



BUSINESS R O U N D T A B L E



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*Dennis Toffolo
Director*

*Oakland County Department
of Community and Economic Development*

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Oakland County Business Roundtable Mission

The Oakland County Business Roundtable will provide advice to the County Executive on business, economic and land development matters in order to insure the preservation of the County's quality of life and economic vitality for the benefit of its citizens, communities and businesses. The Roundtable will work to insure the implementation of its original recommendations, as well as identifying new issues and subsequent recommendations in order to successfully plan for the County's future.

L. Brooks Patterson - Oakland County Executive



*L. Brooks Patterson
Oakland County Executive*

Organization, planning, teamwork and commitment have been the hallmarks of the Oakland County Business Roundtable since its inception in 1993. This dynamic group of men and women from business, education and government have unselfishly given of their time, talent and energy to develop innovative ideas for strengthening Oakland County's economic vitality and enhancing our quality of life.

Over the past nine years, the Oakland County Business Roundtable has served up a smorgasbord of outstanding suggestions for moving the county forward. These include developing a long-range strategy to increase funding for road needs, consideration of a three cent local gas tax on gas purchases, elevating the awareness of the county's solutions to workforce and education issues, and creation of a brand name for the services offered by the Business Development Group.

Many of the ideas presented since 1993 have been implemented

including the establishment of a One-Stop-Shop for business development, creation of an Export Assistance Center, the consolidation of all job training programs under a county-wide Workforce Development Board and the development of a county-wide labor demand study that identifies high demand jobs and the skills these jobs require.

This year, as you will see from glancing through this booklet, many new and exciting recommendations have emerged from our four Business Roundtable committees.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Oakland County Business Roundtable, the Chairs of the four committees and the Oakland County staff who serve as liaisons for their dedication and hard work during the past year.

Last, but by no means least, I would like to acknowledge and applaud our two great Co-Chairs for their leadership in directing the work of the Oakland County

Business Roundtable. Gary Russi, president of Oakland University and Robert Stempel, chairman of Energy Conversion Devices have served with great distinction and integrity. I am indebted to both of these outstanding gentlemen for the extraordinary impact they have had on the success of the Oakland County Business Roundtable.

2003 is at our doorstep and with the new year comes new challenges and opportunities.

With the continued support and dedication of the men and women who serve on the front lines of the Oakland County Business Roundtable, we will confidently confront the challenges and take advantage of the opportunities that lie before us.

Business Roundtable Co-Chairs



*Dr. Gary Russi
Co-Chair
Oakland University*

As you peruse the pages of this annual report, consider the incredible growth and prosperity Oakland County has enjoyed over the years. Even in a year of economic uncertainty, this past year was no exception. Much of this can be credited to the outstanding support and counsel that the Oakland County Business Roundtable - more than 100 business, government and education leaders - provides. Oakland County continues to thrive and is expected to grow by 14 percent by 2030. As president of a growing university and a resident in the county, this projection is welcome news.

Oakland University's location and participation in the county means our faculty and students can form partnerships with many types of businesses and organizations to everyone's benefit. By working together, tomorrow's leaders learn the skills necessary for success in the workplace and area organizations gain from our students' fresh ideas and faculty members' bright minds.

Our County has experienced numerous accomplishments and initiatives this year - many of which are detailed in this report. Oakland University is proud to be part of one of the County's most exciting initiatives - the Automation Alley Consortium. The Consortium is a dynamic organization of visionary leaders from technology-focuses companies, K-12 and higher education institutions, and area government. Consortium members are dedicated to reinforcing their competitive positions in the global marketplace and to nurturing the economic vitality of the region.

More than ever, Oakland County is providing its citizens with livable communities in which to raise a family, build a home, grow a business and pursue a preeminent academic degree. Oakland University is committed to providing a distinctive educational experience to the citizens of Oakland County and ensuring our students graduate with skills and experiences that are valued in the workplace

and society. By working together toward the same goals, business, government and education are helping Oakland County and its citizens prepare to meet the competitive challenges of the future. There is no question that this is a great time to live, learn and earn in Oakland County.

