WEST TRAVERSE TOWNSHIP
Thorne Swift/Parks & Recreation Committee
Meeting Agenda
Wednesday, November 18, 2026 – 5:00 PM

1. Call to order
2. Roll call
3. Approve minutes of:
    a. September 16, 2026
4. Old Business:
    a. Recreation concept proposal discussion
        1. Scope of recreational component:
            a. Budget/scope of grant application discussion
        2. Open house--update
    b. Playground equipment discussion—Thorne Swift
5. New Business:

    None
6. Public comments – Please state name
7. Committee member comments
8. Next meeting: December 16, 2026
9. Adjourn

WEST TRAVERSE TOWNSHIP
Thorne Swift/Parks & Recreation Committee
September 16, 2026 – 5:00 PM- **Draft meeting minutes**

1. Call to order

Chair Hammond called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

2. Roll Call

Present: Hammond, Baker, Olson, Ford, DeCamp

Absent: Mooradian, Arbaugh

Staff Present: Ken Lane, Planning & Zoning Administrator

Guests Present: None

3. Approve minutes of: August 18, 2026.

Motion by DeCamp, second by Olson, to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

4. Old Business

a. Scope of recreational component:

a. Map of proposed walking trail

Zoning Administrator Lane stated that a walking trail route map was presented by Chair Hammond at the August meeting. He added the proposed trail will be unimproved initially. He added the Committee should confirm the trail route tonight, so that it can be presented at an open house for public input.

After reviewing the map included in the meeting packet, the Recreation Committee confirmed the walking trail route map by consensus, and also determined that public input should be obtained on the proposed route at an open house.

b. Picnic area, benches, placards discussion

Zoning Administrator Lane stated that at last months meeting, the Recreation Committee determined to hold off on a pavilion for this project. He added that the Committee discussed having at least one picnic area located on the flat area identified on Chair Hammonds map. He added that the Recreation Committee also discussed a possible picnic area location closer to the new Township Hall parking lot. Zoning Administrator Lane suggested that picnic areas be a topic for input at the open house.

Member DeCamp stated that a picnic area closer to Township Hall has a better chance of being used by people that come to Township Hall to conduct other business.

Member Olson stated that in relation to the big barn on Township property, one group is putting together a proposal to have a nonprofit organization be responsible for preserving and maintaining it in conjunction with the current Township Hall building. He added the details will be presented to the Township Board in the coming months.

Zoning Administrator Lane stated that the Committee discussed placards along the trail route that will identify interesting or unique trees and vegetation.

Chair Hammond stated that he will be able to create the placards using the same method used at Thorne Swift.

Zoning Administrator Lane stated that the Recreation Committee had discussed benches that will have signs that people can donate to and sponsor. He asked if a question about donations should be presented at an open house.

The Recreation Committee agreed by consensus that seeking public input about donations at the open house is appropriate.

c. Budget/scope of grant application discussion

Zoning Administrator Lane stated that a project budget does not need to be finalized yet, but the goal should be to have it finalized by January 2027 to allow for a grant application by April 1, 2027.

Chair Hammond stated that he has found local Boy Scout Troop #55, and will determine if they might be willing to help establish the trail. He added that he wasn't able to obtain an estimated cost for a ¼ mile trail, but he will work to obtain that information from the Little Travere Conservancy.

Member Ford stated that Harbor Hall may have a group that can assist with trail improvements.

Member DeCamp asked if the small garage will be used as a maintenance building, and if so, will it be cleaned up.

Member Olson responded that there are plans to clean up that building and it may need a new roof. He added that this work may be taken up by the Township Board and would not need to be included in a grant application.

2. Open House:

a. Draft notice

Zoning Administrator Lane stated that a draft notice for an open house to be held on October 21, 2026, was included in the meeting packet. He added that he envisions the notice being published in the Harbor Light newspaper, being posted on the Township website, and being sent out via Text-my-Gov. Zoning Administrator Lane stated that the draft notice keeps a public comment period open beyond the open house date until December.

