

# Closing the Loop on Blight

Lauren Ross - [rosslau1@msu.edu](mailto:rosslau1@msu.edu)

Josh Weidenaar - [weidena1@msu.edu](mailto:weidena1@msu.edu)

Michigan State University Center for Community and Economic Development

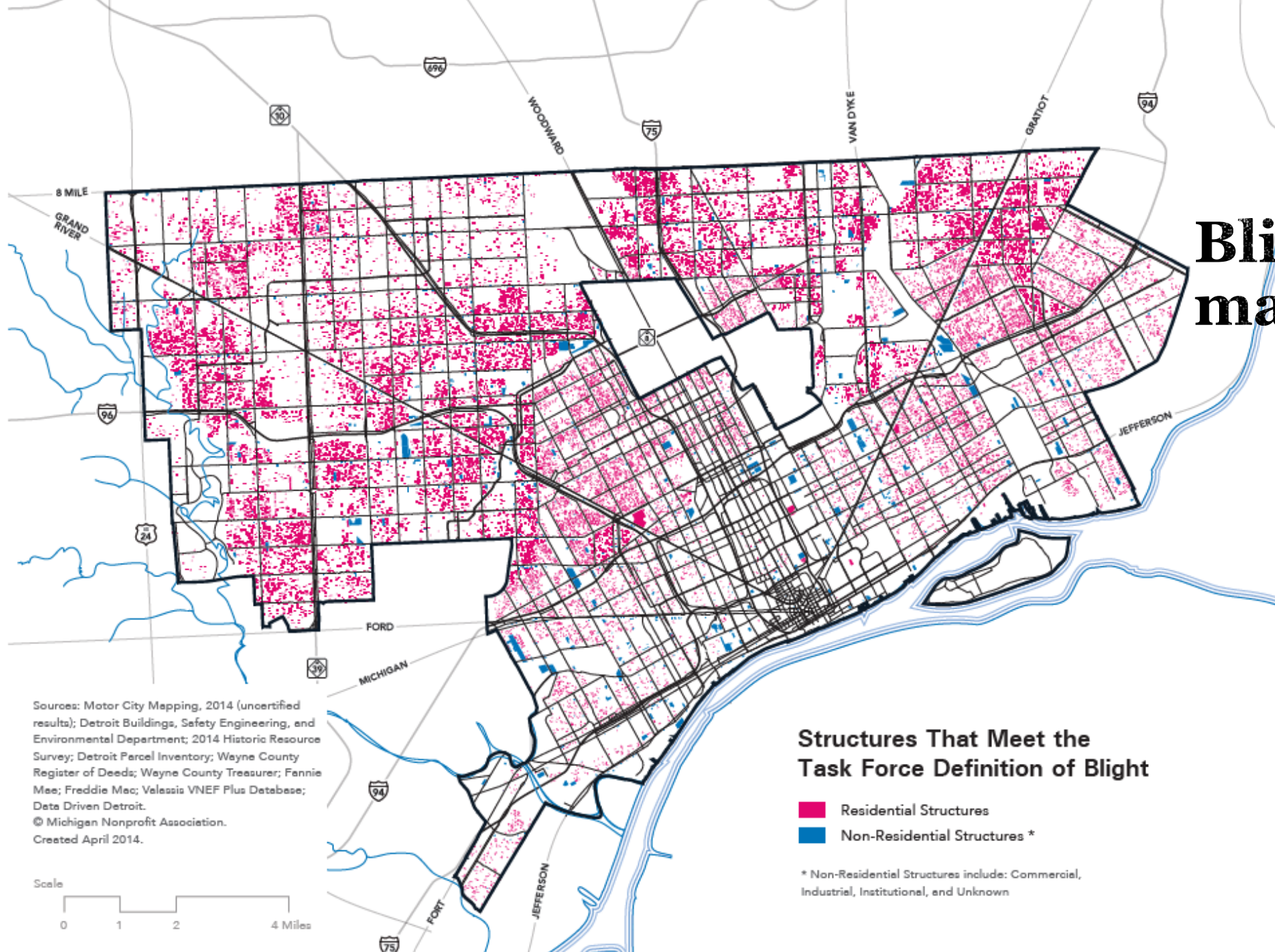


## Muskegon, Michigan Deconstruction Economic Cluster Feasibility Study

- Port of Muskegon at risk of losing Coast Guard dredging due to power plant shutdown in 2016
- EDA funded feasibility study conducted by MSU CCED & West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission
- Findings:
  - Sufficient & sustainable supply of materials exists
  - Low tipping fees reduce incentive to recycle/reuse
  - Great Lakes has a weak deconstruction industry supply chain
  - Wood and brick show most promise
  - Deconstruction employs more workers than demolition



# Muskegon, MI



Sources: Motor City Mapping, 2014 (uncertified results); Detroit Buildings, Safety Engineering, and Environmental Department; 2014 Historic Resource Survey; Detroit Parcel Inventory; Wayne County Register of Deeds; Wayne County Treasurer; Fennie Mae; Freddie Mac; Velesiss VNEF Plus Database; Data Driven Detroit.  
 © Michigan Nonprofit Association.  
 Created April 2014.

### Structures That Meet the Task Force Definition of Blight

- Residential Structures
- Non-Residential Structures \*

\* Non-Residential Structures include: Commercial, Industrial, Institutional, and Unknown