Business Roundtable Co-Chairs



*Mr. Robert Stempel
Co-Chair
Energy Conversion Devices, Inc.*

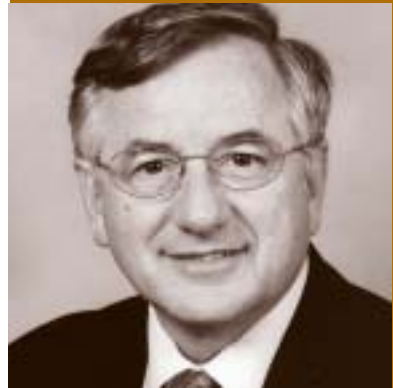
It has been my pleasure to once again serve, along with Gary Russi, as co-chair of the Oakland County Business Roundtable. It's an honor to continue to work with these 118 outstanding individuals who give freely of their time and talents to serve on this advisory panel.

the challenges that face us and seek continued opportunities for growth and success.

The Roundtable is responsible for numerous recommendations that have been turned into successful actions encompassing business, education and government interests. The input from the four committees has made a significant difference in the way Oakland County operates and plans for the future.

The insight and guidance provided by these advisors will be especially valuable during this period of slow economic growth and future uncertainties. I pledge the support and insight of the men and women who serve on the Oakland County Business Roundtable to confront

Economic Development Committee



*Fredrick Seeley
Chair
Economic Development Committee*



*Donald Kegley, Jr.
Vice Chair
Economic Development Committee*

GOAL STATEMENT

To discuss business and development issues in order to make recommendations that Oakland County can implement to increase and improve economic development.

SUPPORT FOR NEXTENERGY PROGRAM

ISSUE

The development of alternative energy systems offers a tremendous opportunity and an equally tremendous threat to Oakland County. The development of applications of new technology for the automotive industry is the driving force behind the Oakland

County economy. If the engineering for applications of alternative energy systems for the automotive industry are done in Oakland County, it will ensure the continued growth of our economy. If that engineering takes place in other states, Oakland County could see a significant negative impact on its economy.

The NextEnergy Program proposed by the State of Michigan provides significant incentives for attracting the primary research that will be the foundation for attracting alternative energy applications engineering to Oakland County.

While Oakland County may not agree with the State's preferred location for alternative energy research, there is no question that Michigan must act aggressively to attract that primary research to Michigan. More importantly, Oakland County must have a role in NextEnergy to ensure a direct link to this primary research for its business community.

RECOMMENDATION

Oakland County will support the NextEnergy legislation. It will direct its Lansing lobbyists to communicate that support to Oakland County's legislative delegation and to the public through the media. The County will work with the state to ensure that Oakland County has a direct link to the NextEnergy program to ensure that Oakland County's businesses have direct and easy access to the primary research that will be conducted there.

Oakland County will request participation on the NextEnergy Leadership Council for itself and key businesses within Oakland County.

Oakland County will seek the creation of a demonstration center in Oakland County for the application of alternative energy systems in the automotive industry.

OAKLAND COUNTY BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT PLANNING PROPOSAL

ISSUE

The economic health of a community is directly related to its ability to provide the fastest and cheapest transportation infrastructure to support the transporting of raw materials and finished products. At the turn of the century water and rail infrastructure availability was critical. Since World War II it has been roads. In the twenty-first century it will be broadband infrastructure. One look at the type of businesses that are locating or expanding in Oakland County makes it clear that information is both the "raw material" and the "finished

product" for Oakland County businesses. Oakland County has the largest single concentration of Michigan's automotive technology centers, prototype shops, information technology companies and other heavy users of information. To be competitive in a global market, Oakland County needs to be able to offer the fastest and cheapest broadband "transportation" infrastructure in the world to every business in Oakland County.

RECOMMENDATION

What can Oakland County Government do to ensure the provision of fast and cheap broadband connectivity for every business in Oakland County?

The Oakland County Business Roundtable has determined that there are two initiatives that the County should support to stimulate broadband development and usage in Oakland County.

