



Office of Urban and Metropolitan Initiatives (OUMI) Report

As Required by Section 822h of Public Act 84 of 2015

Prepared for:
Senate and House of Representatives Standing Committees on Appropriations,
Subcommittees on General Government
Senate and House Fiscal Agencies

Public Act 84 of 2015

Sec. 822h. The department of technology, management, and budget shall report by April 15 to the senate and house appropriations subcommittees on general government and the senate and house fiscal agencies on the expenditures for the office of urban initiatives. The report shall provide information detailing the economic impact and job growth initiatives for each urban and metropolitan area receiving funds under part 1. The report shall also provide information detailing the initiatives undertaken in each urban or metropolitan area receiving funds under part 1, including, but not limited to, all of the following:

- (a) Transportation and infrastructure.
- (b) Public services.
- (c) Land use and sustainability.
- (d) Housing.
- (e) Workforce and economic development.

Final Fiscal Year 2015 Financial Report

Expenditures	
Salary and Fringes	\$595,876.13
Travel	\$14,141.07
Miscellaneous Support	\$418,477.59
Total	\$1,028,494.79

Initiatives Detail

Transportation and Infrastructure

- **Stadium Drive/Michigan Avenue Project (Kalamazoo):** Continued coordination between MDOT, business community, municipality, neighborhood groups, bicycle advocates, and developers on a multi-year process to solicit input, design, and reconstruct Kalamazoo's main thoroughfare into a 21st century road that embraces all modes of transportation, links campuses to downtown, and catalyzes investment.
- **Interurban Trail (Kalamazoo):** OUMI has convened and led an effort to build support to connect Kalamazoo and Grand Rapids via non-motorized trail. With OUMI coordination, every community along the proposed approximate 40-mile route has adopted resolutions of support, a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a planning and design consultant has been conducted, and a consultant has been selected, with planning and design to begin 2016.
- **Bates Alley (Kalamazoo):** In partnership with City of Kalamazoo, and Downtown Kalamazoo Inc., OUMI has helped to vision and design a project to close a downtown alley to vehicular traffic and rebuild as a public promenade. This project has been designed to align with the goals of the MEDC Public Spaces, Community Places crowdfunding program.
- **DNR TF Coordination and Preparation (Kalamazoo, Plainwell, Battle Creek, Benton Harbor and Wayland):** OUMI has connected communities including Kalamazoo, Plainwell, Battle Creek, Benton Harbor and Wayland with Department of Natural Resources (DNR) staff to familiarize them with DNR programs, and as necessary, assist with preparation of grants.
- **HUD Resiliency Grant/Restoration of the Rapids (Grand Rapids):** OUMI coordinated state efforts with the MEDC and Governor Snyder's Washington D.C. Office to secure a \$250 million dollar grant for environmental resiliency infrastructure preparations. While the grant was not received, the process brought MDNR, MDOT, MEDC and MDEQ in collaboration with local and philanthropic partners throughout Kent County.
- **Gap Transit Services:**
 - **MetroEZride (Detroit):** A new GAP transportation strategy utilizing community partnerships to help workers, students, and employers surmount transportation barriers and develop transportation solutions. MetroEZride partners with faith-based, community, business and grassroots organizations utilizing vans and passenger vehicles typically not used during the weekday. MetroEZride's transportation network includes its own fuel-efficient passenger vehicles, and is efforting to maximize the potential of existing D-DOT/SMART regional public transportation system by forming connecting hubs. MetroEZride currently serves city residents (18 and older and Detroit Public School night school students taking additional classes to

graduate), and employed workers. The program currently has 500 daily riders covering all three shifts.

- **Kent County:** Modeled after MetroEz Ride, OUMI coordinated a coalition of community partners, The Rapid (Grand Rapids metro public transit system), philanthropy, and business to facilitate the creation of a hub-based, ride-to-work program that provides safe, reliable and affordable transportation for entry-level and low-income workers. Flexible transportation options have been identified as one of the greatest challenges for employers and workers in West Michigan. Launch date is expected May 2016.

