

Continuing the Conversation: Regional Infrastructure Asset Management Summits

Fall 2019 Summary Report

Background

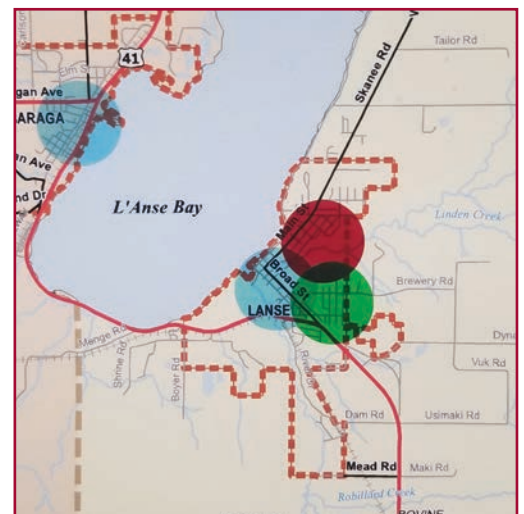
The Michigan Infrastructure Council (MIC), in partnership with regions across the state, designed a two-part summit series aimed at improving coordination and collaboration across a diverse set of asset owners/managers including water, transportation, utilities, and telecommunications infrastructure. The series consisted of meetings in the spring and fall of 2019 and was funded through Integrated Asset Management grants provided by the Michigan Regional Prosperity Initiative.

Logistics and Events

The fall summits, themed "Continuing the Conversation," emulated the fast-paced format of the successful spring summits. Within a span of 2.5 hours, participants received updates on statewide asset management efforts, identified future infrastructure projects through an interactive mapping activity, and provided valuable practitioner feedback on several MIC priorities.

Asset Management Plans are rolling out on a three-year cycle through the Water Asset Management Council (WAMC) and the Transportation Asset Management Council (TAMC). Michigan's largest infrastructure owners across drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater (approximately 850 total) and roads/bridges (123 total) will engage with the councils to complete and submit these Plans. Summit participants had an opportunity to learn about the upcoming plan requirements and work with council leadership to address concerns.

MIC Project Portal in support of the "Dig Once" Strategy will encourage asset owners to enter upcoming construction projects to identify opportunities for coordination across various infrastructure. Collaborative projects result in significant cost-savings and reduced citizen impact from road-closures and redundant construction. Summit participants provided valuable feedback on the demonstration version of the portal. MIC is working to incorporate practitioner terminology, data



gathering, and communication recommendations prior to the V.1 release in summer 2020. Support for the Project Portal was overwhelmingly positive with 99% of participants indicating a desire to use the portal and/or learn more about the portal once it is released.

Asset Management Readiness Assessment Scale affirms the five asset management competencies: People and Leadership, Data and Information, Planning and Decision-Making, Policy and Governance, and External Communication and Knowledge Sharing and allows users to rank their ability through “readiness levels.” The Asset Management Readiness Assessment Scale will be released in January 2020 and will capture consistent, statewide metrics across all assets and communities. These metrics, in turn, will allow for the creation of target improvement goals and systematic reassessment.

Next Steps

As measured through participant surveys, there is strong support for continuing the Regional Asset Management Summits, with nearly every response indicating a desire to meet annually or semi-annually, based upon scheduling, budget, and training needs. Constraints to travel budgets and staff time were recognized, prompting appreciation for the statewide approach to the summit locations. Similarly, there was support for keeping the summits short and information focused (Chart 1) with technology education (e.g. MIC Project Portal) occurring through independent study and/or webinars (Chart 2).

MIC will continue to work with the Michigan Association of Regions (MAR), sub-councils WAMC and TAMC, and key partners around the state to pursue future summit opportunities and develop best practice asset management content.

Additional information can be found at Michigan.gov/MIC



Asset Management Competencies:
Canadian Network of Asset Managers (2019)

Participant Preference for Future Summit Formats

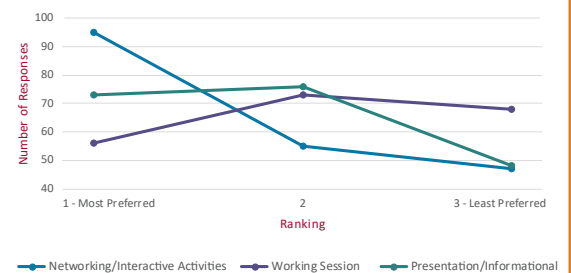


Chart 1: Future Summit Format

Technology Training Method Preference

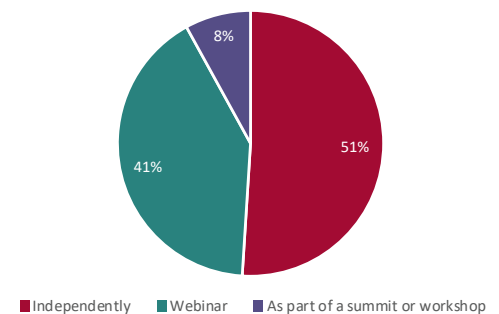


Chart 2: Training Preference

FALL SUMMITS – BY THE NUMBERS

12 summits in **12** communities over **5** weeks*

Over 500 participants including government officials representing local, regional, state, and tribal jurisdictions, private utilities and telecommunications, non-governmental organizations, and consultants

64% repeat participants from the spring summits

* 2 Summits moved to early 2020 due to weather and scheduling conflicts

Acknowledgments

Regional Hosts and Liaisons: Michigan Association of Regions (MAR), Nicole Baumer, Derek Bradshaw, Steven Duke, Kathy Egan, John Egelhaaf, Jane Fitzpatrick, Sue Fortune, Jeff Hagan, Erin Kuhn, Dotty LaJoye, Jacob Maurer, Alanna Mingay, Diane Rekowski, Ryan Soucy, Mike Spence, Jerry Wuorenmaa

Council Members and Staff of the Michigan Infrastructure Council, Water Asset Management Council, and Transportation Asset Management Council

Summit Presenters: Roger Belknap, Amber Hicks, Joanna Johnson, Jon Kangas, Erin Kuhn, Jessica Moy, Bob Schneider, John Weiss