Economic Development Committee

Broadband Demand Study

Oakland County can influence where and how private sector dollars are invested in this community by demonstrating where the demand exists for broadband. Oakland County will survey its business community to determine current and future broadband needs. Using land use and master plan information the County will also determine future growth trends. With this information a “broadband road map” can be developed. This study will include formulas for “aggregating” demand.

County officials can use this demand study as the basis of a marketing plan directed at broadband providers to encourage them to allocate a larger share of their capital expenditure budget to Oakland County. The marketing plan will be developed as part of the planning grant.

Broadband Townhall

Oakland County will develop a Broadband Townhall where broadband users, local communities, and providers can come together to seek ways to increase customer satisfaction. This Townhall will do the following:

- Seek solutions to the barriers that confront broadband providers as they attempt to provide service in a timely manner to all businesses in Oakland County.
- Broadband users or potential broadband users will be provided with a forum to communicate their needs to broadband service providers.
- Promote the positive economic effects to Oakland County for developing and maintaining the fastest, most comprehensive and cost effective broadband infrastructure in the world.

A separate townhall may be developed for coordination of infrastructure installation. This will help to avoid having the same roadway disturbed multiple times.

REDEVELOPMENT OF URBAN AREAS

ISSUE

For the developer, redeveloping an urban site is typically more difficult and expensive than developing the equivalent project on a greenfield site. Market forces often play a significant role in the site location process, yet in the short run, communities have little influence on market forces. Local communities CAN influence the level of difficulty involved in redeveloping an urban site.

To reduce the difficulty of redeveloping a site, communities can change policies, ordinances, and procedures to decrease site plan approval and construction time. Such changes can effect the “economics of a site.” Communities can also assist by reducing costs to prepare a site for redevelopment.

RECOMMENDATION

Create an Oakland County Redevelopment Taskforce. This Taskforce will be made up of planners and economic develop-

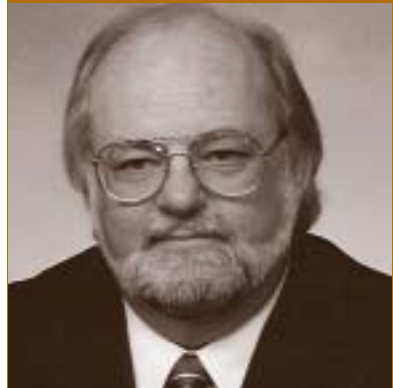
ers from the Planning & Economic Development Services Division, and developers, builders, and realtors chosen from the membership of Oakland County Business Roundtable.

This Taskforce will be available to communities that are interested in aggressively redeveloping sections of their community. Using the successful model developed by the Mainstreet Program, the team will solicit applications for assistance from communities. The Taskforce will begin by working together to develop a process for assisting communities. The Taskforce will also establish criteria to evaluate applications. Lastly, the team will develop a presentation to promote this new county service to communities.

Benefits to Community

- Comprehensive review of community processes and procedures related to redevelopment
- Identification of prime sites for redevelopment
- Market analysis
- Assistance with grant application
- Assistance with recruiting developer to redevelop site

Quality of Life Committee



Kenneth W. Peterson
Chair
Quality of Life Committee



Jennifer L. Radcliff
Vice Chair
Quality of Life Committee

GOAL STATEMENT

The Quality of Life Committee has a unique mission among the Roundtable. Beginning in the Winter of 2001, and with a recommended three year timeline, the Committee is spearheading the development of a sustainable Quality of Life Indicator Tool to be used by all stakeholders to measure and improve participation in the production of a quality community.

The 2002 Quality of Life Committee, continuing under the direction of Chair Kenneth Peterson, and Vice-Chair Jennifer Radcliff, retained the following mission statement for establishing a quality of life indicators program:

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- Establish social, economic and environmen-

tal indicators to measure and track trends in Oakland County's quality of life.

- Encourage government to be accountable and responsive to meeting the quality of life needs of its citizens in all socioeconomic categories.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

To this end, the expanded Committee reviewed the previous year's work of assessing different local, state and national Quality of Life Model Programs, and then, set out to accomplish the recommendations of the previous year. The Committee substantially met the objectives of the three primary recommendations, as follows:

- Committee continued and further refined and defined its role in consultation with staff,

and through the work plan, as the advisory and oversight body for development of the Quality of Life Indicators Program.