The Recreation Committee approved by consensus the open house notice scheduling an open house for October 21, 2026, from 5-8PM at Township Hall.

b. Playground equipment discussion—Thorne Swift

Chair Hammond stated that he is working with a third and final company to obtain a quote for the playground equipment. He added that he is also receiving quotes for tree removal, and intends to convert the removed trees to benches to be used at Thorne Swift.

5. New Business

None.

6. Public comments

None.

7. Committee member Comments

None.

8-9. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 5:25 PM. The Open House is scheduled for October 21, 2026, from 5-8PM. The next meeting is scheduled for November 18, 2026, at 5:00 PM.

Submitted by: Ken Lane, Planning & Zoning Administrator

DRAFT



The West Traverse Township Recreation Committee is in the process of developing plans to provide recreational opportunities, including a hiking trail and picnic area, on properties owned by the Township across from the current Township Hall. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following:

Recreation Component	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Focus on active recreation options, including hiking, biking, and cross-country skiing	XX	x			
Focus on passive recreation options, including picnicking and birdwatching	x	x			
Accept public donations to fund benches and other improvements	xxx	x			



The West Traverse Township Recreation Committee is in the process of developing plans to provide recreational opportunities, including a hiking trail and picnic area, on properties owned by the Township across from the current Township Hall. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following:

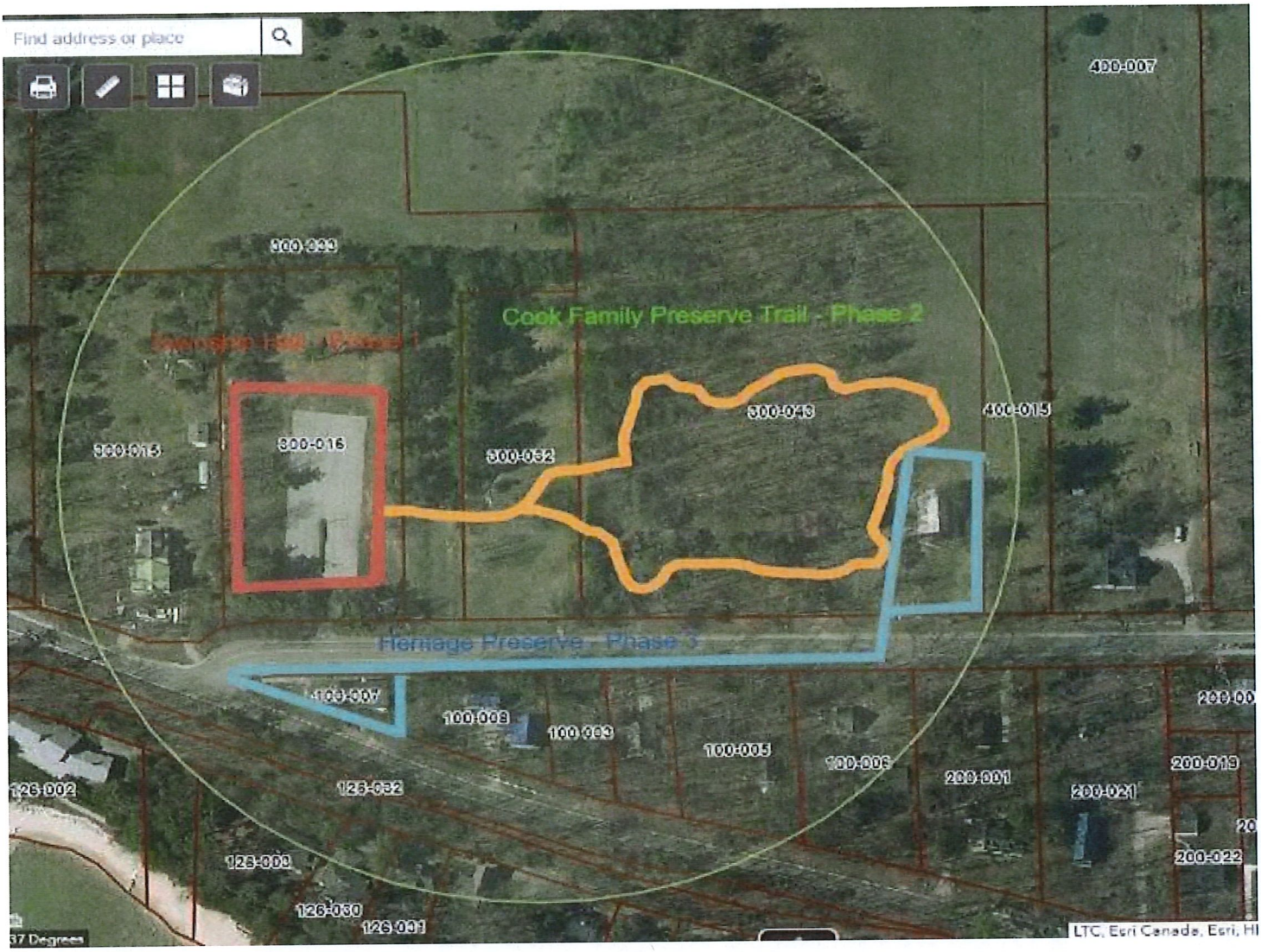
Recreation Component	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
A picnic area should be established near the parking lot for the new Township Hall	x		x		
The proposed hiking trail will be used by visitors to the new Township Hall		xx			
The proposed hiking trail should be expanded for access to other Township properties		xx			

