



Interim Review and Update of the Year 2035 Regional Transportation Plan



March 30, 2010



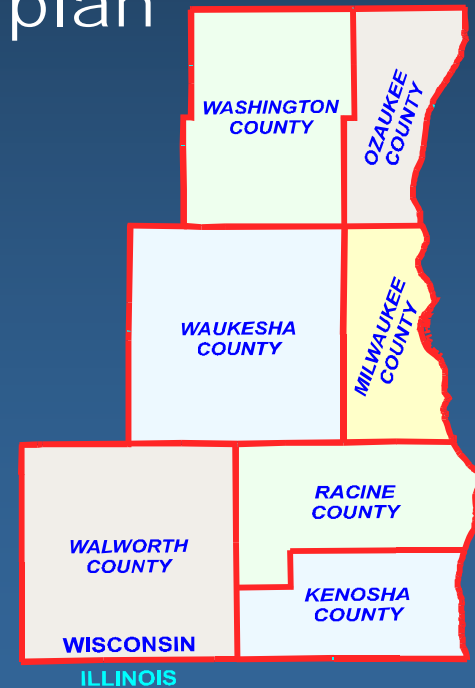
Introduction

- The Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC) is conducting an interim review and update of the year 2035 regional transportation plan
 - Re-examine forecasts underlying plan
 - Measure transportation system performance
 - Assess implementation to date of the plan recommendations
 - Determine whether still reasonable to achieve plan recommendations
 - Consider potential amendments to adopted plan
- A major review and reevaluation will begin in 2011, after major data collection efforts are complete.



Advisory Committee on Regional Transportation System Planning

- Guides planning effort
- Is liaison to government entities responsible for implementing plan
- Representatives from:
 - Each of the seven counties in the Region
 - Municipalities from throughout the Region
 - Wisconsin Departments of Transportation and Natural Resources
 - U.S. Department of Transportation and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency





Summary of Year 2035 Regional Transportation Plan

- Provides a vision and guide for transportation system development for 30 years in the future.
- Completed in June 2006
- Five Elements:
 - Public Transit
 - Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities
 - Transportation System Management
 - Travel Demand Management
 - Arterial Streets and Highways
- More information about the plan is available in the other Power Point presentation, Newsletter 5 (at sign-in table) or at www.sewrpc.org



Review of Forecasts in Year 2035 Plan

- Year 2035 land use and transportation plan included long-range forecasts:
 - Demographic and economic (population, households, employment)
 - Travel (vehicle-miles of travel, transit ridership, personal vehicle availability)
- Year 2010 interim review of plan compared forecasts to more recent data:
 - Forecasts are within reasonable range of observed data
 - Forecasts remain valid for long-range transportation planning



Review of Transportation System Performance

- Interim review reviewed trends in transportation system performance measures:
 - Pavement and bridge condition
 - Traffic congestion
 - Crashes and fatalities
 - Travel speeds and times on arterial streets and highways
 - Transit travel times
 - Air pollutant emissions
- Measures show that little change in system performance has occurred, other than significant reductions in most transportation-generated air pollutants.



Implementation to Date of Year 2035 Regional Transportation Plan

Implementation of plan recommendations should be expected to be limited:

- Only 3 ½ years have passed since plan was adopted in June 2006
- Implementation has been affected by economic downturns starting in 2001 and 2008



