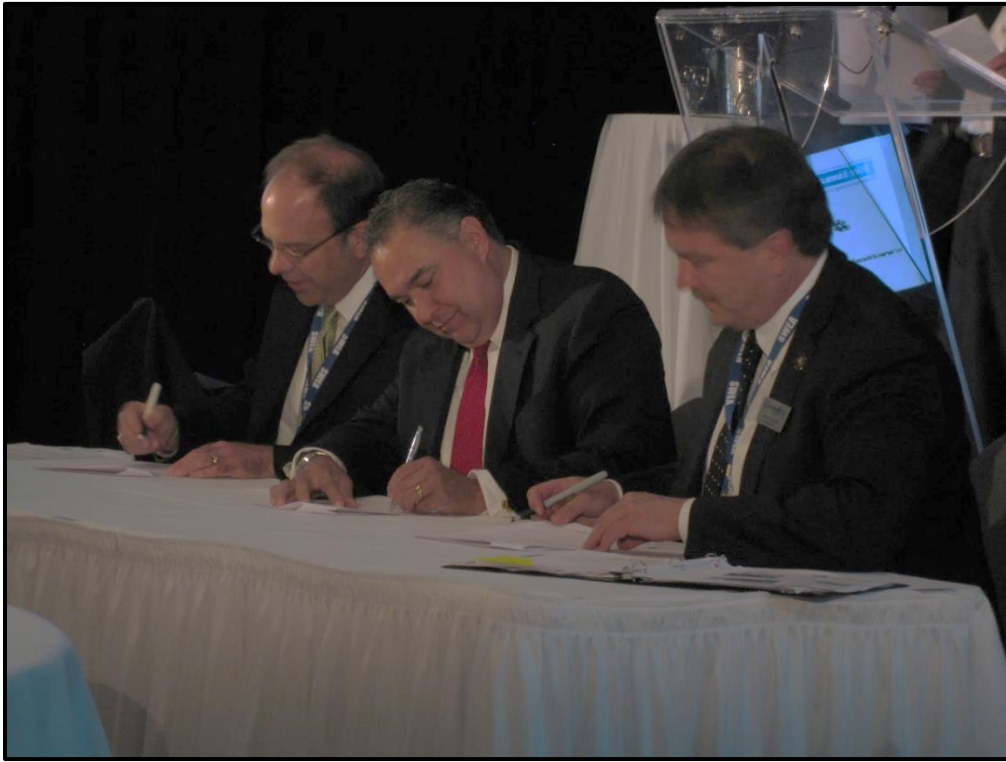


Important Binational MOU signed at Bluewater Corridor Conference, June 11



Signing the MOU (left to right): Paul Brake, Chair of the I-69 International Trade Corridor NMDC and City of Grand Blanc; **Ben Erulker**, Vice President of Economic Development for the Detroit Regional Chamber; and **John Grace**, Chair of SWEA and Deputy Mayor of Goderich

Regional leaders signed an important new binational regional agreement to kick off the Bluewater Corridor Conference June 11th in Sarnia, Ontario. The memorandum of understanding (MOU) signed by the regional leaders commits their organizations to collaborate on future initiatives to grow the binational regional economy.

The MOU targets six economic development areas:

1. Joint marketing initiatives to promote transportation corridors that link Ontario and Michigan.
2. Business-to-business engagements designed to enhance trade opportunities and expand existing clusters.
3. Conducting awareness campaigns regarding best practices that promote: the I-69/401/402 corridor; cluster development in agriculture, automotive technologies, including lightweight or composite materials, or bio-based industries; immigration strategies and; policies that improve international trade.

4. Cross promotion of trade resources to assist companies to conduct international commerce.
5. Coordinating joint events, such as conferences, business networking, educational programming or forums.
6. Sharing of university or other research or reports related to the above topics.

The conference also hosted three expert panels with representatives of regionally-important industries including:

- Automotive Manufacturing
- Bio Manufacturing
- Agriculture and Food Processing

Regional leaders will develop innovative binational strategies in these three areas in the next six months.