

MINUTES
SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
QUARTERLY COMMISSION MEETING

Wednesday, December 3, 2014

3:00 p.m.

Milwaukee County War Memorial Center
Meeting Room No. 411, 4th Floor
750 N. Lincoln Memorial Drive
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Present:

Excused:

Commissioners:

David L. Stroik, Chairman
Thomas H. Buestrin
Charles L. Colman
Michael A. Crowley
Mike Dawson
José M. Delgado
Brian R. Dranzik
James T. Dwyer
Adelene Greene
David W. Opitz
Robert W. Pitts
Daniel S. Schmidt
Linda J. Seemeyer
Peggy L. Shumway
Daniel W. Stoffel
Gustav W. Wirth, Jr.

William R. Drew, Vice-Chairman
Marina Dimitrijevic
David L. Eberle
Nancy Russell
Michael J. Skalitzky

Staff:

Kenneth R. Yunker	Executive Director
Michael G. Hahn	Deputy Director
Elizabeth A. Larsen	Business Manager
Debra A. D'Amico	Executive Secretary

Guests:

Mark Gottlieb	Secretary, Wisconsin Department of Transportation
Brett Wallace	Director, Wisconsin Department of Transportation, Southeast Region

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ROLL CALL

Chairman Stroik called the 247th meeting of the Commission to order at 3:00 p.m. Roll call was taken and a quorum was declared present. Chairman Stroik indicated for the record that Commissioners Drew, Dimitrijevic, Eberle, Russell, and Skalitzky had asked to be excused.

INTRODUCTION AND SEATING OF NEW COMMISSIONERS (Milwaukee County and Racine County)

Chairman Stroik announced that there were two new Commissioners, one representing Milwaukee County, and the other representing Racine County, to be introduced and seated on the Commission.

Chairman Stroik introduced Mr. Brian Dranzik, as the new Commissioner representing Milwaukee County. He noted that Mr. Dranzik had previously served on the Commission in 2009 and 2010, and that Mr. Dranzik currently is the Director of the Milwaukee County Department of Transportation. He has also served as Director of Operations for the Milwaukee County Department of Transportation and Public Works, and as a staff analyst to the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors, staffing its Committee on Transportation, Public Works, and Transit. Mr. Dranzik has also been a transit planner for the Milwaukee County Transit System. Mr. Dranzik has a Masters degree in Urban Planning from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

Chairman Stroik made a motion, seconded by Mr. Dwyer and carried unanimously, to formally seat Mr. Dranzik as a Commissioner representing Milwaukee County. On behalf of the entire Commission, Chairman Stroik welcomed Mr. Dranzik who then commented on how pleased he is to once again be given the opportunity to serve on the Commission.

Chairman Stroik asked Ms. Shumway to introduce Mr. Mike Dawson, as the new Commissioner representing Racine County. Ms. Shumway stated that Mr. Dawson has been a Racine County Supervisor since 2004 and serves on the Public Works, Government Services, Public Protection, Economic Development, and Health and Human Development Committees. She noted that Mr. Dawson has previously owned a business and has worked in the financial and estate planning industry for 24 years. Ms. Shumway added that Mr. Dawson has served as past president of both the Burlington Rotary Club and the Burlington Area Chamber of Commerce.

Ms. Shumway made a motion, seconded by Mr. Pitts, and carried unanimously to formally seat Mr. Dawson as a Commissioner representing Racine County on the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission. Mr. Dawson thanked the Commissioners and noted his appreciation for the opportunity to work with the Commission.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 10, 2014, MEETING

On a motion by Mr. Wirth, seconded by Mr. Colman, and carried unanimously, the minutes of the September 10, 2014, Quarterly Commission Meeting were approved as published.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Chairman Stroik asked Mr. Crowley to present the Treasurer's Report. He noted that a copy of the Treasurer's Report had been provided to all Commissioners for review prior to the meeting. In commenting on the report, he called attention to the following items:

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1. Based upon disbursements through November 2, 2014, it is projected that total disbursements for the year will approximate \$7.4 million. Revenues are projected at about \$7.5 million, exclusive of interest income and miscellaneous revenues.
2. The total amount of funds held by the Commission in the various operating, liability, and reserve accounts approximates \$4.4 million. The various accounts are identified on the second page of the report.
3. As of November 2, 2014, the Commission had in investments and cash on hand approximately \$4.5 million. \$3.3 million are invested in the State of Wisconsin Local Government Pooled Investment Fund. As of November 2, 2014, that fund was yielding 0.08 percent interest. Other funds are held in savings, checking, and money market accounts at several banks.

