

PROTEC

The Michigan Coalition to Protect Public Rights-of-Way

www.protec-mi.org

Mayor Maureen Miller Brosnan
City of Livonia

Mayor Kenson J. Siver
City of Southfield

Mayor Abdullah Hammoud
City of Dearborn

PROTEC Fiscal Agent: Michigan Municipal League

Mike Watza, General Counsel

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Dear Friends, Colleagues, and Fellow Community Leaders,

For an amazing **29 years**, PROTEC has diligently worked on behalf of local community governments across Michigan to address a variety of rights-of-way issues facing our state, as detailed most recently in PROTEC's 2025 **Annual Report**, available online at www.protec-mi.org.

For many of us here at PROTEC, who have been hip deep in the Legislative, Congressional, Administrative and Judicial trenches daily and, for many of you who have supported our efforts representing Local Community Control and Self Governance of our own ROW through almost three decades, it has often seemed a very "Long and Winding Road". And, it has been. But, it has also been very rewarding.

As we reflect back and, even looking at the challenges we face today, we cannot help but realize how much we have accomplished with our partners and how much better off we all are because of this "community of communities". We have stood up daily to industry members like AT&T, Comcast, Charter, WOW, ITC, DTE, Consumers and others, seeking free and uncontrolled ROW and Public Property access. Typically Out-manned, Out-spent and Out-politicked, we have endured and, our communities are better off as a result.

We have always had Truth and the interests of our residents at heart and so our labors on your behalf include:

- We are continuing to battle the Video Streaming Industry effort to exempt their video product and service from our State Video Service law and in doing so, we hope ultimately to reverse the loss of over **\$100 Million dollars in general fund franchise fees**;
- We are closely monitoring, reporting on and working with our partners in Washington DC to preserve the right of Local Communities to control our own property and governance interests. This includes monitoring the recent Administrative and Congressional attacks on the BEAD program which promised **\$1.5 Billion Dollars for Michigan Broadband development**, including building and operating our own Municipal

Broadband Networks as set forth in the 2002 Metro Act and 2005 Telecom Amendments;

- We have also achieved current revenues of \$30+ Million dollars for Locals from Telecommunications access to our ROW pursuant to the Metro Act and, we are seeking an avenue to increase those fees;
- In 2006 and again in 2007, we preserved PEG Local programming channels and funding as well as Millions of Dollars in General Fund Franchise fees by working in the Legislature, the Courts and Congress;
- We keep working on the notorious (not so) “small cells” by trying to keep them a little smaller and fewer in number;
- We called out and restored millions in Metro Act underpayments by AT&T in 2017;
- We Appealed the numerous and unprecedented 2018/2019 FCC actions seeking to terminate local ROW control and fair market rents in favor of the wireless and cable industries;
- We have worked to prevent industry shifting ROW construction costs from industry onto local communities;
- We routinely call out and resist efforts in the Legislature to exempt industry members from paying their fair share of property taxes

See our Annual Report for the details.

The time is now. Join us.

THE REST OF WHAT WE DO

- **PROTEC** meets monthly and provides timely updates and lends assistance to communities facing immediate rights-of-way issues.
- **PROTEC** is active daily in monitoring, coalition building and promoting positive Rights-of-Way outcomes in the Courts, the FCC and Congress as well as the Michigan Legislature.
- **PROTEC** increased its social media presence on sites such as Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn to keep members updated on rapidly changing telecommunication matters

These are just a sampling of issues and efforts that PROTEC has taken on. Our mission throughout Michigan is to coordinate actions that protect local community interests and inform municipal officials of significant developments in public rights-of-way management. PROTEC has taken a proactive approach to the many challenges faced by communities across the state. Now, more than ever, local governments must be diligent in protecting their interests in all rights-of-way issues.

Though we have made great strides in protecting our shared interests, it is crucial to remain committed to these efforts, to protect the gains that have been made, and to continue being a formidable voice in guarding our economic wellbeing.

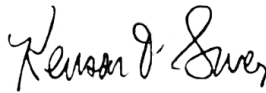
PROTEC relies completely on its members and contributing communities for its sole support. Your contributions allow PROTEC to participate in judicial, legislative and administrative activities, both on the state and federal levels, to protect local governments' rights concerning the use of public rights-of-way by cable, telecommunications, electric, pipeline and other utility industries.

Even after 29 years, PROTEC has no paid staff. Please consider supporting the work of PROTEC by becoming a member or renewing your community's annual membership. Your dues and contributions will help ensure PROTEC has the resources necessary to continue its strong advocacy on behalf of *all* Michigan municipalities.

Respectfully,



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