# Blight as a major player

City of Detroit - 80,000 + vacant/ blighted structures as of 2014

Contributes to higher crime

Disinvestment

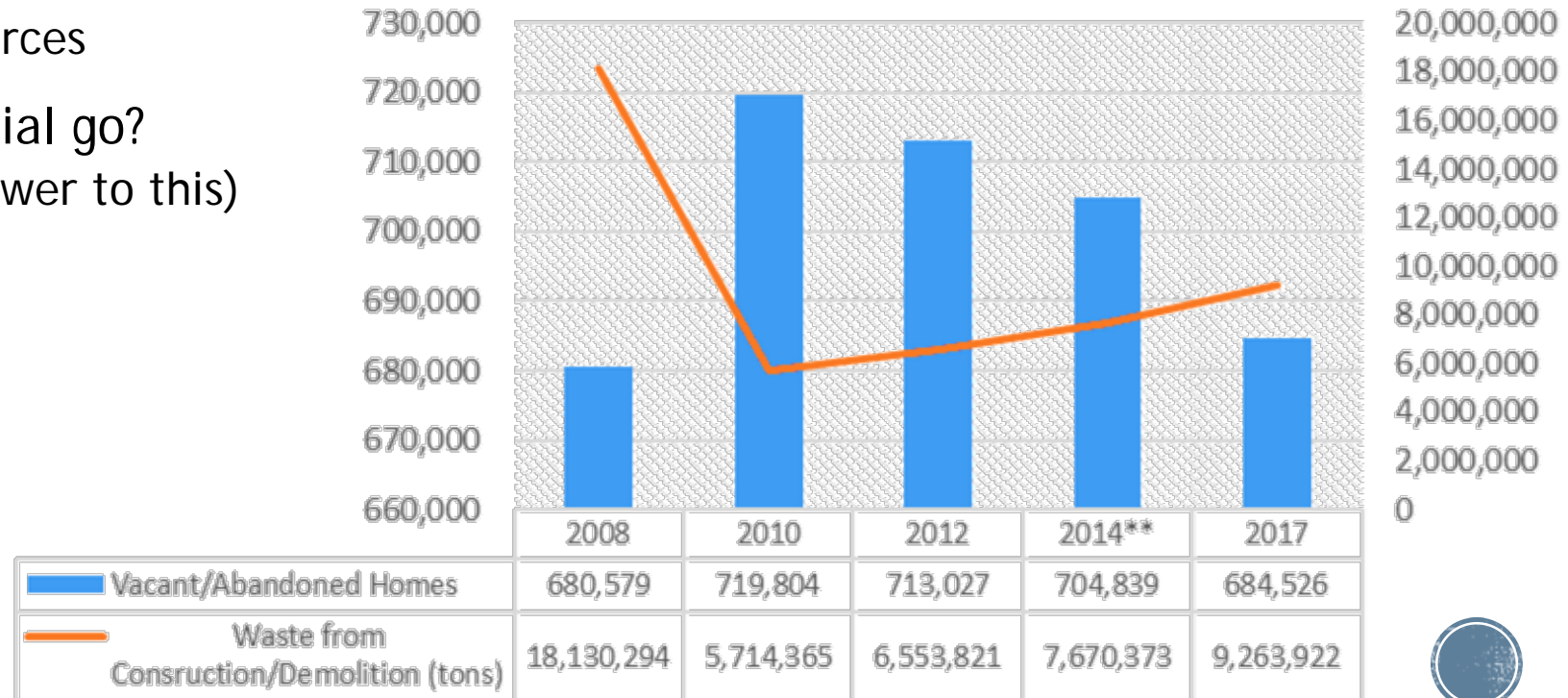
Lack of confidence in neighborhood



# The road to end blight

- Funding mechanisms - CDBG, Hardest Hit
- Houses demolished
  - Michigan - ~10,000 using HHF
  - Many more from other sources
- But where does the material go?
  - (you already know the answer to this)

Where the Waste Goes





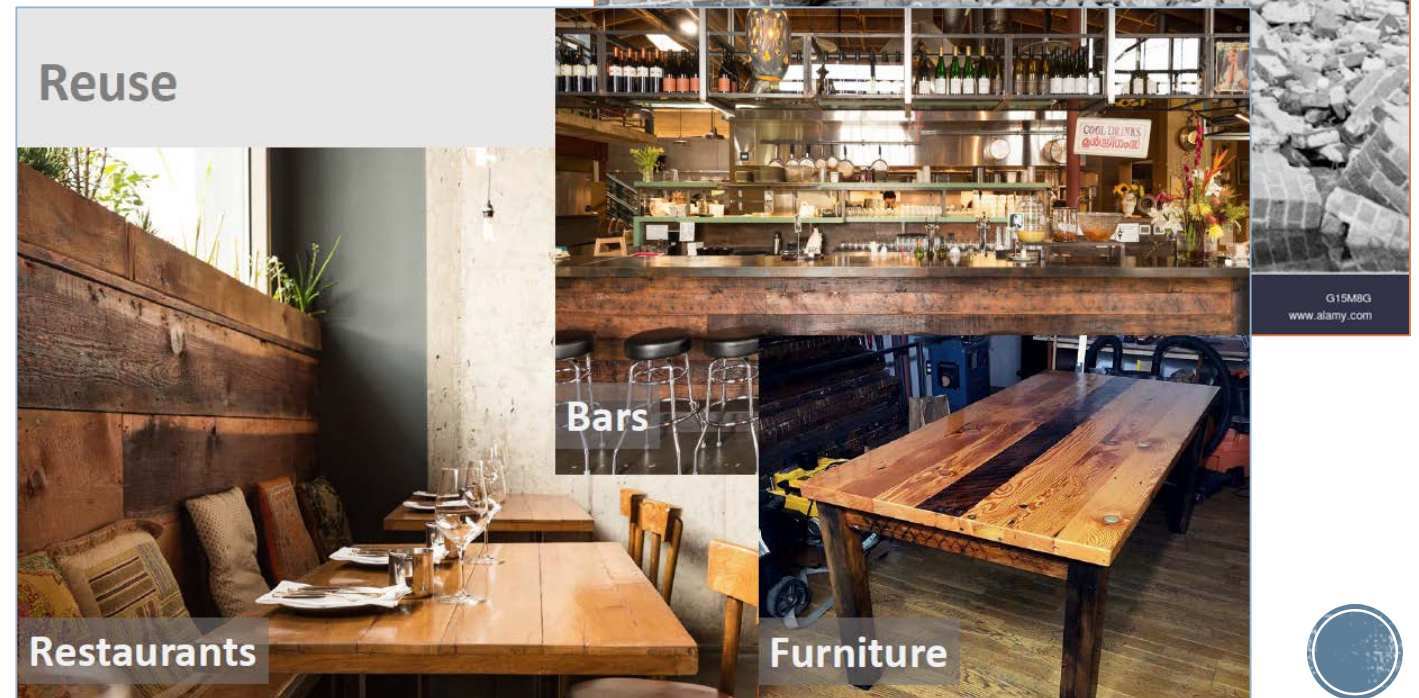
# Environmental Impacts

- Pollution
  - Lead
  - Asbestos
- Waste Runoff
  - Methane
  - Carbon Dioxide
  - Other pollutants

