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Ford released a One D scorecard that he said represented "a snapshot of a given moment in time," adding that the goals and priorities of the effort are long-term.

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Edsel Ford delivers One D report card

By [Amy Lane](#)

MACKINAC ISLAND -- The Detroit region is making progress towards the collaborative goals of One D but has much work to do, said Edsel Ford II, speaking at the opening session of the **Detroit Regional Chamber's Mackinac Policy Conference**.

Ford, who champions the One D effort to align private, public and non-profit sectors towards the achievement of common, regional priorities, said "he is pleased to report...that the needle is moving."

He released a One D scorecard that he said represented "a snapshot of a given moment in time," adding that the goals and priorities of the effort are long-term. The previously established priorities are:

- Economic prosperity – a regional economy that outperforms peer regions in attracting and retaining talent, builds and entrepreneurial culture and provides opportunity for all segments of the population.
- Educational preparedness – a region recognized for high-quality K-12 and secondary education programs that successfully align to current and future workforce needs.
- Quality of life – A region that meets the basic needs of all its residents and provides them with resources for quality health care, recreation, education, arts and culture.
- Race relations – A region of racial diversity where inclusion and equal opportunity are pervasive in public and private institutions, housing, community involvement and economic achievement.
- Regional transit – A coordinated safe and cost-effective transit system that provides for the flow of people and commerce to major population centers, social services, entertainment venues and transportation hubs.

The priorities to receive the lowest grades, categorized as missing their targets, are race relations and educational preparedness. In race relations, progress includes work underway to gather data that can be used towards the goals of improving individuals' socio-economic and educational status, and funding obtained to measure the perceptions of race

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relations, discrimination and equal opportunity in the region.

In terms of educational preparedness, progress includes programs that have been or are being launched to increase the number of children and adults reading at grade level, and increasing numbers of schools are participating in efforts to increase the graduation rate of high school students and reduce dropout rates.

Receiving medium grades, categorized as further action required, are the priorities of economic prosperity, quality of life and regional transit.

In economic prosperity, progress includes some \$4 billion in new investment in regional Detroit in 2007, raising \$46 million towards a \$100 million regional growth capital fund, developing a plan for a "creative corridor," and moving forward an internship/apprentice program.

Quality of life progress includes a clearinghouse for arts and cultural institutions to collaborate, a "museum adventure pass" that brought 32,000 new visitors to 25 museums over a four-month period, the Kresge Foundation award of three-year general operating grants to 53 organizations, and the launch of the One D brand.

So far, 64 companies have adopted the D brand and backers will press forward this year for more businesses to do the same, Ford said.

Finally, in the area of regional transit, progress includes the identification of priority corridors for improved transit service, discussion of legislation to establish a regional transit authority in Southeast Michigan, efforts to increase Michigan transportation funding, and work toward light rail and commuter rail options.

"We are picking up momentum in the work we are doing under our five priorities," Ford said. "We are now in the process of pulling away from baselines. Now we have to continue the work."

One D is a group of six regional civic organizations working collaboratively. The organizations are: **The Cultural Alliance of Southeastern Michigan**, the **Detroit Metro Convention & Visitors Bureau**, the **Detroit Regional Chamber**, **Detroit Renaissance**, **New Detroit**, and the **United Way for Southeastern Michigan**.

Earlier in May, One D announced that it had received \$810,000 in grants from the area's leading foundations, toward its efforts. The grants from the Hudson Webber Foundation, the Kresge Foundation, the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan, the McGregor Fund and the Skillman Foundation, bring the effort's total budget to \$1.5 million.

The scorecard is available on the [One D Web site](#).

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