

**MINUTES**

**SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**

**QUARTERLY MEETING**

Port of Milwaukee  
First Floor Conference Room  
2323 South Lincoln Memorial Drive  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

December 6, 2006

3:00 p.m.

Present:

Excused:

Commissioners:

Thomas H. Buestrin, Chairman  
William R. Drew, Vice-Chairman  
Anthony F. Balestrieri  
Charlene S. Brady  
Anita M. Faraone  
Adelene Greene  
Kenneth C. Herro  
Gregory L. Holden  
Allen L. Morrison  
Daniel S. Schmidt  
Linda J. Seemeyer  
David L. Stroik  
Paul G. Vrakas  
Gustav W. Wirth, Jr.

Leon T. Dreger  
Richard A. Hansen  
Lee Holloway  
Michael J. Miklasevich  
James E. Moyer  
Anselmo Villarreal

Absent:

Staff:

Philip C. Evenson  
Kenneth R. Yunker  
Loretta Watson

Executive Director  
Deputy Director  
Executive Secretary

**ROLL CALL AND WELCOME**

Chairman Buestrin called the 215<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Commission to order at 3:05 p.m. Roll call was taken and a quorum declared present. Mr. Evenson indicated for the record that Commissioners Dreger, Hansen, Holloway, Miklasevich, Moyer, and Villarreal had asked to be excused.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 13, 2006, MEETING**

On a motion by Mr. Wirth, seconded by Mr. Drew, and carried unanimously, the minutes of the Quarterly Meeting of September 13, 2006, were approved as published.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Noting that Commissioner Hansen was unable to attend the meeting, Chairman Buestrin asked Mr. Evenson to present the Treasurer's report. Mr. Evenson noted that a copy of the report had been provided to all Commissioners for review at the meeting. In commenting on the report, he called attention to the following items:

1. Based upon disbursements through November 12, 2006, it is projected that total disbursements for the year will approximate \$8.48 million. Revenues are projected at \$8.50 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 \$2.68 million. The various accounts are identified on the second page of the report.
3. As of November 12, 2006, the Commission had in investments and cash on hand about \$3.87 million. Nearly \$2.80 million are invested in the State of Wisconsin Local Government Pooled Investment Fund. As of November 12, 2006, that fund was yielding 5.24 percent interest. Other funds are held in savings and checking accounts and in certificates of deposits at several banks throughout the Region.

A brief discussion ensued. In response to a question by Mr. Balestrieri, Mr. Evenson indicated that the Commission receives no interest on funds that are in the Commission's checking account and about three to four percent interest in funds that are in the Commission's savings account, both accounts being at Johnson Bank. He noted that the level of funds in these two accounts as of November 12, 2006, was very high – almost \$800,000 – and should not be taken as typical. These accounts, he said, are used to temporarily hold income received and soon thereafter transferred to the State Pool. In addition, the accounts are used to hold funds transferred from the State Pool in anticipation of meeting payroll and accounts payable requirements. On a typical day, he said, the level of funds kept in the checking and savings accounts would be significantly less. Following that discussion, on a motion by Mr. Morrison, seconded by Mr. Vrakas, and carried unanimously, the Treasurer's Report for the period ending November 12, 2006, was approved (copy attached to Official Minutes).

## **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Intergovernmental and Public Relations Committee**

Noting that the Intergovernmental and Public Relations Committee had met once since the Commission Quarterly Meeting on September 13, 2006, Committee Chairman Morrison reported the following items:

On November 13, 2006, the Committee took the following actions:

1. Received a report and discussed the changes recommended by Commission staff for the allocation of Federal transit funds in the Milwaukee Urbanized Area. These changes would distribute all available Federal transit funds among the transit operators in Ozaukee, Milwaukee, Washington, and Waukesha Counties totally on the basis of selected measures of transit services provided. Beginning in 2007, this

change would increase Milwaukee County's allocation by about \$867,000, and collectively reduce the allocations to the other three counties by the same amount. Owing to the way in which the State of Wisconsin distributes Federal and State transit funds to the smaller transit systems in the State, the net loss to transit operators in Ozaukee, Washington, and Waukesha Counties is expected to be relatively small, with State Operating Assistance funds offsetting about 90 percent of the lost Federal funds. The basis for the recommended change in the Milwaukee area transit funds allocation formula relates entirely to the desirability of directing available funds to all transit operators on the basis of rational measurements of actual transit services provided, thereby eliminating any allocation credit for potential populations that could be served. The Committee acted to approve the Commission's staff recommendation, taking note of the fact that the Milwaukee area transit operators had been unable to reach unanimous agreement on this matter and that it was the Commission's responsibility as the metropolitan planning organization to make a final determination.

2. Received a staff report relative to the Great Lakes Water Compact executed by the Great Lakes Governors in Milwaukee last year. If ratified by all of the States and the U.S. Congress, this compact would modify the way in which Wisconsin manages its Great Lakes water supply, particularly with respect to potential diversions of water across the subcontinental divide that traverses the Region. Historically, when communities, such as Kenosha, have extended water to serve development west of the divide and simultaneously provided return flow through sanitary sewerage systems, such actions have not been defined as a diversion. Under the proposed Compact, such actions would be defined as a diversion and subject to an advisory level of interstate scrutiny. For communities such as Bristol which lie entirely west of the subcontinental divide, such actions would require under the new compact unanimous approval of all of the Governors of the Great Lakes States.
3. Received a staff report relative to Governor Doyle's recent initiative to begin work toward reconstructing the Zoo Interchange. The Zoo Interchange, which is Wisconsin's busiest, suffers from many design deficiencies and has some of Wisconsin's worst traffic congestion. Under the Governor's proposal, work would begin next year to undertake the engineering and environmental studies necessary to rebuild the Interchange. Construction would not begin before 2012. The approach to be taken would be similar to the Marquette Interchange project where all of the design problems can be properly addressed in the reconstruction effort. This approach would preclude full implementation initially of the Commission's recommendations for additional through traffic lanes both north and south and east and west. However, the approach would allow the designers to take steps to not preclude the ready addition of such throughput capacity should future studies of the connecting freeway links conclude that additional lane capacity is to be provided.

Following a brief discussion during which Mr. Evenson pointed out that approval of the full Commission of the report presented by Commissioner Morrison would effectively also signify the full Commission's concurrence with the action taken by the Intergovernmental and Public Relations Committee relative to the change in the way in which Federal transit funds are allocated in the Milwaukee urbanized area, on a motion by Mr. Herro, seconded by Ms. Greene, and carried unanimously, the Intergovernmental and Public Relations Committee report was approved.

#### **Planning and Research Committee**

Noting that the Planning and Research Committee had met once since the Commission Quarterly meeting on September 13, 2006, Committee Chairman Schmidt reported the following items:

On November 21, 2006, the Committee took the following actions:

1. Reviewed and acted to recommend to the Commission for adoption an amendment to the regional water quality management plan pertaining to the planned sanitary sewer service area for the Village of

Sussex. That amendment, scheduled for action later in this meeting, involves the addition of four areas to the planned service area. Together, these four areas encompass about 250 acres, of which about 32 acres are environmentally significant and will not be developed. The proposed amendment is consistent with development and municipal boundary plans prepared and agreed upon by the Village of Sussex and the adjacent Town of Lisbon. Moreover, the proposed amendment is consistent with the adopted regional land use plan.