PLEASE SHARE YOUR COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSED HIKING TRAIL.

THANK YOU!!

ANNUAL
COST OF
MAINTENANCE?

(HOW OFTEN?)


Find address or place
400-007
300-033
Cook Family Preserve Trail - Phase 2
300-043
400-015
300-015
300-016
300-032
Heritage Preserve - Phase 3
100-007
100-008
100-003
100-005
100-006
200-001
200-021
200-019
200-022
126-002
126-032
126-003
126-030
126-031
LTC, Esri Canada, Esri, HI

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Grants Management Section

RECREATION GRANT PROGRAMS

	ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS	PREREQUISITE TO APPLY/MATCH	ELIGIBLE PROJECTS	APPLICATION DEADLINE	MINIMUM AND MAXIMUM GRANT REQUEST AMOUNTS	AWARD RECOMMENDATION DATE	SITE CONTROL REQUIRED FOR DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS
Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) Approximately $21 million available annually	*State and Local units of government authorized to provide public outdoor recreation. *Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority and Regional Recreation Authorities.	*Applicant must have a current, five-year recreation plan that has been approved by the DNR prior to the application deadline. Match – minimum 25%	*Acquisition Projects: acquisition of land or specific rights in land (i.e. easements). AND * Development Projects: for public outdoor recreation such as: trails, campgrounds, ball fields, tennis courts and restrooms.	*April 1 Submitted electronically online	*Acquisition Projects: no minimum or maximum grant request. *Development Projects: $15,000 minimum and $300,000 maximum grant request.	*In early December, the MNRTF Board makes final recommendations to the Legislature for funding.	Private land not eligible. Public land not owned by applicant must have a minimum of 25-year lease and landowner commitment to long-term maintenance and perpetual encumbrance.
Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Approximately $6 million available annually	*State and Local units of government authorized to provide public outdoor recreation. *Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority and Regional Recreation Authorities. *Federally recognized Native American Tribes.	*Applicant must have a current, five-year recreation plan that has been approved by the DNR prior to the application deadline. Match – 50%	*Acquisition Projects: acquisition of land or recreation easements. AND * Development Projects: for public outdoor recreation such as: trails, campgrounds, ball fields, tennis courts and restrooms.	*April 1 Submitted electronically online	*Acquisition Projects: no minimum or maximum grant request. Grant requests cannot exceed the Departments available annual funding. *Development Projects: $30,000 minimum grant request and $500,000 maximum grant request.	The DNR Director announces projects recommended for LWCF funding in November. National Park Service must approve all projects recommended for funding.	Private land not eligible. Applicant must possess fee simple title or a recreation easement with adequate legal control of the property.
Recreation Passport (RP) Approximately $2 million available annually	*Local units of government authorized to provide public outdoor/indoor recreation. *Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority and Regional Recreation Authorities.	*Current annual Capital Improvement Plan (CIP): OR *Approved five-year recreation plan on file with the DNR. Match – minimum 25%	*Development Projects (only): for public outdoor and indoor recreation such as: trails, picnic areas, beaches, campgrounds, boating access and fishing areas. Renovation of existing facilities is emphasized.	*April 1 Submitted electronically online	*Development Projects: $7,500 minimum grant request and $150,000 maximum grant request.	The DNR Director announces projects selected for Recreation Passport funding in November.	Private/public lands. If private, applicant must have site control for 20 years for non-structures and 40 years for enclosed structures.
