Regional Prosperity Initiative Letter of Support

In recognition of our continued support for, and engagement in, the Region 9 Prosperity Initiative, the Michigan Environmental Council is writing to support the application from the Region 2 Planning Commission on behalf of the Region 9 partners for additional Regional Prosperity Initiative grant funding in 2016.

Region 9 partners have made great progress over the last year in implementing our Five Year Prosperity Strategy, including significant changes to our regional workforce system, research on transportation and workforce issues, partnering on business attraction and retention efforts, evaluating and incorporating labor market data into our workforce programs, and continuing to evaluate and discuss options for moving toward a more formal regional implementation structure.

The activities outlined in the grant proposal continue to advance these efforts by further building relationships within our region, more actively engaging the region's business leaders in the development of our talent pipeline, building on work to date regarding transportation gaps in the region, and evaluating the workforce, transportation, and land use impacts of our emerging autonomous/connected vehicle industry.

As an organization with a vested interest in economic and community prosperity in our region, we recognize the importance of Region 9 receiving this grant and are committed to supporting the implementation of the proposal outlined in the application. We look forward to continued work with you on this effort.

Sincerely,

Chris Kolb, President

Michigan Environmental Council



Mr. Steven M. Duke, Executive Director
Region 2 Planning Commission
Jackson County Tower Building
120 W. Michigan Ave.
Jackson, MI 49201

Re: Regional Prosperity Initiative Letter of Support

On behalf of the Board of Directors and myself please accept this letter from the Monroe County Business Development Corporation (BDC) of our continued support for, and engagement in, the Region 9 Prosperity Initiative. Additionally, the BDC supports this year's application from the Region 2 Planning Commission on behalf of the Region 9 Partners for additional Regional Prosperity Initiative grant funding in 2016.

Region 9 partners have made great progress over the last year in implementing our Five Year Prosperity Strategy, including significant changes to our regional workforce system, research on transportation and workforce issues, partnering on business attraction, evaluating and incorporating labor market data into our workforce programs, and continuing to evaluate and discuss options for moving toward a more formal regional implementation structure.

The activities outlined in the grant proposal continue to advance these efforts by further building relationships within our region, more actively engaging the region's business leaders for impute and guidance in the development of our talent pipeline, building on work to date regarding transportation gaps in the region, and evaluating the workforce, transportation, and land use impacts of our emerging autonomous/connected vehicle industry.

As an organization with a vested interest in economic and community prosperity in our region, we recognize the importance of Region 9 receiving this grant and are committed to supporting the implementation of the proposal outlined in the application. We look forward to continued work with you on this effort.

Sincerely,

Tim C. Lake

Tim C. Lake
President and CEO



November 24, 2015

Mr. Steven M. Duke, Executive Director
Region 2 Planning Commission
Jackson County Tower Building
120 W. Michigan Ave.
Jackson, MI 49201

Re: Regional Prosperity Initiative Letter of Support

In recognition of our continued support for, and engagement in, the Region 9 Prosperity Initiative, the Monroe County Community College is writing to support the application from the Region 2 Planning Commission on behalf of the Region 9 partners for additional Regional Prosperity Initiative grant funding in 2016.

Region 9 partners have made great progress over the last year in implementing our Five Year Prosperity Strategy. This including significant changes to our regional workforce system, research on transportation and workforce issues, partnering on business attraction and retention efforts, evaluating and incorporating labor market data into our workforce programs, and continuing to evaluate and discuss options for moving toward a more formal regional implementation structure.

The activities outlined in the grant proposal continue to advance these efforts by further building relationships within our region, more actively engaging the region's business leaders in the development of our talent pipeline, building on work to date regarding transportation gaps in the region, and evaluating the workforce, transportation, and land use impacts of our emerging autonomous/connected vehicle industry.

As an organization with a vested interest in economic and community prosperity in our region, we recognize the importance of Region 9 receiving this grant and are committed to supporting the implementation of the proposal outlined in the application. We look forward to continued work with you on this effort.

Sincerely,

Kojo A. Quartey, Ph.D.
President
Monroe County Community College



Mr. Steven M. Duke, Executive Director
Region 2 Planning Commission
Jackson County Tower Building
120 W. Michigan Ave.
Jackson, MI 49201

Re: Regional Prosperity Initiative Letter of Support

In recognition of our continued support for, and engagement in, the Region 9 Prosperity Initiative, the Livingston Educational Service Agency (LESA) is writing to support the application from the Region 2 Planning Commission on behalf of the Region 9 partners for additional Regional Prosperity Initiative grant funding in 2016.

