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**News Release**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
March 24, 2016

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## **TC-TALUS Announces Name Change and Releases Public Participation Plan**

TRAVERSE CITY, MI – The Traverse City Transportation and Land Use Study (TC-TALUS) has changed its name to the Traverse Transportation Coordinating Initiative (TTCI). The organization's Board unanimously adopted the name change as part of an ongoing effort to redefine and reenergize TTCI's role with new staffing, governance, and membership that will better drive and shape the program in the future.

"The Board felt the new name more clearly defines our mission and that it is more reflective of the challenges our region is facing with regards to growth and transportation," said Jim Carruthers, Traverse City Mayor and TTCI Chairman.

For the past 25 years, TC-TALUS has been a transportation planning resource for local communities, transportation agencies, and MDOT. Beginning in 2020, it is expected that due to the population growth of the Traverse City area, TTCI will qualify to become a federally recognized Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). A MPO designation is required in order to carry out the metropolitan transportation planning process, as a condition of Federal aid. This will translate into more federal dollars available for roads and transit in the Traverse City area.

The TTCI Board has also released a draft of a Public Participation Plan (PPP) for public review and comment. The PPP outlines the tools and techniques available to gather information from citizens and stakeholders regarding transportation in the TTCI region. The draft PPP is available for comment through May 10, 2016.

(MORE)



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Copies of the plan can be found online at: [traversetransportation.org](http://traversetransportation.org). Hard copies of the plan are available for review during regular office hours at the following locations: Acme, East Bay, Elmwood, and Garfield township offices; Grand Traverse County Clerk; Grand Traverse County Road Commission; Leelanau County Road Commission; MDOT Traverse City; Bay Area Transportation Authority (BATA); Traverse Area District Library, Woodmere; and Networks Northwest.

Comments regarding the PPP should be directed to Michael Woods, Regional Planner, Networks Northwest at: [michaelwoods@networksnorthwest.org](mailto:michaelwoods@networksnorthwest.org) or 231-929-5056. Comments can also be submitted to Woods by mail at: PO Box 506, Traverse City, Michigan, 49685.

The mission of the Traverse Transportation Coordinating Initiative (TTCI) is to provide coordinated leadership and direction for the development and conduct of the continuing, cooperative and comprehensive transportation planning process for the Traverse City urban area. TTCI is a program of Networks Northwest.

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NOTE to Media: Images are oftentimes available upon request by e-mailing Dan Boss at [danboss@networksnorthwest.org](mailto:danboss@networksnorthwest.org) and stating preferences for resolution (300 dpi?), file format (.tif? .jpg?) and file size (1MB or less?). Or, phone (231) 929-5047. Check our online Media Room at: [networksnorthwest.org/media](http://networksnorthwest.org/media)

Founded in 1974, Networks Northwest facilitates and manages various programs and services for the 10 county region. These programs include Northwest Michigan Works, Small Business Development Center, Procurement Technical Assistance Center, various business services, and many different regional planning initiatives in response to our communities' requests and needs. You will see the broad spectrum of workforce, business and community services Networks Northwest offers if you visit our web site, [networksnorthwest.org](http://networksnorthwest.org)

Networks Northwest's member counties are: Antrim, Benzie, Charlevoix, Emmet, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Manistee, Missaukee, and Wexford.