In response to an inquiry by Mr. Stoffel concerning the Economic Development Program deficit, Mr. Yunker stated that when the budget was developed more work was anticipated in the Community Assistance Program rather than the Economic Development Program. However, due to necessary work on the Regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, more staff time than anticipated has been allocated for this effort with less staff time allocated to the Community Assistance Program.

In response to an inquiry by Mr. Delgado, Mr. Yunker stated that the Commission's Reserve Accounts line item includes monies that have been set aside to fund building maintenance projects and replacement of major equipment, and to provide partial funding of studies that are not supported by other funding sources. He noted that the Reserve Accounts line item amount is expected to decline in forthcoming years.

There being no further questions or discussion, on a motion by Ms. Greene, seconded by Ms. Seemeyer, and carried unanimously, the Treasurer's Report for the period ending November 2, 2014, was approved (copy of the Treasurer's Report is attached to the Official Minutes).

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Planning and Research Committee

Chairman Stroik asked Mr. Schmidt to present the Planning and Research Committee report. Mr. Schmidt stated that the Planning and Research Committee has met once since the Commission's Quarterly meeting on September 10, 2014.

On November 4, 2014, the Committee took the following actions:

1. Received a briefing on the status of VISION 2050, a process which will lead to the development of the next regional land use and transportation system plan, and is scheduled to be completed in December 2015. Currently, staff is in the second stage of the process, which involves developing and evaluating a series of five conceptual scenarios that describe a wide range of possible land use development and future transportation system investment for the Region. This briefing included a PowerPoint presentation providing an overview of the VISION 2050 process, and a description of five scenarios and their evaluation.

There being no questions or discussion, on a motion by Mr. Delgado, seconded by Mr. Stoffel, and carried unanimously, the Planning and Research Committee Report was approved (copy of the Planning and Research Committee Report is attached to the Official Minutes).

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ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Chairman Stroik asked Mr. Dwyer to present the Administrative Committee report. Mr. Dwyer noted that the report had been provided to all Commissioners prior to the meeting. He also noted that the Administrative Committee met three times since the Quarterly Commission Meeting on September 10, 2014.

On September 25, 2014, the Committee took the following actions:

1. Reviewed and approved disbursements for financial reporting periods: Year 2014 Nos. 18 and 19, extending over the period August 11, to September 7, 2014.
2. Reviewed the Statement of Projected Revenues and Expenditures for the financial reporting period ending September 7, 2014.
3. Received a briefing on the building tuckpointing project.

On October 23, 2014, the Committee took the following actions:

1. Reviewed and approved disbursements for two financial periods: Year 2014 Nos. 20 and 21; extending over the period September 8, to October 5, 2014.
2. Reviewed and approved the Statement of Projected Revenues and Expenditures for the period ending October 5, 2014.
3. Received an update on the building tuckpointing project. The project had begun on October 3rd with expectation of completion by November 17th.
4. Reviewed a report on group medical insurance rates for 2015. The Commission obtains medical insurance for staff through the State of Wisconsin Department of Employee Trust Funds Group Health Insurance Program. The Committee chose for the fourth year to provide in 2015 a Deductible Health Maintenance Organization (HMO) Plan (\$500 single and \$1,000 family) and to have the Commission reimburse employees for the deductible as it is expended through Health Reimbursement Accounts. The United Healthcare HMO, Anthem Blue HMO, Arise Health Plan HMO, Dean Health HMO, and the WEA Trust PPO are the qualified health plans for the Southeastern Wisconsin Region in 2015 and the change from 2014 to 2015 in the premiums for these health plans ranged from a reduction of 4 percent to an increase of 7 percent. Commission employees pay 20 percent of the health insurance premium, and the Commission pays 80 percent.
5. Reviewed and approved a proposal to replace one Commission vehicle which met the criteria for vehicle replacement and purchase.