• After an initial review of funding opportunities by the committee, County Staff and a sub-committee of Quality of Life members developed a comprehensive work plan and budget for submission to funding agencies with formal application made in early October of 2002, following established County procedures.

• Continued activities to achieve an ongoing Quality of Life Indicator Program by:
1) Collaborating with MSU Extension and the Community & Economic Development Department, temporarily funding a professional staff to administer development of the Quality of Life Indicators Program while permanent funding is established, and **2)** establishing a preliminary public involvement process to identify community needs, opinions and recommendations through the establishment of 10 sub-committees, involving more than 40 community leaders.

• These 10 sub-committees and staff met nearly 30 times and worked to accomplish most of the

preliminary steps recommended in 2001, including **1)** reviewing county and community data and performance measures to evaluate current information collection practices, and **2)** reviewing and establishing preliminary indicator categories, and **3)** considering and recommending over 200 preliminary indicators for further review, and **4)** identifying available or desirable data and information to be collected to support the indicators process. Please see accompanying chart for additional explanation.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The primary objectives and recommendations of the Committee remain:

- the creation of measurement tools whereby County departments and local units of government may measure and improve their service delivery over time
- a comprehensive community involvement and communication capability for the Indicators project
- the involvement of all community stakeholders in developing and then using the measurement tools created to improve their services, businesses and programming

In furtherance of this initiative, and subject to successful funding, additional steps to be taken are recommended as including:

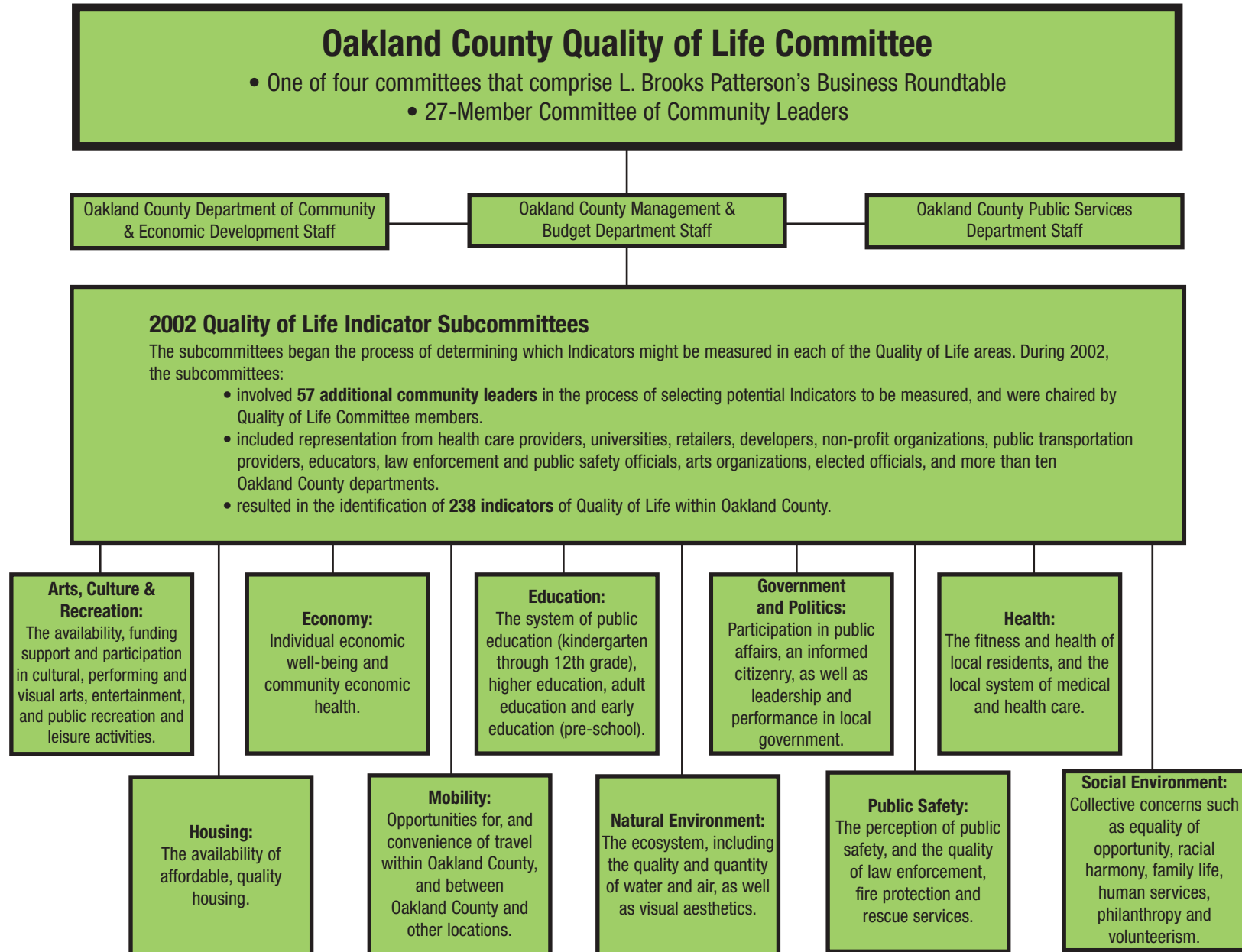
• Continue to aggressively seek funding, including using the established work plan to define and fund specific components of the work plan, as dictated by the funding opportunities.