2. Reviewed and acted to recommend to the Commission for adoption an amendment to the regional water quality management plan pertaining to the planned sanitary sewer service area for the Village of Caledonia. That amendment, scheduled for action later in this meeting, involves the addition of about 59 acres to the Caledonia service area, which area is tributary to the Racine wastewater treatment facility. This amendment is consistent with comprehensive planning and municipal boundary protection efforts currently underway along the IH 94 corridor among and between the communities of Caledonia, Mt. Pleasant, Raymond, and Yorkville. Next year it is anticipated that a significantly larger amendment to the planned sewer service area will be forthcoming following the completion of study efforts by these communities to determine how best to convey wastewater from the IH 94 corridor area to the Racine treatment facility. The amendment is consistent with the adopted regional land use plan.
3. Reviewed and approved for publication Chapter 5 of SEWRPC Planning Report No. 50, **A Regional Water Quality Management Plan Update for the Greater Milwaukee Watersheds**. This chapter sets forth technical data attendant to the several interrelated simulation models that provide the basic tool for testing the efficacy of alternative actions and practices to abate sources of water pollution and thereby contribute toward achieving water quality goals in the Greater Milwaukee Watersheds area. It is expected that an updated water quality management plan for this area will be ready for Commission consideration in mid-2007.
4. Reviewed and acted to recommend to the Commission for approval the Commission's proposed 2007 Overall Work Program. That program will be considered for adoption by the Commission later in this meeting and was found by the Committee to be consistent with the Commission's adopted 2007 budget.

There being no questions or comments, on a motion by Mr. Vrakas, seconded by Ms. Faraone, and carried unanimously, the Planning and Research Committee report was approved.

#### **Administrative Committee**

Noting that the Administrative Committee had met three times since the Commission Quarterly meeting on September 13, 2006, Committee Chairman Vrakas reported the following items:

On September 28, 2006, the Committee took the following actions:

1. Reviewed and approved the Commission disbursements for two financial reporting periods: Year 2006 Nos. 18 and 19, extending over the period August 21, 2006, to September 17, 2006.
2. Reviewed the Statement of Projected Revenues and Expenditures for the financial reporting period ending September 17, 2006. With nearly three-fourths of the year completed, the projections indicated a year end surplus of about \$47,000.
3. Received a report that the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, as the State cognizant agency, had accepted the Commission's 2004 and 2005 audit reports and that there are no issues to be resolved.

4. Authorized the Commission staff to replace the 1999 Chevrolet Suburban vehicle used by the Commission's biological field services staff with a 2007 Chevrolet Suburban vehicle. By working off of the State contract bid process, the Commission will acquire the replacement vehicle at a cost of just under \$34,000. That vehicle carries a field staff of up to four people plus attendant field equipment.

On October 26, 2006, the Committee took the following actions:

1. Reviewed and approved the Commission disbursements for two financial reporting periods: Year 2006 Nos. 20 and 21, extending over the period September 18, 2006, to October 15, 2006.
2. Received a report from the Commission's financial consultant that the trustee for the funds placed by the Commission to allow early retirement of the bonds used to acquire the Rockwood Drive Building has placed such funds in a U.S. Treasury note that bears a five percent interest rate. The auditor has suggested that the Commission make one additional cash advance payment on these bonds in February 2007 in the amount of \$360,000. This would permit full retirement of the remaining bonds early in 2011. The Committee determined to review this matter after the close of the year and a staff report on the probable fiscal condition of the Commission at that time.
3. Received a report that group medical insurance rates for 2007 through the Group Insurance Board operated for local governments by the State of Wisconsin increased in 2007 but in relatively modest terms compared to prior years. All increases were single digits except the Humana HMO, which increased rates by about 10 percent.

On November 30, 2006, the Committee took the following actions:

1. Reviewed and approved the Commission disbursements for two financial reporting periods: Year 2006 Nos. 22 and 23, extending over the period October 16, 2006, to November 12, 2006.
2. Received the Statement of Projected Revenues and Expenditures for the financial period ending November 12, 2006. With nearly 90 percent of the year completed, the projections indicate a year end surplus of about \$15,000, not including interest income and proceeds from the sale of materials.
3. Received a report on employee enrollment in the 2007 group medical insurance program. A total of 60 Commission employees elected to obtain medical insurance coverage, paying at a minimum 19 percent of the premium cost. Nine Commission employees declined medical insurance coverage. The adopted 2007 budget of about \$773,000 for medical insurance premiums will be adequate.
4. Approved a one-year lease of office space with Milwaukee County Research Park Corporation. The Commission will occupy Room 209 in the Technology Innovation Center at the Research Park at a monthly rent of about \$242.00. The major use of the space will be to conduct the 30<sup>th</sup> Street industrial corridor revitalization project now under way, although the space may prove to be useful for other operating purposes.

