

MINUTES

SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

PLANNING AND RESEARCH COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, May 3, 2016

1:30 p.m.

SEWRPC Office Building
Commissioners' Conference Room
W239 N1812 Rockwood Drive
Waukesha, WI 53187-1607

Present:

Excused:

Commissioners:

Daniel S. Schmidt, Chairman
Charles L. Colman
José M. Delgado
Robert W. Pitts
Jennifer K. Rothstein
Nancy Russell
Linda J. Seemeyer
Peggy L. Shumway
David L. Stroik

Daniel W. Stoffel, Vice-Chairman
Brian R. Dranzik
William R. Drew
Michael J. Skalitzky

Staff:

Kenneth R. Yunker	Executive Director
Michael G. Hahn	Deputy Director
Elizabeth A. Larsen	Assistant Director – Administration

Guests:

Michael A. Crowley
James T. Dwyer

ROLL CALL

Chairman Schmidt called the Planning and Research Committee meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. Roll call was taken and a quorum was declared present. Chairman Schmidt indicated for the record that Commissioners Stoffel, Dranzik, Drew, and Skalitzky had asked to be excused.

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 10, 2015, MEETING

Chairman Schmidt asked if there were any changes or additions to the November 10, 2015, meeting minutes.

On a motion by Mr. Pitts, seconded by Mr. Stroik, and carried unanimously, the minutes of the November 10, 2015, Planning and Research Committee Meeting were approved as published.

REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION OF THE FOLLOWING MATERIALS OF SEWRPC PLANNING REPORT NO. 55, "VISION 2050: A REGIONAL LAND USE AND TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM PLAN FOR SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN":

Chairman Schmidt noted that all Commissioners had been invited to attend the meeting, and asked Mr. Yunker to review with the Committee the Preliminary Recommended Plan.

Mr. Yunker noted the Committee had been provided the following materials and indicated he would review these materials by reviewing the Spring 2016 Draft Plan Summary Booklet:

- Spring 2016 Summary Booklet of Preliminary Recommended Plan
- Preliminary Draft of Volume II, Chapter IV, "Preliminary Recommended Year 2050 Regional Land Use and Transportation System Plan"
- Preliminary Draft of Appendix H, "*Complete Results of the Preliminary Recommended Plan Evaluation*"
- Preliminary Draft of Appendix I, "Evaluation of Potential Benefits and Impacts of Reconstructing with Widening or Not Widening IH 43 between Howard Avenue and Silver Spring Drive"

During the review, Mr. Yunker called attention to each of the key recommendations associated with the Draft Plan's land use and transportation components, and their implications for the Region. He also reviewed the funding needed to implement the Draft Plan.

During Mr. Yunker's review, he responded to the following inquiries and comments.

In response to an inquiry by Mr. Dwyer, Mr. Yunker responded that all types of workers will be needed in the Region in the future. He noted that over the last 35 years, the existing population of the Region provided the potential to grow labor force sufficient for a more than doubling of jobs. This was a result of the baby boom generation coming of age, as the baby boom generation was twice as big as the previous generation. In addition, this was a period when women entered the labor force in increasing numbers. The next 35 years will not have the same potential to grow labor force from within the existing population. The generations that follow the baby boom generation are not larger than the baby boom generation, and women now participate in the labor force in nearly the same proportion as men. As a result, jobs will only grow in the Region through an in-migration of population and labor force.

In response to an inquiry by Mr. Colman, Mr. Yunker responded that he did not believe that allowing buses to travel on freeway shoulders had encouraged trucks and autos to drive on freeway shoulders in metropolitan areas where this practice has been implemented. Mr. Yunker added that this would be a method of making travel on buses more attractive and competitive with the automobile. He noted that the current discontinuity of shoulders on the freeway system in the Milwaukee area may limit its implementation.

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Ms. Seemeyer expressed concern that outlying counties of the Region could be proposed to pay for a disproportionate share of the Preliminary Plan, noting that public transit service improvement and expansion is focused particularly in Milwaukee County. Mr. Yunker responded that a similar concern was expressed at County Jurisdictional Highway System Planning Advisory Committees and at the last joint meeting of the Advisory Committees on Regional Land Use Planning and Regional Transportation System Planning. He stated that Commission staff will in the final plan identify the transit service improvement and expansion within each County along with the funding necessary within each County to implement the transit service improvement and expansion proposed in each County.

Ms. Russell noted that the recommendation in the Preliminary Plan that road users pay more of the costs of providing street and highway facilities. She noted that in some portions of the Region, a large number of properties are owned by residents of Illinois, and that while these Illinois residents frequently use street and highway facilities in the Region, their vehicles are registered in Illinois. Mr. Yunker responded that current user fees would include both motor fuel taxes and vehicle registration fees. He noted that Federal and State fuel taxes have not increased within the last decade. Additionally, technological advances, such as increased fuel efficiency and alternative fuels have, and will continue to limit, the funds collected through the current motor fuel tax system. He noted that various studies and pilot projects from across the Country suggest that vehicle-miles of travel based fees could potentially replace or supplement Federal and State motor fuel taxes.

In response to an inquiry by Ms. Shumway, Mr. Yunker responded that potential revenue sources to address the public transit funding gap were identified because, based on expected costs and reasonably expected revenues, the implementation of the Public Transit Element cannot be expected to occur without additional funding. Mr. Colman noted that the Advisory Committee on Regional Transportation System Planning has reviewed the financial analysis of expected plan costs and revenues and agreed with its conclusion. Mr. Yunker also noted that the financial analysis identifies those portions of the plan that can be funded with existing and reasonably expected future revenues, funding gaps, and potential revenue sources to address funding gaps.

Ms. Rothstein stated that the Region will need to compete with other metropolitan areas to attract the young workers necessary to grow the economy. She stated that young workers are looking for alternative transportation options to the automobile. She also stated that a future lack of implementation of the Public Transit Element of the plan will hurt the Region because young workers are looking for these amenities. Mr. Yunker responded that the metropolitan area peer comparison report that was prepared in conjunction with VISION 2050 shows that other metro areas are expanding public transit service while public transit service is decreasing in the Milwaukee area.

Mr. Colman noted the consistency between the Draft Plan summary booklet and the plan chapter. He stated that the Draft Plan summary booklet was very well done.

On a motion by Mr. Stroik, seconded by Mr. Delgado, and carried unanimously, the Preliminary Recommended Plan materials were approved for publication.

NEXT MEETING

Mr. Yunker noted the Draft Plan is now being presented at public workshops. The results of public workshops and public comments will be presented to the Advisory Committees at their next meeting of June 29, 2016, and the Committees will be asked to act on potential changes to the Draft Plan to be incorporated in the Final Plan.

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He stated that the Full Commission could consider Final Plan adoption at a special Commission meeting in July.

In response to an inquiry by Mr. Stroik, Mr. Yunker stated that the U.S. Department of Transportation would not require Counties to adopt the plan.

CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Schmidt asked Mr. Yunker if there was any correspondence or if there were any announcements. Mr. Yunker stated that there were no correspondence or announcements.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, on a motion by Mr. Dwyer, seconded by Mr. Colman, and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth R. Yunker
Deputy Secretary

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