Implementation to Date of Year 2035 Plan—Public Transit Element

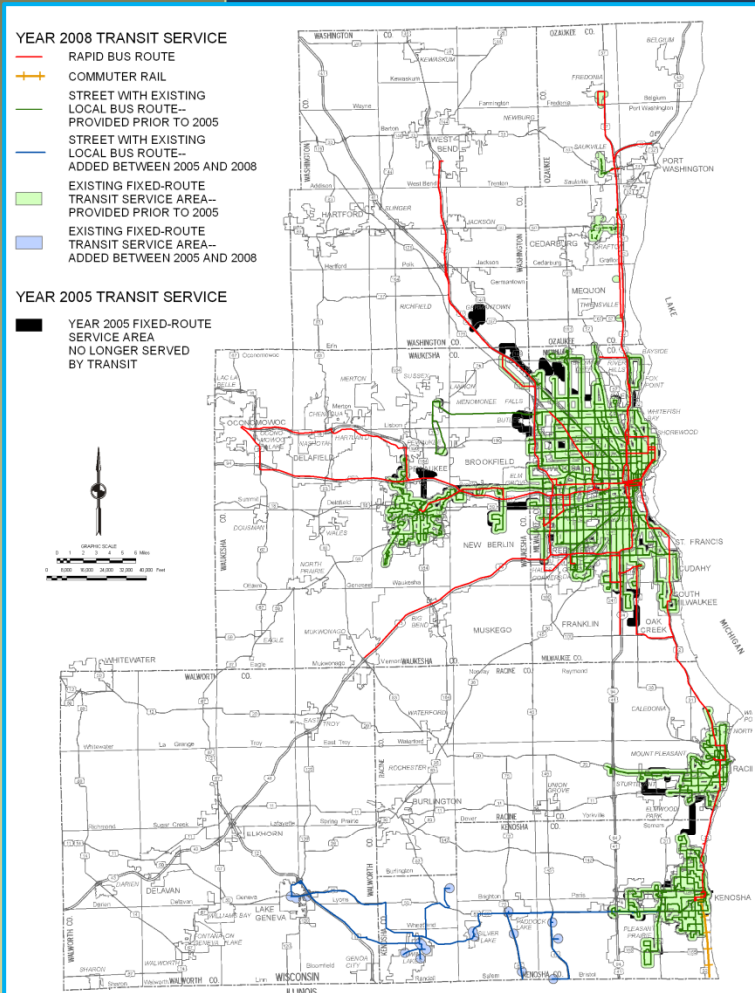
TRANSIT SERVICE PROVIDED IN 2008 COMPARED TO 2005

- Plan recommendations:

- Significantly improve and expand transit service coverage, service hours, and service frequency (100% expansion)
- Develop rapid and express transit systems

- Since 2006:

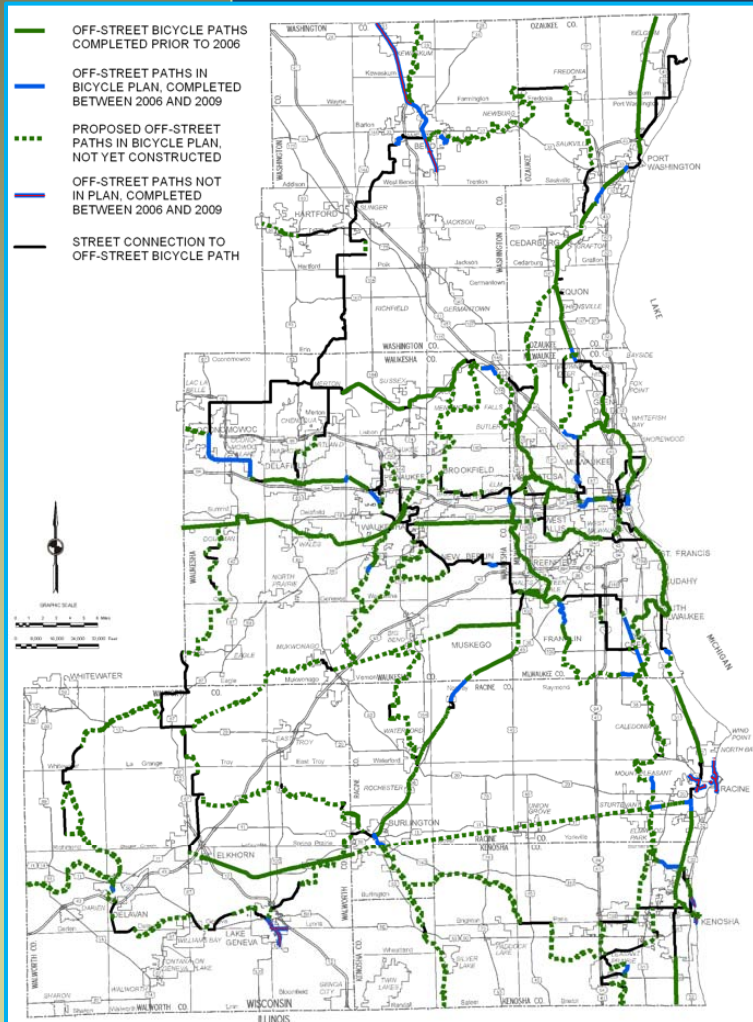
- Transit service has declined by 2%
- Commuter rail authority with dedicated local funding has been established.
- State legislation for a regional transit authority with dedicated local funding is being considered.