On November 13, 2014, the Committee took the following actions:

1. Reviewed and approved disbursements for two financial periods: Year 2014 Nos. 22 and 23; extending over the period October 5, to November 2, 2014.
2. Reviewed and approved the Statement of Projected Revenues and Expenditures for the period ending November 2, 2014.

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3. Received an update on the progress of the building tuckpointing project. Due to cold weather, the project completion date has been extended to December 3rd.
4. Received a report on employee enrollment in the 2015 group medical insurance program. A total of 61 Commission employees elected to obtain medical insurance coverage. Six Commission employees declined medical insurance coverage. The anticipated cost to the Commission of the 2015 health insurance is expected to be within the adopted budget for health insurance of \$950,000 for the year.

There being no questions or discussion, on a motion by Mr. Schmidt, seconded by Mr. Colman, and carried unanimously, the Administrative Committee Report was approved (copy of the Administrative Committee Report is attached to the Official Minutes).

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

The Executive Committee met two times since the Quarterly Commission Meeting on September 10, 2014.

On September 25, 2014, the Committee took the following actions:

1. Received and approved a report from the Administrative Committee relative to its meeting that day.
2. Received a report outlining key planning efforts being undertaken by the Commission in 2014.
3. Reviewed and approved an amendment to the 2013-2016 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). This amendment to the 2013-2016 TIP was necessary to advance 21 projects, all of which were approved by the Commission Advisory Committees for Transportation System Planning and Programming for the Kenosha, Milwaukee, Racine, and Round Lake Urbanized Areas.

On November 13, 2014, the Committee took the following actions:

1. Received and approved a report from the Administrative Committee relative to its meetings of October 23, and November 13, 2014.
2. Reviewed and approved one contract for planning work. The details of this contract are set forth in a table attached to this report.
3. Received a report outlining key planning efforts being undertaken by the Commission in 2014. This current key planning efforts status report is attached to this report.
4. Reviewed and approved the 2015-2018 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The TIP is a Federally required listing of all arterial highway, public transit, and other related transportation projects proposed by State and local governments to be implemented over the next four years in the seven-county Southeastern Wisconsin Region.
5. Reviewed and approved the Commission's Overall Work Program for calendar year 2015.
6. Reviewed and approved an amendment to the Commission's Overall Work Program for calendar year 2014.

There being no questions or discussion, on a motion by Ms. Greene, seconded by Mr. Dwyer, and carried unanimously, the Executive Committee Report was approved (copy of the Executive Committee Report is attached to the Official Minutes).

REPORT ON NOMINATING COMMITTEE AND ELECTION OF COMMISSION OFFICERS FOR 2015-2016

Chairman Stroik then asked Mr. Buestrin, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, to assume the Chair. Mr. Buestrin noted that the Nominating Committee, as appointed by the Commission Chairman in accordance with Commission Bylaws, consisted of himself as Chairman and representative of Ozaukee County; and Commissioners Robert W. Pitts of Kenosha County; Brian R. Dranzik of Milwaukee County; Peggy L. Shumway of Racine County; Linda J. Seemeyer of Walworth County; Daniel S. Schmidt of Washington County; and James T. Dwyer of Waukesha County.

Mr. Buestrin reported that the Committee had met on November 4, 2014, in the Commission offices and had acted unanimously to nominate the following individuals for election to the office indicated for a two-year term:

Chairman	David L. Stroik
Vice-Chairman	Charles L. Colman
Secretary	Adelene Greene
Treasurer.....	William R. Drew

In response to an inquiry by Mr. Dwyer, Mr. Buestrin stated that each of the aforementioned candidates accepted their nominations.

Mr. Buestrin then asked if there were any additional nominations from the floor for the Commission offices of Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, and Treasurer.

There being none, it was moved by Mr. Wirth, seconded by Mr. Pitts, and carried unanimously, to elect Mr. Stroik to serve as Chairman, Mr. Colman to serve as Vice-Chairman, Ms. Greene to serve as Secretary, and Mr. Drew to serve as Treasurer, as nominated by the Nominating Committee for calendar years 2015 and 2016.

