

MINUTES
SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
SPECIAL COMMISSION MEETING

Thursday, July 28, 2016

1:30 p.m.

Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission
Commissioners' Conference Room
W239 N1812 Rockwood Drive
Waukesha, WI 53187-1607

Present:

Excused:

Commissioners:

David L. Stroik, Chairman
Charles L. Colman, Vice-Chairman
Thomas H. Buestrin
Michael A. Crowley
Mike Dawson
James T. Dwyer
Robert W. Pitts
Jennifer K. Rothstein
Nancy Russell
Jeffrey D. Schleif
Daniel S. Schmidt
Peggy L. Shumway
Gustav W. Wirth, Jr.

José M. Delgado
Brian R. Dranzik
William R. Drew
Adelene Greene
James A. Ladwig
Theodore Lipscomb, Sr.
Linda J. Seemeyer
Michael J. Skalitzky

Staff:

Kenneth R. Yunker	Executive Director
Debra A. D'Amico	Executive Secretary

ROLL CALL

Chairman Stroik called the 255th meeting of the Commission to order at 1:30 p.m. Roll call was taken and a quorum was declared present. Chairman Stroik indicated for the record that Commissioners Delgado, Dranzik, Drew, Greene, Ladwig, Lipscomb, Seemeyer, and Skalitzky had asked to be excused.

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INTRODUCTION AND SEATING OF NEW COMMISSIONERS (MILWAUKEE COUNTY AND WASHINGTON COUNTY)

Chairman Stroik announced that the new Milwaukee County Commissioner, Milwaukee County Board Chairman Theodore Lipscomb, Sr., had been jointly appointed by the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors and the Governor, but was unable to attend this special meeting due to the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors' July Meeting that was scheduled for the same time. He then said that the new Racine County Commissioner, Mr. James A. Ladwig, was also unable to attend this meeting due to out-of-town business travel. Chairman Stroik then stated that these two new Commissioners will be seated at the September 14, 2016, Quarterly Commission Meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE JUNE 15, 2016, ANNUAL COMMISSION MEETING

Mr. Buestrin requested there be a correction regarding a comment he had made in the second paragraph on page 8 of the Annual Commission Meeting Minutes which should state, "He also noted that in 1958 and 1962 the bluff along Lake Michigan receded significantly, *causing some existing houses to be moved.*"

On a motion by Mr. Wirth, seconded by Mr. Dwyer, and carried unanimously, the minutes of the June 15, 2016, Annual Commission Meeting were approved as amended.

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

Mr. Yunker then reviewed the remaining sections of SEWRPC Planning Report No. 55, "VISION 2050: A Regional Land Use and Transportation System Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin". These included the following three chapters of Volume III, Chapter 1 – Recommended Year 2050 Regional Land Use and Transportation System Plan, Chapter 2 – Recommended Fiscally Constrained Transportation Plan, and Chapter 3 – Plan Implementation. He utilized a PowerPoint presentation and the report outline in his review (copies attached to the Official Minutes).

During Mr. Yunker's review, the following questions were asked and comments were made.

Mr. Pitts noted the extensive work that the Commission has done as part of this effort. Mr. Yunker noted that work began with the initiation of inventories in 2011, with the first public workshops being held in 2013, and thus, the Commission has been working on this plan for nearly five years.

Mr. Dwyer noted that the plan proposes to make no recommendation regarding how IH 43 would be reconstructed between Howard Avenue and Silver Spring Drive. He also noted that the Marquette Interchange has already been reconstructed and asked if the Marquette Interchange had been reconstructed to provide additional traffic lanes should additional lanes on connecting segments of IH 43 be constructed. Mr. Yunker responded that it had been reconstructed to provide additional traffic lanes.

In response to a question by Mr. Buestrin regarding the year 2035 Land Use Plan, Mr. Yunker noted that about 85 percent of the housing units constructed between 2000 and 2010 were constructed in the urban centers of the Region which provide sanitary sewer service, consistent with the recommendations of the year 2020 and 2035 Regional Land Use Plans.

In response to a question by Mr. Dwyer, Mr. Yunker stated that detailed planning for bus rapid transit facilities would examine the impacts of providing a dedicated lane for buses, including the impact on

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parking and neighborhoods should it be proposed that an existing curb lane used for parking be converted to a dedicated bus lane.

