

MINUTES
SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
PLANNING AND RESEARCH COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, November 7, 2023

1:30 p.m.

SEWRPC Office Building
Commissioners Conference Room
W239 N1812 Rockwood Drive
Waukesha, WI 53187

Meeting Occurred in Person and Virtually via Video and Telephone Conference

Present:

Excused:

Commissioners:

Michael A. Crowley, Chairman
Donna Brown-Martin
Charles Colman
Katrina Hanson
John Holloway
Brian Holt
Dewayne Johnson
Mary Knipper
Natalia Minkel-Dumit
Robert W. Pitts
Jeffrey D. Schleif
Peggy L. Shumway
Eric Stelter
David L. Stroik

Priscilla Coggs-Jones
Jonathan Delagrave
James Ladwig
Michael Maistelman
Amy Maurer

Staff:

Stephanie R. Hacker	Executive Director
Benjamin R. McKay	Deputy Director
Elizabeth A. Larsen	Director of Administration
Christopher T. Hiebert	Chief Transportation Engineer
Eric D. Lynde	Chief Special Projects Planner

Guests:

Jessica Wolf	Assistant Village Administrator and Community Development Director
Sam Elliot	Developer
Paul Schmitter	Developer's Representative
Craig Raddatz	Developer's Representative

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ROLL CALL

Chairman Crowley 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 Crowley indicated for the record that Commissioners Coggs-Jones, Delagrave, Ladwig, Maistelman, and Maurer had asked to be excused.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 1, 2023, MEETING

Chairman Crowley asked if there were any changes or additions to the August 1, 2023, meeting minutes. There were none.

On a motion by Mr. Stroik, seconded by Mr. Johnson, and carried unanimously, the minutes of the August 1, 2023, Planning and Research Committee Meeting were approved.

REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE REGIONAL WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLAN: AMENDMENT TO THE GRAFTON SANITARY SEWER SERVICE AREA

Chairman Crowley asked Mr. McKay to review the proposed amendment to the adopted regional water quality management plan pertaining to the Grafton sanitary sewer service area. A copy of the preliminary draft of the SEWRPC Staff Memorandum dated October 16, 2023, concerning this matter was provided to the Committee members for review prior to the meeting.

Mr. McKay indicated that in a letter dated April 13, 2023, the Village of Grafton requested that the Commission amend the Grafton sanitary sewer service area, tributary to the Village of Grafton sewage treatment facility. He stated that the purpose of the amendment is to include certain lands located immediately adjacent to, but outside of, the currently adopted sewer service area.

Mr. McKay directed the attention of the Committee members to Map 1, which identifies the proposed area to be added to the Grafton sewer service area. He stated that the subject area encompasses 28 acres, and is part of a larger 46 acre parcel, the remaining 18 acres of which are already located in the Village of Grafton sanitary sewer service area. The subject area also contains 6.1 acres of environmentally significant lands, including a 4.1 acre portion of an isolated natural resource area (INRA) and approximately two acres of small wetlands located outside of the INRA.

Mr. McKay stated the proposed addition of approximately 28 acres to the Grafton sewer service area represents an increase in the Grafton planned sewer service area of 0.5 percent. He noted the proposed addition of 181 dwelling units within the subject area would increase the resident population of the Grafton sewer service area by about 406 people, which would be within the VISION 2050 population projection range.

Mr. McKay stated that the Village of Grafton wastewater treatment facility has an average annual capacity of 2.5 million gallons per day and the additional net flow generated from the proposed addition is expected to about 0.051 million gallons per day. The treatment plant has adequate capacity to treat wastewater flows from the subject area.

Mr. McKay then said that a public hearing was held on October 16, 2023. There were no objections to the proposed amendment at the hearing. The Grafton Village Board also adopted this amendment on October 16, 2023.

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The amendment is consistent with the land use component of VISION 2050, the regional water quality management plan, and Chapter NR 121 of the *Wisconsin Administrative Code* governing the preparation of areawide water quality management plans.

Mr. McKay stated that the staff recommendation is for the Committee to recommend that the Commission amend the Village of Grafton sanitary sewer service area. Upon adoption by the Commission, the amendment will be provided to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) for approval and the WDNR will then provide the amendment to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for certification.

There being no questions or comments on a motion by Mr. Schleif, seconded by Mr. Stroik, the Amendment to the Village of Grafton Sanitary Sewer Service Area was unanimously recommended by the Committee for adoption by the Commission.

REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION OF PRELIMINARY DRAFTS FOR THE 2024 REVIEW AND UPDATE OF VISION 2050

Mr. Crowley asked Mr. McKay to provide an update on the 2024 Review and Update of VISION 2050. Mr. McKay introduced Mr. Eric D. Lynde, Chief Special Projects Planner, and Mr. Christopher T. Hiebert, Chief Transportation Engineer, and stated that they would also present portions of the update.

During Mr. Lynde's introductory presentation, the following comments and questions were made.

