

TWIN CITIES HARBOR



# HARBOR OVERVIEW

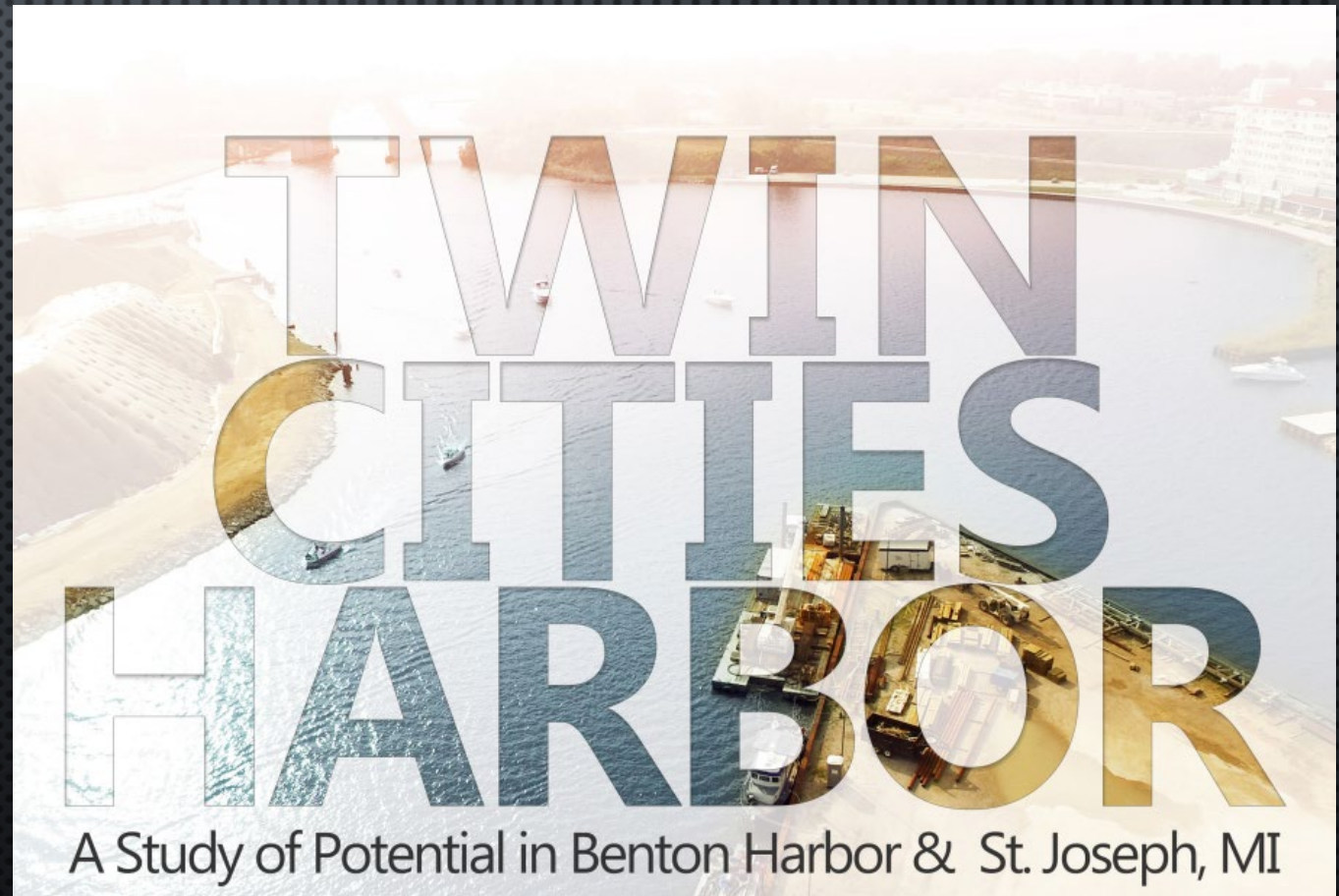
- RECENT PAST
- PRESENT
- NEAR FUTURE
- ROAD BLOCKS
- CALL TO ACTION



# RECENT PAST

2015-2016 TWIN CITIES  
HARBOR: A STUDY OF  
POTENTIAL IN BENTON  
HARBOR & ST. JOSEPH

• RELEASED FEB 2016





# RECENT PAST

JUNE 2016 - TWIN CITIES HARBOR CONSERVANCY  
ESTABLISHED



# RECENT PAST

## **TWIN CITIES HARBOR CONSERVANCY MEMBERSHIP**

BENTON HARBOR: MAYOR, CITY MGR, OFFICE OF  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

