

Region 2 Planning Commission

Serving Hillsdale, Jackson and Lenawee Counties

October 31, 2014

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 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 RPI grant.

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, workforce and adult education functional groups, we have developed initial goals and objectives for our five-year *Regional Economic Prosperity Strategy*. We are continuing that work and will have a completed strategy by January, 2015. Our functional teams have also developed and begun implementing "working to learn together" projects which are: helping establish a common understanding of needs and issues; identifying models for collaboration and/or consolidation; and building trust and improving coordination among regional organizations. We look forward to continuing the work together in 2015.

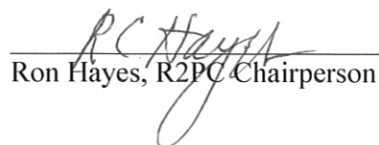
In year 2, proposed RPI funds will be used by regional partners to move toward a more organized, formal regional prosperity council (or other similar structure), as outlined in the Governor's Regional Prosperity Initiative and begin implementing that framework by developing collaborative solutions for one or two high-priority and potentially game-changing economic development projects in the region. In addition, grant funds will be used to begin implementing some of 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 2 Planning Commission

Serving Hillsdale, Jackson and Lenawee Counties

Resolution of Support

FY 2015 Regional Prosperity Plan Initiative (RPI) 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 2014 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 2015 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 October 9, 2014 meeting of the Executive Committee, and

WHEREAS, R2PC officials, in close consultation with the Initiative partners, have agreed to apply for a Level 1 grant in the amount of \$250,000 for Prosperity Region 9.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Region 2 Planning Commission supports the FY 2015 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

10/9/14
Date

REGIONAL PROSPERITY INITIATIVE APPLICATION

Submission Deadline:
November 1, 2014



APPLICATION MADE FOR: Southeast Michigan Prosperity Region 9 DATE: 10/31/14
(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: \$974,960

Fiscal Year: October 1, 2014 September 30, 2015
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 ☐

NO X

Guidance for Regional Funding Applications and Expectations:
Please limit the length of your answers to the following questions to no more than a total of four pages.

- 1) What is the total amount of funding requested? Please provide an itemized list of what you intend to do with that funding. Include a timeline, information about any funds you will leverage in this effort, and how you intend to measure success.**

Scope of Work

The focus of Year 1 of the Regional Prosperity Initiative (RPI) collaborative has been on building relationships among leaders and practitioners in the region and identifying priority prosperity issues within two key areas: talent and transportation. To date, this effort has been achieved by establishing and working within four functional teams made up of practitioners and leaders representing all six counties in the region:

- Talent Council (and information technology, health care, and manufacturing subgroups)
- Workforce
- Adult Education
- Transportation

This approach was used because these were areas identified as priorities by Governor Rick Snyder, and there was already some momentum underway for collaborating in these areas within the region. It made sense to start with these areas and then grow the regional collaborative effort from there. The teams are spending the first year identifying key regional issues, developing an initial Strategy for Economic Prosperity (which will be completed by January 2015), and starting collaborative work on specific projects in priority areas (Working to Learn Together projects).

In Year 2, regional partners propose to take the next step of accelerating economic prosperity by moving this grassroots start to a more organized, formal regional prosperity council as outlined in the governor's Regional Prosperity Initiative. The partners also plan to begin implementing some of the high-priority actions identified in the five-year strategy. Specifically, Year 2 will focus on two primary objectives:

- 1) Building a sustainable regional council framework/structure
- 2) Expanding and building on the success of the functional teams

Building a sustainable regional council framework/structure

In 2015, partners plan to:

- Convene regional leaders, including more deliberate engagement of business, political, and philanthropic leaders, for a one-day summit to learn about options for regional public-private collaboration frameworks (best practices from other regions) to advance economic prosperity. The summit will be an engaging and interactive event featuring leaders from other regions who will illustrate for Region 9 stakeholders how public-private regional frameworks have helped accelerate economic prosperity in their region. Participants will be engaged in activities to set a path for establishing a regional council in Region 9.

- Establish an action plan for implementing a selected collaborative council structure (containing a timeline, participants, and required resources) and the five-year strategy.
- Begin to implement the council framework by convening around, and developing collaborative solutions for, one or two high-priority and potentially game-changing economic development projects in the region. This will allow the newly forming regional structure to deploy around a tangible, immediate economic development need; further building on the Working to Learn Together approach developed during Year 1. This effort will bring together regional leaders not only from multiple communities, but from multiple disciplines (talent, education, transportation, housing/community development) and organization types (public, private, nonprofit) to address relevant human services, transportation, infrastructure, land use and economic development needs required to rapidly advance these economic opportunities.