Chairman Stroik then resumed the Chair and congratulated the new officers on their election.

PRESENTATION BY THE WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Chairman Stroik introduced the Wisconsin Department of Transportation Secretary, Mr. Mark Gottlieb, and expressed how honored the Commissioners were to have the Secretary meet with the Commission. He noted that Secretary Gottlieb was appointed by Governor Walker to serve as Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) beginning in January 2011. Chairman Stroik added that Mr. Gottlieb from 2003 to 2011 represented the 60th Assembly District in the Wisconsin State Legislature and prior to that he served as an Alderman and Mayor of the City of Port Washington. He holds Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Civil Engineering from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and is a registered Professional Engineer in the State of Wisconsin.

Secretary Gottlieb thanked the Commission and introduced Mr. Brett Wallace, Director of the Southeast Region for the Wisconsin Department of Transportation.

During Secretary Gottlieb's presentation the following questions and discussions took place (copy of presentation attached to Official Minutes).

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In response to an inquiry by Ms. Greene concerning converting Wisconsin freeways into toll roads, Secretary Gottlieb stated that Federal law does not permit freeways built with Federal Interstate Highway funds to be tolled. He noted that there have been proposals to lift this toll road ban, and if that were to be implemented, the State could consider tolling the State freeway system.

In response to an inquiry by Chairman Stroik, Secretary Gottlieb stated that WisDOT has over the years purchased upon abandonment a number of freight railway lines and segments, in order to permit freight rail service to be maintained for businesses and industries.

In response to an inquiry by Mr. Dwyer, Secretary Gottlieb stated that if State motor fuel tax indexing had not been eliminated in 2006, the transportation funding gap would certainly not be as large today.

In response to a second inquiry by Mr. Dwyer, Secretary Gottlieb stated that the proposed combining of the Federal Surface Transportation Program funding and Local Road Improvement Program funding should reduce the administrative requirements attendant to local road projects. He added that the proposal could also modify the required local share for local road projects. Mr. Dranzik stated that the proposed substitution of State funds for Federal funds should help reduce project administrative requirements and costs.

In response to an inquiry by Ms. Shumway, Secretary Gottlieb stated the community-sensitive design on bridge projects has assisted in obtaining community support for projects. He added that the funding that is expended on this type of bridge work, combined with project landscaping, is set at maximum of 1.5 percent of total project funding.

In response to an inquiry by Mr. Delgado, Secretary Gottlieb stated that the maintenance of State and local bridges in good and safe condition is the top priority of the State for bridge construction funding.

In response to an inquiry by Mr. Delgado regarding increasing freeway speed limits in rural areas of the State, Secretary Gottlieb noted that the State Legislature had recently considered, but had not approved, raising speeds to 70 mph.

Mr. Stoffel noted that IH 94 East-West freeway and other freeway reconstruction projects have concluded that the addition of traffic lanes represents only about 15 percent of the total cost of the project. He asked how these estimates are prepared. Mr. Wallace responded that these freeway projects begin with considering a range of reconstruction alternatives: rebuild-as-is, rebuild to modern design standards (to address design deficiencies), and rebuild to modern design standards with additional traffic lanes (to address congestion). The costs of each of these reconstruction alternatives are estimated. The difference in the cost between rebuilding to modern design standards with additional lanes and rebuilding to modern design standards is the incremental cost of the additional traffic lanes.

Upon completion of Secretary Gottlieb's presentation, Chairman Stroik thanked both Secretary Gottlieb and Mr. Wallace for taking time from their schedule to meet with the Commission and share their perspective on transportation funding.

CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Stroik asked Mr. Yunker if there was any correspondence or if there were any announcements.

Mr. Yunker said there were none.

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CONFIRMATION OF DATE, TIME, AND PLACE OF THE MARCH QUARTERLY MEETING

Chairman Stroik indicated that the next Quarterly Commission meeting will be in March 2015 at 3:00 p.m. in Waukesha County. He added that the entire 2015 schedule of Commission and Commission Committee meetings will be sent out in late December.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission, on a motion by Mr. Wirth, seconded by Mr. Dwyer, and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 4:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth R. Yunker
Deputy Secretary

KRY/MGH/EAL/dd
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Attachments