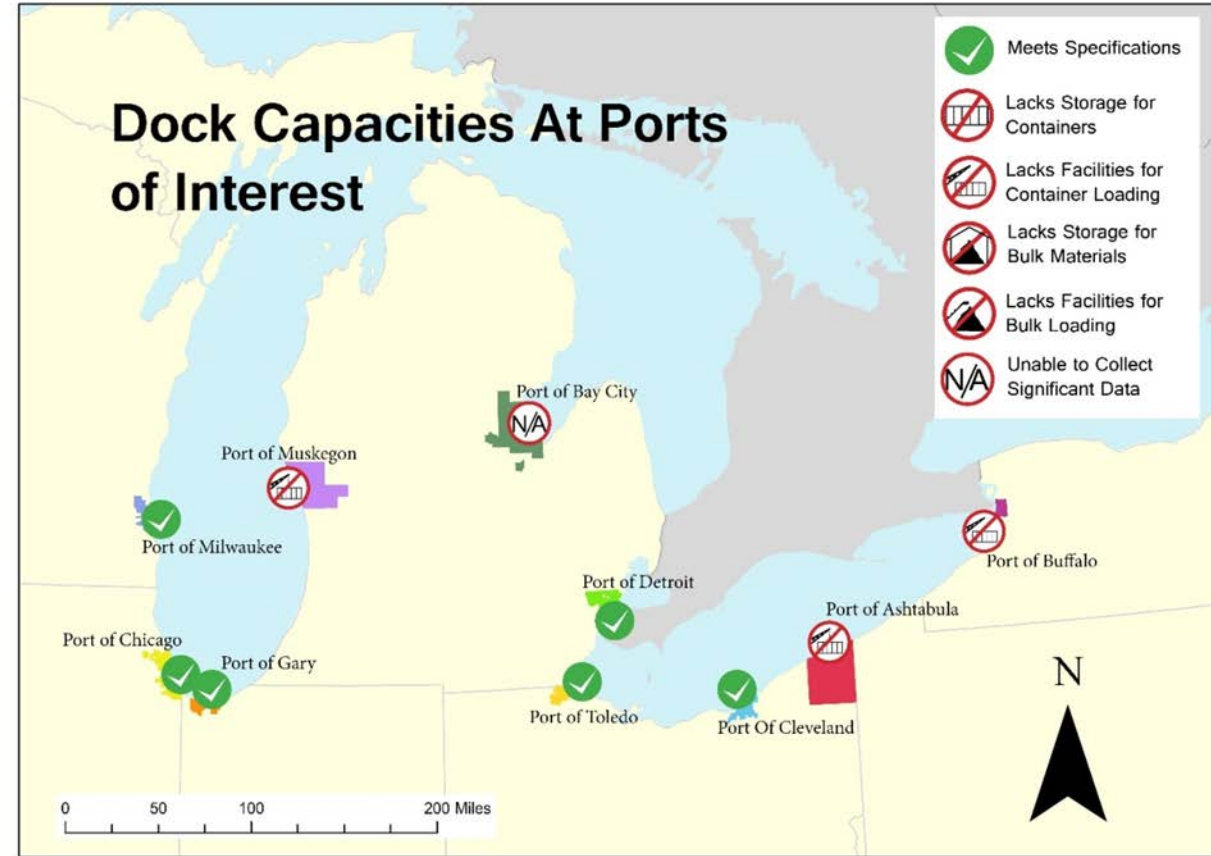
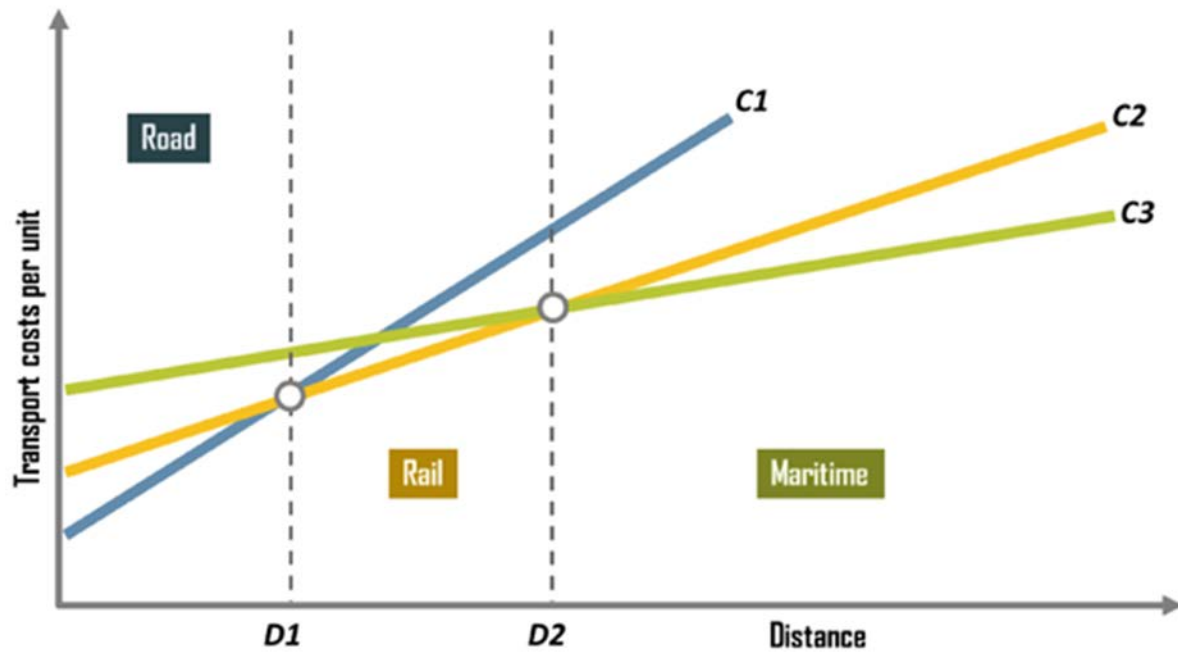