Expanding and building on the success of the functional teams

In Year 2, the region will expand on the functional teams' success and evolve the structure of the teams to be integrated with/into the broader regional council. With continued support, functional teams will:

- Create a Region 9 Talent District Career Council, in alignment with the existing Regional Prosperity Initiative Talent Council, and in support of the regional transportation and other economic development strategies. This will likely result in some consolidation of the existing Talent Council, workforce, and industry subgroups that have been utilized in Year 1 to develop the five-year prosperity strategy.
- Continue to refine a regional adult education strategy that helps improve access to educational offerings, addresses basic skills gaps, and improves learners' success in their career pathway. The strategy will be implemented initially through Washtenaw Intermediate School District's procurement of adult education providers using funds from Section 107 of the School Aid Act. The work will also include aligning the adult education strategy with the consolidations undertaken among Workforce Development Boards, and will be done with oversight from the new regional Talent District Career Council.
- Continue to evaluate options for alignment and possible merger of Michigan Works! agencies' activities and services across Region 9. Additionally, teams will begin transitioning to the facilitation, planning, and board/staff development steps required to implement the agreed-upon changes.
- Use the results from the transportation functional teams' Year 1 Working to Learn Project to evaluate how well the region's current transportation infrastructure meets the needs of talent in the region's priority information technology, health care, and manufacturing sectors.
- Determine whether there is a need for consolidation of transportation planning services, and if so, what the best models are for consolidation of transportation services.
- Establish a challenge grant program to support the functional teams' implementation of some of the most strongly supported and timely strategies included in the five-year strategy. The challenge grant program will continue the Working to Learn Together approach used in the first year of the grant, and will require functional teams to propose key projects that advance the goals of the strategy. Challenge grant projects will be required to have regional impact

and provide at least a 50 percent match of RPI grant funds in order to leverage the available dollars and broaden the financial commitment of RPI partners.

- Engage functional team members, as appropriate, in the establishment of the regional prosperity council structure and the convening around the identified high-priority economic development project(s). As the process evolves during 2015, some functional teams may be fully absorbed into the new regional council.

Timeline

Tasks	2015 Timeline			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Building a sustainable regional collaboration framework/structure				
Regional leaders summit (plan, host, research best practice models)				
Development of action plans for establishment of regional council/framework				
Facilitation of initial council SWAT economic development opportunity meetings				
Communication and stakeholder engagement (branding, website, project updates)				
Expanding and Building on the Success of the Functional Teams				
Functional team facilitation and implementation support				
Challenge grant funding				
Program administration/project management				
Grant administration, project status meetings, reporting				

Budget

The Region 9 partners are requesting \$250,000 in RPI funding to complete the scope of work described above. A RPI Coordinator will be contracted to provide overall communication among regional partners, develop related documents and deliverables, plan and implement the regional summit, and organize and facilitate meetings of the regional collaborative. In addition, facilitation and implementation support will be provided to the functional teams as they continue evaluating and implementing plans and strategies. A detailed budget is below:

Budget Item	Total Requested	Percent of Grant
Building a sustainable regional collaboration framework/structure	\$ 90,000	36%
Regional leaders summit (plan, host, research best practice models)	\$ 25,000	
Development of action plans for establishment of regional council/framework	\$ 20,000	
Facilitation of initial council SWAT economic development opportunity meetings	\$ 20,000	
Communication and stakeholder engagement (branding, website, project updates)	\$ 25,000	
Expanding and Building on the Success of the Functional Teams	\$ 140,000	56%
Functional team facilitation and implementation support	\$ 90,000	
Challenge grant funding	\$ 50,000	
Program administration/project management	\$ 20,000	8%
Grant administration, project status meetings, reporting	\$ 20,000	
TOTAL	\$ 250,000	100%

2) Please describe why the region is eligible for the funding tier to which you are applying.

The Region 9 partners are applying to continue their work in Tier 1 of the prosperity initiative: Regional Prosperity Collaborative. Through bringing together public, private, and nonprofit regional partners, the group has begun collaborating and developing a regional prosperity strategy. This includes input from representatives of higher education, adult education, workforce, transportation, and economic development organizations. To date, the group's work has made significant progress in developing a regional vision and five-year prosperity strategy. The group is still working at the collaborative level, but plans to move toward Tier 2: Regional Prosperity Council in 2015. Region 2 Planning Commission has again agreed to be the grantee and is an eligible fiduciary under the Regional Prosperity Initiative requirements.

3) Please identify all partners participating in this application and specifically denote those that are required partners as identified in the boilerplate language. Please 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, please also denote changes to your participant list from the prior year.

The group of stakeholders engaged in the R9 prosperity initiative has grown substantially this year, with active engagement of nearly 80 organizations, including:

- 9 individual and intermediate school districts
- 7 higher education institutions
- 4 MichiganWorks! Agencies
- 11 economic development agencies and chambers of commerce
- 8 transportation planning organizations
- 7 municipal or regional planning organizations
- Over 30 private and public health, manufacturing, and information technology, and talent-related industry organizations

We have attached letters of support from many of these organizations (including all required partners), and a complete list of stakeholders is available on our website at:

<https://sites.google.com/a/pscinc.com/r9-prosperity-initiative/stakeholder-partners/stakeholder-organizations-participating-on-functional-work-teams>.

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?

