

MINUTES
SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
QUARTERLY COMMISSION MEETING

Wednesday, March 16, 2016

3:00 p.m.

Concordia University
Concordia Center for Environmental
Stewardship (CCES Building)
12800 N. Lakeshore Drive
Mequon, WI 53097

Present:

Excused:

Commissioners:

David L. Stroik, Chairman
Charles L. Colman, Vice-Chairman
Thomas H. Buestrin
Michael A. Crowley
José M. Delgado
James T. Dwyer
Robert W. Pitts
Jennifer K. Rothstein
Nancy Russell
Daniel S. Schmidt
Linda J. Seemeyer
Gustav W. Wirth, Jr.

Mike Dawson
Brian R. Dranzik
William R. Drew
Adelene Greene
Peggy L. Shumway
Michael J. Skalitzky
Daniel W. Stoffel

Staff:

Kenneth R. Yunker	Executive Director
Michael G. Hahn	Deputy Director
Elizabeth A. Larsen	Assistant Director - Administration
Debra A. D'Amico	Executive Secretary

ROLL CALL

Chairman Stroik called the 253rd meeting of the Commission to order at 3:02 p.m. Roll call was taken and a quorum was declared present. Chairman Stroik indicated for the record that Commissioners Dawson, Dranzik, Drew, Greene, Shumway, Skalitzky, and Stoffel had asked to be excused.

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 2, 2015, QUARTERLY COMMISSION MEETING

On a motion by Mr. Wirth, seconded by Mr. Dwyer, and carried unanimously, the minutes of the December 2, 2015, Quarterly Commission Meeting were approved as published.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Chairman Stroik asked Ms. Russell to present the Treasurer's Report in the absence of the Treasurer, Mr. Drew. She 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, she called attention to the following items:

1. Based upon disbursements through February 7, 2016, it is projected that total disbursements for the year will approximate \$7.65 million. Revenues are projected at about \$8.36 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 \$4.35 million. The various accounts are identified on the second page of the report.
3. As of February 7, 2016, the Commission had in investments and cash on hand approximately \$4.65 million. About \$3.5 million are invested in the State of Wisconsin Local Government Pooled Investment Fund. As of February 7, 2016, that fund was yielding 0.33 percent interest. Other funds are held in savings, checking, and money market accounts at several banks.

There being no questions or discussion, on a motion by Ms. Russell, seconded by Mr. Dwyer, and carried unanimously, the Treasurer's Report for the period ending February 7, 2016, 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 not met since the Commission's Quarterly meeting on December 2, 2015. The Committee meeting scheduled for February 2, 2016, was cancelled due to a winter weather storm that day. At that meeting, the Committee was to receive an update on VISION 2050, the reevaluation and extension of the Year 2050 Regional Land Use and Transportation Plan. This update will be provided as part of today's Commission meeting.

There being no questions or discussion, on a motion by Mr. Pitts, seconded by Ms. Seemeyer, 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).

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 had met two times since the Quarterly Commission Meeting on December 2, 2015.

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On January 28, 2016, the Committee took the following actions:

1. Reviewed and approved disbursements for five financial periods: Year 2015 Nos. 24, 25, and 26, and Year 2016 Nos. 1 and 2; extending over the period November 2, 2015 to January 10, 2016.
2. Reviewed the Statement of Projected Revenues and Expenditures for the financial reporting period ending January 10, 2016.
3. Reviewed and approved a proposal to replace one Commission vehicle which met the criteria for vehicle replacement and purchase.

On February 18, 2016, the Committee took the following actions:

1. Reviewed and approved disbursements for two financial periods: Year 2016 No. 3 and 4; extending over the period January 11 to February 7, 2016.
2. Reviewed and approved the Statement of Projected Revenues and Expenditures for the period ending February 7, 2016.

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

Executive Committee Report

Chairman Stroik, as Chairman of the Executive Committee, provided the Executive Committee report. He stated that the Executive Committee had met two times since the Quarterly Commission Meeting on December 2, 2015.

On January 28, 2016, 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 five contracts for planning work. The details of these contracts are set forth in a table attached to this report.
3. Received a report outlining key planning efforts being undertaken by the Commission in 2016.
4. Reviewed and approved an amendment to the 2015-2018 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). This amendment to the 2015-2018 TIP was necessary to advance 34 projects, all of which were approved by the Commission Advisory Committee for Transportation System Planning and Programming for the Kenosha, Milwaukee, and Racine Urbanized Areas.
5. Approved appointment of two members to the Environmental Justice Task Force.

On February 18, 2016, the Committee took the following actions:

1. Received and approved a report from the Administrative Committee relative to its meeting that day.

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2. Reviewed and approved two contracts for planning work. The details of these contracts are set forth in a table attached to this report.
3. Received a report outlining key planning efforts being undertaken by the Commission in 2016. This current key planning efforts status report is attached to this report.
4. Reviewed and approved an amendment to the 2015-2018 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). This amendment to the 2015-2018 TIP was necessary to advance 18 projects, all of which were approved by the Commission Advisory Committee for Transportation System Planning and Programming for the Kenosha, Milwaukee, and Racine Urbanized Areas.
5. Reviewed and approved an amendment to the Commission's 2016 Overall Work Program.