• By County Executive and Board of Commissioner action, make a formal request for information relevant to and invitation for participation in the Quality of Life Indicators Program,

• Consider publishing the initial findings and work plans of the Quality of Life Indicators Program as a means of establishing a community dialogue, increasing membership and building support and momentum for the Quality of Life Indicators Program.

• By County Executive and Board of Commissioner action, charge community stakeholders to join the County in implementing targeted improvements indicated by the measurement tools created.

Quality of Life Committee



Transportation Committee



*Alan Kiriluk
Chair
Transportation Committee*



*James W. Page, PE
Vice Chair
Transportation Committee*

GOAL STATEMENT

The charge of the Transportation Committee is to look at transportation issues and identify actions Oakland County can undertake. In 2001, funding for roads was identified as the major transportation issue facing Oakland County. In 2002, the Committee focused on developing a long-range, comprehensive strategy to increase funding for road needs in Oakland County.

ISSUE

Every two years, officials of virtually every community in Oakland County are asked to identify county road improvements that are needed to address

capacity and safety in their communities over the next ten years. The Road Commission for Oakland County (RCOC) assembles this data and estimates the cost of the improvements. Based on the cost estimates from the 2000-2001 responses, and adding the capacity needs on city and village streets, it is estimated that with inflation, Oakland County local roads will require \$1.7 billion over the next ten years to address congestion. Unfortunately, state and federal funding has not kept pace with county road needs and only addresses a very small portion of this need. At the current rate of funding, approximately \$200 million will be available over the

next ten years to address that \$1.7 billion in needs. If additional funding is not found, congestion will worsen, adversely impacting traffic safety, economic development, growth, and quality of life in Oakland County. With increasing congestion, accidents also can be expected to increase. Accurate accident data and additional traffic safety measures are also in need of attention in Oakland County. Proposed regional transit strategies or initiatives may assist but are estimated to have limited impact in addressing identified needs.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Transportation Roundtable Committee recommends that funding be approached in a two-prong strategy. The first priority should be getting a more equitable return from state and federal funding sources. Oakland County, along with the Road Commission for Oakland County, should work with the County's delegation of state and federal legislators to alert them

to the severity of the problem and encourage legislative changes to the funding formula. The Committee recommends that under the reauthorization bill for federal transportation funding, there should be a 95% federal return of state dollars for transportation funding (an increase from the current 90%) and a 90% return for transit funding (an increase from the current 55%). The Committee further recommends that the distribution of state road funds be adjusted to guarantee a return of 95% of the road funds generated by Oakland County. This would include requiring that MDOT spend in Oakland County a five-year average of 95% of funds it receives from Oakland. Another specific target could be to increase the amount of money the state legislature allocates to the Transportation Economic Development Fund Category C (TEDF-C) for the five largest counties. Increasing TEDF-C funding will not only return more money to Oakland County but will also address

some of the more pressing congestion problems. To maximize our efforts, Oakland County and the RCOC should work with the surrounding counties and their Road Commissions to collectively approach the legislature (both state and federal) on this issue. However, getting a higher federal and state return of transportation funds will not address all of the identified road needs.

