

Minutes of the Forty-fifth Meeting of the

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE TASK FORCE

DATE: November 6, 2019
TIME: 4:30 p.m.
PLACE: THE VIBE in the Riverworks City Center
Training Room
518 E. Concordia Ave.
Milwaukee, WI 53212

Members Present

Aloysius NelsonCommissioner, Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission;
Chair Director, Division of Veterans Services, Kenosha County
Fabi Maldonado Racine County Supervisor, District 2
Keith Martin..... Engineering Specialist - Advanced 2, Wisconsin Department of Transportation,
Southeast Region
Theresa Schuerman (by telephone)..... Walworth County Bilingual Migrant Worker Outreach
Jackie Schellinger (by telephone) Indian Community Representative, Retired Judge

Guests and Staff Present

Mitch Batuzich.....Transportation Planner, Federal Highway Administration
Donna Brown-Martin.....Commissioner, Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission;
Director, Milwaukee County Department of Transportation
Dennis GrzezinskiLaw Office of Dennis Grzezinski
Cassandra Leopold.....Planner, Wisconsin Department of Transportation
Andrew LevySystems Planning Supervisor, Wisconsin Department of Transportation
Eric Lynde.....Chief Special Projects Planner, SEWRPC
Benjamin McKay Deputy Director, SEWRPC
Kevin Muhs..... Executive Director, SEWRPC
Nakeisha Payne..... Public Involvement and Outreach Manager, SEWRPC
Karyn Rotker.....Senior Staff Attorney, ACLU of Wisconsin
Jennifer Sarnecki..... Principal Transportation Planner, SEWRPC
Steven Staud..... Intern, Federal Highway Administration
David WadePlanner, Wisconsin Department of Transportation

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Mr. Nelson called the meeting of the Environmental Justice Task Force (EJTF) to order at 4:38 p.m., welcomed those in attendance and requested that EJTF members and guests introduce themselves.

Mr. Batuzich introduced Mr. Staud, with the Federal Highway Administration, and indicated he wanted Mr. Staud to observe a meeting of the EJTF as Mr. Batuzich considers the assembled group to be a best practice among Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) regarding integrating environmental justice concerns into the regional planning process.

APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 4, 2019, MEETING MINUTES

Approval of the September 4, 2019, meeting minutes was deferred to a future meeting because a quorum of EJTF members was not in attendance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Nelson asked if there were any public comments. There were none.

REVIEW OF EJTF ACTION ITEM LIST

Mr. Nelson asked Mr. Lynde to review the EJTF Action Item List (available [here](#)). Mr. Lynde explained that Commission staff continue to track action items requested by EJTF members. He noted that staff is looking into ways to engage local school districts to increase awareness of engineering and planning professions. Mr. Lynde further noted that the other action items, including holding a panel of local planners and engaging seniors in minority communities, will be further refined with input from Ms. Schellinger. He noted that Commission staff will continue working to implement the four ongoing action items and asked if the members had questions related to the action item list. The following discussion occurred after the review of the action item list:

1. Mr. Nelson requested Commission staff add the date when an action item was last addressed to verify that items are not overlooked. Mr. Lynde stated that Commission staff will address this request on future lists.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND OUTREACH UPDATE

Ms. Payne provided a verbal update of recent events attended by Commission staff and asked if there were questions or comments, which are summarized below.

1. Mr. Nelson indicated that the process to gather information for the 2020 U.S. Census will generate significant work for communities. He noted that Katherine Marks is leading the 2020 U.S. Census effort in Kenosha County, including canvassing and hiring Census workers. Mr. Nelson requested that Commission staff attend a future monthly meeting in Kenosha County. Ms. Payne responded that she has been in contact with Ms. Marks and plans to attend a future meeting. Ms. Payne added that Commission staff will meet with United Way staff from each county in the Region to identify how to assist with the 2020 U.S. Census, particularly in assisting efforts to reach households identified as part of the United Way's program focused on Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed individuals (ALICE), or United for ALICE. Mr. Maldonado asked if United Way works with local governments on the United for ALICE initiative. Ms. Payne responded that each county has a different relationship with United Way.

REVIEW OF 2020 PRIMARY ORGANIZATIONAL CONTACTS

Mr. Nelson asked Ms. Payne to review the proposed 2020 list of the Commission's Primary Organizations (see Attachment 1 to these minutes). Ms. Payne noted that staff was not proposing significant changes from the previous year's list and that new Primary Organizations for 2020 include the Hispanic Collaborative and We Got This. The following discussion occurred after a summary of the 2020 Primary Organizational Contacts list:

1. Mr. Nelson inquired about the non-profit status of We Got This. Mr. Muhs noted that they are pursuing non-profit status. He added that Montre Moore, the Commission's recently hired Public Involvement and Outreach Specialist, previously worked at We Got This and will continue to build relationships and connections with the organization.

PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF INITIAL WORK FOR 2020 REVIEW AND UPDATE OF VISION 2050

Commission staff reviewed a PowerPoint presentation (available [here](#)) that highlighted current recommendations in VISION 2050, the timeline for the 2020 Review and Update, the implementation status of VISION 2050 recommendations, and a review of forecasts developed for the plan. The presentation generated the following discussion:

1. Mr. Maldonado asked about the status of the regional food system planning effort. Mr. McKay indicated that Commission staff is in the beginning stages of initiating a regional food system planning effort. Mr. Batuzich inquired if there are national leaders or best practices for regional food system plans. Mr. McKay noted that Columbus, Ohio, is considered a national leader for their *Local Food Action Plan*. Mr. Grzezinski noted that there are local academics, City of Milwaukee staff, and non-profits such as the Milwaukee Food Council, which can be a resource for future regional food system planning efforts. Mr. Muhs indicated that Commission staff is interested in speaking with organizations and individuals working on food system planning and will focus on activities that complement, rather than duplicate, existing efforts.

[Secretary's Note: Commission staff reviewed 20 regional food system plans and identified three plans that could serve as effective models for the Region. In addition to the *Local Food Action Plan* from Columbus, Ohio, additional plans identified as best practices include the *Denver Food Vision*, prepared by the City of Denver, Colorado, and *Eating Here: Greater Philadelphia's Food System Plan*, prepared by the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission. The three plans were identified as best practices due to their robust coordination efforts, actionable goals that were decided by the community through extensive public involvement, and measurable indicators to assess the actions. Further, the City of Milwaukee Department of City Development has studied food access and recently prepared the *Milwaukee Fresh Food Access Report* (available [here](#)) to identify strategies to bring healthy food options to underserved neighborhoods. The report includes a food accessibility map, which highlights underserved areas.]

2. Ms. Rotker asked if there were ways to avoid potential gentrification and displacement when developing Transit-Oriented Development (TOD). Mr. McKay responded that VISION 2050 includes strategies to address gentrification and displacement of low-income households through the provision of mixed-income housing in TODs and recommends that local governments incorporate these strategies into their land use policies. The strategies include density bonuses, reductions in parking requirements, public/private partnerships, and targeted funding. Mr. Muhs added that cities across the nation are looking for policy solutions to address gentrification and displacement, including the City of Milwaukee. Specifically, the City of Milwaukee collaborated with local organizations to prepare *Equitable Growth through Transit Oriented Development* plans related to the planned expansion of the Milwaukee Streetcar system to the Historic Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive and Walker's Point neighborhoods, with funding from the Federal Transit Administration's Pilot Program for TOD Planning. The final reports are available [here](#). Mr. Muhs stated that the approach and implementation strategies identified in the TOD plans provide best practices that can be duplicated in other communities.
3. Ms. Schuerman asked if there are issues with solar farm development, particularly the proposed solar farm development in Walworth County. Mr. Muhs noted that Commission staff have not reviewed the specific proposal in detail but indicated that, in general, it would be preferable to develop the solar farm on non-prime agricultural land. Mr. McKay added that the proposed solar farm site in Walworth County may be located in or near the Village of Darien sanitary sewer service area. He then explained that existing agricultural land within a public sanitary sewer service area could be expected to be converted to non-agricultural uses by the year 2050.
4. Ms. Brown-Martin shared information related to the Milwaukee County budget process for transit service, noting that budget amendments restoring funding for the six Freeway Flyer routes (40, 43, 44, 46, 48, and 49) proceeded at the November 6, 2019, Finance and Audit Committee meeting. Ms. Brown-Martin indicated that Route 12 will be adjusted to help provide coverage to areas no longer served due to the elimination of the Route 276 (Brown Deer Shuttle). Milwaukee County staff will work toward agreements to establish a funding partnership for transit service to special summer and seasonal events. They will also coordinate with the Ozaukee County Shared-Ride Taxi Service to allow students traveling to the MATC North Campus to transfer from Route 12 at designated locations for no additional cost. Ms. Brown-Martin recognized the importance of meeting bus riders' needs, but stated that some areas cannot be efficiently serviced by a 40-foot bus. She noted that Milwaukee County will continue to look for opportunities to preserve transit services through partnerships and modified routes.
5. Mr. Nelson questioned why no transit additions or expansions have been implemented to serve the Foxconn Manufacturing Campus in Racine County, noting that Kenosha Area Transit expanded transit service to Uline and Amazon when they began operation in Kenosha County. Mr. Muhs responded that Kenosha Area Transit funded service to the Lakeview Corporate Park, the Pleasant Prairie Outlet Mall, and Kenosha Beef using Federal funds from the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) program. The CMAQ funds provide between three to five years of funding, which allow services to be initiated, but it is challenging for local governments to sustain services due to a lack of local funds and the inability to generate funds for transit locally. Mr. Muhs indicated that the City of Racine could apply for CMAQ funds to assist current workers involved in Foxconn construction to travel to their jobs. However, the various shift times may not align such that transit services would be effective. In order to plan for potential future transit services, the City of Racine will need to have a better understanding of the number of

