



GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
OFFICE OF THE GREAT LAKES  
LANSING



February 26, 2019

**Subject:** Benton Harbor Stakeholder Meeting for Twin Cities Sustainable Harbor Strategy Project

Dear Stakeholder,

As you are probably aware, the Twin Cities Sustainable Harbor Design Charrette (October 9 to 11) engaged 100s of community members in exercises and generated a preferred alternative for the Twin Cities Harbor. The preferred alternative was presented twice (4pm and 6pm) on Oct 11 to approximately 90 members of the community. Overall, community feedback on the process and on the preferred alternative was positive, but the Project Leadership Team realizes more voices need to be heard moving forward. As such, the project Leadership Team is planning another series of focus groups and informational gathering meetings to further refine the vision for the Twin Cities Harbor.

As such, we are convening a meeting of key stakeholders from the Benton Harbor community to discuss the current version of the preferred alternative and how best to transition into implementation (see attached agenda). The meeting will be held from 1 pm to 3 pm on March 22 in the Shoreline Room at Kinexus, 499 Main Street, Benton Harbor, MI. Refreshments will be served.

From our team's collective experiences working in harbor communities across the state, we have seen the value of communities adopting a shared vision informed by local leadership, community champions, informed stakeholders, and the public. Therefore, it is critical that the Twin Cities Harbor Design Charrette is further informed by your participation.

If you have any questions, you may contact Ms. Emily Finnell at [FinnellE@michigan.gov](mailto:FinnellE@michigan.gov) or 517-284-5036 or Dr. Donald Carpenter at 248-763-4099 or [dcarpenter@drummondcarpenter.com](mailto:dcarpenter@drummondcarpenter.com).

***If there are others whose opinions would be helpful in the process, please let us know and we will invite them as well.***

Sincerely,

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and Strategy  
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