Region 9 partners have made great progress over the last year in implementing our Five Year Prosperity Strategy, including significant changes to our regional workforce system, research on transportation and workforce issues, partnering on business attraction and retention efforts, evaluating and incorporating labor market data into our workforce programs, and continuing to evaluate and discuss options for moving toward a more formal regional implementation structure.

The activities outlined in the grant proposal continue to advance these efforts by further building relationships within our region, more actively engaging the region's business leaders in the development of our talent pipeline, building on work to date regarding transportation gaps in the region, and evaluating the workforce, transportation, and land use impacts of our emerging autonomous/connected vehicle industry.

As an organization with a vested interest in economic and community prosperity in our region, we recognize the importance of Region 9 receiving this grant and are committed to supporting the implementation of the proposal outlined in the application. We look forward to continued work with you on this effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D. Danosky", with a large, stylized loop at the end.

Daniel E. Danosky, Superintendent
Livingston Educational Service Agency

November 23, 2015

Mr. Steven M. Duke, Executive Director
Region 2 Planning Commission
Jackson County Tower Building
120 W. Michigan Ave.
Jackson, MI 49201

Dear Mr. Duke:

SEMCOG supports the application for additional Regional Prosperity Initiative grant funding from the Region 2 Planning Commission on behalf of our member counties and communities in Livingston, Washtenaw and Monroe Counties. SEMCOG is also applying for funding under this program to bring together the larger southeast Michigan region to move our regional economic development strategy forward. We hope you will be supportive and actively participate in our efforts to recognize the larger regional aspects of economic development as we continue to work together towards a more prosperous future.

Sincerely,



Kathleen Lomako, AICP, PCP, CAE
Executive Director
SEMCOG



Office of the President

1247 E. Siena Heights Drive
Adrian, MI 49221-1796
(517) 264-7100
fax: (517) 264-7702
www.sienaheights.edu

December 1, 2015

Mr. Steven M. Duke, Executive Director
Region 2 Planning Commission
Jackson County Tower Building
120 W. Michigan Ave.
Jackson, MI 49201

Dear Mr. Duke,

In recognition of our continued support for, and engagement in, the Region 9 Prosperity Initiative, Siena Heights University, is writing to support the application from the Region 2 Planning Commission on behalf of the Region 9 partners for additional Regional Prosperity Initiative grant funding in 2016.

Region 9 partners have made great progress over the last year in implementing our Five Year Prosperity Strategy, including significant changes to our regional workforce system, research on transportation and workforce issues, partnering on business attraction and retention efforts, evaluating and incorporating labor market data into our workforce programs, and continuing to evaluate and discuss options for moving toward a more formal regional implementation structure.

The activities outlined in the grant proposal continue to advance these efforts by further building relationships within our region, more actively engaging the region's business leaders in the development of our talent pipeline, building on work to date regarding transportation gaps in the region, and evaluating the workforce, transportation, and land use impacts of our emerging autonomous/connected vehicle industry.

As an organization with a vested interest in economic and community prosperity in our region, we recognize the importance of Region 9 receiving this grant and are committed to supporting the implementation of the proposal outlined in the application. We look forward to continued work with you on this effort.

Sincerely,

Sr. Peg Albert, OP, PhD.
President
Siena Heights University

A Catholic University In The Dominican Tradition.



November 23, 2015

Mr. Steven M. Duke, Executive Director
Region 2 Planning Commission
Jackson County Tower Building
120 W. Michigan Ave.
Jackson, MI 49201

Re: Regional Prosperity Initiative Letter of Support

In recognition of our continued support for, and engagement in, the Region 9 Prosperity Initiative, Ann Arbor SPARK is writing to support the application from the Region 2 Planning Commission on behalf of the Region 9 partners for additional Regional Prosperity Initiative grant funding in 2016.

Region 9 partners have made great progress over the last year in implementing our Five Year Prosperity Strategy, including significant changes to our regional workforce system, research on transportation and workforce issues, partnering on business attraction and retention efforts, evaluating and incorporating labor market data into our workforce programs, and continuing to evaluate and discuss options for moving toward a more formal regional implementation structure.