employees anticipated to work at the Foxconn Manufacturing Campus. Mr. Nelson asked about the potential for Racine County residents to access jobs in Kenosha County at Uline or Amazon by transit. Ms. Rotker stated that it may be a question of political will and highlighted that a Waukesha County commuter route was restored during recent budget deliberations. Mr. Muhs noted that Commission staff is in the process of preparing a short-term Transit Development Plan for Waukesha County Transit and Waukesha Metro Transit, which will include the study of potential additional or enhanced service between Waukesha County and Milwaukee County. He added that Commission staff is available to have additional conversations regarding cross-county transit.

6. Mr. Nelson inquired if public transit ridership levels fluctuate between winter months and summer months. Mr. Muhs responded that the highest transit ridership is typically during the fall, but noted that transit use shifts seasonally and perennial fluctuations are typical. Ms. Brown-Martin noted that ridership decreases also occur when there are transit service reductions that reduce the efficiency and frequency of transit travel and stated that additional funding for transit service and advertising are important to increasing transit ridership. Mr. Muhs agreed that there are opportunities to make transit travel a more attractive choice. He added that the number of people who have access to an automobile has been increasing, in part due to the number of subprime automobile loans to those who may have previously been unable to secure a loan due to low credit scores or limited credit histories.
7. Mr. Nelson noted that there appears to be an increase in bicycle and pedestrian fatalities, particularly children. Mr. Muhs responded that the data on crashes and fatalities is not yet available for 2019, but noted that reckless driving is increasing, which is a topic that the State and local governments are studying. Specifically, Mr. Muhs noted that the State Legislature is considering a bill to pilot red-light and automated speed enforcement cameras. In addition, recent street design guides, including the Village of Shorewood's Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan and the City of Milwaukee's Complete Streets Policy, are examples of utilizing intersection and roadway design to reduce or prevent reckless driving. Mr. Muhs further noted that recent national trends indicate that crashes resulting in the death of pedestrians and bicyclists are increasing, with reasons for the increase attributed to distracted driving and the increase in the number of Sport Utility Vehicles (SUVs) on the roadways, which have a larger body and higher carriage, resulting in a greater risk of suffering a fatality. Mr. Nelson noted that red-light cameras have proven to be a good investment in Illinois, resulting in a decrease in crashes and fatalities. Mr. Muhs agreed and responded that red-light cameras can reduce the severity of a crash. Ms. Brown-Martin asked if lack of driver's education in public schools could be a part of the reason for the increase in reckless driving, given that many recent high-speed chases have involved younger motorists. Mr. Muhs agreed that the lack of State school aid for driver's education could be part of the reason for the increase in reckless driving. Ms. Rotker noted that Milwaukee Public Schools may have recently restored free driver's education and asked if Commission staff will include best practices for addressing reckless driving. Mr. Muhs stated that Commission staff will consider policies and recommendations to address reckless driving.

[Secretary's Note: The City of Milwaukee and Milwaukee County established the 15-member City-County Carjacking and Reckless Driving Task Force in January 2019 to investigate the issue of carjacking, to consider best practices, and to make recommendations to make the City of Milwaukee's streets safe for all residents. The Task Force's Draft Activities, Findings,

and Recommendations Report was released in October 2019, followed by community meetings to gather input on the recommendations in November 2019. The draft report (available [here](#)) includes local and national data, national studies and best practices, public information campaigns, and successful programs in other jurisdictions. Commission staff will follow the progress of the Task Force and will consider opportunities to incorporate recommendations contained within the final report of the Task Force into the 2020 Review and Update of VISION 2050, as appropriate.]

8. In regard to the next steps for the 2020 plan update, Ms. Rotker commented that November and December can be difficult months to attract participants to public involvement meetings. Mr. Muhs indicated that having to hold public workshops in November and December may not be ideal, but is necessary to complete the 2020 update by June 2020 and that Commission staff will encourage online outreach for individuals who are unable to attend a public meeting in person. Mr. Muhs noted that during preparation of VISION 2050, the public workshops held in November and December actually had higher attendance than public workshops held in other months. Mr. Lynde responded that a second round of public involvement will occur in Spring 2020, which will allow participants to review and provide comments on the draft 2020 update.
9. Mr. Maldonado asked if the dates for the upcoming public meetings were confirmed and requested that Commission staff coordinate with RYDE to provide free public transportation to the meeting in the City of Racine. Mr. Muhs indicated that Commission staff would send the dates and locations to the EJTF for distribution and would work with RYDE to find opportunities for free transit. Mr. Nelson and Ms. Brown-Martin noted that it could be challenging to reach some community members and emphasized the importance of publicizing opportunities for public involvement.

