

News Release

Local legislators discuss future of the region, explore opportunities for collaboration at 13th Tri-County Summit

Oakland, Macomb and Wayne County elected officials recently gathered to hear from industry leaders, find ways to work together

November 16, 2021, OAKLAND COUNTY, MI. – Legislators from Oakland, Macomb and Wayne counties met at the Tri-County Summit on Friday, November 12 at the Ford House in Grosse Pointe Shores. The group discussed issues facing the region, plus opportunities to work together. The summit was particularly timely, as many of the sessions focused on infrastructure opportunities just days before President Joe Biden signed the \$1 trillion bipartisan infrastructure bill into law.

“Partnering with our Macomb and Oakland legislative colleagues to host the summit is always very beneficial,” said Wayne County Commission Chair Alisha Bell. “The summit serves as a very important regional dialogue that identifies key priorities that impact each county both individually and collectively. We had a myriad of diverse speakers and panelists at the event, and we thank our private sector partners who sponsored the event.”

“It was exciting to be a part of this renewed intergovernmental effort,” said Macomb County Board of Commissioners Chair Don Brown. “We look forward to continuing to work with our colleagues in Oakland and Wayne counties to invest in regional infrastructure, which will benefit residents and businesses throughout the Tri-County area.”

“The Tri-County Summit helps provide a roadmap of where we can move as a region following the passage of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Deal in Congress,” said Oakland County Board of Commissioners Chair David T. Woodward. “The decisions we make today will directly impact how well we position our region to economically compete on the global stage, while ensuring prosperity for all of our residents. I expect us soon to announce big plans to improve our water, lead the world on mobility, and make sure we have the fastest, most accessible and affordable broadband for everyone. And we’re going to do this together.”

The event featured six sessions, including presentations and panel conversations about infrastructure, the environment, business, and mobility. Participants included individuals from all levels of government

as well as local media hosts. For more information about the sessions, speakers and moderators, please view the event program at bit.ly/TriCountyAgenda21. A recording of the event can be found at bit.ly/TriCountyVid2021.

"I enjoyed meeting with previously elected officials and our fellow commissioners from Oakland and Wayne counties to coordinate these efforts," Macomb County Board Vice Chair Harold Haugh said.

"There are very few opportunities for the three counties to come together on a regular basis, so this summit was the perfect way to dig into issues that are impacting us regionally," Oakland County Commissioner Eileen Kowall said. "Water and mobility challenges, for instance, do not stop at county borders and will require all of us to put our heads together seeking solutions."

"This was a wonderful opportunity to work with our colleagues from Oakland and Macomb," said Wayne County Commissioner Terry Marecki. "While we have many differences, we have more similarities that bind us together. We will continue the conversation and partner on joint efforts that will benefit each county and the region."

The Tri-County Summit was first hosted in 1998 to create a forum to identify common issues for cooperative action. Previous topics have included mental health, criminal justice, transportation/transit, economic development and regional quality of life. Specific issues that have been addressed together include home foreclosures, green infrastructure improvement, reports on the region's economic outlook and the "Silver Tsunami." This is the 13th time the summit has taken place.

For more information about the Macomb County Board of Commissioners, please visit <http://boc.macombgov.org> or call 586-469-5125.

For more information about the Oakland County Board of Commissioners, please visit www.oakgov.com/boc or call 248-858-0100.

For more information about the Wayne County Commission, please visit www.waynecounty.com/elected/commission or call 313-224-8115.

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