# Lost Potential

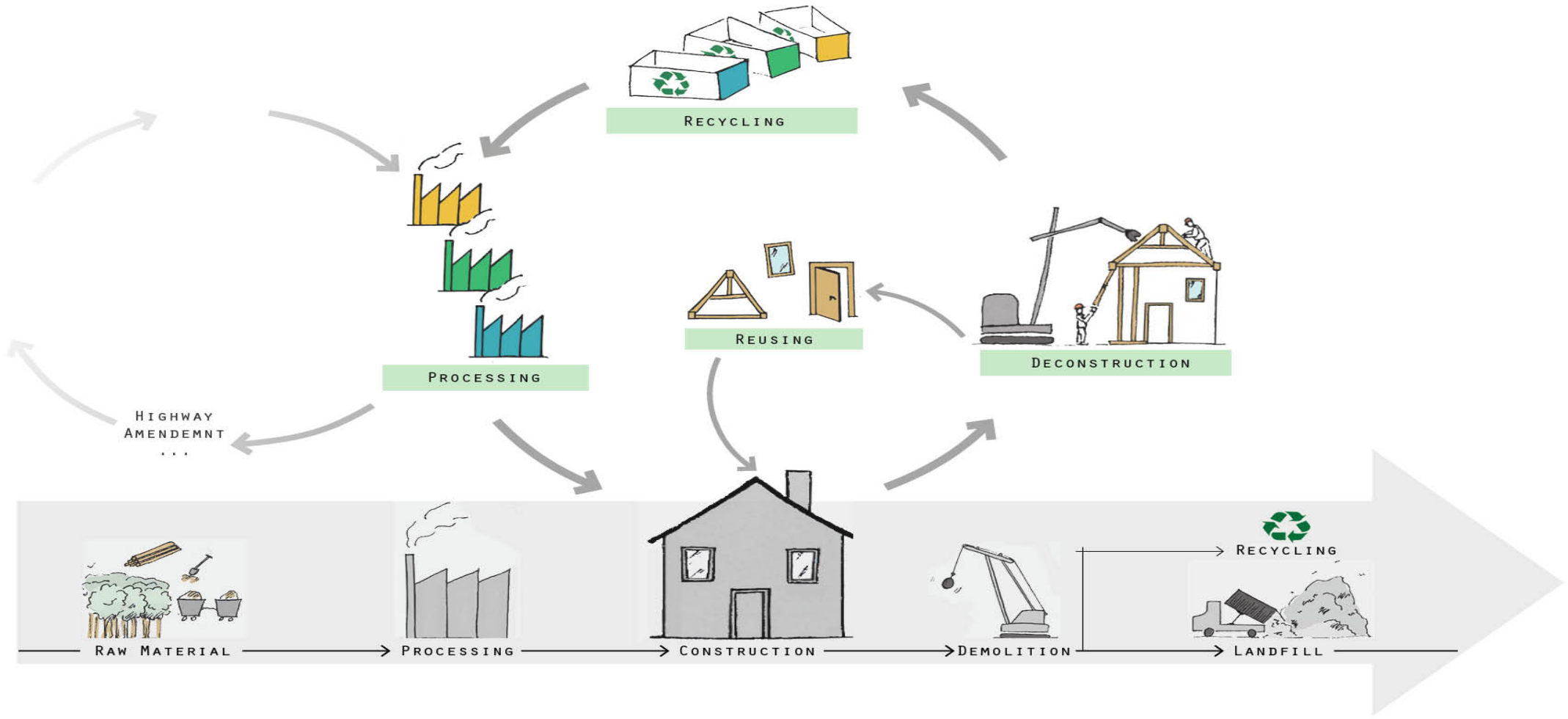
- Based on average 1,500 sq. ft. home
  - that's more than 1 billion board feet of lumber
  - Nearly 300 million bricks
- Economic Cost
  - Average Demolition \$10,812
  - Average Deconstruction \$35,275\*
    - Less sale of materials +\$9,249
- Jobs lost
  - Deconstruction employs up to 24 workers per site; compared to 3 for demolition
  - Reuse facilities employ 61 more people at 10,000 tons per year than landfills\*\*



# Major Obstacle: Transportation



MATERIALS RECYCLING PROCESS







# Structural Material Reuse & Recycling Market Study



- Muskegon Study Identified a weak deconstruction & reuse supply chain in Michigan.
- This study aims to Identify where the stakeholders in structural reuse exist in Michigan and the businesses that connect these stakeholders.

**MICHIGAN STATE**  
**UNIVERSITY**

Center for Community  
and Economic Development

# Purpose & Scope

The purpose of this study is to identify all the Michigan businesses involved in the:

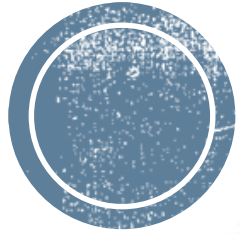
- 1) handling of material derivatives of structural demolition and deconstruction; and
- 2) processing these derivatives in a way that reuses, recycles, and/or repurposes the material.

From this industry profile, data including annual sales volume, number of workers employed, and other metrics about this industry, will be analyzed.





Excel



ArcGIS®

# Method

- North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS) code Analysis.
- ArcGIS Business Analyst Software.
- Excel data skimming.
- Spatial analysis using dot density ArcGIS tool, among others.

## Primary NAICS:

Michigan businesses involved anywhere along the supply chain within the structural material reuse/recycling industry

## Secondary NAICS:

Michigan Businesses involved anywhere along the supply chain within the construction and demolition industry.



# Structural Material Reuse Industry Schematic

Schematic does not include Construction and Demolition industry, if it did it would be the on the top of this diagram.



