



MIDLAND BUSINESS ALLIANCE

# ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON INFRASTRUCTURE

April 2022 Overview

# WHO WE ARE

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**The Midland Business Alliance (MBA)** is the economic development organization and chamber of commerce for Midland County, Michigan.

In 2021, the MBA Board of Directors formed an advisory committee to examine infrastructure issues that affect the ***quality of life and economic vitality*** of Midland and the mid-Michigan region.

The **MBA Advisory Committee on Infrastructure** was created.



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# OUR MISSION

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## **Our First Mandate**

Address longstanding flood issues that impact the citizens, business community, and economic development in the Great Lakes Bay Region ... by finding the best ways to work with local, state, and federal partners

## **Primary Areas of Focus**

- Legacy flooding challenges, flood reduction in the Tittabawassee River Watershed
- Related sanitary sewer/stormwater issues
- Improving resiliency

# GOVERNING PRINCIPLES

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- **Collaboration**
- **Nature-based flood reduction**
- **Conservation, sediment reduction**
- **Clean water**



# LONG-TERM SOLUTIONS

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Long-term flood reduction and resilience projects may include:

- **Large-scale detention**
  - **Such as new wetlands and wildlife/recreation areas**
- **Local drainage improvements**
- **River engineering**
- **Levees**



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# KEY MILESTONES

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- *Note:* see in-depth list of “Year in Review” milestones at [MBAmi.org/FloodStudy](https://mbami.org/floodstudy)
- Raised nearly \$1M for first engineering study, flood reduction advocacy efforts, and community engagement (2021)
- Local funders:
  - Charles J. Strosacker Foundation
  - Corteva Agriscience
  - Dow Company Foundation
  - Fisher Companies
  - Hemlock Semiconductor Corporation
  - Midland Area Community Foundation
  - MyMichigan Health
  - Patricia and David Kepler Foundation
  - Rollin M. Gerstacker Foundation
  - Three Rivers Corporation

# KEY MILESTONES

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- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), County of Midland, and the MBA jointly launched a hydrologic/hydraulic study of the Tittabawassee River Watershed
  - Required 50% local cost-share was funded by MBA Advisory Committee on Infrastructure
- Legislative successes (thanks to our work with Congressman John Moolenaar, Senator Debbie Stabenow, Senator Gary Peters, and their staff):
  - FEMA federal cost-share for 2020-21 major disasters adjusted from 75% ... to no less than 90% of eligible costs
  - Three Community Project Funding requests included in the U.S. House/Senate FY 2022 appropriations process:
    - **\$750,000 for the City of Midland** storm/sanitary sewer improvements project
    - **\$500,000 for the Midland Center for the Arts** revitalization following 2020 flooding
    - **\$400,000 for Midland County** flood data collection tools/planning
    - All approved in March 2022

# KEY MILESTONES

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- USACE toured flood damage/conditions in Midland, Bullock Creek, Sanford, and Edenville
- Our contractor, Spicer Group, completed river surveying/geographic information system (GIS) mapping for the hydrologic/hydraulic study
  - Consisted of approximately 60 miles of the Tittabawassee River, Sturgeon Creek, Snake Creek, Bullock Creek, Salt River, Chippewa River, and Pine River in Midland County
  - Delivered survey/GIS data to USACE in March 2022
  - USACE is currently working on this three-year study (to be finalized in 2024)
  - Study to provide critical data for flood prediction and emergency preparedness – including flood inundation mapping with the U.S. Geological Survey – and some initial flood mitigation efforts



# KEY MILESTONES

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- Committee successfully requested \$3M for flood reduction planning through the Michigan legislature (thanks to our work with State Senator Jim Stamas, Governor Gretchen Whitmer, and their staff)
  - Intended to help fund:
    - Second USACE study to further recommend flood reduction solutions
    - Collaborative engineering services to conceptualize shorter-term projects to reduce the frequency and severity of flooding in mid-Michigan
    - Communication efforts between the many local, regional, state, and federal stakeholders
- Committee worked with local entities to develop/submit three new Community Project Funding requests for the U.S. House/Senate FY 2023 appropriations process:
  - **\$1M for the City of Midland** Sylvan Pump Station Detention Basin project
  - **\$2M for MyMichigan Medical Center Midland** boiler plant and flood resiliency project
  - **\$750,000 for Midland County** flood plain reconnection and enhancement project
  - Submitted in April 2022
- Estimated ROI on original donor funding is approximately 8X to our community

# NEXT STEPS

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- In the early stages of gaining support/approval to begin second USACE study
  - Will work with USACE and Midland County on an agreement
  - USACE calls this a “new start” study
    - Develops potential concepts/solutions, cost-benefit analysis
    - Also needed to lay the groundwork for future federal funding assistance
- Explore working with a local provider of engineering services
  - To work in parallel with the second USACE study
  - Begin to identify “Phase 1” projects that might be implemented in the shorter term
  - Collaborate with USACE to support the second study, including help with identifying potential flood reduction projects/locations, development of costs, federal/state funding opportunities, and other ways to build resiliency
- Continue work to capture funds
  - The bipartisan Infrastructure Investment Jobs Act (IIJA)
  - Water Resources Development Act (WRDA)
  - Other resources yet to be identified

# KEEPING THE COMMUNITY INFORMED

In addition to the local news media, we also share information at these locations:

- [MBAmi.org/FloodStudy](https://MBAmi.org/FloodStudy)
- [Midland Business Alliance on Facebook](#)
- [Midland Business Alliance on LinkedIn](#)



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