Yes. Prosperity Region 9 recognizes its special connections to its adjacent planning areas, especially Prosperity Region 10 (Metro Detroit), and will continue to ensure our plans and RPI efforts are tightly integrated across geographies. A letter of support from the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments, which serves both Region 9 and 10 counties, is included with this application.

This Page for RETURNING APPLICANTS ONLY:

Please limit the length of your answers to the following questions to no more than a total of four pages.

- 1. DEMONSTRATION OF SUCCESS: Please describe your progress toward the deliverables outlined in your application from the last grant cycle. Your response must include evidence of engagement by all required partners, adherence to your budget, proposed timeline, open meetings act, development of your dashboard, prosperity plan and other proposed deliverables.**

Region 9 partners have made great progress in the RPI effort's first year. We have engaged over 80 organizations and over 100 people in the process to identify a vision and strategy for regional economic prosperity. Below are highlights of Region 9's accomplishments under our Year 1 grant.

- Convened a multicounty, multidisciplinary project management team (steering committee) who has overseen the grant effort, selected and guided the work of a consultant project coordinator, provided strategic guidance and awarded mini-grants to the four teams for Working to Learn Together projects.
- Convened four functional teams (Workforce, Adult Education, Talent Council, and Transportation) that are made up of public, private, and nonprofit organizations.
 - Talent Council: Four workgroups were formed within this team to explore strategies related to talent attraction and retention, service for special populations, career awareness and readiness for workers from youth to adults, and curriculum alignment with employer demand. In addition, Working to Learn Together RPI grant funding supported two employer cluster subgroups (information technology and health care), engaging numerous regional employers. The groups have identified the need to promote the region as an information technology hub, address company culture to create an employer-of-choice system, enhance soft skills, address long-term technology skills gaps, develop a health care workforce pipeline with K-12 schools and colleges, address talent attraction through exploration of compact licensure/nursing reciprocity, which would allow out-of-state nurses to practice within Michigan; promote leadership/succession planning for health care executive positions; and enhance screening of incoming health care talent to reduce recruit-to-hire ratios.
 - Workforce: The four Workforce Development Boards (WDB), local elected officials, and Michigan Works! agency directors have been exploring alternatives for aligning, integrating, and consolidating a range of governance and service delivery options. Working to Learn Together funding was used to have the Corporation for a Skilled Workforce provide research on models for consolidation and facilitation of discussions among a workgroup comprised of WDB leadership in the region. Regional workgroup partners have committed to optimizing their collaboration. The four directors are meeting regularly and developing service redesign alternatives for

their boards to consider. The work of both the joint boards group and the directors is continuing, and we anticipate reaching conclusions about Region 9's approach to redesigning workforce development by early 2015.

- Adult Education: This team, which includes more than 30 stakeholders in adult education, has begun rethinking Region 9's strategy and delivery models for adult education. The team includes local and intermediate school district superintendents, program directors, Michigan Works! agency directors and key staff, and community college leaders. The intent of the redesign is to increase both the reach of adult education and to adopt and expand cutting-edge modalities and delivery approaches that can increase the impact of adult education investments for participating learners. The team is operating under an initial deadline of completing its first-stage plan by January 2015, so as to inform the RFP for Section 107 funding that will need to be issued by Washtenaw Intermediate School District early in 2015 for 2015–2016 services.
- Transportation: The transportation functional team has identified regional transportation goals, objectives, and strategies that directly support region-wide economic prosperity, including opportunities for public-private funding, safety along major highway corridors, support for nonautomobile transportation, and improving the efficiency of freight and passenger movement through and within the region. The team is just getting underway with a Working to Learn Together project that is assessing the transportation needs and desires of talent in the three priority industries (health care, information technology, and manufacturing) identified by the Talent Council.
- Created a Regional Prosperity Initiative website for Region 9 (<https://sites.google.com/a/pscinc.com/r9-prosperity-initiative/>) which provides an overview of the effort and related tasks, identifies regional stakeholders and timeline, includes an interactive calendar to inform and engage the public, and provides draft documents and project deliverables.
- Drafted an initial regional prosperity strategy focused on advancing regional prosperity in the areas of talent (workforce, industry demands and engagement, adult education) and transportation. The first draft of the strategy will be complete in December, with a final draft of the strategy completed and endorsed by regional entities in January 2015.

The original grant timeline called for the strategy to be completed by September 2014. Because the grant award was not completed until spring 2014, extensions were requested and granted to complete the strategy by January 2015. The functional teams have been identifying measures of success for an ongoing prosperity strategy dashboard, and that dashboard will also be completed in this time frame. Each of the functional teams have begun their Working to Learn Together projects and mini-grant awards have been made to support those projects.

As of the time of this grant application, we are 77 percent through our grant expenditures, although we anticipate all funds will be encumbered by mid-December 2015. We have modified the budget slightly from the original grant application, as was provided to the state in October 2015.