[Secretary's Note: Commission staff emailed the EJTF with a link to the public meeting schedule for the 2020 Review and Update of VISION 2050 on November 21, 2019, and asked members to share the public meeting schedule with interested contacts.]

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Grzezinski commended Commission staff for the significant increase in public outreach and communication. Specifically, Mr. Grzezinski noted that he heard Mr. Muhs on a recent local radio program discussing the need for transit to support the economy. Mr. Grzezinski further observed that publically promoting and discussing the recommendations will increase implementation of VISION 2050 and encourage expanded communication. Mr. Muhs thanked Mr. Grzezinski and noted that Commission staff will continue to find opportunities to communicate the value of the Commission's work. Mr. Nelson thanked Mr. Grzezinski for his comment.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

There were no announcements or correspondence.

NEXT MEETING DATES

Mr. Muhs noted that the next meeting date has not yet been set and that Commission staff will contact EJTF members to identify a future meeting date.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Nelson asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Maldonado moved, and Mr. Martin seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion was approved unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 6:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer B. Sarnecki
Recording Secretary

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KJM/BRM/EDL/JBS

EJTF Minutes - Mtg 45 - 11-6-19 (00251523).DOCX (PDF: #252101)

Attachment 1

2020 SEWRPC Primary Organizations Contact List Approved by the Environmental Justice Task Force

Bold text denotes SEWRPC Community Partner

(M) signifies operations in multiple counties within Southeastern Wisconsin

1. Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) (M)
2. Clarke Square Neighborhood Initiative
3. **Common Ground (M)**
4. Eras Senior Network (Waukesha)
5. **Ethnically Diverse Business Coalition (M) member organizations:**
 - African American Chamber of Commerce**
 - American Indian Chamber of Commerce of Wisconsin**
 - Hispanic Chamber of Commerce**
 - Hmong Wisconsin Chamber of Commerce**
 - Multicultural Entrepreneurial Institute**
 - Milwaukee Inner City Congregations Allied for Hope**
 - Milwaukee Urban League**
 - National Association of Minority Contractors**
 - Pan African Community Association**
 - The Business Council**
 - Wisconsin Black Chamber of Commerce**
 - Wisconsin LGBT Chamber of Commerce**
6. Harambee Great Neighborhood Initiative
7. Hispanic Business and Professional Association (Racine)
8. Hispanic Collaborative (Milwaukee)
9. Hispanic Roundtable (Racine)
10. **Hmong American Friendship Association (HAFA) (M)**
11. **IndependenceFirst (M)**
12. Interfaith Caregivers of Ozaukee County
13. Interfaith Caregivers of Washington County
14. Kenosha Achievement Center
15. Kenosha Area Family and Aging Services (KAFASI)
16. Kenosha Community Health Center
17. Kenosha County Veterans Services
18. La Casa de Esperanza (Waukesha)
19. Layton Boulevard West Neighbors
20. Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC)
21. League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)
22. **Milwaukee Urban League**
23. National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) (M)
24. Ozaukee Family Services
25. Racine County Family Resource Network
26. Racine Kenosha Community Action Agency (Racine & Kenosha)
27. **Renew Environmental Public Health Advocates, Inc. (Milwaukee)**
28. Riverwest Neighborhood Association/Riverworks Development Corporation
29. Root River Environmental Educational Community Center
30. Sherman Park Community Association
31. Sixteenth Street Community Health Centers
32. Social Development Commission (Milwaukee)
33. Society's Assets (M)

Attachment 1

- 34. Southside Organizing Center (SOC) (Milwaukee)**
35. The Threshold, Inc. (Washington)
36. United Migrant Opportunity Services (UMOS) (M)
37. United Way (M)
38. Urban Ecology Center
- 39. Urban Economic Development Association of Wisconsin (UEDA) (M)**
- 40. Urban League of Racine and Kenosha**
41. Visioning a Greater Racine
42. Walnut Way Conservation Corporation
43. Walworth County Community Alliance
44. Washington Park Partners
45. We Got This (Milwaukee)
46. Wisconsin Green Muslims
47. Wisconsin Veterans Chamber of Commerce
48. Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs
49. WISDOM (M) member organizations:
 - Congregations United to Serve Humanity (CUSH) (Kenosha)
 - Milwaukee Inner-city Congregations Allied for Hope (MICAH) (Milwaukee)
 - Racine Interfaith Coalition (Racine)
 - SOPHIA (Waukesha)
50. YWCA Southeast Wisconsin (M)

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