



**Muskegon Area Chamber of Commerce
Government Affairs Committee
Comprehensive Regional Transportation Planning**

*Passed by the Government Affairs Committee, February 15, 2008
Presented to and adopted by the Chamber Board of Directors, February 21, 2008*

The Government Affairs Committee of the Muskegon Area Chamber of Commerce recommends the Muskegon Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors endorse efforts to engage in a process of Comprehensive Regional Transportation Planning.

The goal of this initiative is to develop a 10-20 year plan for the “framework” of a regional multimodal transportation system that connects West Michigan businesses and residents effectively and efficiently to the nation and the world.

We believe that such planning is critical to our region’s economic prosperity, positioning us to compete for jobs and attract top talent and new companies. Further, we believe that such a plan, along with its implementation, will significantly contribute to achieving the six priorities for regional collaboration: create a regional mindset; foster a prosperous economy; strengthen community through diversity; ensure a sustainable environment; revitalize our urban centers, and develop a regional growth strategy. Additionally, we acknowledge that transportation infrastructure provides a critical foundation for our region’s quality of life that enables businesses to attract and retain talent.

The Muskegon Area Chamber of Commerce urges that for purposes of transportation planning, the boundaries of our region should be defined at minimum as including areas surrounding Holland, Grand Haven, Muskegon, and Grand Rapids. In addition, we believe that the scope of the project should include multi-modal transportation, including major highway corridors, public transportation, non-motorized transportation (such as bicycle and pedestrian traffic), freight and commercial traffic, and rail transportation and how they interconnect with each other as an integrated system that achieves mutually agreed to objectives.

We encourage collaboration among the Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs), business community and other stakeholders (including experts from the states universities) to achieve consensus regarding this regional “framework,”

Additionally, the Government Affairs Committee recommends that the Muskegon Area Chamber of Commerce designate one or more representatives to participate in the planning process.

We recommend that the Comprehensive Regional Transportation Planning process moves forward with a sense of urgency, as the economic future of our region depends upon it.