# Current Market

## Reuse Industry

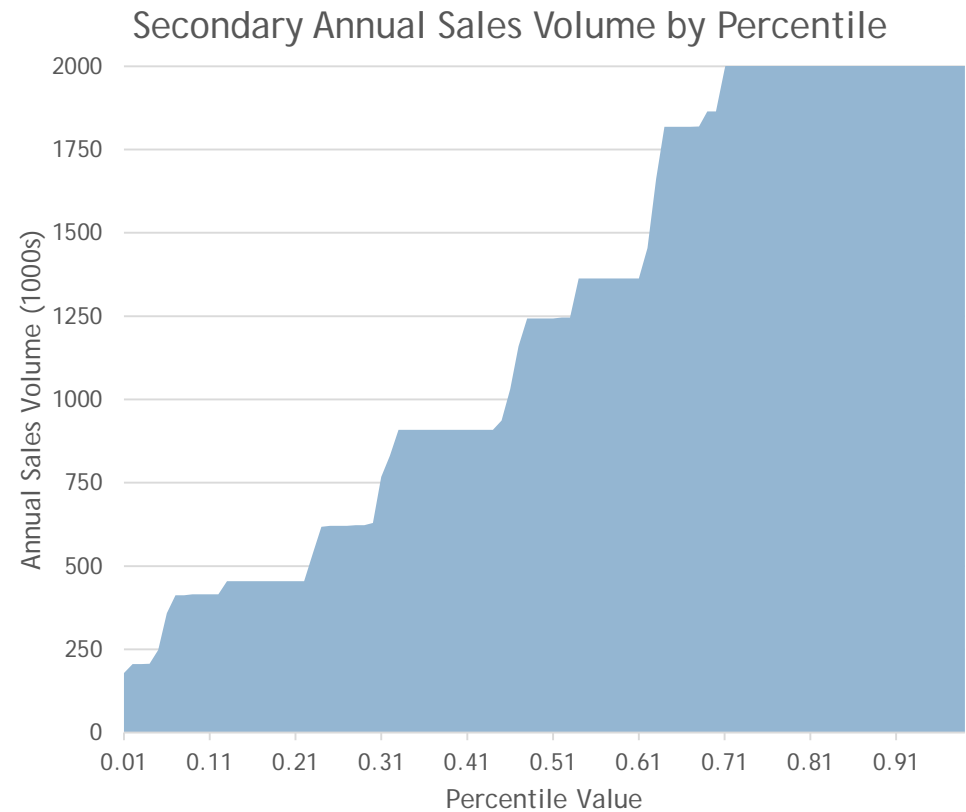
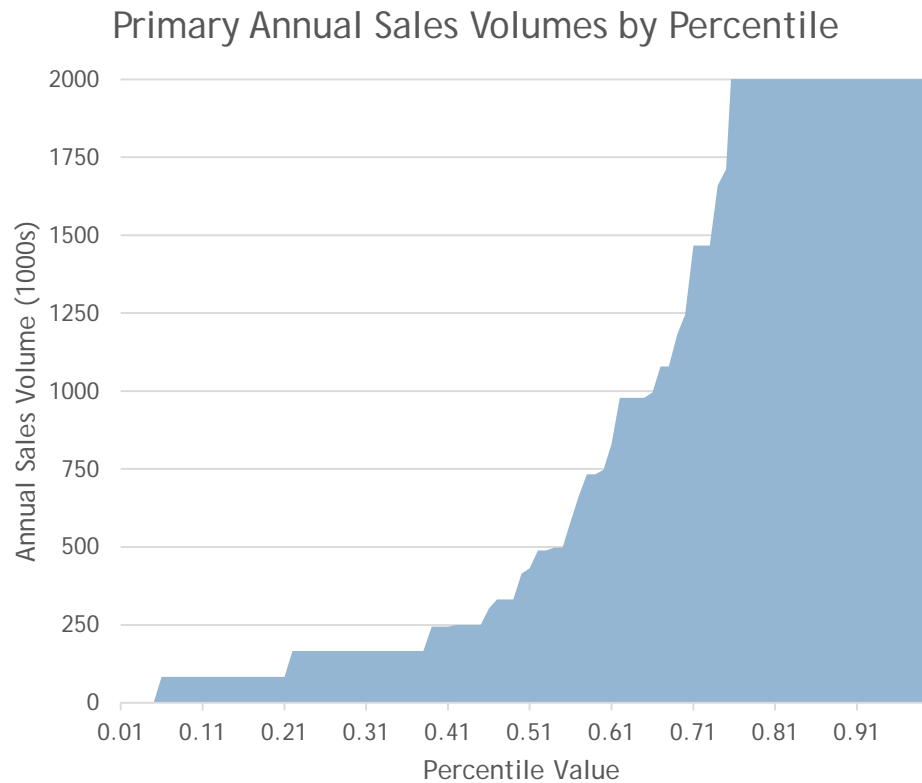
- Over 2,700 Businesses
- 6.6 Million \$ average annual sales volume
- 52% are Used Merchandise Stores NAICS
- Highest average sales and employee number is recyclable material merchant wholesaler NAICS

## Construction & Demolition Industry

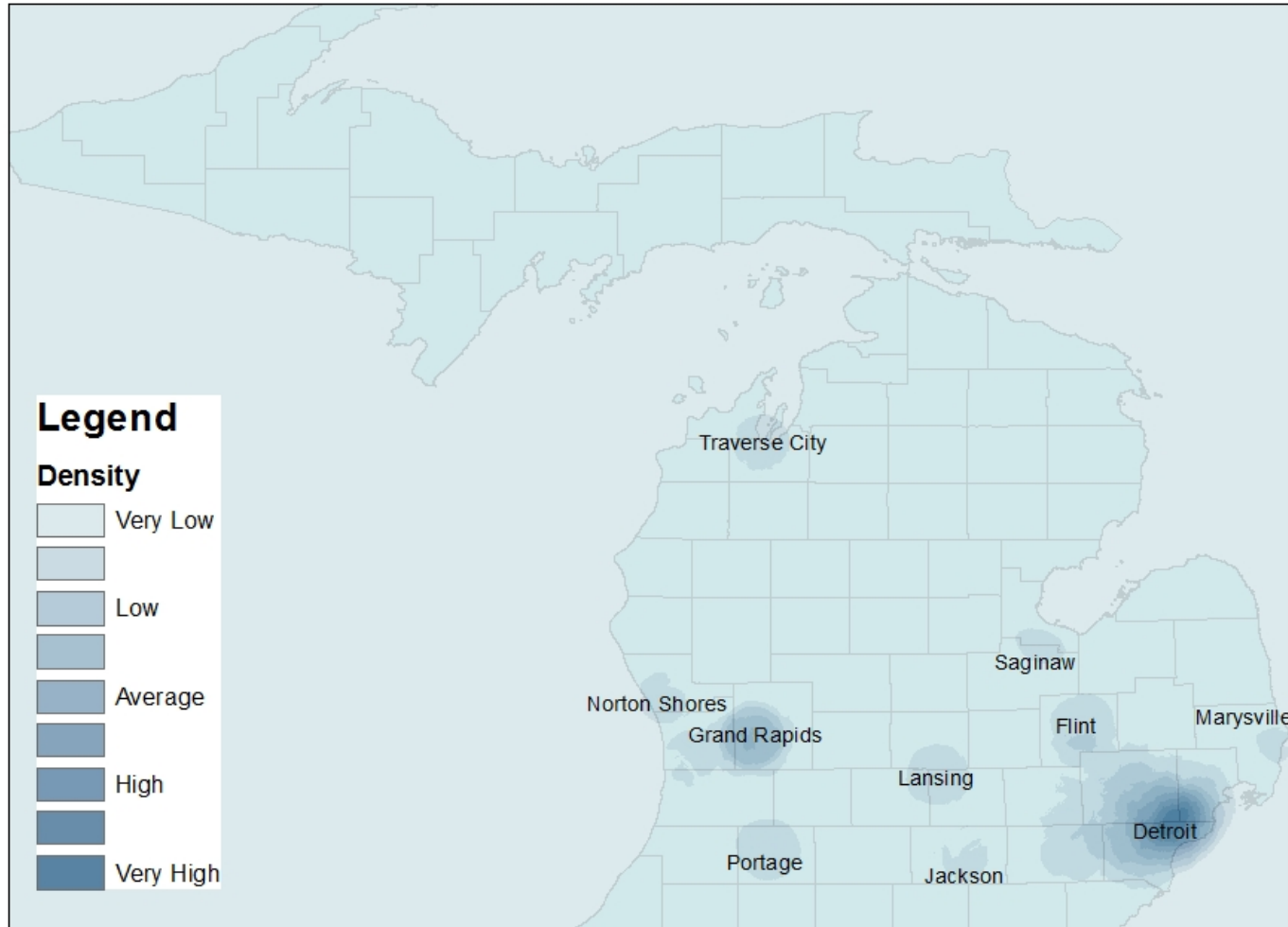
- Over 17,000 Businesses
- 3.5 Million \$ average annual sales volume
- 63% are Construction of Buildings NAICS
- Highest average sales and employee number is gypsum product manufacturer NAICS



