

Urban Peer Group Committee
Ford Community and Performing Arts Center
August 5, 2026
1 – 3 p.m.

MEETING NOTES

1. Introduction

- Attendees introduced themselves: Dearborn Mayor Abdullah Hammoud, Maria Willett (Dearborn), Sean Fletcher (Dearborn), Gary Mekjian (GLWA), Alyssa Taube (Oakland County Water Resources), Nicole Card (Oakland County Office of Sustainability)
- A recap of the first urban peer group meeting was provided. SEMCOG shared resources including the flooding and resilience survey, the upcoming LUCA process for Census, and upcoming meetings and workshops.

2. Welcome & Local Highlights

- Mayor Abdullah Hammoud welcomed the room to Dearborn and discussed recent initiatives in the City and highlighted the effort to upgrade parks equipment to be inclusive to all users. Gave the example of taking a large amount of money and instead of investing it in a single park, spreading it between multiple sites.
- Sean Fletcher, Director of Parks & Recreation for the City of Dearborn shared additional examples of park upgrades and community feedback.
- SEMCOG presented parks resources including the GREEN Dashboard, network and proximity analysis, as well as considerations for park accessibility.
- Participants discussed successes and challenges related to accessibility in parks and public spaces. Feedback included:
 - It can be a challenge to maintain newly installed facilities, such as bike lanes and multi-use paths.
 - Removing chain link fences and installing boulders can make a park more welcoming to the public.

3. Legislative Policy Priorities

- Updates were provided for both federal and state policies. The state update included policy bills affecting local government as well as the newly passed budget.

- The Legislative Policy Platform Task Force has started developing policies to guide legislative and regulatory activity for the 2027-2028 session. The timeline for the task force was reviewed

4. Tour of the Ford Center

- The tour of the Ford Center highlighted the theater, ballroom, exercise facilities, and resources for seniors. Facilitators provided examples of how the space is used and answered questions regarding insurance policies and how different City departments support each other during events. Examples included World Cup viewing parties, weddings, and the Dearborn Homecoming event.