The activities outlined in the grant proposal continue to advance these efforts by further building relationships within our region, more actively engaging the region's business leaders in the development of our talent pipeline, building on work to date regarding transportation gaps in the region, and evaluating the workforce, transportation, and land use impacts of our emerging autonomous/connected vehicle industry.

As an organization with a vested interest in economic and community prosperity in our region, we recognize the importance of Region 9 receiving this grant and are committed to supporting the implementation of the proposal outlined in the application. We look forward to continued work with you on this effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Phil P. Santer", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Phil Santer
Vice President, Business Development
Ann Arbor SPARK



OFFICE OF COMMUNITY &
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Collaborative solutions for a promising future

415 W. MICHIGAN AVE, SUITE 2200

P.O. BOX 915

YPSILANTI, MI 48197

PHONE | 734.622.9025 FAX | 734.544.6749

WEBSITE | WWW.EWASHTENAW.ORG/OCED

December 1, 2015

Mr. Steven M. Duke, Executive Director
Region 2 Planning Commission
Jackson County Tower Building
120 W. Michigan Ave.
Jackson, MI 49201

Re: Regional Prosperity Initiative Letter of Support

In recognition of our continued support for, and engagement in, the Region 9 Prosperity Initiative, the Washtenaw County Office of Community and Economic Development is writing to support the application from the Region 2 Planning Commission on behalf of the Region 9 partners for additional Regional Prosperity Initiative grant funding in 2016.

Region 9 partners have made great progress over the last year in implementing our Five Year Prosperity Strategy, including significant changes to our regional workforce system, research on transportation and workforce issues, partnering on business attraction and retention efforts, evaluating and incorporating labor market data into our workforce programs, and continuing to evaluate and discuss options for moving toward a more formal regional implementation structure.

The activities outlined in the grant proposal continue to advance these efforts by further building relationships within our region, more actively engaging the region's business leaders in the development of our talent pipeline, building on work to date regarding transportation gaps in the region, and evaluating the workforce, transportation, and land use impacts of our emerging autonomous/connected vehicle industry.

As an organization with a vested interest in economic and community prosperity in our region, we recognize the importance of Region 9 receiving this grant and are committed to supporting the implementation of the proposal outlined in the application. We look forward to continued work with you on this effort.

Sincerely,

Brett Lenart

Interim Director, Washtenaw County Office of Community and Economic Development



WASHTENAW COUNTY

RECEIVED

NOV 30 2015

Per _____

220 NORTH MAIN STREET, P.O. BOX 8645
ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN 48107-8645
(734) 222-4357
FAX (734) 222-6715
www.eWashtenaw.org

Mr. Steven M. Duke, Executive Director
Region 2 Planning Commission
Jackson County Tower Building
120 W. Michigan Ave.
Jackson, MI 49201

November 24, 2015

Re: Regional Prosperity Initiative Letter of Support

Dear Mr. Duke,

In recognition of our continued support for, and engagement in, the Region 9 Prosperity Initiative, Washtenaw County Government is writing to support the application from the Region 2 Planning Commission on behalf of the Region 9 partners for additional Regional Prosperity Initiative grant funding in 2016.

Region 9 partners have made great progress over the last year in implementing our Five Year Prosperity Strategy, including significant changes to our regional workforce system, research on transportation and workforce issues, partnering on business attraction and retention efforts, evaluating and incorporating labor market data into our workforce programs, and continuing to evaluate and discuss options for moving toward a more formal regional implementation structure.

The activities outlined in the grant proposal continue to advance these efforts by further building relationships within our region, more actively engaging the region's business leaders in the development of our talent pipeline, building on work to date regarding transportation gaps in the region, and evaluating the workforce, transportation, and land use impacts of our emerging autonomous/connected vehicle industry.

As an organization with a vested interest in economic and community prosperity in our region, we recognize the importance of Region 9 receiving this grant and are committed to supporting the implementation of the proposal outlined in the application. We look forward to continued work with you on this effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Verna J. McDaniel".

Verna J. McDaniel

Administrator

Washtenaw County Government



Office of the President

November 25, 2015

Mr. Steven M. Duke, Executive Director
Region 2 Planning Commission
Jackson County Tower Building
120 W. Michigan Ave.
Jackson, MI 49201

Dear Mr. Duke,

On behalf of Washtenaw Community College, I am writing to express our strong support of the application from the Region 2 Planning Commission on behalf of Region 9 partners for additional Prosperity Initiative grant funding in 2016.