Implementation to Date of Year 2035 Plan—Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Element

EXISTING AND PLANNED OFF-STREET BICYCLE PATH SYSTEM: 2009

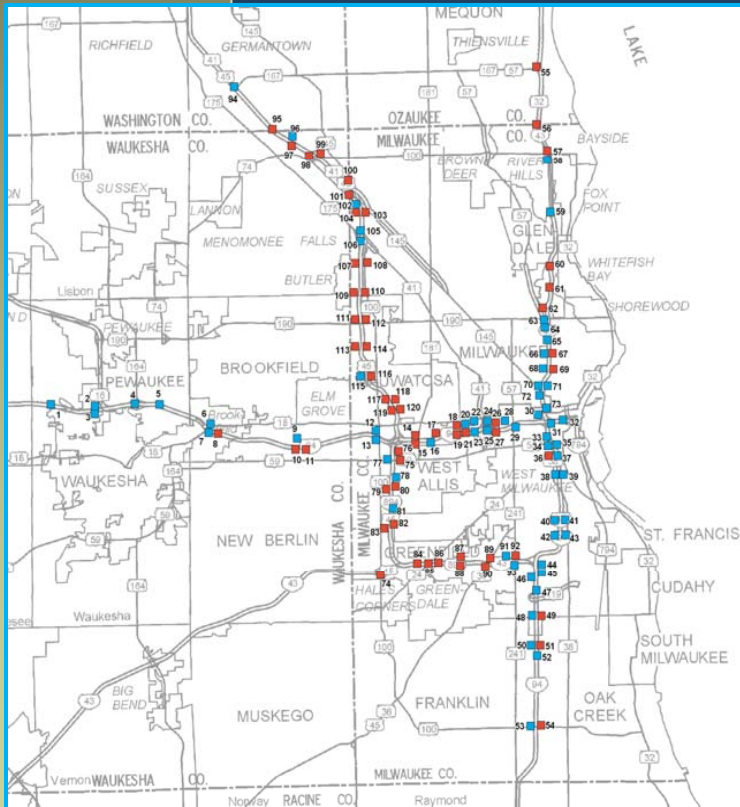


- Plan recommendations:
 - Bicycle accommodation should be considered as each segment of arterial street and highways is resurfaced and reconstructed
 - Complete 575-mile off-street bicycle path system
- Since 2006:
 - WisDOT and FHWA now require bicycle accommodation on all State or Federally-funded projects, unless demonstrated to be prohibitive.
 - About 35 miles of off-street bicycle paths have been constructed.