ST. JOSEPH: MAYOR, CITY COMMISSIONER

ST. JOSEPH CHARTER TWSP: TOWNSHIP BOARD

BERRIEN COUNTY: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

OTHERS: CORNERSTONE, PRAIRIE REAL ESTATE, LAKELAND  
HEALTH, GOVERNOR'S OFFICE, HARBOR SHORES, MDOT,  
WHIRLPOOL, SWMPC, MGSSLC



# RECENT PAST

## HARBOR CONSERVANCY PURPOSE

- SAFE PLACE FOR DIFFICULT CONVERSATION
- CONVENER – DIALOGUE DRIVER
- STRATEGY CREATOR
- INSTRUCTIVE – DATA STEWARD

NOT – COMMAND & CONTROL CENTER



# RECENT PAST

NEED FOR COMMON VISION IDENTIFIED – MAY  
2017

AGREEMENT FOR HARBOR CHARRETTE –  
DECEMBER 2017

CHARRETTE – SEPT/OCT 2018



# THE PRESENT

COLLABORATIVE MULTI-COMMUNITY HARBOR  
VISION

DOWNTOWN MASTER PLANNING IN CITY OF ST.  
JOSEPH

MASTER PLAN PROCESS IN CITY OF BENTON HARBOR  
DYNAMIC PARTNERSHIP W/LANSING



# FUTURE – NEAR TERM

OPPORTUNITIES: FORMALIZED/INSTITUTIONALIZED VISION

- INSERT COLLECTIVE VISION INTO FORMAL PLANNING DOCUMENTS (MASTER PLANS, DOWNTOWN PLANS)
- ESTABLISH COMMON ZONING APPROACH IN LOCAL ZONING ORDINANCES

CREATE A “UNI-GOV” ENTITY



# ROAD BLOCKS

CHALLENGES ARE...

- GENERATIONAL, COMPLEX, MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL,  
PUBLIC & PRIVATE, EVERYONE'S...&...NO ONE'S



# ROAD BLOCKS

TO MANAGE/GOVERN COLLECTIVELY, YOU MUST  
GIVE UP SOME AUTONOMY – TAKES SKILL &  
DIPLOMACY

- MUST BUILD A STRUCTURE THAT ANTICIPATES &  
ACTIVELY MANAGES DISAGREEMENTS – THEY WILL  
HAPPEN



# ROAD BLOCKS

DOES STATE ENABLING LEGISLATION EXIST TO  
SUPPORT THE “UNI-GOV” WE NEED?

- RESEARCH SUGGESTS — MAYBE NOT



# ROAD BLOCKS

A TOO-NARROW FOCUS ON DREDGING

- MEANS WE MISS THE CHANCE TO FULFILL THE VISION

THE CHALLENGE TRANSCENDS ELECTORAL CYCLES

- THE “LONG VIEW” IS HARD TO SELL, DIFFICULT TO SUSTAIN



# CALL TO ACTION

PRIORITIZE THE HARBOR – GIVE LEADERS ON FRONT LINES AIR COVER

- ESTABLISH DIVERSE LEADERSHIP VOICE – BE CLEAR & DECISIVE
- RECOGNIZE OUR STEWARDSHIP OF A PRECIOUS ASSET
- LEAD & TAKE RESPONSIBILITY



# CALL TO ACTION

## CREATE A “UNI-GOV” SOLUTION

- WRITE LEGISLATION THAT MATCHES THE NEED
- LOBBY OUR LEGISLATORS – GET IT PASSED IN STATE LEGISLATURE

## FACILITATE THE LOCAL CONSTRUCTION OF A “UNI-GOV” BODY

- SUPPORTS, ANTICIPATES, & MANAGES DISAGREEMENTS
- ROBUST ENOUGH TO FULFILL THE PROMISE OF THE SHARED HARBOR VISION



# CALL TO ACTION

EMBRACE THE VISION – SYSTEMATICALLY ACT ON IT

CLEARLY DEFINE WHAT ACTION IS

- WHAT MUST BE DONE?
- PRIORITIZE OUR ACTIONS – WHEN SHOULD THEY HAPPEN?
- WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR EACH ACTION?