Ms. Russell noted that recent planning for the Town of Lyons has resulted in a request that the Walworth County park and open space plan be revised to remove a proposed off-street bicycle path and on-street bicycle connection (along Sheridan Springs Road) between the White River Trail in the Town of Lyons and the City of Lake Geneva. It is proposed that this combination of on-street and off-street paths be replaced by bicycle accommodation to be provided on STH 120 between the White River Trail and the City of Lake Geneva. She stated that this change may be expected to be made in the County park and open space plan. Mr. Yunker said that the change will also be made in the VISION 2050 Plan.

Mr. Pitts noted that the VISION 2050 plan concludes that there is a funding gap in implementing the recommended public transit improvement and expansion. He noted recent newspaper articles and asked whether there is a similar funding gap with respect to highways. Mr. Yunker reported that continuing current expenditure levels for highways would be expected to provide sufficient funding to implement the Plan; however, a portion of that funding has been provided through bonding and this would be required either to be continued or to be replaced with new revenues. In response to a question by Mr. Colman, Mr. Yunker stated that when the previous year 2035 plan was adopted in 2006, there were substantial efforts at the State and local level to provide dedicated funding for public transit and to consider the creation of regional transit authorities.

Mr. Pitts suggested that it would be important to emphasize the number of people who have been involved in the preparation of the VISION 2050 Plan including advisory committees of local and State government officials; numerous task forces including environmental justice, freight movement, and natural resource agencies; and public workshops along with workshops with community groups representing minority and low income populations.

Mr. Colman noted that the process for the preparation of the Plan has been very thorough with respect to technical analysis and outreach and involvement of local and State government and the public. He commented that the Plan provides an ambitious vision for the Region, and its implementation will be important to providing an attractive and a competitive Region in the future. Chairman Stroik stated that upon completing publication of the Report, it will be sent out to all local and State governments. Mr. Yunker stated that this may be expected to occur in Fall of 2016.

There being no further questions or comments, on a motion by Mr. Dwyer to approve the Resolution 2016-07, seconded by Mr. Wirth, and carried by a vote of 13 ayes and 0 nays, Resolution No. 2016-08 was unanimously approved (copy of Resolution No. 2016-08 is attached to the Official Minutes).

CONSIDERATION OF AMENDMENT 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. 2016-08, 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 over the next four years proposed to use Federal funds by local and State governments for public transit, arterial streets and highways, and other related transportation projects. He said that the TIP is reviewed by Commission staff to ensure consistency of the TIP with the Regional Transportation Plan. He added that these TIP amendments were reviewed and approved by Commission Advisory Committees on Transportation System Planning and Programming for the Milwaukee and Racine Urbanized Areas.

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Mr. Yunker called attention to the amended and new projects listed on Exhibit A of Resolution 2016-08. He noted that project number 546 proposed final engineering for the reconstruction of IH 94 between 16th and 70th Streets, project number 551 proposed detailed planning and design for bus rapid transit between downtown Milwaukee and the Milwaukee Regional Medical Center, and, project number 562 proposed the resurfacing of IH 894 between the Hale interchange and Lincoln Avenue (the section of IH 894 between Lincoln Avenue and the Zoo Interchange being reconstructed as part of the Zoo Interchange reconstruction). Upon the resurfacing and reconstruction, this segment of IH 894, which is one of the most congested in the Region, would be expanded from 6 to 8 traffic lanes.

There being no questions or comments, on a motion by Mr. Dwyer to approve the Resolution 2016-08, seconded by Mr. Schmidt, and carried by a vote of 13 ayes and 0 nays, Resolution No. 2016-08 was unanimously approved (copy of Resolution No. 2016-08 is attached to the Official Minutes).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Yunker announced that the Planning and Research Committee Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, August 2, 2016, has been cancelled.

Mr. Yunker then stated that every four years the regional transportation planning and programming work of the Regional Planning Commission is reviewed by the Federal Highway and Transit Administrations (FHWA and FTA) to certify that the Commission as the Metropolitan (Transportation) Planning Organization (MPO) meets all Federal laws and regulations. This review will be initiated beginning Tuesday, August 2, in the afternoon, and continue Wednesday all day. On Wednesday night, August 3, there will be a public meeting beginning at 5:00 p.m. at O'Donnell Park, 910 E. Michigan Avenue, in the Miller Room. The review will then continue on Thursday morning, August 4, and will conclude by noon that day. In response to an inquiry by Mr. Pitts, Mr. Yunker said that the FHWA and FTA staff typically end the review with a verbal report of their findings.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission, on a motion by Mr. Wirth, seconded by Mr. Schleif, and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth R. Yunker
Deputy Secretary