# Business Size According to Sales Volume: A Comparative Analysis



## Primary NAICS Business Density



## Primary NAICS:

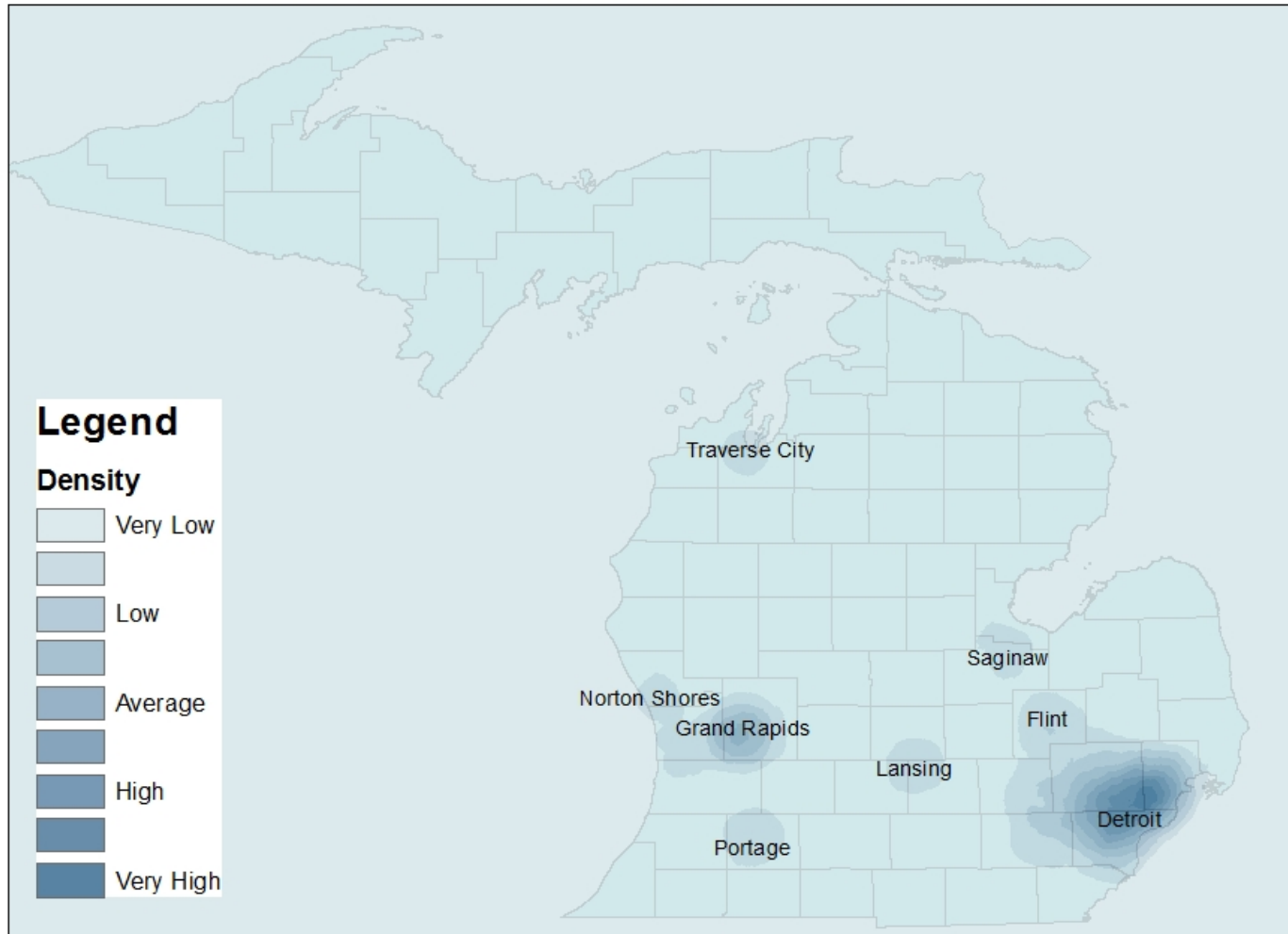
Michigan businesses involved anywhere along the supply chain within the structural material reuse/recycling industry

## Key Points:

- Detroit, Grand Rapids and Flint have the most dense reuse economies in Michigan.
- The upper peninsula is lacking a dense reuse economy hub.



## Secondary NAICS Business Density



## Secondary NAICS:

Michigan Businesses involved anywhere along the supply chain within the construction and demolition industry.

### Key Point:

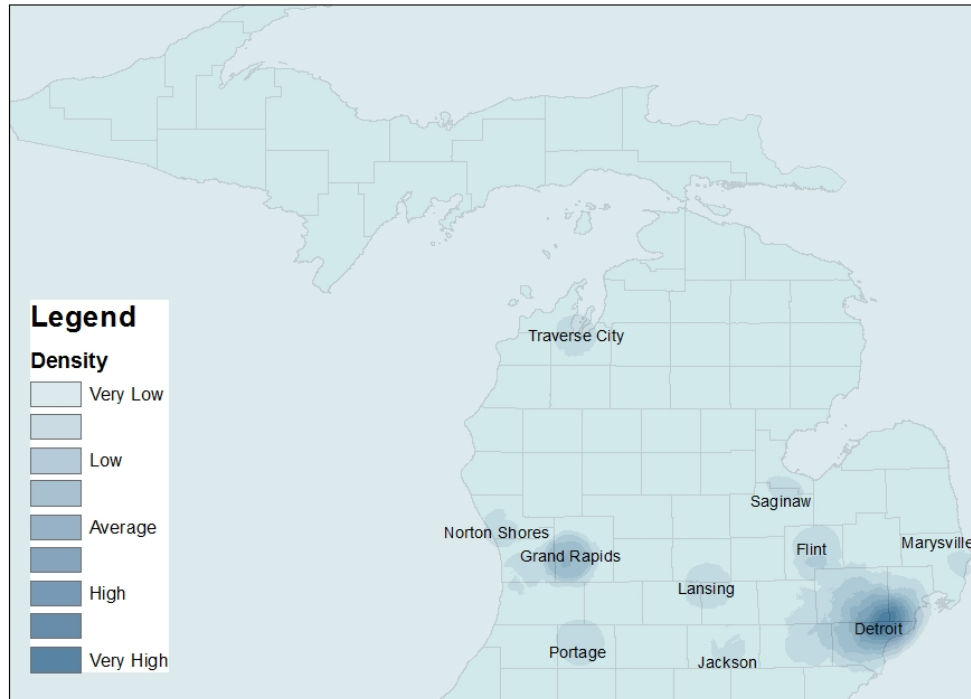
- Detroit and Grand Rapids C&D market is highly developed and dense compared to the rest of the state.
- C&D industry is similarly sparse in the Upper Peninsula.