Clean Vessel Act – Boat Pumpout (CVA) Approximately $200,000 available annually	*Public and private boating facilities open to the public.	*Applicant must agree not to incur any income above $5 per pumpout. Match – 25% of total project cost	*Pumpout stations at large boating or mooring facilities with a minimum of 15 slips and upgrading of old pumpout systems.	Applications are typically accepted in the fall with funding becoming available in the spring of the following year.	N/A	Approximately 3-4 months following application.	Applicant must have ownership of the facilities and marina or written agreement from the new owner or lessee to comply with grant provisions throughout the useful life of the pumpout station.

For more detailed information on these and other DNR grant programs, please go to www.michigan.gov/dnrgrants or call (517) 284-7268 (517-28-GRANT)

Rev. 02/14/2023

Michigan Department of Natural Resources

Available Grants

Recreation Grants

Boating Infrastructure Grants

To support construction of public transient boating facilities in the state that meet certain program goals. Approximately $9-14 million available nationwide annually. Contact: Parks and Recreation Division, 517-284-7275.

Clean Vessel Act - Boat Pump-Out Grants

To support new or upgraded pump-out stations and waste reception facilities to safely dispose of recreational boater sewage. Approximately $200,000 available annually. Contact: Finance and Operations Division, 517-281-1705.

Land and Water Conservation Fund

To provide matching grants to state and local governments for acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation areas. Approximately $5 million available annually. Contact: Finance and Operations Division, 517-242-8737.

Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund

To support acquisition and development of land for natural resource conservation and public outdoor recreation projects. Approximately $23 million available each fiscal year. Contact: Finance and Operations Division, 517-284-7268.

Off-Road Vehicle Trail Improvement Program

To provide funding for maintenance of ORV trails and facilities as part of the designated statewide trail system. Approximately $5.5 million available annually. Contact: Parks and Recreation Division, 517-284-7275.

Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program

To provide grants to state and local governments for acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation areas. Approximately $100 million available nationwide annually. Contact: Finance and Operations Division, 517-242-8737.

Recreation Passport Grant Program

To provide funding to local units of government for development and renovation of public outdoor and indoor recreation facilities. Approximately $2 million available annually. Contact: Finance and Operations Division, 517-242-8737.

Snowmobile Trail Improvement Program

To maintain snowmobile trails as part of the designated statewide trail system. Approximately $8.1 million available annually. Contact: Parks and Recreation Division, 517-284-7275.

Waterways Program Grants

To provide assistance for design and construction of public recreational harbor/marina and boating access site/launch facilities. Approximately $3 million available annually. Contact: Parks and Recreation Division, 517-284-7275.