There being no questions or comments, on a motion by Mr. Wirth, seconded by Ms. Seemeyer, and carried unanimously, the Administrative Committee report was approved.

#### **Executive Committee**

Noting that the Executive Committee had met three times since the Commission Quarterly meeting on September 13, 2006, Chairman Buestrin reported the following items:

On September 28, 2006, the Committee took the following actions:

1. Received and approved a report from the Administrative Committee relative to its meeting that day.
2. Reviewed and approved two contracts for planning and related work. The details pertaining to these contracts are set forth in a table included with the agenda for this meeting.
3. Recommended approval of five applications for Federal grants or loans as being in conformance or not in conflict with the regional plans prepared by the Commission. The details pertaining to those applications are set forth in a table also included with the agenda for this meeting.
4. Received a report that the new regional land use plan for 2035 has, as State law requires, been formally certified to all county and local governments in the Region. County and local consideration of this plan is now well underway. The regional plan is intended to provide a broad framework for the more detailed county and local comprehensive planning required by the State before January 1, 2010.
5. Received a report that work progress has been very good on the effort to update the regional water quality management plan for the Milwaukee area watersheds. This work effort is being funded in part by the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District, which is concurrently conducting its own facilities planning effort. Major findings from the Commission's work effort, not surprisingly, indicate that if further improvements in stream water quality are to be achieved, significantly greater resources will need to be focused on securing reductions from urban and rural runoff pollution sources.
6. Received a report that a Milwaukee County Board Supervisor has introduced a resolution that would create a study committee to make recommendations as to whether or not Milwaukee County should continue to support the work of the Regional Planning Commission. The resolution is presently being considered by two Milwaukee County Board committees.

On October 26, 2006, the Committee took the following actions:

1. Received and approved a report from the Administrative Committee relative to its meeting that day.
2. Reviewed and approved one contract for planning and related work. The details pertaining to that contract are set forth in a table included with the agenda for this meeting.
3. Recommended approval of one application for Federal grants or loans as being in conformance or not in conflict with the regional plans prepared by the Commission. The details pertaining to that application are set forth in a table also included with the agenda for this meeting.
4. Received a report that development efforts to establish a project to be undertaken in 2007 aimed at facilitating redevelopment efforts in the 30<sup>th</sup> Street industrial corridor in Milwaukee are underway. This work effort is being undertaken at the request of the Milwaukee County Economic and Community Development Committee. The work effort next year will consist of the preparation of a vision for the redevelopment, the generation of both private and public sector commitments to translate that vision to an action plan, and the establishment of a management structure to carry out that action plan.

5. Received a report that staff work is now fully underway on all five of the county-based comprehensive planning efforts being directed by the Commission relative to meeting the State's planning requirements by 2010. This heavy workload is being managed in both the Commission's Community Assistance Division, which is working with Ozaukee, Washington, and Kenosha Counties, and the Commission's Land Use Division, which is working with Walworth and Racine Counties. These work efforts are being funded by State Comprehensive Planning Grants awarded to four counties and by county and local funds in Walworth County.

