



County of Ottawa

Planning and Performance Improvement Department

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Ottawa County Announces Strong Towns Workshop

West Olive, MI – Ottawa County and the City of Grand Haven invite you to attend the Strong Towns Workshop on May 18, 2017. Attendees will have an opportunity to learn from nationally-acclaimed speaker Charles Marohn as he explores issues relating to development patterns, infrastructure, financial resiliency, and quality placemaking practices in local communities. This all-day workshop will open up new ways of thinking about development by examining both new and old-but-forgotten concepts.

Charles “Chuck” Marohn is the author of *Thoughts on Building Strong Towns (Volume I)*, the upcoming *Volume II* of the same series and *A World Class Transportation System*. The founder and president of the Strong Towns non-profit organization, he is also the host of their successful “Strong Towns Podcast.” And he has spoken about planning and development issues in dozens of towns and cities across North America.

“Chuck Marohn delivers a message that will resound with local leaders—how we change our course to lift the burden of permanent infrastructure deficiency in America,” says Pat McGinnis, Manager for the City of Grand Haven. “Stop flushing public dollars on impossible infrastructure improvements and start investing those dollars in things that really matter to our communities. Everyone can get behind this.”



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The Workshop will be held at the Grand Haven Community Center from 8:30am to 4:00pm.

Following the Workshop, attendees are invited to network at Grand Armory Brewing from 5:00pm to 7:00pm. Those interested in attending can register online at Ottawa County's website:

www.miottawa.org. Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors, the cost is \$15 per person including lunch.

The Workshop is sponsored by the Grand Haven Area Community Foundation, Lakeshore Advantage, Midwest Construction Group Inc., Nederveld, Prein & Newhof, and Williams & Works. And, lunch is partially sponsored by the Michigan Chapter of Congress for the New Urbanism.

Anyone who would like more information about the Strong Towns Workshop may contact the Ottawa County Planning and Performance Improvement Department at (616) 738-4852 or plan@miottawa.org.

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