Michigan.gov/DNRGrants

Aquatic and Wildlife Grants

Fisheries Habitat Grant Program
To support a variety of activities to benefit fisheries, aquatic resources and the public, including fish habitat conservation, dam removal and repair, and access to recreation. Approximately $1.825 million available annually.
Contact: Finance and Operations Division, 517-281-1705.

Michigan Invasive Species Grant Program
To address strategic issues of prevention, detection, eradication and control for both terrestrial and aquatic invasive species in Michigan. $3.6 million available annually. Contact: Finance and Operations Division, 517-284-7268.

Deer Plan – Northern Lower Peninsula Deer Private Land Assistance Network Grant Program
To produce tangible deer habitat improvements; foster productive relationships between the DNR, hunting organizations and private landowners; and increase opportunities for deer harvest in the northern Lower Peninsula. Approximately $50,000 available annually. Contact: Deer Program, 231-340-1821.

Upper Peninsula Deer Habitat Improvement Program
To foster productive relationships between the DNR, hunting organizations, concerned citizens and other partners that improve deer habitat and educate the public. Approximately $100,000 available annually.
Contact: Wildlife Division, 906-250-6781.

Wildlife Habitat Grant Program
To enhance and improve the quality and quantity of game species habitat. Approximately $1 million available annually.
Contact: Finance and Operations Division, 517-281-1705.

Forestry Grants

DTE Energy Foundation Tree Planting Grants
To increase the number of properly planted, established and maintained trees within the service territory of DTE Energy. Approximately $100,000 available annually. Contact: Forest Resources Division, 517-582-3209.

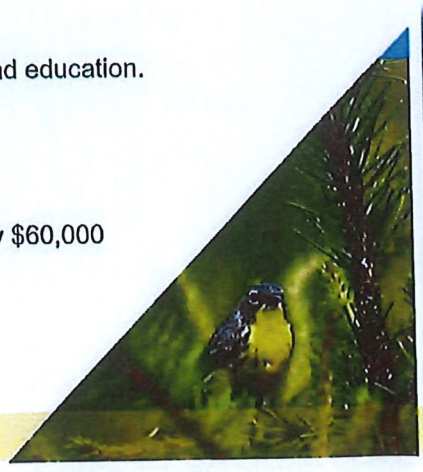
Community Forestry Grants
To provide funds for projects that address the urban forestry needs of municipal governments, schools, nonprofit organizations and volunteer groups throughout Michigan. Approximately $300,000 available annually. Contact: Forest Resources Division, 517-582-3209.

Volunteer Fire Capacity Grant
To assist fire departments in acquiring firefighting equipment for local communities. Approximately $250,000 available annually.Contact: Forest Resources Division, 517-930-4294.

Law Enforcement and Safety Grants

Marine Safety Grants
To promote safety in the use of recreational watercraft through law enforcement and education. Approximately $2 million available annually ($900,000 federal, $1.4 million state).
Contact: Finance and Operations Division, 517-242-8737.

Off-Road Vehicle Safety Education Grants
To promote safety in the use of off-road vehicles through education. Approximately $60,000 available annually. Contact: Parks and Recreation Division, 517-284-7275.



Law Enforcement and Safety Grants- Continued

Snowmobile Law Enforcement Grants

To promote safety in the use of snowmobiles through law enforcement and education. Approximately $380,100 available annually. Contact: Parks and Recreation Division, 517-284-7275.

Off-Road Vehicle Law Enforcement Grants

To promote safety in the use of off-road vehicles through law enforcement and education. Approximately $880,500 available annually. Contact: Parks and Recreation Division, 517-284-7275.

