

Michigan Township **INSIGHTS**

Weekly News and Information from the Michigan Townships Association | Aug. 12, 2016

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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Infrastructure commission listening tour stop coming to Northern Michigan

Township officials can provide their input on how to improve Michigan's infrastructure at the second stop of the governor's [21st Century Infrastructure Commission's](#) listening tour, which will be held in Marquette next week on Aug. 19. This is the second of three listening tour stops designed to gather input from local officials and residents across the state on the current state of Michigan's infrastructure, the infrastructure system citizens envision, and how the state can work with residents to close the gap between the two. The input gathered will help shape the commission's final report and recommendations, due to the governor by Nov. 30, 2016. The Marquette event will be held Friday, Aug. 19, at Northern Michigan University, Jamrich Hall, Room 1100, 1400 Presque Isle Ave. in Marquette. Registration will be capped at 150 attendees, so [RSVP](#) today to secure your spot. You may also provide feedback, participate in discussions and read more about the commission's work [online](#).



Member input needed for MTA Policy Platform

Do you have a suggestion for MTA's [Legislative Policy Platform](#)? MTA is accepting submissions now for the 2017 Policy Platform. Members have until Nov. 14 to submit suggestions and input to be considered by the MTA Legislative Policy and Resolutions Committee. This later date reflects the shift to an April MTA Annual Conference, beginning in 2017. The policy platform will be presented for membership approval during the 2017 MTA Annual Meeting on April 13, held in conjunction with the 64th Annual MTA Educational Conference & Expo in Lansing. Contact

MTA QUICK LINKS

[Members-only Website](#)
[Training](#)
[Answer Center](#)
[Advocacy](#)
[MTA Store](#)
[Township Governance Academy](#)
[Allied Service Providers](#)
[Classified Ads](#)
[NATaT](#)
[MTA Webcasts](#)
[MTA Publications Catalog](#)

UPCOMING MTA EVENTS

[**Hot Topics in Planning & Zoning](#)
[**MTA On the Road Regional Meetings](#)

ALLIED SERVICE PROVIDERS



* [Asphalt Materials, Inc.](#)

Forestry grants available



Federal grant money could help fund your township's forestry project. Up to \$90,000 is available for the 2016-17 Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Urban and Community Forestry Program, funded through the U.S. Forest Service's State and

Private Forestry Program. Townships may request grants of up to \$20,000 for projects performed on public land or land that is open to the public. Projects could include urban forest management and planning activities, tree planting on public property, urban forestry and arborist training and education events and materials, and Arbor Day celebrations and materials. Applications must be postmarked by Sept. 16, and funded projects must be completed by Sept. 1, 2017.

* [Bauckham, Sparks, Thall, Seeber & Kaufman, PC](#)

* [Consumers Energy](#)

* [Fahey Schultz Burzyoch Rhodes PLC](#)

* [Foster, Swift, Collins & Smith, P.C.](#)

* [ITC Holdings Corp.](#)

* [Mika Meyers, PLC](#)

* [Ted Hartleb Agency](#)



Upcoming MTA workshops

- **Strategies for connecting with the community:** Join MTA in Frankenmuth on Sept. 8 and take home strategies for making sure your board's priorities are on track with your constituents' expectations. The morning session, *Creating a Vision for Your Township*, will help you achieve whole board "buy in" on quality of life visioning issues, gain a better understanding of constructive participation and lead committees toward more productive meetings. The afternoon class, *Linking with the Community*, offers tips on framing board opinions so your community sees itself in the process. Download registration materials [here](#) or register online [now](#).
- **Regional meetings:** *MTA On The Road* regional meetings, coming this fall, will share updates on current issues impacting townships, and feature breakout sessions to help you be a great steward of taxpayers' money, as well as a live version of our "Hello, MTA ... ?" magazine column, addressing frequently asked questions and misconceptions. Download the form [here](#) or register online [now](#).

Federal update for week of Aug. 8

Check out the National Association of Towns and Townships' [e-newsletter](#) for an update of federal actions impacting townships.