

MINUTES

SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

PLANNING AND RESEARCH COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, December 5, 2018

2:45 p.m.

Miller Park
Abramson Room
One Brewers Way
Milwaukee, WI 53214

Present:

Excused:

Commissioners:

Daniel S. Schmidt, Chairman
Jose Delgado, Vice-Chairman
Steve Bostrom
Donna Brown-Martin
Charles L. Colman
Michael A. Crowley
William R. Drew
Theodore Lipscomb, Sr.
Aloysius Nelson
Robert W. Pitts
Jennifer K. Rothstein
Nancy Russell
Jeffrey D. Schleif
Peggy L. Shumway
David L. Stroik

James A. Ladwig

Staff:

Michael G. Hahn	Executive Director
Kevin J. Muhs	Deputy Director
Elizabeth A. Larsen	Assistant Director – Administration

ROLL CALL

Chairman Schmidt called the Planning and Research Committee meeting to order at 2:47 p.m. Roll call was taken and a quorum was declared present. Chairman Schmidt indicated for the record that Commissioner Ladwig had asked to be excused.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 6, 2018, MEETING

Chairman Schmidt asked if there were any changes or additions to the November 6, 2018, meeting minutes. There were none.

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On a motion by Mr. Stroik, seconded by Mr. Nelson, and carried unanimously, the minutes of the November 6, 2018, Planning and Research Committee Meeting were approved.

CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED SECOND AMENDMENT TO VISION 2050: A REGIONAL LAND USE AND TRANSPORTATION PLAN FOR SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN, LAND USE CHANGES AND TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS RELATED TO THE PLANNED FOXCONN MANUFACTURING CAMPUS

Chairman Schmidt asked Mr. Hahn to review with the Committee the proposed amendment to VISION 2050: A Regional Land Use and Transportation Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin, Land Use Changes and Transportation Improvements Related to the Planned Foxconn Manufacturing Campus.

Mr. Hahn noted that:

- The second amendment to VISION 2050 was considered by the Regional Land Use Committee and the Regional Transportation Committee, which met jointly on November 29, 2018.
- The amendment concludes that, under the amended fiscally constrained transportation plan, there would be a disparate impact on minority populations, low-income populations, and people with disabilities due to the lack of adequate funding for transit.
- At the November 29 meeting, City of Milwaukee representatives moved to delay approval of the amendment until 60 days after Governor-elect Evers has taken office and a new WisDOT Secretary has been named.
- The delay was proposed to allow time to understand whether the new administration would address insufficient public transit funding levels and pursue public transit improvements to Foxconn.
- The City representatives suggested, in the meantime, that the Committees send the Governor-elect a letter and memo that lay out the conclusions of the financial analysis for the VISION 2050 transportation system and urge the State to pursue public transit improvements in addition to roadway improvements.
- This motion failed on a tie vote by the Committee members, with 17 ayes and 17 nays.
- A subsequent motion was made by the Village of Menomonee Falls Director of Community Development, to approve the VISION 2050 amendment, while also sending the letter and memo suggested by City of Milwaukee representatives and adding language to the executive summary of the VISION 2050 second amendment emphasizing the financial analysis conclusions and recommendations to improve public transit.
- This motion passed, with 22 ayes and 12 nays.

He concluded by saying that the Commission staff is asking the Planning and Research Committee to approve the VISION 2050 amendment, and noted that the staff was preparing a draft of the letter and memo that will be sent from the Land Use and Transportation Committees to the Governor-elect.

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There was considerable discussion regarding this issue and the general issue of significant delays in freeway reconstruction under the fiscally-constrained transportation plan (FCTP) that is part of the plan amendment.

A motion to approve was made by Mr. Pitts, and seconded by Mr. Stroik, prior to discussion. Upon discussion, the motions by Mr. Pitts and Mr. Stroik were withdrawn.

