



# Michigan Association of Regions

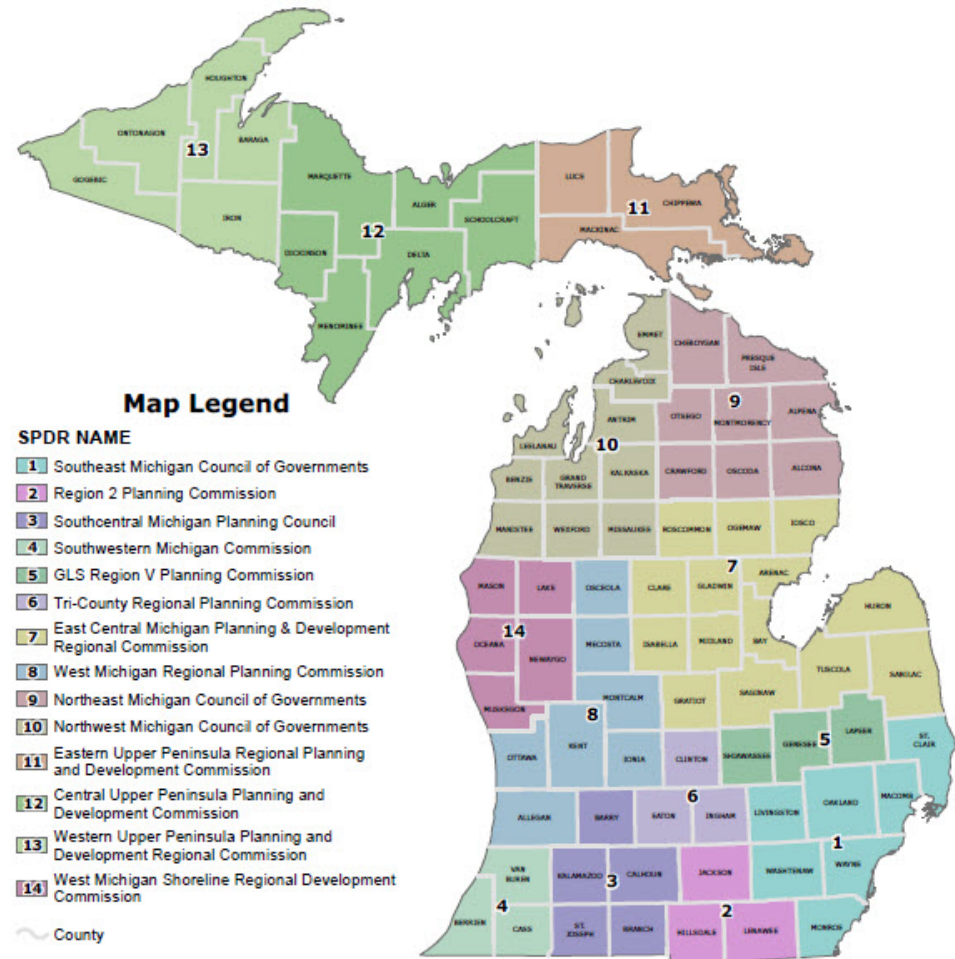
## Promoting Excellence in Regional Cooperation in Michigan

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14 State-Designated  
Planning and  
Development Regions  
providing services to  
county and local  
governments:

- Transportation Planning
- Economic Development
- Environmental and Natural Resources Planning
- Local Services Planning and Coordination
- Workforce Development

## MICHIGAN STATE PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT REGIONS (SPDRs)



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# How are the 14 RPDCs Alike?

- Each is an independent body
- Each responds to the unique needs of the region
- Each works to commonly identify available resources (economic, transportation, natural, human, historical among others) & agree on ways to derive maximum value over time
- Each assists State & Federal govts. w/program implementation on a region-wide scale

# The Role of MAR

MAR provides voice for and represents the interests of the 14 RPDCs

- Interface with Governor's Office, Legislature, U.S. Administration and both Chambers of U.S Congress
- Represents MAR members on MDEQ Regulated and Environmental Advisory Groups
- Direct, one-on-one lobbying for RPDC goals
- Interface with national planning and development organizations



# The MAR Board

MAR Board, consisting of directors and board members of the 14 RPDCs, meets six times per year, with annual meeting each July

- Hosts national and state policy leaders for discussion of critical issues
- Set policy and direction for MAR
- Serves as central point of contact for federal agencies, together with state and national partners



# Challenges and Opportunities for the RPDCs

- Dramatic decline of financial and staff resources prompting counties and locals to engage RPDCs
- Compliance with Congressional and Legislative mandates is at the regional scale
- Push in Lansing to redefine the roles and responsibilities of the state-designated RPDCs



# Regional Reinvention

- Governor Snyder's office leading a discussion on the role of the regions and the future of region-wide service delivery
- MAR, SEMCOG and NWMCOG participating in the “regional reinvention” discussions
- State desirous of coordinating service delivery through regions
- State willing to put “skin in the game” with financial incentives