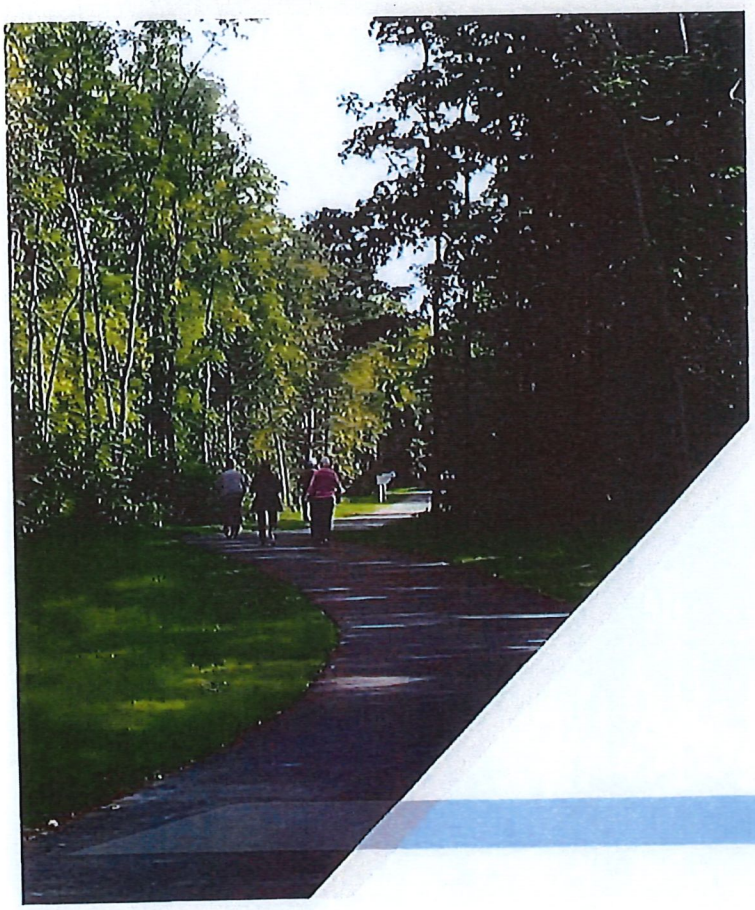
Success Story

One of Michigan's biggest grant program success stories is the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund. Since 1976, the Trust Fund has awarded more than $1.3 billion to local and state units of government to conserve and improve high-quality, public outdoor recreation opportunities in all 83 counties.These projects emphasize the unique attributes that make Michigan a special place to live, work and play. Learn more at Michigan.gov/MNRTF.

Shaping Lives and Communities

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources administers grants that make communities healthier, safer and more vibrant. These grants enable the DNR's local partners to promote the lifestyles we all enjoy by providing recreational opportunities, enhancing wildlife habitat and ensuring public safety. Each year, the DNR offers approximately $80 million in available grant funding to local units of government, state agencies and nonprofit partners.

Each grant program differs in terms of purpose, application deadlines, eligibility and whether matching funds are required.



For more information,

visit Michigan.gov/DNRGrants,

email dnr-grants@michigan.gov,

or call 517-284-7268.

B R i
Beckett&Raeder

Landscape Architecture
Planning, Engineering &
Environmental Services

Planning Report

Serving & Planning Communities Throughout Michigan

November 2026

Top Story

$65 Million for Transformational Public Transit Projects

"Reliable public transportation helps communities thrive. These new transit investments will help us to continue delivering on our mission to serve and connect people, communities, and the economy through transportation." State Transportation Director Bradley C. Wieferich

Governor Whitmer recently announced $65 million in awards through the Infrastructure Projects Authority Fund (IPAF) to support transformational public transportation projects statewide. As part of nearly $2 billion Sustainable Road Funding Plan, these investments will create or expand transit systems, restore service in communities that have lost access to public transportation, and improve regional connections. IPAF was established as part of Michigan's Fiscal Year 2026 budget and roads funding plan to provide dedicated, long-term capital for public transportation. Transportation networks support vibrant downtowns, and make jobs, healthcare, education, and other essential services more easily accessible. The 18 projects selected (across 16 counties) represent the first round of funding for planning studies, implementation plans, new services/capital:

- **Alpena County:**Montmorency County Microtransit Expansion and Regional Connector
- **Benzie County:** Rural Transit Service Transformation and Connectivity Study
- **Berrien County:** Berrien County Transit Authority Implementation
- **Calhoun County:** Next Generation Transit Facility
- **Delta County:** Mobility Transformation Initiative
- **Genesee County:** Genesee Connect Microtransit Project & Transit Without Borders
- **Ingham County:** CATA Campus Connect
- **Ionia County:** I-Go Expansion & Addition of Out-of-County NEMT
- **Kent County:** Downtown Grand Rapids Event Night Mobility Project
- **Newaygo County:** New Rural Transit Agency for Newaygo County
- **Ottawa County:** Transit Hub Relocation & Harbor Transit Service Expansion
- **Roscommon County:** Oscoda County Community Transit Service Initiative
- **Saginaw County:** Regional Post-Secondary Education/MBS International Airport
- **Washtenaw County:** Washtenaw/Huron/Jackson Bus Rapid Transit
- **Wayne County:** Downtown Detroit Transit Network Upgrades & People Mover 1.5 Rail Car

To learn more about the award recipients, there is a *detailed list* of IPAF project awards.

Governor's Office. https://www.michigan.gov/whitmer/news/press-releases/2026/10/13/whitmer-announces-65-million-for-public-transit-projects-statewide-coordinator-of-transit-and-rail

BRI Planning Report

informative

Infrastructure

New Transmission Lines

Hundreds of miles of new transmission lines are planned across northern and mid-Michigan. Because Michigan consistently ranks last in the nation for power reliability, the transmission lines would increase electric reliability for the tens of millions of customers. However, many landowners in the proposed path of the transmission lines are not pleased with the potential impacts to their properties such as decreasing property values and radiation and that can cause cancer. The most recent proposal is a more than 250-mile stretch of transmission lines called the Copperton Projects, organized by the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO). The Copperton Projects are in the listening phase of public engagment. Affected residents can provide feedback online. Regulators proposed rules would require companies to detail their reasoning for choosing a specific area for their route, list contact information for an available and knowledgeable person who can talk about the project, and invite all landowners and the leaders of local governments within 1 mile of the proposed routes to public input meetings.

Bridge Magazine. *https://bridgemi.com/michigan-environment-watch/high-voltage-power-lines-planned-across-michigan-many-landowners-unhappy/*

Local Government

Where Are All the Candidates?

An analysis of ballots across Michigan found at least 478 elected races with no candidate or too few candidates running including the roles of clerks, board members, even mayor. This could leave close to 10% of offices vacant in the more than 5,400 local elected positions on the November ballot. While the openings are spread across the state, they hit rural communities harder. It's not hard to see why a job that pays $12,960 or less a year and often comes with some abuse from residents aren't filling up. And it's not just a problem in Michigan; one study found 10,000 open seats with no candidates across the nation in 2024. This is a part of an overall trend of declining volunteerism and anger about national politics conveyed at the local level. High turnover, low-pay, and the additional workload leave communities strapped to govern. After the election, if there are no candidates, city, township, and village boards can appoint individuals to vacant positions.

Bridge Magazine. *https://bridgemi.com/michigan-government/please-i-need-a-clerk-no-candidates-for-almost-500-positions-on-michigan-ballots/*

Events

Michigan Association of Planning: Avoiding Exclusionary Zoning

November 17, webinar

More information: https://www.planningmi.org/aws/MAP/pt/sd/calendar/373621/_PARENT/layout_details/false

Michigan Municipal League Filling the Gaps: the Ins and Outs of Infill Housing

November 18, virtual

More information:https://mml.org/events/

MSU Extension: Local Strategies for Managing Additional Division Rights

December 3, virtual

More information: https://www.planningmi.org/aws/MAP/pt/sd/calendar/374656/_PARENT/layout_details/false