2. NEEDS STATEMENT: Explain the need for a continued collaborative economic strategy in your region. Identify the needs a second 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 Regional Prosperity Initiative partners have made significant progress in advancing regional prosperity and identifying the need and options for improving regional services. An additional year of regional collaboration funding is necessary to make progress in the following areas:

- Establishment of a regional council
 - Broaden engagement in the regional collaborative (particularly the engagement of the business community), evaluate the impact and application of regional council models in Region 9, and ultimately, move from a small regional project management team and individual functional teams to a more formal, multi-stakeholder regional council.
 - Use the Working to Learn Together approach by having a newly formed regional council convene around one or two high-priority economic development opportunities in the region. This will allow for a rapid, integrated, multidisciplinary approach to addressing a couple key economic development opportunities, giving regional partners the opportunity to start implementing the regional council framework around specific, more confined issues.
- Expanding and building on the success of the functional teams
 - Facilitate further evaluation and development of collaboration/consolidation of services models.
 - Begin implementing recommended collaboration/consolidation changes.
 - Address other priority talent, workforce, adult education and/or transportation objectives included in the five-year prosperity strategy.

Many of the goals and strategies included in the prosperity strategy overlap with surrounding regions. In particular, there are overlapping jurisdictions among agencies within Regions 9 and 10 on workforce, adult education, and transportation. As such, each of the functional teams has had, and will continue to have representation from stakeholders in Region 10.

3. LESSONS LEARNED: What lessons will you take from last year's grant process that you will apply this year? How can these lessons inform your strategy for the upcoming year and increase opportunities for success?

It is important to engage stakeholders upfront in the regional strategy development process so people feel engaged in the process as it matures. In Region 9, the initial scope of work was developed with a smaller group of regional partners given time constraints. As we began moving forward with the establishment of functional teams, we quickly realized that a wider range of partners brought a more diverse set of experiences and ideas that are helping to enable stronger collaboration. We have tried to apply these lessons in developing this 2015 RPI proposal by utilizing the broad stakeholder network of the functional teams to generate priority action items to address in next year's grant. Stakeholders will also provide input on when and how to integrate and/or dissolve the current functional teams into the broader regional council and what types of third party facilitation might be most supportive for functional team efforts.

Also, all partners want to see action emerge from their efforts, so in 2015, it is clear that the process and meetings must move beyond network formation and idea generation to implementation of commonly identified and agreed-upon strategies.

4. TRANSPARENCY REQUIREMENT: Please indicate the appropriate website at which the required transparency documents for the 2014 Fiscal Year grant can be found.

The Region 9 Prosperity Initiative website is available at:
<https://sites.google.com/a/pscinc.com/r9-prosperity-initiative/>.

The website provides information on the RPI efforts, a calendar of meetings, list of stakeholders involved in the RPI effort, and relevant resources.

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

Year 1 products:

The final Region 9 Economic Prosperity Strategy will be completed in January, 2015, but regional partners have made significant progress. The R9 prosperity initiative website (above) includes drafts of the functional teams products and summaries of work to date which document the region's progress in completing year 1 tasks and deliverables.

Staff:

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

- Steven M. 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; nonmotorized transportation

FY2014 R2PC FULL COMMISSION ROSTER

V A C A N T (E), Jackson Co.

Keith Acker, Sandstone Twp.
Ron Bailey, Vil. of Onsted
Pat Baker, City of Adrian
Richard Beach, Vil. of North Adams
Alan Beeker (E), City of Hillsdale
Kimberly Blythe, City of Reading
Al Boggs, Rome Twp.
Jill Boone, Vil. of Waldron
Jack Branch, Lenawee Co.
Chelsea Bryant, Jackson Co.
Brenda Burkett, Lenawee Co.
Michael Burns, Litchfield Twp.
Timothy Burns, Jackson County
Alan Jon Burrell, Reading Twp.
Patrick Burtch (E), City of Jackson
Ireno Busato (E), Adrian Twp.
Namrata Carolan, Lenawee Co.
Wendy Chamberlain, Parma Twp.
Jennifer Coe (E), V. of Brooklyn
Terry Collins, Lenawee Co.
Kevin Cornish, Vil. of Clinton
Ronald Cousino, Deerfield Twp.
Lisa Delezeene, Woodstock Twp.
Andy Dotterweich (E), City of Jackson
Jim Driskill, Lenawee Co.
Phil Duckham (E), Jackson Co.
Jim Ellis, Vil. of Cement City
Curtis Emmons, Fairfield Twp.
Todd Emmons, Summit Twp.
Lynn Fessel, Jackson Co.
V A C A N T, Somerset Twp.
Marston Fortress, Spring Arbor Twp.
Roger Gaede (E), Columbia Twp.
Fred Gallagher, Lenawee Co.
Larry Gould (E), Lenawee Co.
Bruce Grabert, Blackman Twp.
Steve Hartsel, City of Hudson
Harvey Hawkins, Cambridge Twp.
Nancy Hawley, Henrietta Twp.
Ron Hayes (E), Vil. of Jonesville
Cliff Herl, Rives Twp.
James Isley, Palmyra Twp.
Mark Jeffrey, Vil. of Clayton
James Jenkins, Vil. Of Parma
John Jenkins, Rollin Twp.