Implementation to Date of Year 2035 Plan—Transportation Systems Management Element

LOCATIONS OF RAMP METERS: 2010

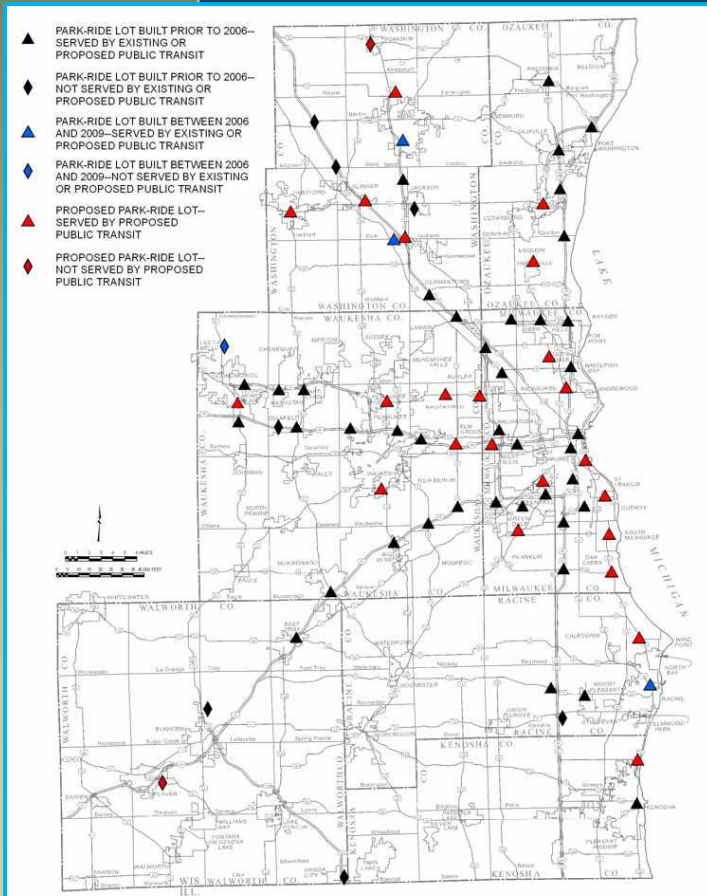


- Plan recommendations:
 - Freeway traffic management
 - Arterial street and highway traffic management
 - Major activity parking management in the City of Milwaukee
 - Regional Transportation Operations Program
- Since 2006:
 - 8 new freeway ramp meters added
 - New variable message signs and closed-circuit television cameras on both freeways and surface arterial streets and highways
 - Expansion of signal coordination on arterial streets and highways



Implementation to Date of Year 2035 Plan—Travel Demand Management Element

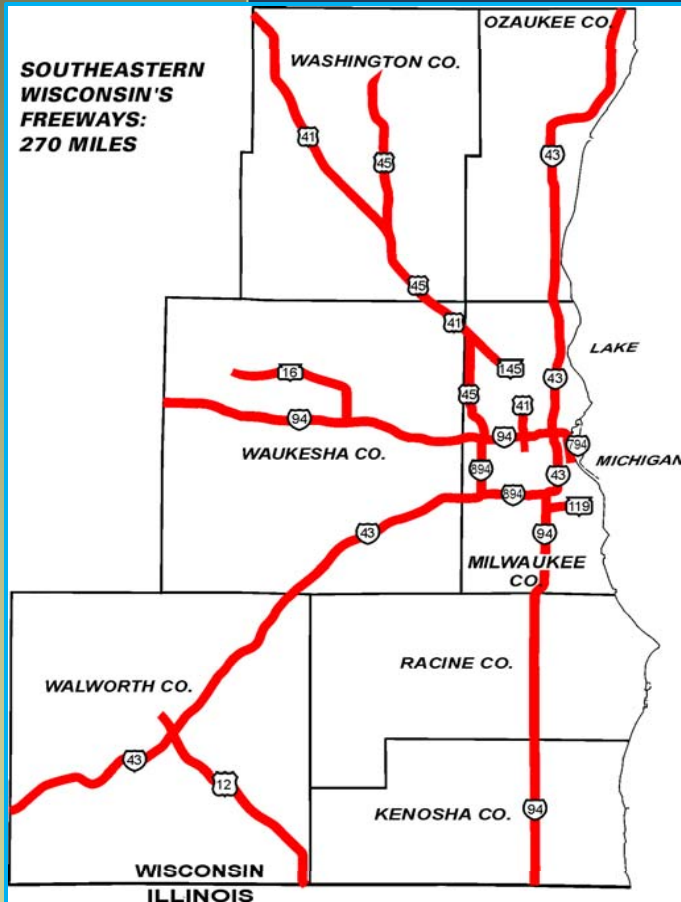
EXISTING AND PROPOSED PARK-RIDE LOTS AND TRANSIT STATIONS: 2009



