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## Certified Public Accountants

## Lapeer

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To the Board Members I-69 International Trade Corridor Next Michigan Development Corporation P.O. Box 995 Owosso, MI 48867

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements of the governmental activities of I-69 International Trade Corridor Next Michigan Development Corporation (the "Corporation"), as of and for the year ended December 31, 2021, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, we considered the Corporation's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Corporation's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Corporation's internal control.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the preceding paragraph and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies and, therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified. In addition, because of inherent limitations in internal control, including the possibility of management override of controls, misstatements due to error or fraud may occur and not be detected by such controls. However, as discussed below, we identified certain deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be significant deficiencies.

A deficiency in internal control exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent or detect and correct misstatements on a timely basis. A material weakness is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. We consider the following deficiencies to be material weaknesses:

## *Lack of controls to determine and record accrual adjustments.*

Condition: During the audit, we generally provide significant assistance in identifying and proposing accrual adjustments to the accounting records. Accruals represent any adjustments other than cash that impact the accounting records (capital assets [including the recording of additions, depreciation expense and disposals], accounts payable, etc.). We are pleased to assist in this process since our staff of auditors have the expertise in accrual adjustments and can generally assist in an effective manner. However, we bring this to your attention since it meets the above definition of a matter to be communicated to those charged with governance.

*Effect:* The result of this condition is that the Corporation lacks internal controls over the preparation of financial statements in accordance with GAAP, and instead relies, in part, on its external auditors with this task.

*Recommendation:* This is a repeat comment from our later dated September 30, 2019. We expect this comment to continue from year to year. We do not recommend any changes to this situation at this time and communicate that as required by professional standards.

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A significant deficiency is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance. We consider the following deficiencies in internal control to be significant deficiencies:

Lack of controls to determine proper revenue collection.

Condition: During the audit, we noted that an annual fee was received and recorded as revenue. The board had discussed that such fees were suspended. This was not recorded properly in the accounting system and only corrected upon auditor inquires.

Effect: The Corporation lacks internal controls over revenue collection and the preparation of financial statements in according with GAAP. This was likely a result of having multiple organizations involved in the annual accounting throughout the year.

Recommendation: Ensure that interim financial statements are reviewed by the finance committee/board in a timely matter and anomalies questioned and resolved.

Lack of adequate controls to produce full-disclosure GAAP financial statements.

Requirement: All Michigan governmental units are required to prepare financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP). This is the responsibility of the Corporation's management. The preparation of financial statements in accordance with GAAP requires internal controls over both (1) recording, processing, and summarizing accounting data, and (2) reporting government-wide and fund financial statements, including the related footnotes.

Condition: The Corporation, as is common with smaller and medium-sized entities, has historically relied on its independent external auditors to assist in the preparation of the government-wide financial statements and footnotes as part of its external financial reporting process. Accordingly, the Corporation's ability to prepare financial statements in accordance with GAAP is based, in part, on its reliance on its external auditors, who cannot by definition be considered part of the government's internal controls.

Effect: The result of this condition is that the Corporation lacks internal controls over the preparation of financial statements in accordance with GAAP, and instead relies, in part, on its external auditors for assistance with this task.

Recommendation: This is a repeat comment from our letter dated September 30, 2019. We would expect this comment to continue from year to year. We do not recommend any changes to this situation at this time and communicate that as required by professional standards.

This communication is intended solely for the information and use of management, the Board, and others within the Corporation, and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

We wish to thank the Board for the opportunity to serve as auditors for I-69 International Trade Corridor Next Michigan Development Corporation. Please contact us if you have any questions regarding these or any other matters.

Sincerely,

Mattina, Kent & Gibbons, P.C.

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Certified Public Accountants

Lapeer, Michigan