Elwin Johnson (E), Jackson Co.
Eric Johnson, Norvell Twp.
Gary Kastel, Riga Twp.
Jack Koch (E), Blackman Twp.
Marilyn Koebbe, Vil. of Camden
Jeanne Kubish, City of Jackson
Cassandra LaGow, Jackson Co.
Doug Lance, Waterloo Twp.
Jamie Ley, Concord Twp.
Sarah Lightner, Jackson Co.
Michael Lovitt, Vil. of Concord
Gail W. Mahoney (E), Jackson Co.
Steve McElroy, Fayette Twp.
Adolio Navarro, Blissfield Twp.
Tom Nolte, Vil. of Grass Lake
Jeff Osterhout, Vil. of Britton
Paul Overeiner, Leoni Twp.
Mike Overton, Jackson Co.
Jim Palmer, Raisin Twp.
John Polaczyk, Jackson Co.
Jack Quigley (E), Medina Twp.
Carl Rice, Jr. (E), Jackson Co.
Larry Richardson, Madison Twp.
Laura Schlecte, City of Jackson
Paul Seegert, Village of Allen
Michael Sessions, City of Morenci
Steve Shotwell, Jackson Co.
Rick Sigers (E), Jackson Co.
Cletus Smith (E), Lenawee Co.
Harold Spencer, Scipio Twp.
Jim Spink, Liberty Twp.
Lori Stack, Jackson Co.
Jim Stormont, Grass Lake Twp.
John Tallis, Hanover Twp.
Doug Terry, City of Litchfield
Ralph Tillotson (E), Lenawee Co.
Dan VanValkenburg, Franklin Twp.
Mike Votzke, Vil. of Addison
Lee Wagner, Macon Twp.
James Wardius, Springport Twp.
Gordon Webb, Vil. of Springport
Chris Wittenbach (E), Lenawee Co.
Jim Wonacott (E), Vil. of Blissfield
Denise Wylie, Vil. of Deerfield
Dan Wymer, Napoleon Twp.
William Zimmerman, Clinton Twp.

Letters of Support



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 Works Agencies in Region 9 (South Central Michigan Works, Livingston County Michigan Works, Southeast Michigan Community Alliance, and Washtenaw County Michigan Works) are 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 2015.

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 organizations 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,


[Sarah Hartzler]
South Central Michigan Works!
[William Sleight, Director]
Livingston County Michigan Works!
[Gregory Pitoniak CEO]
Southeast Michigan Community Alliance
[Shamar Herron, Manager]
Washtenaw County Michigan Works!



October 27, 2014

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 Lenawee 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 2015.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Philp", is written over a horizontal line.

James Philp
Superintendent
Lenawee Intermediate School District



SYNERGY PARTNERS, LLC

3031 W. Grand Blvd., Suite 555 • Detroit, MI 48202 • Phone 313.748.7400 • Fax 313.748.7405

October 27, 2014

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, **Synergy Partners, LLC** 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 2015.

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,

Isadore J. King, President & CEO

Synergy Partners, LLC.

Region 2 Planning Commission



Jackson Area Comprehensive Transportation Study

October 27, 2014

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:

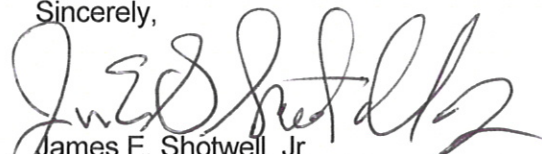
As the federally-designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Jackson urbanized area, the Jackson Area Comprehensive Transportation Study (JACTS) Policy Committee continues to perform an important role in developing the transportation system in Jackson County.

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.

The initiative's goal to bring together the various sectors leading to a common vision of economic prosperity will result in stronger connections between infrastructure providers, road agencies, local governments, education, and economic development guide to strengthen our partnerships throughout the 6 county prosperity region.

We look forward to working with the Region 2 Planning Commission on this important project.

Sincerely,


James E. Shotwell, Jr.
JACTS Policy Committee Chairperson



Southeast Michigan Community Alliance

*Serving Wayne and Monroe counties
(excluding the city of Detroit)*

25363 Eureka Rd.
Taylor, MI 48180
P: 734-229-3500
F: 734-229-3501

TTY/TDD: 800-649-3777
Web: www.semca.org

October 23, 2014

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

RECEIVED

OCT 27 2014

Per _____

Re: Regional Prosperity Initiative Letter of Support

In recognition of our continued support for, and engagement in, the Region 9 Prosperity Initiative, the Southeast Michigan Community Alliance (SEMCA) and our Monroe Michigan Works Service Center are 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 2015.

Region 9 partners have made progress over the last year in working together to develop a common vision for regional prosperity and evaluating opportunities and models for increasing collaboration. 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 mission to promote 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. We look forward to continued work with you on this effort.

