



**50 Years of Service**  
**1956 - 2006**

## Tri-County Regional Planning Commission

913 West Holmes Road, Suite 201  
Lansing, Michigan 48910  
Telephone: (517) 393-0342  
Web Page: [www.mitrpc.org](http://www.mitrpc.org)  
Email: [tcrpc@acd.net](mailto:tcrpc@acd.net)  
Fax: (517) 393-4424

October 10, 2008

### OFFICERS

**CHAIRPERSON**  
Phil Chisholm

**VICE-CHAIRPERSON**  
Carol Wood

**TREASURER**  
Susan McGillicuddy

**SECRETARY**  
Larry Martin

**COMMISSIONERS**  
Russel Bauerle  
Kevin Beard  
Glenn Freeman, III  
Joseph Guenther  
Diane Holman  
Brian Jeffries  
Art Luna  
Fred Marquardt  
Ralph Monsma  
David Pohl  
A'Lynne Robinson  
Shirley M. Rodgers  
Marsha Small  
Carol Strachan  
Tina Weatherwax-Grant

### EX-OFFICIO

**LANSING MAYOR**  
Virgil Bernero

**COUNTY BOARD  
CHAIRPERSONS**  
Marc Thomas  
Joseph Brehler  
Larry Martin

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
Jon W. Coleman

### **RE: Invitation to road agencies to submit highway options for consideration in highway alternatives analysis in the Regional 2035 Transportation Plan.**

Dear Friend:

The Tri-County Regional Planning Commission is in the early stages of updating its current long range transportation plan and intends to complete a draft Regional 2035 Transportation Plan by September, 2009. Transportation projects seeking federal funding must be included in a Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and must be drawn from an adopted regional long range transportation plan. Furthermore, projects that add capacity (by adding lanes, or creating new roads for example) to the transportation system need to be modeled through Tri-County's travel demand forecasting model to determine what air quality or congestion impacts it may have on the region.

This letter and the accompanying application process for capacity expanding Surface Transportation Planning Program Project Options is being sent to all Act 51 agencies (cities, villages and road commissions who own and maintain local road systems are known as Act 51 agencies based on the law governing this process) in the Tri-County Region. If your community intends to seek federal funding for a possible project (or if a locally funded option is "regionally significant") between 2010 and 2035, the application process must be completed for each option you wish to have considered. Instructions are included in the attached document as well as on the [www.mitrpc.org](http://www.mitrpc.org) website. You may fill out the hard copy or use the online version, which allows you to reply electronically. **Please complete this process in either manner and return by Friday, October 24 at 5:00 p.m.**

Once TCRPC staff has a list of proposed capacity adding options, they will be compiled and brought to the Capital Area Regional Transportation Study (CARTS) at 9:30 a.m., November 4, 2008 at the Ingham County Human Services Building, Room D/E, 5303 S. Cedar in Lansing. CARTS will review preliminary long range plan highway options and will send these recommendations to the Long Range Plan Task Force (around November 7, 2008, date to be determined) who may then recommend these or additional alternatives for analysis.

The alternatives brought through this process will eventually be sorted by jurisdiction and brought to a series of public meetings (one for each county, plus one for the urban area) tentatively scheduled for early December in which public input on options and priorities will be sought and included in the list of alternatives ultimately decided by the Commission.

Please note in filling out the application that for purposes of performing air quality modeling, capacity is generally considered additional lanes extending for more than .25 miles, or a new road or structure. There are other types of improvements such as turn pockets or intersection improvements or center left turn lanes still need to be modeled to determine congestion impacts even though there may be no direct air quality implication. Such alternatives are also subject to this application process.

Recently, TCRPC and MDOT staff have compiled a list of deficient (V/C ratio of 1.00 or higher) and near deficient (V/C ratio from .80 to .99) links throughout the Tri-County region. This list may be useful in determining your long range plan options. This list is available on the [www.mitrpc.org](http://www.mitrpc.org) website.

Another important consideration in developing options is that they be consistent with local economic development and land use plans. Several worksheet questions relate to these matters.

We are also sending notices of this process (but not the full application) to area economic development agencies and to townships, as well as to TCRPC commissioners. Economic development agencies are also receiving this, along with the worksheets. We are directing townships to consult and to coordinate with their local Act 51 eligible agency or community regarding any proposed capacity expanding options, as appropriate.

Again, deadline for submittal is Friday, October 24 at 5:00 p.m. Thank you for your cooperation and timely preparation of your applications for these transportation options.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jon W. Coleman".

Jon W. Coleman  
Executive Director