On November 30, 2006, the Committee took the following actions:

1. Received and approved a report from the Administrative Committee relative to its meeting that day.
2. Reviewed and approved one contract for planning and related work. The details pertaining to that contract are set forth in a table included with the agenda for this meeting.
3. Recommended approval of four applications for Federal grants or loans as being in conformance or not in conflict with the regional plans prepared by the Commission. The details pertaining to those applications are set forth in a table included with the agenda for this meeting.
4. Recommended to the full Commission that it approve the draft of the proposed Regional Transportation Improvement Program for the 2007-2010 period, subject to a report from the Executive Director relative to any comments placed in the public hearing record concerning this matter. That record closed on December 5, 2006. This matter will be taken up later in the meeting.
5. Authorized the Commission Chairman to executive a two-year extension to the contract with the Commission's Executive Director Emeritus, Dr. Kurt W. Bauer. Over the next two years, Dr. Bauer will complete his assignments as chair of the Commission's advisory committees on telecommunications planning and on water supply planning, and will also continue as the County Surveyor of record for Kenosha, Milwaukee, Racine, Walworth, and Waukesha Counties. In that latter capacity, Dr. Bauer supervises the Commission's field surveying staff. The terms of Dr. Bauer's contract will remain unchanged.
6. Received a report that Ozaukee County has informed the Commission that Commissioner Gustav W. "Sandy" Wirth has been appointed by the Ozaukee County Board of Supervisors to fill the unexpired term of former Commissioner Robert Brooks. That term expires on September 15, 2008.
7. Received a report that the Commission has not yet heard from Governor Jim Doyle as to his choices for Commissioner appointments or reappointments in Kenosha, Ozaukee, Racine, Walworth, and Washington Counties. By longstanding tradition, existing Commissioners holding these appointments continue to serve.

Mr. Evenson reported that he and the Commission's Deputy Director, Mr. Kenneth R. Yunker, had attended a meeting of the Milwaukee County Parks, Energy and Environment Committee the prior day, and that Committee had unanimously recommended to the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors that the study referred to by Chairman Buestrin in his report be undertaken early in 2007. Mr. Evenson indicated that it appeared the intent of those who introduced the study committee resolution was to examine the relationship between the Commission and Milwaukee County from both technical and governance perspectives. Ms. Seemeyer commented that hard choices are being made in preparing each Milwaukee County budget and that nothing is escaping scrutiny.

Following that discussion, on a motion by Mr. Morrison seconded by Ms. Brady, and carried unanimously, the Executive Committee report was approved.

#### **ADOPTION OF AMENDMENTS TO REGIONAL WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLAN**

##### **Village of Sussex Sewer Service Area (Resolution No. 2006-20)**

Chairman Buestrin asked the Commission to consider Resolution No. 2006-20, noting that the Resolution would revise the Village of Sussex sewer service area. He asked Mr. Schmidt to present the resolution.

Mr. Schmidt noted that all Commissioners had received for review prior to the meeting a copy of Resolution No. 2006-20, together with a copy of SEWRPC staff memorandum dated December 2006 documenting the proposed amendment. He recalled that the proposed amendment had been reviewed by the Planning and Research Committee at a meeting held on November 21, 2006, and was recommended for adoption by the Committee.

There being no questions or comments, on a motion by Mr. Schmidt, seconded by Mr. Stroik, and carried unanimously, Resolution No. 2006-20 was approved (copy of Resolution No. 2006-20) attached to Official Minutes).

##### **Village of Caledonia Sewer Service Area Plan (Resolution No. 2006-21)**

Chairman Buestrin asked the Commission to consider Resolution No. 2006-21, noting that the Resolution would revise the Village of Caledonia sewer service area plan. He asked Mr. Schmidt to present the resolution.

Mr. Schmidt noted that all Commissioners had received for review prior to the meeting a copy of Resolution No. 2006-21, together with a copy of a SEWRPC staff memorandum dated December 2006 documenting the proposed amendment. He recalled that the proposed amendment had been reviewed by the Planning and Research Committee at its meeting held on November 21, 2006, and was recommended for adoption by the Committee.

There being no questions or comments, on a motion by Mr. Schmidt, seconded by Ms. Greene, and carried unanimously, Resolution No. 2006-21 was approved (copy of Resolution No. 2006-21 attached to Official Minutes).

