

Framework for Our Future: Tools & Strategies for Supporting the Grand Vision

Framework for Our Future is a regional resource that will help local governments, nonprofits, and other organizations working to meet local goals. It will include information and tools that can address issues identified as priorities for our region by The Grand Vision process. These issue areas are: Transportation, Housing, Energy, and Land Use. Using these four areas as cornerstones, the *Framework* will incorporate special emphasis on arts and culture, workforce and economic development, community health, food and farming systems, and natural resources.

Highlights of the process and project include:

Social Equity. Project partners will reach out to those in poverty, disabled individuals, minorities, youth, and other populations that have traditionally been underrepresented in planning processes. A series of community conversations will be held to gain input from these groups on plan topic areas.

Public Input. Public input will be key throughout the process. Expos, surveys, questionnaires, community conversations and forums, and focus groups will provide a variety of opportunities for all parts of the public to be engaged in the project.

Tools and Resources. The Framework will include tools, data, and resources for use by local governments, public agencies, nonprofits, and the private sector. Tools may include model zoning, policy language, and actionable strategies.

Framework Process: Step-by-Step

1. Project partners compile data and existing plans, and conduct assessment and analysis of existing conditions.
2. Surveys and public events help determine public preferences around regional issues.
3. Topic-specific focus groups convene for detailed discussion on identified issues and implementation strategies.
4. A draft *Framework* is developed, based on public input, stakeholder feedback, and analysis of conditions and issues.
5. A project Consortium representing the public, project partners, local governments, and community organizations review the plan and recommendations, and provide the final endorsement of the plan.
6. Local governments, nonprofits, and other stakeholders have the option of using the Framework to inform their own local strategies.

Input Expos (4-7 p.m.)

Monday, April 22: Benzie (Mills Community House)

Tuesday, April 23: Kalkaska (Kaliseum)

Wednesday, April 24: Wexford (Cadillac Junior High School)

Thursday, April 25: Antrim (Bellaire Senior Center)

Monday, April 29: Leelanau (Leelanau Hort. Research Center)

Tuesday, April 30: Grand Traverse (Hagerty Center)

Project Partners

There are 16 local organizations that will work to gather data, conduct research, and reach out to the public throughout the development of the plan. They are also bringing together a consortium of additional agencies, non-profits, and citizens to oversee the development, review, and recommendation of the final plan.

- Antrim County Community Collaborative
- Benzie County Human Services Collaborative
- Disability Network
- Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa & Chippewa Indians
- Grand Traverse Community Collaborative
- Kalkaska County Community Collaborative
- Leelanau Family Coordinating Council
- Michigan Department of Transportation
- Michigan Land Use Institute
- Michigan State Housing Development Authority
- Northern Lakes Economic Alliance
- NorthSky Nonprofit Network
- Northwestern Michigan College
- SEEDS
- Traverse Bay Economic Development Corporation
- Traverse Bay Poverty Reduction Initiative
- Wexford County Human Services Collaborative

Frequently Asked Questions

Why do we need a new strategy, when we have The Grand Vision?

The Grand Vision is a **BIG** vision – it's a vision of **what** we want our future to look like. But we need specific strategies in order to make it happen. *Framework for Our Future* will involve the public in deciding **how**.

Who is paying for all this?

NWMCOG received a \$660,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development. Leveraged funds from the Kellogg Foundation, MDOT, and MSHDA are also contributing to the project. The purpose of the project is to develop regional plans that will assist local areas with creating vibrant communities. Grant funds are accessed by all core partners, whose work will ensure that the project is as comprehensive as possible.

Will this project formally identify potential growth and investment areas?

Yes. Exploration of commercial corridor development areas will be discussed at Input Expos. Public input will be reflected in the *Framework* that is developed as a result of this process.

Who's going to use the Framework?

The *Framework* will be developed for use by local governments; but will be informative for all members of the community.