Therefore, the second priority should be to develop locally generated revenue, enhancement program, initially suggested for 10 years. Money raised would be deposited into a "Congestion Fund." The basic premise of this Congestion Fund is that all money generated would stay in Oakland County to address local needs. The Transportation Committee recommends using a mechanism that is already in place to distribute the funds generated: Oakland County's Federal Aid Task Force Funding Committee. It has the task of selecting road projects for fund-

Transportation Committee

ing, using the federal and state road funds allocated to Oakland County for road improvements, including congestion relief. Oakland County's cities, villages, and townships, as well as RCOC, SMART, and MDOT have representatives on this funding committee. It is recommended that the funding committee allocate the Congestion Fund using its current formula, which is based on accident reduction and economic, environmental, engineering, and planning considerations, and is used for Category C funds of the state's Transportation Economic Development Fund (TEDF). With the additional money available in the Congestion Fund, more of the existing federal funds could be used to better address other pressing road needs such as the paving of high volume gravel roads and resurfacing already widened streets. Additional locally-generated funding can be used to support additional traffic safety efforts and provide Oakland County with needed traffic accident data on a timely and accurate basis.

This locally generated revenue enhancement program is comprised of six different funding sources. These sources were specifically identified because of their "You pay. You benefit" nature. The first five sources would generate approximately \$154.6 million per year for congestion relief. The traffic ticket surcharge revenues would ultimately generate an additional \$1.4 million per year, and would be divided between the communities and the Traffic Improvement Association of Oakland County. Each of the six sources is listed below, along with the amount of anticipated annual revenue.

**4-cent local gas/diesel tax
(\$28 million)**

**1/2-mill county property tax
(\$23 million)**

**1/2-percent local sales tax
(\$80 million)**

**20-percent increase in vehicle
registration fees
(\$9.6 million)**

**\$25 flat rate driver's license fee
(\$14 million)**

**\$3 surcharge on all traffic
violation tickets issued in
Oakland County
(\$1.4 million)**

A major public education and marketing program will be necessary to inform residents and business owners about how roads are currently funded and why there is a need for additional funding. Another key element will be coalition building with surrounding counties and the other large urban counties throughout the state. It is recommended that these options be approached on a multi-county basis, especially the gas/diesel tax and the sales tax.

Some of these funding sources will require a state legislative amendment (local gas/diesel tax) or a constitutional change (local sales tax). The 1/2-mill county property tax needs Oakland County Board of Commissioners' approval to be placed on the ballot, then a countywide vote of the people.

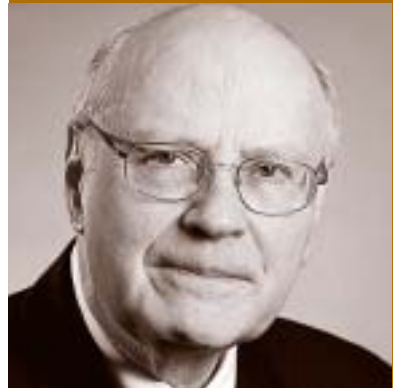
The local sales tax requires both a statewide and a countywide vote. Both the drivers' license fee and vehicle registration increases would require enabling state legislation. An organization or coalition needs to spearhead the effort to get these initiatives through the legislative and electoral process. The Transportation Committee recommends that the business community take the lead, working in partnership with county and local government, the road commission, surrounding counties, and the other large urban counties in the state.

In addition, two other funding options should be explored. Communities can use special assessment districts now to fund road improvements in site-specific cases. It is recommended that communities are made more aware of this tool and the process used to establish a special assessment district. Development impact fees should also be investigated as another tool; new state legislation would be required

to authorize the use of development impact fees.

