

## MINUTES

### SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

#### PLANNING AND RESEARCH COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, November 12, 2019

1:30 p.m.

SEWRPC Office Building  
Commissioner's Conference Room  
W239 N1812 Rockwood Drive  
Waukesha, WI 53188

#### **Present:**

#### **Excused:**

##### Commissioners:

Daniel S. Schmidt, Chairman  
Jose Delgado, Vice-Chairman  
Steve Bostrom  
Charles L. Colman  
Michael A. Crowley  
Mary Knipper  
Aloysius Nelson  
Robert W. Pitts  
Jennifer K. Rothstein  
Jeffrey D. Schleif  
Peggy L. Shumway  
David L. Stroik

Donna Brown-Martin  
James A. Ladwig  
Theodore Lipscomb, Sr.  
Nancy Russell

##### Staff:

Kevin J. Muhs	Executive Director
Benjamin R. McKay	Deputy Director
Elizabeth A. Larsen	Director of Administration

#### **ROLL CALL**

Chairman Schmidt called the Planning and Research Committee meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. Roll call was taken and a quorum was declared present. Chairman Schmidt indicated for the record that Commissioners Brown-Martin, Ladwig, Lipscomb, and Russell had asked to be excused.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 13, 2019, MEETING**

Chairman Schmidt asked if there were any changes or additions to the August 13, 2019, meeting minutes. There were none.

On a motion by Mr. Pitts, seconded by Mr. Schleif, and carried unanimously, the minutes of the August 13, 2019, Planning and Research Committee Meeting were approved.

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**PRESENTATION OF VISION 2050 MATERIALS**

Chairman Schmidt asked Mr. Muhs to review with the Committee the VISION 2050 interim review and plan update materials that were previously provided.

Mr. Muhs noted that staff had prepared a power point presentation to provide a summary of the materials previously provided. Mr. Muhs explained that the materials present information regarding the implementation status of the VISION 2050 land use and transportation recommendations and briefly reviewed the purpose of the review and update and the public involvement process. He then asked Mr. McKay to review with the Committee the implementation status of the key VISION 2050 land use recommendations.

The following discussion occurred during Mr. McKay's review.

In response to an inquiry by Mr. Colman, Mr. Muhs stated that a 10,000 square foot lot is equivalent to one-quarter of an acre.

In response to an inquiry by Ms. Rothstein, Mr. McKay stated that integrating Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) developments into existing neighborhoods would be consistent with the VISION 2050 land use recommendations. Mr. Delgado noted that the LIHTC program is a Federal program, which is administered by the Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority in Wisconsin.

In response to an inquiry by Mr. Nelson, Mr. McKay stated that LIHTC developments could be new construction or the renovation or conversion of existing buildings into residential developments. Mr. McKay then stated that both new construction and renovating/converting existing buildings would be consistent with the VISION 2050 land use recommendations.

Mr. Bostrom noted that recent LIHTC proposals in the City of Kenosha have not been well received and there is a need to educate the public and elected officials regarding the demand for affordable housing for families and seniors.

In response to an inquiry by Mr. Pitts, Mr. McKay stated that the residential development recommended by VISION 2050 for the area surrounding the main Foxconn campus would be a mix of multifamily housing and single-family homes on lots of 10,000 square feet or less. Mr. McKay then noted that the Village of Mount Pleasant has land use regulation authority in this area, and ultimately the Village and private sector developers will determine what type of housing is built in this area.

In a response to an inquiry by Ms. Rothstein, Mr. McKay stated that some communities in the Region require minimum lot sizes for single-family homes that are larger than that recommended by VISION 2050. Mr. McKay then noted that minimum lot size requirements in some communities in the Region are consistent with VISION 2050 recommendations; however, private sector developers may still choose to build single-family homes on larger lots.

In a response to an inquiry by Ms. Knipper, Mr. McKay stated that portions of the Region without public sanitary sewer service cannot support higher-density single-family housing.

In a response to an inquiry by Ms. Rothstein, Mr. McKay stated that existing efforts throughout the Region related to increasing access to healthy food would be identified and incorporated into the proposed regional food system plan.

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Mr. Muhs then reviewed the implementation status of the key VISION 2050 transportation recommendations and the status of VISION 2050 forecasts to date.

The following discussion occurred during Mr. Muhs's review.

In a response to an inquiry by Ms. Rothstein, Mr. Muhs stated that the latest Federal Budget contains adequate funding for the East-West Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project. He explained that this indicates that the project is well positioned for funding in the 2020 Federal Fiscal Year and issuance of a grant agreement by the Federal Transit Administration is anticipated to occur in 2020.

In a response to an inquiry by Mr. Colman, Mr. Muhs stated that negotiations on a new contract are ongoing between the Milwaukee County Transit System (MCTS) the Amalgamated Transit Union Local 998.

In a response to an inquiry by Mr. Schleif, Mr. Muhs stated that ridership on the MCTS Jobline routes was lower than expected and explained that it is difficult to serve lower-density suburban areas with full size buses.

In a response to an inquiry by Ms. Rothstein, Mr. Muhs stated that VISION 2050 identifies the expected funding gap between the recommended Transit Element and existing and reasonably expected revenues. He then stated that VISION 2050 also identifies a number of potential sources of revenue that could be used to address the funding gap.

In a response to an inquiry by Mr. Nelson, Mr. Muhs stated that the City of Milwaukee dockless electric scooter pilot program ended on December 1, 2019, and that the Department of Public Works and the Common Council are reviewing ridership data to determine if the City should continue to allow electric scooters and if any regulatory changes need to be made.

Mr. Colman stated that the detailed information regarding the implementation status of the individual recommendations is interesting, and that it may be helpful for future plan updates. Mr. Muhs noted that an analysis of current plan implementation status is conducted for each major plan update.

Mr. Pitts stated that the volume of freight truck traffic on IH-41/94 in Kenosha and Racine Counties is very high and asked if VISION 2050 recommends any new freight rail lines in this corridor. Mr. Muhs responded that VISION 2050 recommends constructing a new truck-rail intermodal facility in the Region that would help reduce truck travel between Milwaukee and Chicago. There are no recommendations for a new freight rail line within the corridor.

In a response to an inquiry by Ms. Rothstein, Mr. Muhs stated that the primary economic benefit of a new intermodal facility would be decreased shipping time and costs for businesses located in the Region.

In a response to inquiries by Ms. Shumway and Mr. Pitts, Mr. Muhs stated that VISION 2050 identifies local government, county government, and the Wisconsin Department of Transportation as having primary roles in implementing the intermodal facility recommendation.

In a response to an inquiry by Mr. Schleif, Mr. Muhs stated that the proposal for a freight rail bypass around Chicago has not moved forward because the freight railroad companies did not believe that the proposal would be profitable. Mr. Stroik commented that the proposal is a result of very heavy freight rail congestion in Will County, Illinois.

In a response to an inquiry by Mr. Delgado, Mr. Muhs stated that, historically, SEWRPC forecasts have been very accurate.

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**NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Planning and Research Committee will be held in February 2020. The date and time will be provided at the December 4, 2019, Quarterly meeting.

**CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. Muhs stated there was no correspondence but announced that the Commission's 2018 Annual Report has been completed and is in the process of being distributed to interested parties. He noted the Annual Report does have a new format and encouraged all Commissioners to look for it in the mail.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Committee, on a motion by Mr. Stroik, seconded by Mr. Bostrom, and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin J. Muhs  
Deputy Secretary

KJM/BRM/EAL  
#251468