



Northeast Michigan Council of Governments

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November 18, 2021

Robert A. Kramer
Tuscarora Township Trustee
3546 S. Straits Hwy
Indian River, MI 49749

Re: Tuscarora Township's Sewer Improvements Project, Inclusion in the NE MI Prosperity and Resiliency - Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy.

Dear Mr. Kramer:

The Northeast MI Council of Governments (NEMCOG) has been contacted to determine whether the Tuscarora Township's Sewer Improvements Project, Phase 1, is incorporated in the NE MI Prosperity & Resiliency-Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS).

Tuscarora Township's Sewer Improvement Project, Phase 1, involves the expansion of the modular existing sewer plant and installation of a gravity system with pumps in low lying areas near Burt Lake. The Phase 1 Sewer District includes approximately 200 homes, 2 churches and 2 businesses. The area consists of mostly older homes (some 1900's) with owners citing problems ranging from onsite Wastewater Treatment System (WWT) failures, inadequate space for replacement of onsite WWT system, to existing WWT system's inability to meet current codes. In addition, the Project Area falls under the Lake and Stream Protection Zoning District with the majority of the residences being within 1000 feet of a body of water, in this case either, Burt Lake or the Indian River.

The CEDS is designed to provide a regional plan for growth and sustainability in the region. The purpose of the plan is to assist the region in fostering job creation, improving the quality of lives for citizens and ensuring a diversified economy while protecting the natural resources.

At the core of economic prosperity and sustainability is basic infrastructure that is required for healthy and vibrant communities, attracting and retaining business and talent and ensuring the public's health. Infrastructure is an essential component of the Economic Development Strategy, Goal 3: Community, Infrastructure; transportation- motorized and nonmotorized, broadband, wastewater treatment, drinking water; outlines infrastructure objectives and action tasks.

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The Tuscarora Township Sewer Improvements Project, Phase 1, is a critical component of the NE MI Comprehensive Economic Development Plan. The project is not only essential to ensure the public's health but will also protect Burt Lake, and the Indian River's water quality from contamination of substandard onsite WWT systems. Protecting the waterbodies and providing adequate WWT measures will ensure that the tourist based local economy will remain strong for future generations to come.

Good luck with your project and please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,

Diane Rekowski

Diane Rekowski
Executive Director

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