In conclusion, the Transportation Committee of the Business Roundtable respectfully recommends that a Blue Ribbon Committee be appointed to analyze this strategy, identify needed implementation actions, and work toward implementation of the above stated objectives.

Workforce and Education Committee



Terence Adderley
Chair

Workforce and Education Committee



David Hay
Vice Chair

Workforce and Education Committee

GOAL STATEMENT

The Oakland County Business Roundtable's Workforce and Education Committee will provide the County Executive advice on workforce development and education matters.

2001 Recommendations:

In 2001, the Workforce and Education Committee made three recommendations. These recommendations and their status follow:

1. Market Oakland County's Workforce Development and Education Programs

Recommendation #1:

Elevate a target popula-

tion's awareness of Oakland County's solutions to workforce and education issues by:

- Identifying a target population that will include, but that may not be limited to, students (including those who are at-risk), parents, educators, workers (including those from outside the County), and employers;
- Establishing a clearinghouse that will coordinate and bring into focus workforce development, education, and training opportunities throughout Oakland County; and
- Initiating pilot marketing strategies that benchmark how effectively the target population's awareness has been elevat-

ed. These marketing strategies should **a)** highlight Oakland County's quality of life and high-tech job opportunities; **b)** motivate youth to stay in or return to school, and to train for skilled jobs that are currently unfilled; and **c)** be coordinated with K-12 schools, colleges, and businesses.

Implementation Strategy for

Recommendation #1:

This recommendation directly relates to a goal in the Strategic Plan that the Oakland County Workforce Development Board and its Education Advisory Group (EAG) developed. Thus, the Board, the EAG, and the Workforce and Education Committee are jointly overseeing the implementation strategies that the Strategic Plan identifies for this goal/recommendation.

2002 Accomplishments for

Recommendation #1:

To market Oakland County's Workforce Development and Education Programs, the Oakland County Workforce Development Board and the

Oakland County Michigan Works! Agency implemented several initiatives during 2002. The Board, for example:

- Sponsored a television commercial that is airing on Detroit 62/CBS and UPN 50, and that features Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson and Board Chairperson Tom Kimble;
- Co-sponsored a cable television show that highlights the Board's literacy services;
- Developed and distributed to numerous business and consumer groups a brochure that identifies each of the Oakland County Michigan Works! Service Centers and the services they offer employers and job seekers;
- Partnered with Automation Alley to ensure that the foregoing brochure is distributed to all Automation Alley members and prospective members;
- Created a Marketing Task Team that is developing and overseeing the Board's marketing activities;

• Advertised the Board's services in various Chamber of Commerce newsletters and publications; and

- Sponsored numerous events, including the Oakland County Diversity Council's Conference and Awards Luncheon, OLHSA's Walk for Warmth, the Oakland County Economic Outlook Luncheon, Automation Alley's Career Fair, and the Centerpoint Diversity Job Expo.

2003 Priorities for

Recommendation #1:

As Recommendation #1 is implemented further during 2003, the Committee urges that the following priorities be addressed:

- Make the public aware of various career paths, via less obvious training routes;
- Promote Oakland County's high demand occupations, including the licensed health care professions;

Workforce and Education Committee

- Disseminate current workforce, education and training information between business and government, and from business/government to consumers; and
- Highlight employment opportunities for individuals who have two years of specialized or technical training.

2. Develop Partnerships with Business

Recommendation #2:

Develop more partnerships between business and workforce development/education providers, as students, job seekers, and current workers are trained and/or retrained for Oakland County's jobs. These partnerships should:

- Include small, as well as large, businesses, because many small employers may not have the resources to retrain workers in a changing market place;

- Use new technologies (e.g., the Internet, web casting, and video conferencing), so training resources are shared among small businesses;
- Involve business in curricula design; and
- Assist employers in the design, implementation, and management of innovative programs, including student internships, teacher externships, and mentoring activities.

Implementation Strategy for Recommendation #2:

This recommendation directly relates to another goal in the Oakland County Workforce Development Board and the Oakland Education Advisory Group's (EAG's) Strategic Plan. Thus, the Board, the EAG, and the Workforce and Education Committee are jointly overseeing the implementation strategies that the Strategic Plan identifies for this goal/recommendation.