Region 9 partners have made great progress over the last year in implementing our Five Year Prosperity Strategy, including significant changes to our regional workforce system, research on transportation and workforce issues, partnering on business attraction and retention efforts, evaluating and incorporating labor market data into our workforce programs, and continuing to evaluate and discuss options for moving toward a more formal regional implementation structure.

The activities outlined in the grant proposal continue to advance these efforts by further building relationships within our region, more actively engaging the region's business leaders in the development of our talent pipeline, building on work to date regarding transportation gaps in the region, and evaluating the workforce, transportation, and land use impacts of our emerging autonomous/connected vehicle industry.

As an organization with a vested interest in economic and community prosperity in our region, we recognize the importance of Region 9 receiving this funding in 2016 and are committed to supporting the implementation of the proposal outlined in the application.

We look forward to working with you, along with our regional partners to advance the economy of Southeast Michigan.

Sincerely,

Rose B. Bellanca, Ed.D.
President

Mr. Steven M. Duke, Executive Director
Region 2 Planning Commission
Jackson County Tower Building
120 W. Michigan Ave.
Jackson, MI 49201

Re: Regional Prosperity Initiative Letter of Support

In recognition of our continued support for, and engagement in, the Region 9 Prosperity Initiative, the Workforce Intelligence Network for Southeast Michigan (WIN) is writing to support the application from the Region 2 Planning Commission on behalf of the Region 9 partners for additional Regional Prosperity Initiative grant funding in 2016.

Region 9 partners have made great progress over the last year in implementing our Five Year Prosperity Strategy, including significant changes to our regional workforce system, research on transportation and workforce issues, partnering on business attraction and retention efforts, evaluating and incorporating labor market data into our workforce programs, and continuing to evaluate and discuss options for moving toward a more formal regional implementation structure.

The activities outlined in the grant proposal continue to advance these efforts by further building relationships within our region, more actively engaging the region's business leaders in the development of our talent pipeline, building on work to date regarding transportation gaps in the region, and evaluating the workforce, transportation, and land use impacts of our emerging autonomous/connected vehicle industry. Many of these efforts directly align with WIN's mission of creating a comprehensive and cohesive talent system in southeast Michigan, and we support the continued engagement of the Region 9 Prosperity Region around these important economic issues.

As an organization with a vested interest in economic and community prosperity in our region, particularly around the talent pipeline efforts, WIN recognizes the importance of Region 9 receiving this grant and is committed to supporting the implementation of the proposal outlined in the application. We look forward to continued work with the Region 9 partners and with you on this effort.

Sincerely,



Lisa Baragar Katz

Executive Director, Workforce Intelligence Network for Southeast Michigan



Preparing today's students
for tomorrow's world.

Mr. Steven M. Duke, Executive Director
Region 2 Planning Commission
Jackson County Tower Building
120 W. Michigan Ave.
Jackson, MI 49201

Re: Regional Prosperity Initiative Letter of Support

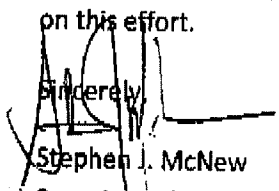
In recognition of our continued support for, and engagement in, the Region 9 Prosperity Initiative, the **Monroe County Intermediate School District** is writing to support the application from the Region 2 Planning Commission on behalf of the Region 9 partners for additional Regional Prosperity Initiative grant funding in 2016.

Region 9 partners have made great progress over the last year in implementing our Five Year Prosperity Strategy, including significant changes to our regional workforce system, research on transportation and workforce issues, partnering on business attraction and retention efforts, evaluating and incorporating labor market data into our workforce programs, and continuing to evaluate and discuss options for moving toward a more formal regional implementation structure.

The activities outlined in the grant proposal continue to advance these efforts by further building relationships within our region, more actively engaging the region's business leaders in the development of our talent pipeline, building on work to date regarding transportation gaps in the region, and evaluating the workforce, transportation, and land use impacts of our emerging autonomous/connected vehicle industry.

As an organization with a vested interest in economic and community prosperity in our region, we recognize the importance of Region 9 receiving this grant and are committed to supporting the implementation of the proposal outlined in the application. We look forward to continued work with you on this effort.

Sincerely,


Stephen J. McNew
Superintendent