



*Framework for Our Future:*

## A Regional Prosperity Plan for Northwest Michigan

Through the Regional Prosperity Initiative, the Northwest Michigan Council of Governments is working with local private, public, and non-profit partners to develop a regional resource that will aid communities that choose to address housing, transportation, recreation, and other local and regional issues.

As part of the statewide Regional Prosperity Initiative, the Northwest Michigan Council of Governments will work with the ten-county region of Antrim, Benzie, Charlevoix, Emmet, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Manistee, Missaukee, and Wexford counties to develop tools and resources for local decision-makers as they work to create more opportunities in their communities. The *Framework for Our Future: A Regional Prosperity Plan for Northwest Michigan* is being developed as a resource that will provide information, tools, resources, and step-by-step action guides that communities, nonprofits, and other organizations throughout Northwest Michigan can choose to use as they work toward local and regional goals.

### **What is the Regional Prosperity Initiative?**

Michigan's "Regional Prosperity Initiative (RPI)," as initiated by Governor Snyder and signed into law as a part of the FY 2014 budget (59 PA 2013), encourages local private, public and non-profit partners to identify regionally aligned growth and investment strategies for Lansing to support, not the other way around. It also provides the framework for all state departments to share common service areas and support individual regional prosperity plans. Bottom-line is that the RPI is focused on streamlining state services and highlighting the regionally defined goals and strategies that will further our region's success. A map of Michigan's Prosperity Regions and more information about the program can be found at: [www.michigan.gov/regionalprosperity](http://www.michigan.gov/regionalprosperity).

### **How will the *Framework for Our Future* be used?**

The *Framework for Our Future: A Regional Prosperity Plan for Northwest Michigan* will be developed as a resource for communities and community partners. Data and information will help communities supplement their local deliberation and decision-making, and action guides will help to identify the steps a community can take to address a local issue, if desired. **The *Framework for Our Future* and the Regional Prosperity Initiative is not a state mandate, nor does it supersede any local government decision-making. Your community's participation is 100% voluntary.**

### **How can my community participate?**

Individuals, local governments, community organizations, and others can participate in the development of the Regional Prosperity Plan by providing input and feedback at events, online, and at regularly-scheduled network meetings. See the next page for more details.

### **When will the *Framework for Our Future* be completed?**

The Regional Prosperity Plan is scheduled to be completed by October 2014. The public and stakeholders will have opportunities to review and comment on all draft documents prior to completion.

# Framework for Our Future: A Regional Prosperity Plan for Northwest Michigan:

## Input Opportunities

Community leaders, stakeholders & the public are invited to participate in the *Framework for Our Future: A Regional Prosperity Plan* to explore **regional actions & solutions** to local and regional housing, transportation, recreation, natural resources, and other community issues.

### Participate in *Framework for Our Future* Events, Discussions, and Meetings:

#### Attend Events:

##### Building Community Solutions: Strategy Work Sessions

Community leaders, stakeholders, & the public are invited to learn about the Regional Prosperity Initiative and to explore regional actions & solutions to local and regional housing, transportation, recreation, and other community issues at a series of events being held throughout the region. Events will include:

##### Strategy Work Sessions: 2-5 p.m.

*In-depth work session to discuss & develop regional solutions to community needs & issues*

##### Strategy Overview & Open House: 6-7:30 p.m.

*Overview of afternoon results, open house, & networking*

Events will be held throughout the region at the following dates and locations:

##### Wednesday, April 23, 2014

Charlevoix Public Library, 220 Clinton Street, Charlevoix

##### Wednesday, May 14, 2014

Pleasant Valley Community Center, 3586 Glovers Lake Rd, Arcadia

##### Thursday, May 15, 2014

Baker College, 9600 E 13<sup>th</sup> Street, Cadillac

##### Wednesday, May 28, 2014

NMC Hagerty Center, 715 E Front St, Traverse City

Refreshments will be served. There is no cost to attend. Please RSVP to Elizabeth Calcutt, NWMCOG, 231-929-5048 or [elizabethcalcutt@nwm.cog.mi.us](mailto:elizabethcalcutt@nwm.cog.mi.us)

#### Discuss & Participate Online at LetsDecideHow.org

For those that would like to continue the conversations begun at strategy events, or for those that aren't able to attend, all residents and stakeholders are invited to participate in strategy discussions about housing, transportation, and more issues online at [www.letsdecidehow.org](http://www.letsdecidehow.org). This website offers an online venue for public discussions about community issues.

#### Review Draft Reports and Documents

All reports and draft documents will be posted online for review and comment. Visit [www.nwm.org/rpi](http://www.nwm.org/rpi) to **review and comment** on all reports and documents as they become available.

#### Participate in Surveys

Visit [www.nwm.org/rpi](http://www.nwm.org/rpi) to participate in online questionnaires on housing and development.

#### Participate in Regional Network Discussions

Several regional networks meet regularly to discuss issues and actions related to *Framework for Our Future* topics. For more information or to participate in a network meeting, please contact Sarah Lucas, NWMCOG, at 231-929-5034 or via email at [sarahlucas@nwm.cog.mi.us](mailto:sarahlucas@nwm.cog.mi.us)

##### Transportation Network

Transportation agencies, transit providers, advocates, and local governments meet monthly to discuss regional and local transportation issues.

##### Housing Solutions Network

Housing providers, funders, local governments, advocates, realtors, and others meet to discuss affordable housing and other housing issues.

##### Growth & Investment Network

Local governments, economic development agencies, and others meet quarterly to discuss development and economic issues.



Let Our Resources Work For You.



**Northwest Michigan  
Council of Governments**

Workforce • Business • Community