Sincerely,

Gregory E. Pitoniak, CEO
Southeast Michigan Community Alliance (SEMCA)

cc: Julie Montri, Monroe Michigan Works Service Center

Accredited by





RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
BUSINESS SERVICE CENTER 4

MAURA D. CORRIGAN
DIRECTOR

October 28, 2014

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, the Michigan Department of Human Services, Business Service Center 4 (MDHS, BSC 4) 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 2015.

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. Successful implementation of the proposed activities, coincide nicely with the MDHS' mission which is to improve the quality of life in Michigan by providing services to vulnerable children and adults that will strengthen the community and enable families and individuals to move toward independence. Specifically, MDHS clients in Hillsdale, Jackson, Lenawee, Livingston, Monroe, and Washtenaw counties where BSC 4 has administrative oversight, will greatly benefit from Region 9 Prosperity efforts. In addition, our familiarity with this population will provide another perspective to the regional prosperity discussions. We look forward to continued work with you on this effort.

Sincerely,

Douglas Williams, Director
Michigan Department of Human Services
Business Service Center 4



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 2015.

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,

Stephen J. McNew, Superintendent

Monroe County Intermediate School District

October 27, 2014

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 Eastern Michigan University, I strongly support the continued efforts for, and engagement in, the Region 9 Prosperity Initiative. This letter confirms the university's 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 2015.

Over the past year, the Region 9 partnership has made great progress working together to develop a common vision for regional prosperity and evaluating opportunities and models for increasing collaboration and/or consolidation in the delivery of services. The grant proposal supports relationship building in our region, which leads 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 a stakeholder in the region, Eastern Michigan University has a vested interest in supporting the 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,



Kenneth Dobson
Executive Director
Government & Community Relations
Eastern Michigan University


October 27, 2014

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 review and update our regional economic development strategy. 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, Executive Director
SEMCOG



October 27, 2014

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

REF: Regional Prosperity Initiative Grant

Dear Mr. Duke,

The initial year of the Regional Prosperity Initiative (RPI) Collaborative has been on building relationships among leaders and practitioners in the region and identifying priority prosperity issues in talent and transportation. The Region 9 Partners have made great progress over the past year and the functional teams are working hard on this phase 1 effort.

I write today in support of continuing the effort by asking support for Year 2 Funding to continue the priority transportation, talent and education strategies identified in the five-year prosperity strategy.

Our institution has a vested interest in the economic vitality and community prosperity of our region and recognizes the importance of Region 9 receiving this grant. We are committed to support and participation and hope to continue to work with you on this effort.

Sincerely yours,

Curtis C. Gielow
Chief Executive Officer
Concordia University –Ann Arbor Campus

HILLSDALE COUNTY INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DISTRICT

310 West Bacon Street – Hillsdale, Michigan 49242
(517) 437-0990 – FAX (517) 439-4388

Superintendent
Michael Potts

Board of Education
Michelle Masta, President
Sara Lisznyai, Vice President
Scott Gutowski, Secretary
Bonnie Leininger, Treasurer
Laurie Brandes, Trustee

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 Hillsdale County Intermediate School District (HCISD) 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 2015.

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.

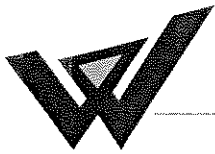
As an organization with a vested interest in economic and community prosperity in our region, we recognize the importance of Region 9 receiving this grant and are committed to supporting the implementation of the proposal outlined in the application. We look forward to continued work with you on this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

Sincerely,



Michael Potts

The mission of the Hillsdale County Intermediate School System is to provide innovation, leadership, service, and support in a collaborative manner, for the benefit of students, families, and community.
This institution is an equal opportunity provider, and employer.



Washtenaw I S D

A REGIONAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICE AGENCY

October 27, 2014

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

In recognition of our continued support for, and engagement in the Region 9 Prosperity Initiative, the Washtenaw ISD 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 2015.

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,

Scott A. Menzel, Superintendent
Washtenaw Intermediate School District



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
LANSING

KIRK T. STEUDLE
DIRECTOR

October 27, 2014

Mr. Steven M. Duke, Executive Director
Region 2 Planning Commission
Jackson County Tower Building
120 W. Michigan Ave.
Jackson, Michigan 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 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 2015.

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,

Paul C. Ajegba
University Region Engineer

/pca:eap

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

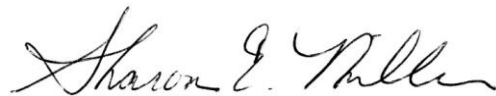
Re: Regional Prosperity Initiative Letter of Support

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 2015.

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,



Sharon Miller, WIN Co-Chair
Oakland County Community College



William Sleight, WIN Co-Chair
Livingston County Michigan Works!



LIVINGSTON COUNTY ADMINISTRATION

LIVINGSTON COUNTY, MICHIGAN

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

TEL: (517) 546-3669

E-MAIL: bpeters@livgov.com

BELINDA M. PETERS
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

October 23, 2014

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 2015.

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,

BELINDA M. PETERS
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

BMP/csj

S:\WP\MI Works\RPI Task Force\Region 9 Support Letter.docx



Office of the President

October 27, 2014

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, Washtenaw 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 2015.