#### **CONSIDERATION OF PRELIMINARY DRAFT OF REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM: 2007-2010 (Resolution 2006-22)**

Chairman Buestrin asked the Commission to consider Resolution No. 2006-22 relative to the 2007-2010 Regional Transportation Improvement Program, noting that the program document had been reviewed by the Executive Committee which had recommended adoption to the full Commission. He asked Mr. Evenson to report on any comments concerning this matter that had been placed in the public hearing record. Mr. Evenson indicated that only one comment had been received, a letter from a resident from the City of Racine who expressed strong support for the programming of funds relative to the proposed Kenosha-Racine-Milwaukee commuter rail project. In response to a question by Mr. Wirth, Mr. Evenson indicated that the Transportation Improvement Program can be, and indeed frequently is, amended from time to time. Typically, he said, the Executive Committee acts for the full Commission on such amendments, since the Commission Bylaws allow the Executive Committee to act on all matters except adoption of the Commission's budget and adoption of regional plan elements. The primary reason why the full Commission is being asked at this meeting to act on the program document is because the public hearing record did not close until after the most recent Executive Committee meeting. In answer to a question by Mr. Drew, Mr. Yunker indicated that relatively minor changes in the cost of proposed

transportation projects can be accommodated by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation without formally amending the program document. Major changes in project scope, however, that would significantly change project costs would likely trigger a U.S. Department of Transportation request for formal program amendment.

Following that discussion, on a motion by Mr. Schmidt, seconded by Mr. Herro, and carried unanimously, Resolution No. 2006-22 was approved (copy of Resolution No. 2006-22 attached to Official Minutes).

**CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF THE 2007 OVERALL WORK PROGRAM**  
(Resolution No. 2006-23)

Chairman Buestrin asked the Commissioners to consider Resolution 2006-23 adopting the Commission Overall Work Program (OWP) for calendar year 2007. He asked Mr. Evenson to briefly comment on the program.

Mr. Evenson noted that the Planning and Research Committee, at its meeting on November 21, 2006, had reviewed and recommended approval of the 2007 Overall Work Program. He then briefly reviewed some of the major work elements included in the program. He concluded by indicating that, from a budgetary perspective, the work program provides for a level of effort very close to that envisioned when the 2007 budget was approved in June.

Mr. Evenson indicated that the work program had been informally approved by the Federal and State transportation funding agencies at a meeting held on October 31, 2006. Given that approval and given the recommendations of the Planning and Research Committee on this matter, formal action by the Commission on Resolution 2006-23, would now be in order.

Following a brief comment by Mr. Wirth relative to the Commission's work in telecommunications planning, on a motion by Mr. Schmidt, seconded by Mr. Drew, and carried unanimously, Resolution 2006-23 was approved, said resolution providing for the adoption of the Overall Work Program for calendar year 2007 (copy of Resolution No. 2006-23 attached to Official Minutes).

**REPORT OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE AND ELECTION OF COMMISSION OFFICERS FOR 2007-2008**

Chairman Buestrin then asked Mr. Schmidt, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, to assume the Chair. Mr. Schmidt noted that the Nominating Committee, as appointed by the Commission Chairman in accordance with the Commission Bylaws, consisted of himself as Chairman and representative of Washington County; and Commissioners Adelene Greene, Kenosha County; Michael J. Miklasevich, Racine County; Allen L. Morrison, Walworth County; Linda J. Seemeyer, Milwaukee County; Paul G. Vrakas, Waukesha County; and Gustav W. Wirth, Jr., Ozaukee County.