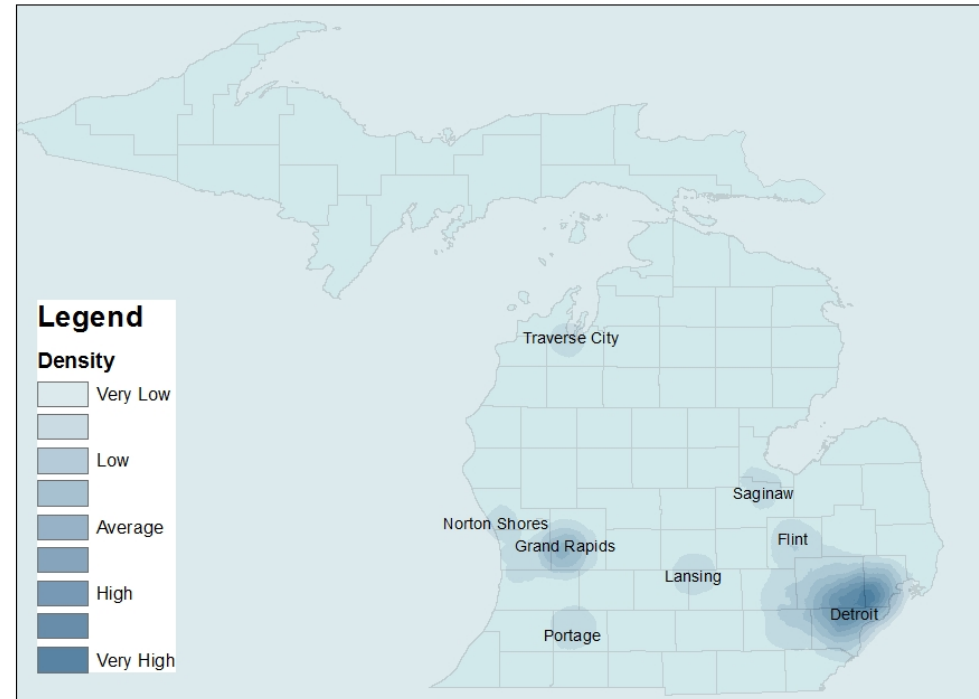


# Comparison of Both density Maps

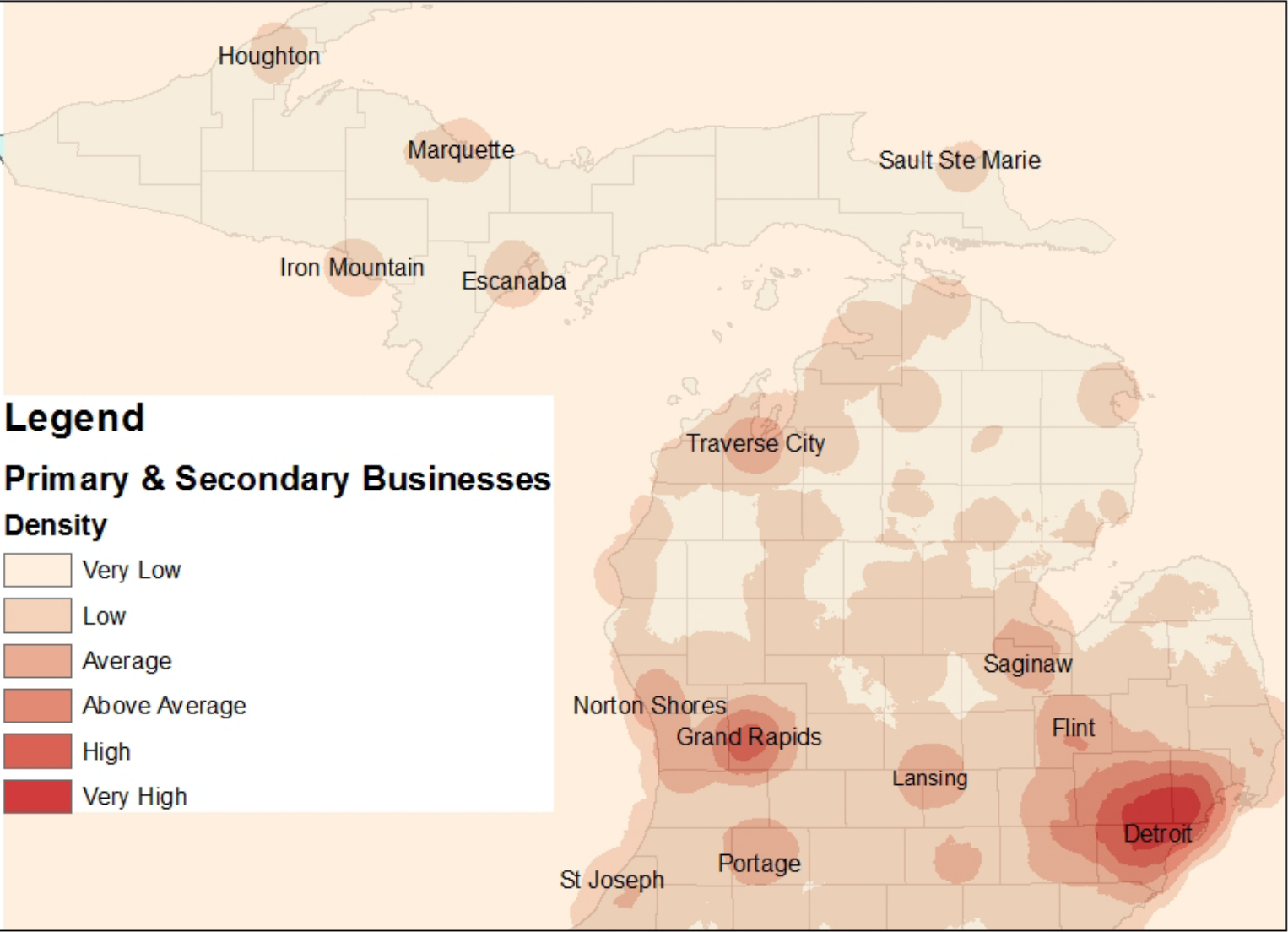
Primary NAICS Business Density



Secondary NAICS Business Density



# Density of Construction, Demolition, and Reuse Industry in Michigan

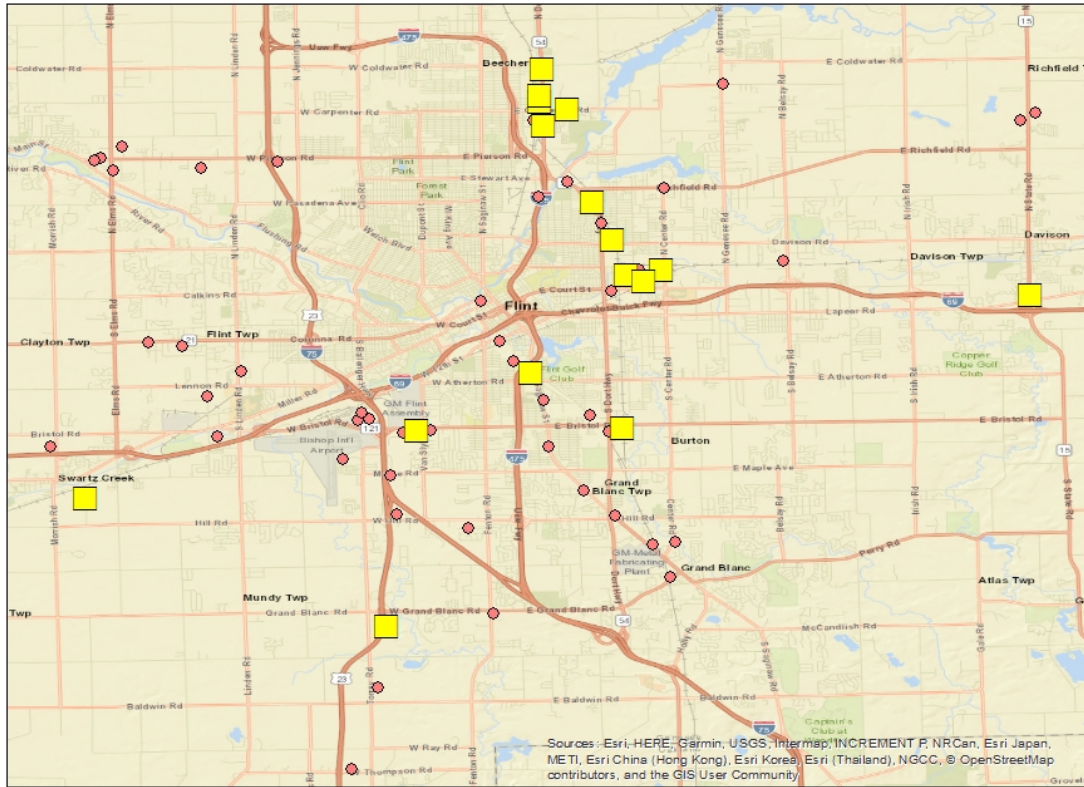


## Key Point:

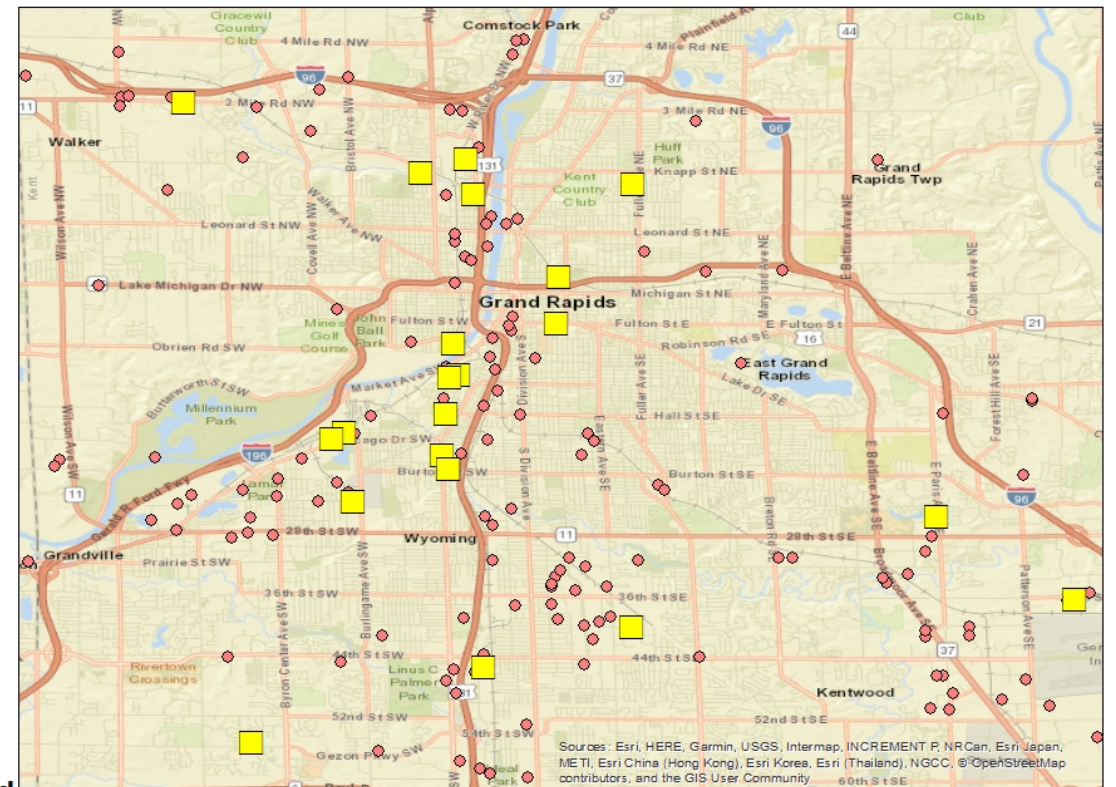
- Areas with above average densities are Detroit, Grand Rapids, and Flint.
- Efforts to connect Primary and Secondary businesses may be most effective in either Detroit or Grand Rapids.
- The Lower Peninsula's Western shoreline maintains a higher density than most of its eastern shoreline.



Flint | 90th+ Percentile Sales Volume Primary and Secondary Businesses



Grand Rapids | 90th+ Percentile Sales Volume Primary and Secondary Businesses



Legend

- 90th+ Percentile Primary Businesses
- 90th+ Percentile Secondary Businesses

Primary 90<sup>th</sup>+ percentile sales volume  $\geq$  13.5 Million

Secondary 90<sup>th</sup>+ percentile sales volume  $\geq$  5.9 Million

# Avenues for Further Research

- Further define the structural reuse market in Michigan from the dataset created during this study.
- Better understand what drives a strong reuse economy?



## Summary & Recommendations

- Develop Initiatives to help bolster the reuse economy in Detroit, and Grand Rapids.
- Advocate for the small locally owned reuse businesses that exist throughout the state of Michigan
- Creating financial incentives for contractors involved in demolition and deconstruction to implement closed loop style practices over traditional practices.
- Develop the demand-side of this reclaimed material, whether that's to be repurposed or reused as is.