Discussion ensued concerning the amendment, with the following comments being made:

- Ms. Russell stated that she would not be able to vote for adoption of the amendment because the FCTP developed under the amendment includes delaying the proposed extension of the USH 12 freeway from the City of Elkhorn to the City of Whitewater until after year 2050. Ms. Russell noted that there are significant safety issues with USH 12 as presently configured.
- Mr. Pitts suggested that the Commission recommend that WisDOT reconsider the reconstruction of USH 12.
- Mr. Hahn stated that the recommendation to reconstruct of USH 12 remains in the VISION 2050 plan, but it has been removed from the FCTP due to limitations in state funding levels.
- Mr. Hahn described the difference between the FCTP and the VISION 2050 plan. Ms. Russell commented that the USH 12 project was in the FCTP under VISION 2050 as adopted by the Commission in 2016, but has been removed from the FCTP under the second amendment to VISION 2050.
- Mr. Hahn and Mr. Muhs stated that the transportation projects included in the FCTP are dictated by current and reasonably expected funding, and the Commission has no control over that funding.
- In response to an inquiry by Mr. Drew, Mr. Muhs stated that Federal requirements dictate that the FCTP only include projects that are able to be funded with reasonably expected revenues, in the existing restrictions on projects eligible for those funds as set by the Legislature and Governor.
- Mr. Nelson asked if a letter should be sent to the Governor-elect asking for roadway improvements. Mr. Hahn stated that such a letter is beyond the originally-envisioned scope of the Advisory Committees' letter. He stressed that the second amendment to VISION 2050 addresses important aspects that are needed to move forward with transportation work related to Foxconn.

Discussion then ensued with regard to a letter to the Governor-elect:

- Mr. Drew inquired if the funding issue could be addressed in a separate letter from that being drafted by the Regional Land Use and Transportation Planning Advisory Committees.
- Mr. Stroik noted that the funding issue affected more projects than just USH 12.
- Mr. Bostrom inquired if the letter to be included with the amendment should come from the Commission or the Advisory Committees. Mr. Hahn stated the letter would carry the most weight if it came from the Advisory Committees.

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- Mr. Colman commented that if this amendment is sent to Governor-elect Evers, the 2017 VISION 2050 plan document should be referenced.
- Mr. Hahn noted that the FCTP is not considered the Commission-recommended plan.
- Mr. Stroik questioned whether passing the amendment would indicate adoption of the fiscally constrained plan, and if so, could the Commission express concerns with the amendment because it includes the fiscally constrained plan.
- Mr. Hahn stated the Advisory Committees have the same issue, and the solution is the proposed letter to the Governor-elect and the proposed additions to the executive summary of the second amendment highlighting the need for additional transportation funding. He said that, if the Commission does not approve the amendment, that action could be construed as indicating less than full support for the VISION 2050 recommendations in the amendment.
- Mr. Colman stated that the VISION 2050 plan was approved by the Commission, and the FCTP, which indicates there is a lack of funding for all transportation projects, was prepared to fulfill a requirement. He suggested approving the amendment and providing a letter to the Governor-elect that indicates additional transportation funding will be necessary to implement the VISION 2050 plan.
- Mr. Hahn said that the letter to the Governor-elect that is to be sent by the Advisory Committees could include a reference to funding for highway projects, or if the Committees excluded such a reference, the Commission could send a separate letter.
- In response to an inquiry by Mr. Colman, Mr. Muhs stated that the Advisory Committees have a total of 64 members, and eight of those members represent the City of Milwaukee.
- In response to an inquiry by Mr. Pitts, Mr. Hahn stated that the Commission supports the counties of the Region with transportation issues as much as possible within the Commission's scope of work, and he noted that the staff had assisted Walworth County by presenting information on the USH 12 issue at a 2017 public informational meeting.

There being no additional questions or comments, Mr. Colman moved to recommend to the Commission for adoption the proposed second amendment to VISION 2050, contingent upon the transmittal of the letter, or a separate letter from the Commission, to be submitted by the Advisory Committees on Regional Land Use and Regional Transportation Planning, including encouragement of the State of Wisconsin to providing sufficient funding to allow Southeastern Wisconsin highways to be constructed and reconstructed in a timely manner. Mr. Nelson seconded the motion, and the motion passed by a vote of 15 ayes and 0 nays.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Planning and Research Committee will be held in February 2019, with a date to be determined.

CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Hahn stated there was no correspondence or announcements.

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ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, on a motion by Mr. Schleif, seconded by Mr. Nelson, and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael G. Hahn
Deputy Secretary

MGH/KJM/EAL/ce
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