Mr. Schmidt reported that the Committee had met on November 21, 2006, in the Commission offices, and had acted unanimously to nominate the following individuals for election to the offices indicated for a two-year term:

Chairman..... Thomas H. Buestrin  
Vice-Chairman.....Richard A. Hansen  
Secretary ..... Gustav W. Wirth, Jr.  
Treasurer ..... William R. Drew

Mr. Schmidt asked if there were any additional nominations from the floor for the offices of Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, and Treasurer. There being none, it was moved by Mr. Vrakas, seconded by Ms. Seemeyer, and carried unanimously, to elect Mr. Buestrin to serve as Chairman, Mr. Hansen to serve as Vice-Chairman, Mr. Wirth to serve as Secretary, and Mr. Drew to serve as Treasurer, as nominated by the Nominating Committee, for calendar years 2007 and 2008.

### **REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY (RTA)**

Chairman Buestrin asked Mr. Evenson to brief the Commissioners on the work being done by the Commission staff on behalf of the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Transit Authority (RTA). With the aid of a handout (copy attached to Official Minutes), Mr. Evenson briefed the Commission on the work of the three-county Southeastern Wisconsin RTA. He noted in particular that the legislation creating the RTA was supported by the County Executives of Kenosha, Milwaukee, and Racine Counties and the Mayors of the Cities of Kenosha, Milwaukee, and Racine, and that the Commission was designated in the law to help staff the RTA, at least during its formative period. Financial support for the RTA, he said, comes about through a \$2.00 per vehicle fee imposed in the three counties concerned, which fee is expected to raise about \$600,000 to \$700,000 annually. He then reviewed with the Commission the membership of the RTA Board, the Board's statutory responsibilities, the transit-related material that the RTA Board has received to date, and some preliminary data relative to the findings coming out of the environmental studies attendant to the proposed commuter rail service in the Kenosha-Racine-Milwaukee corridor. He noted that the RTA Board would soon be addressing the difficult topic of funding for transit in the three-county area, with its statutory charge requiring the Board to focus both on funding for the commuter rail service and funding for regular bus and streetcar services provided in the three-county area by Milwaukee County and the Cities of Kenosha and Racine.

A discussion then ensued. In response to a question by Mr. Vrakas, Mr. Evenson indicated that the vehicle rental fee that supports the work of the RTA Board is imposed only on rental activities by commercial vehicle rental companies and would not apply to a dealer who rents a vehicle to a customer who has brought a car in for service. In response to a question by Mr. Buestrin, Mr. Yunker indicated that the 59 miles per hour speed specified for the proposed commuter rail service is a maximum speed and that the average speed would be expected to be about 38 miles per hour. Mr. Yunker commented that by further upgrading the tracks, a top speed of 79 miles per hour like Amtrak could be achieved, but would not be cost efficient, saving only about three minutes on a trip from Milwaukee to Kenosha. In response to a question by Mr. Drew, Mr. Evenson indicated that the Board will address total transit funding needs in the three counties under its jurisdiction, but has not been charged directly with addressing other transit problems in the Milwaukee area relative to difficulties in getting people to jobs when they have to cross county lines. There would be nothing to prevent the RTA Board, however, from commenting on those problems to the Legislature should the Board choose to do so.

### **CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. Evenson reported that he had placed on each Commissioner's desk one letter that reflects well on the Commission staff efforts in carrying out the Commission's overall work program (copy attached to Official Minutes). He noted that the letter from Village of Hales Corners President James R. Ryan referred to the Commission staff's help in connection with the development of a floodplain database along Whitnall Park Creek, such database being necessary to enable the Federal Emergency Management Agency to remove about 40 homes from the floodplain following a stream course project undertaken by the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District. In order to accommodate the Village of Hales Corners in this regard and do so in a timely way so that the concerned homeowners could be excused from paying

floodplain insurance premiums next year, less critical floodplain work attendant to the Oconomowoc River watershed in Washington County had to be temporarily set aside.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Commission, on a motion by Mr. Wirth, seconded by Mr. Drew, and carried unanimously, the meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Philip C. Evenson  
Deputy Secretary

PCE/lw  
Attachments  
#123567 v1 - QuarterlyDec06Min