Public Services

- **Public Safety Forums (Benton Harbor and Muskegon Heights):** As part of the Michigan State Police (MSP) Secure Cities Initiative, OUMI has hosted public safety forums in cities including Benton Harbor, Muskegon Heights, Inkster, Saginaw, and Flint. These forums solicit genuine community input and feedback on how local public safety departments and the MSP can better communicate with residents to improve public safety. In Benton Harbor, ideas generated through the forum - including MSP bike patrols - are moving towards implementation in 2016. Additionally, OUMI is coordinating with the local business community to fund a crime analyst position that will provide reporting and data analysis to inform local/MSP coordination and patrols.

- **AmeriCorps Urban Safety Program (AMUS):** This successful Detroit pilot will be expanded into three other cities. AMUS focuses many strands of community involvement and neighborhood investment around a common goal of enhancing the quality of life around schools. AMUS establishes a defined area of a neighborhood with a school at its nucleus. Efforts around the school differ in scope and form in each neighborhood, depending on the community's need, but will begin with a collection and analysis of data and demographics. The areas of focus are public safety, private sector joint use of public school space, targeted job training, neighborhood/parental engagement.

AMUS utilizes the progressive CompStat crime mapping program to evaluate crime "hot-spots" and implement targeted strategies to reduce blight, assaults, break-ins, drug dealing, and vehicle-related crimes. Contributing to the program's success, which has seen a 44-percent reduction in crime in its targeted areas, is the joint collaboration between residents, neighborhood non-profits, faith-based organizations, law enforcement, existing neighborhood associations, and block clubs to improve public safety.

- **Economic Development/Public Safety:** As a follow-up to the Michigan State Police Secure Cities Initiative/OUMI public safety forums in Muskegon Heights, OUMI formed a coalition to bring the Gus Macker basketball tournament back to Muskegon. The goal of this community/OUMI partnership is to increase youth engagement, economic development for the region, and cross-community collaboration.

- **Neighborhood Stabilization School Anchor Initiative (NSSA) (Detroit, Flint, Muskegon Heights):** OUMI, in conjunction with the Michigan Community Service Commission, convened a group of community partners, law enforcement, and public schools to build a NSSA Initiative in Muskegon Heights. This effort is similar to the Detroit and Flint AmeriCorps Urban Safety Programs – both of which were launched with the assistance of OUMI. Detroit is in its third year, and has expanded city-wide. Flint’s program began last fall. The goal is to build safe routes to school, increase neighborhood engagement, and make neighborhoods more economically viable – all with the ultimate goal of crime reduction.

- **Great Start for Educational Success (Kent County):** OUMI serves as the connecting point between community partners in Kent County and the State in building an environmental home hazard screening program to identify children at risk of lead poisoning and other chronic illness. Additionally, OUMI is providing support to Lieutenant Governor Brian Calleney for the creation of a broader childhood lead poisoning elimination workgroup.

Land Use and Sustainability

- **Small Developers Boot Camp and Zoning Analysis (Kalamazoo):** OUMI brought a Small Developers Boot Camp to Kalamazoo in December 2015. This three-day event drew participants from across the State of Michigan to learn how to conduct neighborhood-scale development projects that can begin to repair the fabric of neighborhoods in urban areas. Additionally, the Boot Camp production team conducted an analysis of the zoning and land-use regulations in Kalamazoo, providing the City with valuable insight on how to adjust their processes and codes to streamline and simplify the development process.

- **Healthy Living Campus (Kalamazoo):** OUMI has served as connection point to a number of State of Michigan departments that have helped advance this ongoing \$45 million project to construct a new multi-anchor campus in the Edison Neighborhood. This campus, and the programs and projects it offers, aim to increase health outcomes in the community, while providing job training and entrepreneurial opportunities.

- **Environment/Grand River Trail (Grand Rapids):** Using the Grand River as the development tool, OUMI served as the initial convener between local governments, environmental groups, and the DNR in building a connected Grand River Trail. The intent is to use connected river trails as tools of economic development and talent attraction. OUMI regions are working together with DNR to integrate river and water trails with the Interurban Trail partnership.