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

CONSIDERATION OF AMENDMENTS TO THE 2015-2018 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Chairman Stroik asked the Commission to consider adoption of an amendment to the 2015-2018 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and Resolution No. 2016-04, noting that these materials were provided prior to this meeting. He then called upon Mr. Yunker to present the projects and the resolution.

Mr. Yunker explained that the TIP is a listing of transportation projects proposed to use Federal funds by local and State governments for public transit and arterial streets and highways throughout the Region. He said that TIP projects are reviewed by Commission staff to ensure consistency with the regional transportation plan. He added that the TIP, and its amendments, are reviewed and approved by Commission Advisory Committees on Transportation System Planning and Programming (TIP Committees) for each of the five urbanized areas in the Region. He stated that the Committees include representatives of local government, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, the United States Department of Transportation, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

There being no further questions or comments, on a motion by Mr. Dwyer, seconded by Mr. Schmidt, and carried by a vote of 12 ayes and 0 nays, Resolution No. 2016-04 was unanimously approved (copy of Resolution No. 2016-04 is attached to the Official Minutes).

BRIEFING ON VISION 2050 REVIEW, UPDATE, AND EXTENSION OF REGIONAL LONG RANGE LAND USE AND TRANSPORTATION PLAN

Chairman Stroik asked Mr. Yunker to update the Commissioners on VISION 2050 – the reevaluation and extension of the Year 2050 Regional Land Use and Transportation Plan. (A copy of Mr. Yunker's PowerPoint presentation is attached to the Official Minutes.)

Mr. Yunker stated that the work on the VISION 2050 plan is expected to be completed by mid-year, with the intent to present the plan for adoption at the next Commission meeting in June.

At the conclusion of the presentation, the following comments were made and questions were asked.

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Mr. Buestrin noted the substantial expansion of bicycle facilities in the Preliminary Plan and the relatively small proportion of travel in the Region that is made on bicycles. Mr. Yunker responded that while bicycle trips represent a small share of total travel in the Region, bicycle trips do account for a larger share of travel in the urban areas of the Region. He added that the network of off-street bicycle facilities in the Preliminary Plan is consistent with the Park and Open Space Plans of the Region's Counties. Mr. Yunker also noted that the bicycle and pedestrian element of the year 2035 regional transportation plan has been the most aggressively implemented element of the plan and that there has been a commitment to providing bicycle facilities by many cities and villages in the Region. He added that the proposed continued expansion of the on-street network under the Preliminary Plan is consistent with Federal requirements that bicycle and pedestrian facilities be accommodated in all highway reconstruction and new construction projects using Federal funds, unless demonstrated to be infeasible.

Mr. Wirth noted the significant public transit expansion proposed under the Plan and the substantial increase in future transportation system expenditures under the Plan. Mr. Yunker agreed, and indicated that the current transit system in the Milwaukee area does not compare well with those of peer metropolitan areas. This includes the lack of rapid transit service which is competitive with the automobile, and the trend in the Milwaukee area of the last 15 years of significant reductions in transit service and ridership. He noted that the next 30 years may be expected to be very different from the past 30 years in terms of the ability of a metropolitan area to increase jobs. In the previous 30 years, the existing population 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. He noted that the next 30 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 no larger than the baby boom generation, and women now participate in the labor force in nearly the same proportion as men. He stated that as a result, jobs will only grow in the metropolitan Milwaukee area, if the area can attract and in-migrate population and labor force. He noted that every metropolitan area in the United States will be in the same position, and there will be intense competition to attract population and labor force. It may be expected that employers will choose to locate in those metropolitan areas which have the labor force. Therefore, significant emphasis may be expected to be placed on the relative attractiveness of metropolitan areas, including with respect to the public transit systems that serve them. Mr. Yunker also noted that the significant improvement and expansion of transit, including the development of rapid transit lines, is recommended in the currently adopted Year 2035 Regional Transportation System Plan.

Mr. Colman noted that the proposed preliminary recommended plan will require an increase in transportation expenditures and funding. He stated that it will be important to clearly explain why this increase is needed, if the plan is to receive support.

Mr. Stroik commented on current funding and infrastructure needs. He noted that in some ways existing funding is not even adequate to maintain the current transportation system. He agreed with Mr. Colman that it will be essential to explain the benefits of implementing the Preliminary Plan.

Ms. Russell questioned whether the Preliminary Plan is too focused on the large urbanized areas of the Region. Mr. Yunker stated that the focus of the Preliminary Plan is to encourage development in those areas of each County which have urban services of sewer and water. He added that the projected percentage increase in households and employment growth for Walworth County is substantially greater than that for Milwaukee County, and generally equal to, or greater than that of the other three Counties in the Milwaukee metropolitan area.

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CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Stroik announced that the upcoming Administrative and Executive Committee Meetings for the month of March have been cancelled. He then asked Mr. Yunker if there was any correspondence or if there were any other announcements. Mr. Yunker said there were none.

CONFIRMATION OF DATE, TIME, AND PLACE OF THE JUNE ANNUAL COMMISSION MEETING

Chairman Stroik indicated that the next full Commission meeting will be the Annual Commission Meeting on Wednesday, June 15, 2016, at 3:00 p.m. in Washington County.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission, on a motion by Mr. Wirth, seconded by Mr. Schmidt, and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth R. Yunker
Deputy Secretary

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