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,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Rose B. Bellanca".

Rose B. Bellanca, Ed.D.
President



October 27, 2014

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 2015.

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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chris Kolb".

Chris Kolb, President
Michigan Environmental Council



Because Business is Community



October 27, 2014

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 Hillsdale County Chamber of Commerce 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 2015.

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,


Christine Bowman

Executive Director

Hillsdale County Chamber of Commerce

Titanium Supporter Current Office Solutions

Your Single Source...

Platinum Supporters



Gold Supporters



Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING



Silver Supporters



44 N. HOWELL STREET • P.O. BOX 842 • HILLSDALE MI 49242 • (517) 439-4341

info@hillsdalecountychamber.com • www.hillsdalecountychamber.com

facebook.com/hdchamber

Office hours: Monday - Friday • 10am to 3pm or by appointment



Ann Arbor Transportation Authority
2700 South Industrial Highway
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104
734.973.6500 734.973.6338 F
theride.org

October 24, 2014

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 Ann Arbor Area Transportation Authority (AAATA), 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 2015. The AAATA, also known as TheRide, is the public transit operation in the Ann Arbor-Ypsilanti area.

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,

Dawn Gabay
Deputy Chief Executive Officer



Regional Partners

Paul Krutko
President and CEO
Ann Arbor SPARK

Tim Lake
President and CEO
Monroe County Business
Development Corporation

Tim Rogers
President and CEO
Enterprise Group of Jackson

Susan Smith
Executive Director
Economic Development
Partnership of Hillsdale
County

Jim Van Doren
President and CEO
Lenawee Now

Resolution of Support of the Region 2 Planning Commission

Application on behalf of The Greater Ann Arbor Prosperity Region

WHEREAS, Governor Snyder and the Michigan Legislature have created the Regional Prosperity Initiative, and,

WHEREAS, in 2012 the State of Michigan formed a Regional Reinvention Initiative Committee to plan for improving collaboration between Michigan's Regional Planning Agencies, Work Force Development Agencies, Adult Education Providers, Economic Development Agencies, and other agencies; and

WHEREAS, in August 2013 the Regional Reinvention Initiative Committee introduced the Regional Prosperity Initiative that includes ten new Prosperity Regions, and various levels of funding to enhance collaboration and to develop a Five Year Regional Prosperity Plan for each of Michigan's ten Prosperity Regions; and

WHEREAS, the Regional Prosperity Initiative is intended to foster greater communication and collaboration among organizations involved in economic development, education, work-force development, regional planning and transportation agencies, local and state government, and private business, and,

WHEREAS, The six counties of The Greater Ann Arbor Prosperity Region include Jackson, Hillsdale, Lenawee, Monroe, Livingston, Washtenaw; have a total land area of 4,067 square miles and a 2010 population of 984,607 comprising approximately 10% of the total population of the state, and;

WHEREAS, The principal transportation routes include I-94, I-96, US-12, US-23, US-127, and US-223. The region has over 12,000 miles of major roads which is 8% of the State's total. The area is served by Amtrak which offers passenger rail service linking the Detroit area with Chicago. Each of the counties has a publicly-owned general utility airport and is served by a public transit system. The region contains two metropolitan planning organizations - SEMCOG and R2PC, and;



Regional Partners

Paul Krutko

President and CEO
Ann Arbor SPARK

Tim Lake

President and CEO
Monroe County Business
Development Corporation

Tim Rogers

President and CEO
Enterprise Group of Jackson

Susan Smith

Executive Director
Economic Development
Partnership of Hillsdale
County

Jim Van Doren

President and CEO
Lenawee Now

WHEREAS, Prosperity Region 9 includes 6 Intermediate School Districts, dozens of K-12 school districts comprised of traditional public school and academies (i.e., charter schools). The prosperity region is home to 2 state universities (University of Michigan and Eastern Michigan University) and 7 community college campuses (Jackson College | Central, W.J. Maher, JC @ LISD TECH and LeTarte Center; Mott Community College | Livingston Center; Monroe Community College; and Washtenaw Community College). Adrian College; Ave Maria School of Law; Baker College | Jackson; Cleary University | Livingston and Washtenaw; Concordia University; Hillsdale College; Sienna Heights University; and Spring Arbor University are also located within the region, and;

WHEREAS, the Greater Ann Arbor Region Economic Development Partners have been active participants in the first year of the Region 9 Prosperity Initiative and believe that significant progress has been made in fostering relationships, building trust, considering models for greater collaboration and cooperation, and establishing a five-year vision and strategy for economic prosperity in the region.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Region 9: Greater Ann Arbor Region Economic Development Partners hereby supports the Region 2 Planning Commission as the grant applicant on behalf of the Greater Ann Arbor Prosperity Region.

Approved by The Greater Ann Arbor Region Economic Development Partners on November 1, 2014:

Paul Krutko, *President and CEO of Ann Arbor SPARK*

Tim Lake, *President and CEO of the Monroe Business Development Corporation*

Tim Rogers, *President and CEO of the Jackson Enterprise Group*

Susan Smith, *Executive Director of the Economic Development Partnership of Hillsdale County*

Jim Van Doren, *President and CEO of Lenawee Now*



October 22, 2014

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 Chamber of Commerce and Experience Jackson (Jackson County Visitors Bureau) are 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 2015.

