

# **Transforming Suburbs into Economically Vibrant Communities with Opportunity for All**

The Metro Detroit Experience



# About Metro Detroit

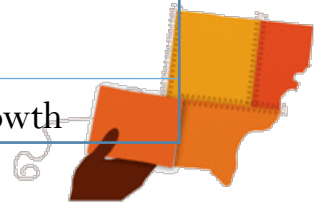


- Highly fragmented: seven counties, more than 300 cities, village and townships, hundreds more school districts and public authorities
- Essentially, a 50-mile arc around Detroit, from SSW to NE
- 4.8 million people – half of Michigan’s population
- A third of the population lives in built-out inner-ring suburbs close to the City of Detroit

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# Our Key Challenges

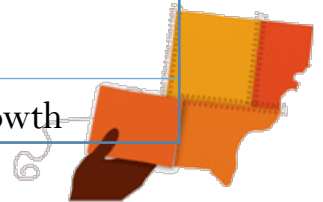


- Economic decline and recovery: Detroit's bankruptcy made headlines, but many others have been in emergency management
- Racial segregation and cultural migration
- Concentration of poverty and its social and fiscal consequences
- Equitable and sustainable redevelopment

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# The Essential Question



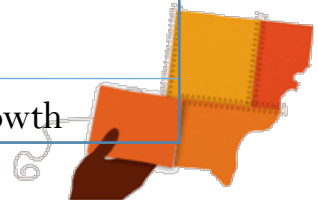
## How does a built-out city revitalize in a weak economy?

- Everything costs money we don't have . . . planning, brownfield redevelopment, Main Street maintenance, transit, etc. . .
- That money comes from a strong tax base . . .
- Tax base growth depends on property market competition . . .
- That competition depends on a robust jobs environment

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# Solution #1: Focus on Talent

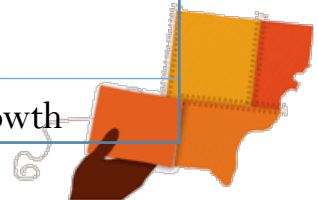


- “Talent” is about every worker and potential worker.
- Communities need to understand the macro trends in their regional economies to address talent needs and opportunities.
- Limited government funds should be strategically allocated to gin up strengths, even more than compensating for weaknesses.

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# Case Studies and Examples



## Asking How Transportation Serves a Talent Agenda

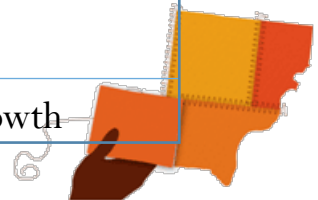
Regional surveys of employers, workers and job seekers in priority industry clusters to understand their needs and desires for both form and function.

- M-1 Rail and Woodward Bus Rapid Transit
- A Regional Transit Authority to Connect Residential and Employment Centers
- New Mobility Planning to Expand the Boundaries of the Region's Transportation Economy

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# Case Studies and Examples



## Sharing Resources for a Clean Power Transformation

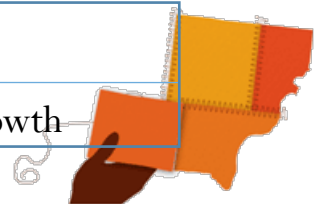
Regional Energy Office creates a unique joint planning, finance, implementation arm for cities to be cleaner, greener and running cheaper.

- Joint authority to finance projects
- Shared cost-savings for administration and project management
- A regional message about the importance of cleantech

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# Case Studies and Examples



## Other Talent-Oriented Regional Smart Growth Approaches

- Rethinking adult education deliver on a metro scale
- Losing our parochialism and moving services to the right level  
(*government is a big employer and the best talent wants to do big things . . . so aggregate to empower*)
- Shared placemaking investments in regional assets: the Detroit Zoo, the Detroit Institute of Arts, Cobo Center

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