

COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY
WMSRDC, JANUARY 2011

Project Title: Muskegon Port Development Market Study

Investment Region/Location: City of Muskegon, Muskegon County, Michigan

Description and Background:

A group of public and private community leaders have formed a committee to further the development of the Port of Muskegon as an economic asset to the west Michigan region. There are approximately seven private port land owners and developers involved in the project. The group, after meeting for over a year, is interested in conducting a market study of how west Michigan manufacturers are shipping and receiving goods and materials within an approximate 90 mile radius (within Michigan) of Muskegon Lake. In addition, the study will bring together previous studies and identify port assets including intermodal transportation alternatives. The study will also identify goals, objectives, and a future vision for the development and enhancement of the Port of Muskegon.

Economic Development Need:

Muskegon Harbor, Michigan is located on the east shore of Lake Michigan. The Port of Muskegon has been an active commercial port for nearly 200 years. The Muskegon Lake navigation channel is maintained at a depth of 29 feet and is the deepest port along Michigan's west coast. The port has the potential to reach not only the Great Lakes, but the remainder of the United States through the nation's river and lock systems. In addition the port is serviced by a variety of multi-modal assets including multiple truck routes with easy access to highways, multiple rail access points with a CSX rail yard located on the Muskegon lakeshore, and a local international airport within five miles of the port.

Muskegon Harbor is utilized for both recreational and commercial use. However, many consider its commercial activity is considerably underutilized based on the capacity of the deep water channel and the capabilities of current port property owners. A major focus of the recently formed committee is to work together to promote the Port of Muskegon for increased commercial use while still maintaining the balance necessary for the community at large. For a variety of reasons, many local manufacturers do not use or have not considered using the Port of Muskegon for the movement of goods. The committee strongly believes there is a huge potential for the growth and expansion of commercial port activities.

The purpose of the market study is to identify the type of goods being moved by local manufacturers and how those goods are currently being transported. In addition, the study will identify strategies to integrate and interconnect multi-modal transportation alternatives including the port, roadways, air, and rail.

Project Cost and Matching Funds:

Total Cost:.....\$60,000