In response to an inquiry from Mr. Schleif, Mr. Lynde stated a major update of the Commission's regional land use and transportation plan is conducted about every ten years.

In response to an inquiry from Ms. Brown-Martin, Mr. Lynde stated that elements of climate resilience are included in the current edition of the plan and can be highlighted through the 2024 Review and Update effort. He also noted that the Commission is jointly working on a pollution reduction action plan for the four-county Milwaukee metro area with the City of Milwaukee and other interested agencies. He stated that insights from this work could be incorporated into the next major land use and transportation plan update.

During Mr. McKay's presentation on the Land Use Component of the plan update, the following comments were made.

Mr. Schleif stated that Washington County has launched the Next Generation Housing Program and noted that the program is attracting proposals with smaller single-family residential lot sizes.

Mr. Holt noted that Commission staff recently assisted with developing a housing booklet that presents key housing data and recommendations that can be considered by local officials in Walworth County to encourage more compact residential development.

During Mr. Hiebert's presentation on the Transportation Component of the plan update, the following comments were made.

In response to an inquiry from Mr. Johnson, Ms. Brown-Martin stated that recent State legislation regarding shared revenue and the County sales tax have reduced the risk of MCTS service cuts; however, a long-term dedicated funding solution is still needed to avoid future service cuts. Mr. Johnson suggested discussing the State legislation in the plan update. Mr. Johnson then noted that even if ridership decreased after the COVID-19 pandemic, many people still rely on public transit as their primary transportation option to jobs and other important destinations.

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In response to an inquiry from Mr. Stroik, Mr. Hiebert stated that many transit operators across the country have experienced ridership declines since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. Mr. Schleif noted that the Amtrak Hiawatha service between Milwaukee and Chicago is one of the most successful passenger rail services in the country, but not all costs are supported by passenger fares. Mr. Johnson noted that it is important to acknowledge the impacts of the pandemic on transit in the plan update.

In response to an inquiry from Mr. Stroik, Mr. Hiebert stated that e-bikes are allowed on recreational trails.

In response to an inquiry from Mr. Stroik, Mr. Hiebert stated that the design for reconstruction of IH-94 between 70th Street and 16th Street in Milwaukee would accommodate eight travel lanes.

In response to an inquiry from Mr. Schlieff, Mr. Hiebert stated that WisDOT is currently studying several alternatives related to IH-794, including reconstruction as is, reconstruction in a more compact footprint with some ramp removals and reconfigurations, and removing the elevated freeway and redesigning some surface streets to accommodate traffic.

In response to an inquiry from Mr. Stroik, Mr. Hiebert stated that fatal vehicle crashes increased during the pandemic while vehicle miles of travel decreased.

Mr. Johnson stated that VISION 2050 should refer to and address reckless driving. Ms. Brown-Martin stated that addressing reckless driving will require multiple approaches. Mr. Hiebert noted that Recommendation 6.5, Address Safety Concerns on the Arterial Street and Highway System, includes specific strategies to “minimize crashes due to reckless driving” related to infrastructure improvements, public education, and enforcement and accountability.

Mr. Schleif commented that WisDOT is working to fund the Muskego Yard Bypass, which will help to implement VISION 2050 recommendations and make freight and passenger rail through Downtown Milwaukee more efficient. Mr. Johnson commented that work is continuing on improvements to the Milwaukee Airport Rail Station that will include adding a west platform and pedestrian overpass.

In response to an inquiry from Mr. Schleif, Mr. Hiebert stated that the VISION 2050 Freight Transportation Element includes a recommendation to develop truck size and weight regulations in Wisconsin consistent with neighboring states.

In response to an inquiry from Mr. Johnson, Ms. Brown-Martin stated that it is a long term goal to ensure that transit service to park-ride lots in the MCTS service area is maintained.

In response to an inquiry from Mr. Colman, Mr. McKay stated that staff have introductory meetings with Commissioners upon their appointments and provides them with VISION 2050 summary materials.

Mr. Stroik commented that the discussion reinforces the need to think regionally about transportation systems.

There being no additional questions or comments, on a motion by Mr. Stroik, seconded by Mr. Schleif, the preliminary drafts of the Review of VISION 2050 Recommendations and Implementation to Date, Review of VISION 2050 Forecasts, and Review of Transportation System Performance were unanimously recommended by the Committee for adoption by the Commission.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Planning and Research Committee will be tentatively held on February 6, 2024. Mr. McKay noted that the Planning and Research Committee will review the remaining 2024 Review and

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Update of VISION 2050 materials at the May 2024 meeting and the full Commission will consider the update at the June 2024 meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Crowley asked Mr. McKay if there were any correspondence or announcements. Mr. McKay stated that the next quarterly Commission meeting will be held on December 6, 2023, in Milwaukee County.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, on a motion by Mr. Stroik, seconded by Mr. Schleif, and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Benjamin R. McKay
Deputy Director

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