- Plan recommendations:
 - Preferential treatment for high-occupancy vehicles
 - Construct additional park-ride lots
 - Increase transit information and marketing
 - Develop site-specific neighborhood land use plans to promote transit, bicycle, and pedestrian travel
- Since 2006:
 - New park-ride lots constructed
 - New vanpools proposed in Waukesha County
 - Site-specific transit-oriented development plans created for the nine KRM commuter rail stations



Implementation to Date of Year 2035 Plan—Arterial Street and Highway Element



- Plan recommendations:
 - Total of 3,637 miles of arterial streets and highways in Region
 - Resurface and reconstruct 3,191 miles without widening
 - Reconstruct 360 route-miles (including 127 miles of freeways) with additional lanes
 - Add 88 route-miles of new arterial facilities
- Since 2006:
 - 15 miles of arterial facilities widened
 - 8 miles of new arterial facilities built; 5 miles of new arterial facilities under construction
 - IH 94 between Mitchell Interchange and Illinois state line being reconstructed
 - Marquette Interchange rebuilt; Zoo Interchange nearing completion of preliminary engineering



Summary of Key Findings from Review of Year 2035 Regional Transportation Plan

The review of the regional transportation plan indicates:

- Forecasts are still valid
- Transportation system performance measures are largely unchanged, except for significant reductions in most air pollutant emissions.
- Most elements of the plan are proceeding with implementation, except for transit service expansion
- Existing and anticipated revenues are sufficient to fully fund both the highway and transit elements of the plan.
 - Anticipated revenues include the attainment of a regional transit authority and dedicated funding from a 0.5 percent sales tax. State legislation now being considered on regional transit authorities would ultimately provide for such authority and dedicated funding.



Potential Amendments to Year 2035 Regional Transportation Plan

Potential amendments to the plan have been identified:

- Washington County jurisdictional highway system planning amendments
- Walworth County jurisdictional highway system planning amendments



Potential Amendments to Year 2035 Regional Transportation Plan (continued)

- The City of Milwaukee has proposed an amendment that would remove the recommended widening to 8 lanes--upon reconstruction--of IH 94 between the Zoo and Marquette Interchanges in the City of Milwaukee
 - Under amendment, the regional transportation plan would continue to recommend that the preliminary engineering process evaluate alternatives that *would not* provide additional traffic lanes, along with alternatives that *would* provide additional traffic lanes.
 - If preliminary engineering concluded that these freeway segments *should* be widened, then under this amendment, the regional plan would then need to be amended to reinstate the recommended widening to 8 lanes



Remaining Steps

- Public comment will be obtained on plan review and update
 - Informational meeting and hearing scheduled for March 30, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the Downtown Transit Center
- Advisory Committee will consider potential amendments and public comment, and develop a recommended set of amendments, including amendments to be considered during the major plan reevaluation to be initiated in 2011.



Remaining Steps (continued)

- Regional Planning Commission will then consider Advisory Committee recommendations.



Tell Us What You Think

Give us your input about the work performed to date on the year 2035 regional transportation plan:

- Forecasts of demographic and travel trends
- Performance of the transportation system
- Implementation of the year 2035 transportation plan
- Proposed amendments to the year 2035 transportation plan

Many ways to give your opinion:

- Written comment: fill out a comment form tonight, or send letter or email to SEWRPC later
- Speak directly with SEWRPC staff: tonight, or call and speak with staff at a later date
- Oral comment with court reporter, either privately with a court reporter, or publicly in the adjacent hearing area