

**News Release**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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# Participation Session for Transportation Planning in Northwest Michigan Scheduled

**Tuesday, February 7 2:00 - 6:00 p.m.**  
**The Kaliseum, Kalkaska**

KALKASKA, MI — As a result of Michigan Department of Transportation's (MDOT) commitment to public involvement in their planning process, MDOT and the Northwest Michigan Council of Governments (NWMCOG) will host a participation session for northwest Michigan for local officials, transportation agencies, and the public. The session will be held **Tuesday, February 7 from 2:00 – 6:00 p.m. at The Kaliseum, 1900 Fairground Rd., just off M-72 west in Kalkaska.**

The session is aimed to provide local officials, transportation agencies, and the general public across 13 counties that make up the western part of MDOT's northern region, an opportunity to comment on the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). The STIP acts as the process to guide many of the future improvements to federally aided roads, bridges, and transit systems in the region. More information on the STIP is available at: [www.michigan.gov/stip](http://www.michigan.gov/stip)

"It's important that local elected officials and the public engage themselves in the planning process to help ensure local needs are properly met and included in the STIP," said Mike Woods, NWMCOG regional planner.

(MORE)

The counties in the western part of MDOT's northern region include: Antrim, Benzie, Charlevoix, Emmet, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Lake, Leelanau, Manistee, Mason, Missaukee, Osceola, and Wexford.

For more information on transportation planning contact Michael Woods at (231) 929-5056.

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NOTE to Media: Images are oftentimes available upon request by e-mailing Tom White at [tomwhite@nwm.com.mi.us](mailto:tomwhite@nwm.com.mi.us) and stating preferences for resolution (300 dpi?), file format (.tif? .jpg?) and file size (1MB or less?). Or, phone (231) 929-5044. Check our online Media Room at: <http://nwm.org/media.asp>

The Northwest Michigan Council of Governments (NWMCOG), founded in 1973, facilitates and manages services and programs for 10 counties in the region. These programs include Regional Planning and Community Development, Northwest Michigan Sustainable Business Forum, Northwest Michigan Works, Workforce Development Board, Michigan Small Business and Technology Development Center Northwest Region, Hospitality Skills Alliance, the Procurement Technical Assistance Center, KAL-TEC, Healthcare Skills Alliance of Northwest Michigan, and the Regional Repository for US Census data.

Some services of NWMCOG are in direct support of the counties, some are independent services provided to the public and businesses at large. NWMCOG is able to leverage several collaborative partnerships to extend limited resources and provide economies of scale for projects that operate on a regional basis. NWMCOG's member counties are: Antrim, Benzie, Charlevoix, Emmet, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Manistee, Missaukee, and Wexford.