

MINUTES
SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
PLANNING AND RESEARCH COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, May 26, 2020

1:30 p.m.

Meeting Occurred Virtually via Video and Telephone Conference

Present:

Excused:

Commissioners:

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

James A. Ladwig
Theodore Lipscomb, Sr.
Peggy L. Shumway

Guests:

Adam Schlicht Port Director, PortMilwaukee

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 Ladwig, Lipscomb, and Shumway had asked to be excused.

Mr. Muhs introduced Adam Schlicht, Port Director for PortMilwaukee, who was appointed by Governor Evers in April and will be formally seated as a Commissioner representing Milwaukee County at the next full Commission meeting in June.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 12, 2019, MEETING

Chairman Schmidt asked if there were any changes or additions to the November 12, 2019, meeting minutes. There were none.

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On a motion by Mr. Stroik, seconded by Mr. Crowley, and carried unanimously, the minutes of the November 12, 2019, Planning and Research Committee Meeting were approved.

CONSIDERATION OF RECORD OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: 2020 REVIEW AND UPDATE OF VISION 2050

Chairman Schmidt asked Mr. Muhs to review with the Committee the Record of Public Comments: 2020 Review and Update of VISION 2050.

Mr. Muhs recalled at the November meeting the Committee had discussed the purpose of the 2020 Review and Update of VISION 2050 and the proposed public involvement process. He then asked Mr. McKay to review with the Committee the Record of Public Comments.

Mr. McKay noted that staff had prepared a power point presentation to summarize the materials previously provided. Mr. McKay explained that the Record of Public Comments includes a summary of the comments received, a record of all the individual comments received, attendance records of the meetings, and documentation of meeting announcements. Mr. McKay then reviewed the summary of public comments, which is also presented in Appendix E of the 2020 review and update report.

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

In response to a question from Ms. Rothstein, Mr. Muhs stated that the virtual public meetings held for the 2020 review and update of VISION 2050 were in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Staff received positive feedback regarding the virtual meetings and will likely include a virtual meeting option as part of future public outreach for regional planning efforts; however, staff is aware that some members of the public do not have internet access and in-person public meetings will continue to be held throughout the Region as part of future regional planning efforts.

In response to a comment from Mr. Pitts regarding the closing of libraries during the COVID-19 pandemic, Mr. Muhs stated that in-person public meetings were held until it was unsafe to do so. Mr. McKay added that contact information for key staff was widely circulated as another avenue for providing public input.

In response to a comment from Mr. Colman regarding linking job access to the need for public transportation funding, Mr. Muhs stated that this is a key issue addressed by VISION 2050 and it will be featured more prominently in future summary and outreach materials.

There being no additional questions or comments, on a motion by Mr. Pitts, seconded by Mr. Colman, and carried unanimously, the Record of Public Comments: 2020 Review and Update of VISION 2050 was placed on file.

CONSIDERATION OF 2020 REVIEW AND UPDATE OF VISION 2050

Chairman Schmidt asked Mr. Muhs to review with the Committee the 2020 Review and Update of VISION 2050.

Mr. Muhs proceeded to review the VISION 2050 materials that were previously provided to the Committee. During the review, the following questions and comments were made and addressed.

In response to a question from Mr. Colman, Mr. Muhs stated that complaints about the City of Milwaukee dockless scooter pilot program were received early during the program because of users riding on

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sidewalks; however, it seemed that this problem was at least somewhat resolved and feedback on the program has been generally positive. Mr. Nelson noted that the pilot program ended last year and asked if it would return. Mr. Muhs responded that it is uncertain whether the program will return at this time due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Ms. Brown-Martin commented that the Federal Transit Administration is allowing funding to be used for operations because of the COVID-19 pandemic impact on public transit operators, and there is not a focus on service expansion. She also commented that there is a need for dedicated local funding for public transit if service expansion is to occur in the future. Mr. Muhs stated that this comment is consistent with the analysis presented in the 2020 review and update. He noted that service expansion would help to better connect residents to jobs and that a one-third cut in service is projected by 2050 under current and reasonably expected funding sources.

In a response to a question from Mr. Colman, Mr. Muhs stated that a combination of the potential revenue sources to fund the recommended transportation system identified in the 2020 review and update may be needed to implement unfunded portions of the system.

In a response to a question from Mr. Schleif, Mr. Muhs stated that the sales tax in Milwaukee County is low compared to peer counties, and the sunseting of the Miller Park Stadium Tax could provide an opportunity for dedicated public transit funding.

In a response to a question from Mr. Schleif, Mr. Muhs stated that automated traffic enforcement is not currently allowed in Wisconsin and that new Milwaukee County Executive David Crowley was a champion of automated traffic enforcement while serving in the State Legislature.

In a response to a question from Mr. Nelson, Mr. Muhs stated that a travel survey for Southeastern Wisconsin, last conducted in 2011, is expected to be conducted in 2021 following the release of the 2020 decennial Census data.

In response to a question from Ms. Rothstein, Mr. Muhs stated that, following the 2018 Foxconn amendment, the Advisory Committees on Regional Transportation Planning and Regional Land Use Planning that guide updates to VISION 2050 sent a letter to State Legislators from the Region that emphasized the importance of funding the recommended transportation system presented in VISION 2050. He also noted that SEWRPC staff offered to meet with State Legislators from the Region after the plan was originally adopted in 2016. Ms. Rothstein emphasized the importance of making funding the recommended transportation system a legislative priority to improve access to jobs. Mr. Colman suggested providing Legislators with concise materials regarding the connection between the recommended transportation system and improved job access in conjunction with the State budget process.

There being no additional questions or comments, on a motion by Mr. Schleif, seconded by Mr. Stroik, and carried unanimously, the 2020 Review and Update of VISION 2050 was approved.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Planning and Research Committee will be held August 4, 2020.

CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Muhs 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. Nelson, seconded by Mr. Stroik, and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 3:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin J. Muhs
Deputy Secretary

KJM/BRM/EAL
#254443