

Program planning. The MDOT Local Federal Aid buyout program has been completed. Awarded exchanges were announced. Notifications will be released in November. Local Agencies will be contacted in January. RCKC is hiring multiple positions; check the website for more information.

LAND USE/PLANNING AND ZONING-

Feldt updated the City of Portage signed a contract with a planning consultant to update the Comprehensive Plan. The city is seeking to hire additional Community Development Planners. Portage continues to see development of new housing and as a result has approved rezoning to support higher densities due to current market demand. Portage is also experiencing commercial renovation and industrial use expansion.

Stefforia reported Comstock Township is working on its 5-year Master Plan update. Comstock Township has become only the third township in the state to be certified as a Redevelopment Ready Community. A celebration will be held on August 16, 2022 at Merrill Park from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

DenBraber announced the Michigan Department of Transportation Southwest Region has two open Planner positions.

Horner explained Oshtemo Township designated \$225,000 in 2023 to update access management and transportation in its master plan. Current housing issues will be addressed.

Walters reported the Michigan Department of Transportation will submit the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study Transportation Improvement Program to the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration August 15, 2022. Approval is anticipated by October 1, 2022. Final obligation packages should be submitted to the Local Agency Program by August 22, 2022.

Stoddard reported the City of Parchment is working toward Redevelopment Ready Community status.

Heppler stated the Village of Augusta rezoning is ongoing. Heppler pointed out the Kalamazoo County City Commissioners have distributed about \$7 million dollars for housing improvement throughout the County. We can continue to work to obtain grants to assist our communities.

Anderson invited attendees to the Michigan Association of Planning event at the downtown Kalamazoo Public Library August 19, 2022 from 10:00 a.m. to noon. Please RSVP to Andrea Brown, AICP at abrown@planningmi.org. Engagement for the City of Kalamazoo 2-way downtown street conversion is ongoing. Input is scheduled during all of August Lunchtime Lives at Bronson Park. Another public meeting is scheduled August 19, 2022 from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at Arcadia Festival Site. A business forum will be held later this month with Southwest Michigan First. The City will host engagement over the next two months for the Northside Cultural Business District Authority. Kalamazoo received nearly \$6 million dollars from the U.S. Department of Transportation's Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) discretionary grant program. The funds will be used for the redesign of downtown streets project.

Grover provided an update that the new Kalamazoo County Pictometry aerials are up on the partner Pictometry Connect Explorer portal but are planned to be available on the public GIS portal in September. Pavilion Township passed its first Brownfield Plan related to a large site that is planned for redevelopment in coordination with the landbank, the township and the developer. Road upgrades necessary to handle anticipated increased traffic as a result of this plan will be funded with the Brownfield Tax Increment Financing. This is a reminder of the benefit of Tax Increment Financing available through a qualifying Brownfield Plan. This plan will be presented to the County Commissioners next week with a public hearing planned on August 16, 2022.

NEW BUSINESS

Steppek reported the Census Bureau plans to announce the final delineation of Urban Areas based on the 2020 Census in December 2022. This delay may require realignment of the Kalamazoo Area

