



## Fresh Coast Planning

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# MEMORANDUM

To: Jamestown Charter Township Planning Commission  
From: Gregory L. Ransford, MPA  
Date: September 6, 2019  
Re: Master Plan Agency Comments and Public Hearing

As you are aware, a public hearing is scheduled for the draft 2019 Jamestown Charter Township Master Plan at your September 17, 2019 meeting. Prior to that hearing, comments are accepted from local, regional, and State agencies. Attached are comments from the Ottawa County Planning and Performance Improvement Department (OCPPI) as well as the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT). Despite the importance of finalizing adoption of the Master Plan by the beginning of October, we address the comments of each agency below.

### Ottawa County Planning and Performance Improvement

#### *Agricultural Preservation*

As you will note within the correspondence, OCPPI offers tools from their office to assist with agricultural preservation. Given this is simply an offer, we do not believe revisions to the draft Master Plan are necessary in response.

#### *Groundwater*

We believe the draft Master Plan is well positioned to reduce ground water dependency through the proposed Growth Boundary as well as provisions related to the timing of rezoning to higher density residential districts concurrent with a public water supply.

### Michigan Department of Transportation

We received the MDOT correspondence the same day as the date of this memorandum. Given this, we were unable to clarify one statement prior to drafting our memorandum. Specifically, MDOT suggests that "the Master Plan should provide guidance for input when involved with these transportation planning agencies (OCRC, GVMC, WMRP)." We are unsure of the intent of this statement and have contact MDOT for clarification. In the instance we receive a reply prior to your meeting, we will transmit it to you.

### Map Modifications

As a result of comment from Supervisor Bergwerff, the Ottawa County street map and both utility maps were updated with correctly identified road surfaces at the time of distribution to the local, regional, and State agencies. In particular, those roadways that were previously gravel and are now pavement are correctly identified. Attached is an updated copy of the entire Master Plan

### Planning Commission Action

Following the public hearing, the Planning Commission can approve the Master Plan as presented, approve with modifications, or postpone until a subsequent meeting. It is important to note, however, that if postponement occurs, a special meeting should be scheduled to complete adoption prior to expiration of the moratorium.

As aforementioned, the Master Plan has been scheduled for a public hearing at your September 17, 2019 meeting. If you have any questions, please let us know.

GLR  
Planner

Attachments

cc: Ken Bergwerff, Supervisor



# Ottawa County

Planning & Performance  
Improvement

Planning Commission  
Jamestown Charter Township  
2380 Riley Street  
Hudsonville, MI 49426

**Paul Sachs**  
Director

**Shannon Virtue**  
Assistant Director

Dear Jamestown Township Planning Commission,

Thank you for extending the opportunity to review and comment on the Jamestown Charter Township Master Plan draft. After reviewing, the Ottawa County Planning and Performance Improvement Department has some brief feedback for your consideration.

It has been an on-going effort and long-time Department goal to promote and encourage the preservation of valuable agricultural land across the County. To do this, the County is involved with several tools and programs that will help achieve this goal. As Jamestown Township is working to implement strategies to achieve the community's goal for farmland preservation, please note that opportunities exist to work with the Department to preserve priority parcels in areas of the Township that are agriculturally important .

Another element to consider when updating the Master Plan are Ottawa County's groundwater challenges. As identified through MSU's multi-year groundwater study, steady decreases in groundwater levels in the bedrock aquifer are projected for certain areas within Jamestown Charter Township. Because of this, we ask that Jamestown Township take careful consideration to assess areas for municipal water supply extensions. Please also note that lesser density development would be most appropriate for those areas that cannot connect to municipal water. This would help to reduce the strain on groundwater levels.

It is recognized that groundwater challenges may necessitate municipal water line extensions. However, in those instances when cost considerations may grow by constructing those extensions, alternative techniques are available to help ensure sustainable water access to landowners. Our office is available to assist with assessing those opportunities as needed.

Thank you for your time and consideration of our feedback. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out.

Sincerely,

Danielle Bouchard  
Land Use Planning Specialist



GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**  
LANSING

PAUL C. AJEGBA  
DIRECTOR

August 28, 2019

Mr. Dean Smith, Chairman  
Jamestown Charter Township  
Planning Commission  
2380 Riley Street  
Hudsonville, Michigan 49426

Dear Mr. Smith:

Subject: Invitation for Comments on Draft Jamestown Charter Township 2019 Master Plan

The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Jamestown Charter Township 2019 Master Plan.

MDOT recommends the Master Plan include additional details outlining the role of transportation planning in the Township's development process. These details may include goals and strategies that emphasize the relationship of the Township with the Ottawa County Road Commission, Grand Valley Metropolitan Council, and the West Michigan Regional Planning Commission. Jamestown Charter Township has representation in the transportation planning process as they appoint a member to the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council. The Master Plan should provide guidance for input when involved with these transportation planning agencies.

The Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) process guides transportation planning and investment. As a participant in the MPO planning process, MDOT looks forward to working with the local agency and their MPO partners to create a safe and efficient transportation system in West Michigan.

If you have additional questions, please contact either me or Jim Sturdevant, Program Manager, Statewide Planning Section, at 517-335-2603 or [SturdevantJ@michigan.gov](mailto:SturdevantJ@michigan.gov).

Sincerely,

Eric Mullen, Manager  
Statewide Planning Section

cc: Jim Sturdevant