

Thank-you for your interest in the Township Master Plan update process, and for your inquiry to ELIA.

While a "proxy" approach would be nice, the "visioning" event is for the land owners to ***provide input***. The process will be neither democratic, nor open to majority vote. However, it will be ***PARTICIPATIVE*** so that the Planning Commission can receive your input even if you cannot attend. Accordingly, a personal letter to: C Marbach, Planning Com. Chairperson, Ontwa Township, would be appropriate.

You might want to develop your thoughts by reading the two links on our homepage at [www.EagleLakeMichigan.org](http://www.EagleLakeMichigan.org). One of the links is to the current Master Plan which needs to be updated. After reviewing the old plan, try looking 5 to 20 years into the future. Then determine if there are some "gaps" in the current plan. The other link is to an MSU article on how Master Plan input might be handled in a proactive way by a township.

When you prepare your letter to Chairperson Marbach, you might want to touch on some, but not limited to, the following kinds of concerns:

- \* Number and location of Parks
- \* Road system (Condition of major/minor access roads)
- \* Bike/walking paths
- \* The potential for a better/smarter developed downtown Edwardsburg... could it be a "Cool City?"
- \* Should we restrict commercial/retail areas in Ontwa to further feed the development of the "eVillage" downtown area? (...eVillage" being a very upscale name and concept... as in eMAIL, eCOMMERCE, etc.)
- \* We have an Industrial Park for jobs, but what can be done with zoning and grants to attract the right kind of jobs, and more of them?
- \* Do we need to create an "Ontwa Office Park" zone/district to attract more "Smart jobs"
- \* Protection of wetlands
- \* Protection of Open Spaces
- \* Farmland preservation
- \* Limiting or encouraging the "size " of Big Box stores (e.g. a Walmart in Ontwa?)
- \* Where should new housing developments go, and should they be "Planned Urban Development" sites , allowing greater density in exchange for more open space?
- \* Where do we fit in relative to the land use plans made by Cass County, Northern Indiana , and our neighboring townships.
- \* What do we do with the "M-62 South Corridor"... can it become a "Gateway to Michigan", or the "Showcase of a Progressive Ontwa?" Will it need more lanes?
- \* Or, Perhaps just leave everything in the township "as is" with no change to the status quo... because sometimes no change is great.

You can probably ADD many concepts of your own to the above list, and other residents will too. However, the point is to develop a consensus "vision" of what the land owners want over the next 5 to 20 years. So, think, maybe try writing a letter, and contribute to what I call the ***"ONTWA 20-20 Vision and Plan."*** You know.... the future, and development, will arrive here in Ontwa by 2020 and we need to plan for it!!