- **Muskegon Deep Water Port (Muskegon):** OUMI serves as the connecting point and support mechanism between state agencies such as the MEDC, DEQ, DNR, MDARD and the Office of the Great Lakes and community partners for the development of Muskegon’s deep water port, which is Region 4 Prosperity Initiative’s top priority.

Housing

- **Great Housing Strategies (Grand Rapids):** OUMI collaborated with the City of Grand Rapids on developing a long term housing and economic development strategy to ensure availability of mixed-income and affordable housing. OUMI is working with MSHDA and MEDC to develop policy options for the creative financing of moderate income and mixed-income housing.
- **Municipal Request for Qualifications Process Design and Deployment (Kalamazoo):** OUMI has partnered with MSHDA to design a process for municipalities to solicit for qualifications of developers interested in partnering to develop municipally-owned parcels. This process brings the public into the decision-making and project design process, offering greater transparency. This process has been deployed in Kalamazoo, and through it, a partner selected to design a potential four square-block, \$100 million mixed-use project. Additional communities have expressed interest and are seeking to deploy this process in 2016.
- **Ottawa County Affordable Housing:** Ottawa County has identified affordable housing as a key challenge. OUMI brought Ottawa Housing Next together with MEDC and MSHDA to provide technical and programmatic support.
- **Muskegon Housing/Economic Development:** OUMI coordinated a coalition of community, philanthropic, educational, and business partners to launch the Muskegon Anchor Initiative. The initiative works to bring market-rate housing and retail development to downtown Muskegon as a catalyst for talent recruitment and retention.

Workforce and economic development

- **Urban Economic Development Ecosystem Project (Kalamazoo):** Using Kalamazoo as pilot, OUMI is partnering with the W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research to design a template for communities to align their assorted economic development, downtown development, municipality, anchor institutions, and interested business partners around a shared vision, with the appropriate tools, incentives, and a nimble implementation agency.
- **Shared Prosperity (Kalamazoo):** OUMI continues to assist partners including the City of Kalamazoo, Michigan Works Southwest, Western Michigan University, local foundations, and other interested parties with a number of initiatives related to jobs, families, and youth. Current projects include the All Things Possible Program being piloted summer 2016, and providing wrap-around summer programs for teenagers, with the goal of helping them stay engaged year-round to take full advantage of the Kalamazoo Promise.
- **Summer Youth Employment (Muskegon, Grand Rapids and Holland):** Employers, pastors and Community Leaders identify summer youth employment as a key factor in keeping youth safe and engaged. OUMI serves as the connection point between the Muskegon Social Justice Commission,

Holland Police Department, and the City of Grand Rapids to MichiganWorks, the Michigan Talent Investment Agency, and MDNR to broaden access to summer youth programs.

- **Workforce Development/Re-Entry (Grand Rapids):** OUMI works with employers, chambers of commerce, and economic development organizations to connect them with Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC) re-entry initiatives, including the Vocational Village. OUMI also is partnering with Talent 2025 and MDOC on building a profile of returning citizens along with policy recommendations for improving the success of ex-offenders.

- **Intergovernmental Equipment Sharing:** Many municipalities - particularly smaller ones - have downsized their departments, turning to outside contractors and rental companies for temporary vehicle and heavy equipment use. This can be an expensive proposition. Concurrently, many larger municipalities have been able to maintain relatively large fleets, a great deal of which remains underutilized for a large percentage of the year. There exists an opportunity to pair small communities with rental needs with larger ones with underutilized equipment to the benefit of both. The larger community is able to help pay off their equipment quicker, driving the purchase of new equipment, which in turn helps American manufacturing. The smaller community is able to realize savings through lower priced rentals. This opportunity is similar to other nodes in the emerging sharing economy such as Air BNB and Uber. Through this initiative, the State will engage in a regional pilot to develop a best practice for municipal sharing, with the potential for voluntary statewide participation. Beginning in Prosperity Region Eight, the Department of Treasury will coordinate with state departments, local governments, and public institutions to develop an equipment sharing cluster with the goal of increased utilization rates and lower costs to the taxpayer. Each participating entity will have access to a real-time database of available equipment, ability to reserve and schedule use/rental online, and be provided with back-end invoicing.