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,

Mandy Bradish-Orta
President, Jackson County Chamber
Executive Director, Experience Jackson



A2YChamber
ANN ARBOR / YPSILANTI REGIONAL CHAMBER

115 West Huron Street, 3rd Floor | Ann Arbor, MI 48104

☎ (734) 665-4433 | fax (734) 665-4191 | A2YChamber.org

October 22, 2014

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

Dear Mr. Duke:

In recognition of our continued support for, and engagement in, the Region 9 Prosperity Initiative, the Ann Arbor / Ypsilanti Regional Chamber 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 2015.

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,

Diane Keller
President and CEO
Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti Regional Chamber

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 acknowledgment of our continued support for, and engagement in, the Region 9 Prosperity Initiative, the Jackson Area Transportation Authority (JATA) 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 2015.

As a key partner in the Jackson community and region, I understand the potential impact that this initiative has on the community. This project has the opportunity to advance economic prosperity throughout the Jackson community.

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 our continued work with you on this effort.

Sincerely,



Bradley Charkowske,
Executive Director

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 2015.

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,



Kevin Oxley
Superintendent
Jackson County Intermediate School District

October 22, 2014

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 from Lenawee Now

Dear Mr. Duke, *Steve*,

On behalf of Lenawee Now, Lenawee County's economic development organization, I am writing to express our continued support and engagement in the Region 9 Prosperity Initiative. This letter is to document our support of the application from the Region 2 Planning Commission being submitted on behalf of all Region 9 partners for additional funding in 2015.

Region 9 partners have been hard at work over the last year to progress in developing regional prosperity. As an example outcome of our collaboration, Lenawee County is now the home to a satellite operation of the Ann Arbor / Ypsilanti SmartZone. This is not something we could have done on our own. By working together with the Region 9 partners, we can now offer greater services to our community and have improved Lenawee Now's business attraction strategy. We would like to see more successes like this, which we believe the activities outlined in the Regional Prosperity grant funding application will lead to. They will become more frequent as we progress through our five-year prosperity strategy and create a sustainable structure for our regional collaboration.

We believe that Lenawee County benefits from a regional collaboration, and thus we have a vested interest in Region 9's economic success. We feel strongly that Region 9 needs to continue moving forward with the initiatives outlined in the application. Receiving grant funding is imperative to do so. Lenawee Now and all of the Region 9 partners look forward to working with you toward this effort.

Sincerely,



James E. Van Doren
Executive Director

**Administrative Office**

21 Care Drive
Hillsdale, MI 49242
(517) 437-3381
Toll-Free (888) MI WORKS
FAX (517) 437-3249
Michigan Relay Center:
(800) 649-3777

Hillsdale County

21 Care Drive
Hillsdale, MI 49242
(517) 437-3381
FAX (517) 437-4128

Jackson County

Commonwealth
Commerce Center
209 E. Washington Ave.
Suite 100
Jackson, MI 49201
(517) 841-5627
FAX (517) 782-0140

Lenawee County

Lenawee County
Human Services Bldg.
1040 S. Winter Street
Suite 1014
Adrian, MI 49221
(517) 266-5627
FAX (517) 266-2745

www.scmw.org

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, South Central Michigan Works! 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 2015.

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,

Sarah Hartzler, President





GTRI

GLOBAL TALENT RETENTION INITIATIVE
OF MICHIGAN

325 E. Grand River Ave.
Suite 275
East Lansing, MI 48823
Phone: 517-999-3382

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 Global Talent Retention Initiative of Michigan 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 2015.

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,

Athena Trentin, Ed.D.
Executive Director



October 22, 2014

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 supports the application from the Region 2 Planning Commission on behalf of the Region 9 partners for additional Regional Prosperity Initiative grant funding in 2015.

Region 9 partners have made significant 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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Daniel E. Danosky", is written over a blue circular stamp or seal.

Daniel E. Danosky
Superintendent



CITY OF CHELSEA

October 22, 2014

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

RE: Regional 9 Prosperity Initiative – Grant Application Letter of Support

Dear Mr. Duke,

First, I would like to thank you for inviting the City of Chelsea to serve on the Transportation Functional Team. The importance of working together as regional partners to enhance economic prosperity along the I-94 corridor is extremely important to our community. We welcome this opportunity.

Second, I would also like to thank you for the ground work that you have done as part of the Management Team to create this initiative which is filled with representatives from different backgrounds who would normally not have the opportunity to work together on regional economic development issues.

The City of Chelsea supports the Region 9 Prosperity Initiative's application for additional grant funding in 2015 to continue working together to build relationships within our region and implementing some of the priority transportation strategies identified in the five-year prosperity strategy and moving toward a more long-term, sustainable structure for regional collaboration.

Sincerely,



John P. Hanifan
City Manager