2002 Accomplishments for Recommendation #2:

During 2002, the Oakland County Workforce Development Board surveyed its key partners to identify successful partnerships with business. Some of the partnerships that have been identified follow:

- Oakland Community College's Advanced Technology Program, which has collaborated with numerous businesses, including EDS and Kelly Services, to train public assistance recipients for high-tech, good paying jobs that provide full benefits;
- The General Motors Academy, through which the General Motors Corporation and Oakland Schools have partnered to provide students a work-based learning experience at the GM Proving Ground;
- The Walter P. Chrysler Manufacturing Technology Academy, through which Oakland Schools and the DaimlerChrysler Corporation have partnered to

provide students instruction in electronics, robotics, design, team-work, and problem-solving techniques;

- Oakland Schools' Design Manufacturing Alliance, which brings together industry representatives and secondary/post secondary educators to upgrade relevant curricula, share information, and promote professional development; and
- The Strategic Training Partnership, through which DaimlerChrysler and Oakland Community College collaborate to train suppliers in areas that are directly related to quality and productivity.

2003 Priorities for Recommendation #2:

As Recommendation #2 is implemented further during 2003, the Committee urges that the following priorities be addressed:

- Facilitate cooperative activities among the K-12 system, post-secondary education, and

non-profit organizations, so that the education system stays in sync with students' evolving needs; and

- Link corporate human resource personnel, youth and adult career counselors, and curriculum/training designers, so that education and training programs will stay current with evolving requirements for workplace skills.

3. Retain, Train, Retrain, and Recruit Workers for Oakland County's High Demand Jobs

Recommendation #3:

To ensure that Oakland County has an available and qualified labor force for the County's high-demand jobs, workers should be retained, trained, retrained, and recruited.

- To retain and recruit workers, Oakland County's multiple job opportunities, reasonable cost of living, excellent schools, and other quality-of-life benefits should be effectively marketed.

Workforce and Education Committee

- To train and retrain workers, educators and trainers should focus on tomorrow's, as well as today's jobs, so training is proactive and not reactive. In addition, adults and youths should be taught "how to learn" so they recognize that learning is a lifelong process.

Implementation Strategy for

Recommendation #3:

This recommendation directly relates to the missions of the Oakland County Workforce Development Board and its Education Advisory Group. The Board, the EAG, and the Committee are collaborating with each other and with the County's educators, trainers, and Michigan Works! Service Centers, to develop implementation strategies.

2002 Accomplishments for

Recommendation #3:

During the past year, the Oakland County Workforce Development Board's Michigan Works! Service Centers and other service providers have focused their efforts on training

and/or retraining their customers for the County's high demand jobs. As a result:

- 427 Workforce Investment Act (WIA) adult, youth, and dislocated worker registrants have obtained employment, and have retained this employment for at least six months; and

- More than 1,000 Work First (Welfare-to-Work) participants have obtained employment, and have retained this employment for at least 90 days.

2003 Priorities for Recommendation #3:

As Recommendation #3 is implemented further, the Committee urges that the following priorities be addressed:

- Explore how students, beginning at an early age, can be exposed to career education and training options;
- Increase the number of successful, non-traditional educational models;

- Ensure that training and education are career focused; and

- Incorporate strong math and science programs in the K-12 curriculum, especially in grades 3 through 12.

An Additional Committee

Priority for 2003:

During 2003, the Workforce and Education Committee will continue to evaluate the status of its 2001 recommendations. As part of the evaluation process, the Committee urges that:

- Studies and surveys that identify national or local workforce issues be reviewed;
- The County's current and future workforce needs be assessed, and that a strategy to address these needs be developed; and
- A workforce and education competitiveness index be developed.



Roundtable Membership

Dr. Gary Russi, Co-Chair
Oakland University

Mr. Robert Stempel,
Co-Chair
Energy Conversion Devices, Inc.

Economic Development

Fredrick Seeley
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Quality of Life

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Mark Fitzpatrick
JM Olson Corporation

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