

Minutes of the Twenty-Sixth Joint Meeting of the

**ADVISORY COMMITTEES ON REGIONAL LAND USE PLANNING  
AND REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING**

DATE: December 19, 2023  
TIME: 9:30 a.m.  
PLACE: Zoofari Center  
9715 W Bluemound Rd, Milwaukee, WI 53213  
*Meeting occurred in person and virtually*

**Members Present**

Committee on Regional Land Use Planning

Michael Cotter .....Director, Walworth County Land Use and Resource Management Department  
Chair  
Anthony Barth (alternate for Roberto Gutierrez)..... Planning Section Chief,  
Wisconsin Department of Transportation  
Jonathan Brostoff..... Alderman, 3<sup>rd</sup> District, City of Milwaukee  
Donna Brown-Martin.....Director, Milwaukee County Department of Transportation  
Andy Buehler.....Director of Planning and Development, Kenosha County  
Matthew Carran .....Director of Economic Development & Tourism, Village of Menomonee Falls  
Adam Christensen (alternate for Debora Sielski) .. Community Development Planner, Washington County  
Paulette Enders..... Director of Development, City of Wauwatosa  
John Fellows .....Director of Community Development, City of Glendale  
Jason Fruth..... Planning and Zoning Manager, Waukesha County  
Aaron Hertzberg.....Director of Administrative Services, Milwaukee County  
Brittany Hess..... Senior Project Manager, Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District  
Sam Leichtling ..... Planning Manager, City of Milwaukee Department of City Development  
Kristi Porter..... Community Development Manager, City of Greenfield  
Douglas Seymour.....Director of Community Development, City of Oak Creek  
Andrew Struck .....Director, Planning and Parks Department, Ozaukee County  
Michael Thompson .. Secretary's Director, Southeast Region, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources  
Charles Wade.....Director, Bureau of Planning and Economic Development,  
Wisconsin Department of Transportation

Committee on Regional Transportation Planning

Donna Brown-Martin.....Director, Milwaukee County Department of Transportation  
Chair  
Anthony Barth (alternate for Roberto Gutierrez)..... Planning Section Chief,  
Wisconsin Department of Transportation  
James Bohl..... Director of Intergovernmental Relations, City of Milwaukee  
Scott Brandmeier ..... Director of Public Works/Village Engineer, Village of Fox Point  
Karl Buck..... Community Transportation Planner,  
Federal Highway Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation  
Allison Bussler..... Director of Public Works, Waukesha County

Alex Damien ..... Director of Public Works, City of Waukesha  
Melinda Dejewski ..... City Engineer, City of West Allis  
Douglas Ferguson ..... Senior Analyst, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning  
Liaison to Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning  
Thomas Grisa ..... Director of Public Works, City of Brookfield  
Jerrel Kruschke ..... Commissioner of Public Works, City of Milwaukee  
Mason Lavey (alternate for Nik Kovac) ..... Budget and Fiscal Policy Manager, City of Milwaukee  
Max Marechal ..... City Engineer, City of West Bend  
Kevin Muhs ..... City Engineer, City of Milwaukee  
Frank Pritzlaff ..... Engineering Manager, Racine County  
John Rooney ..... Commissioner of Public Works/City Engineer, City of Racine  
Scott Schmidt ..... Highway Commissioner/County Engineer, Washington County  
David Simpson ..... Director of Public Works, City of Wauwatosa  
Michael Thompson .. Secretary's Director, Southeast Region, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources  
Brian Udovich ..... Highway Operations Manager, Jefferson County Highway Department  
Charles Wade ..... Director, Bureau of Planning and Economic Development,  
Wisconsin Department of Transportation  
Brett Wallace ..... Engineering Services Manager, Waukesha County  
Denise Wandke ..... President and Managing Director, Milwaukee County Transit System  
Linsey Weber ..... Deputy Director of Public Works, Village of Mount Pleasant

**Guests and Staff Present**

Carrie Cooper ..... Principal Transportation Planner, SEWRPC  
Traci Gengler ..... Principal Engineer, City of West Allis  
Christopher Hiebert ..... Chief Transportation Engineer, SEWRPC  
Ryan Hoel ..... Deputy Chief Transportation Engineer, SEWRPC  
Benjamin Jackson ..... Legislative Assistant, 3<sup>rd</sup> Aldermanic District, City of Milwaukee  
Steven Kreklow ..... Village Administrator, Village of Germantown  
Andrew Levy ..... Systems Planning Supervisor,  
Southeast Region, Wisconsin Department of Transportation  
Eric Lynde ..... Chief Special Projects Planner, SEWRPC  
Benjamin McKay ..... Deputy Director, SEWRPC  
Samuel Mercier ..... Transportation Planner, SEWRPC  
Matthew Mortwedt ..... Director of Public Works, Village of Germantown  
Nakeisha Payne ..... Public Involvement and Outreach Manager, SEWRPC  
Travis Raap ..... Interested Resident  
Emily Zandt ..... Associate Planner, City of Brookfield

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Cotter called the joint meeting of the Advisory Committees on Regional Land Use Planning and Regional Transportation Planning to order at 9:35 a.m., welcoming those in attendance. He indicated roll call would be accomplished through the circulation of a sign-in sheet and an attendance report for those joining virtually.

**REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEES ON REGIONAL LAND USE PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION PLANNING MEETING HELD ON AUGUST 24, 2023**

Mr. Cotter asked if there were any questions or comments on the August 24, 2023, meeting minutes. There were none. On a motion by Mr. Fruth seconded by Mr. Grisa, the August 24, 2023, meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

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

Mr. Cotter introduced the next agenda item, and Mr. Lynde, Mr. McKay, Mr. Hiebert, and Mr. Hoel provided a presentation summarizing the following preliminary drafts for the 2024 Review and Update of VISION 2050: Updated VISION 2050 Recommendations; Updated Financial Analysis; Updated Equity Analysis; and Review of Targets for National Performance Measures (presentation available [here](#)).

The following comments and discussion points were made during and after the presentation:

1. Mr. Leichtling asked whether substantive changes were being proposed to the plan's arterial streets and highways system as part of the 2024 Update. Mr. Hiebert and Mr. Lynde noted that that no substantive changes to the system were being proposed, and that differences between the networks in the 2024 Update and the 2020 Update were largely to account for recently completed or underway projects.
2. Mr. Grisa asked staff to explain the rationale behind removing most freeway widening projects from the Fiscally Constrained Arterial Street and Highway System. Mr. Hiebert replied that the Commission, in coordination with WisDOT staff, prioritizes removal of freeway widenings when fiscally constraining the plan because they tend to be more expensive than other roadway projects. This maximizes funding for local surface arterial improvements. Additionally, freeway projects generally need to be specifically enumerated in the State budget, which Commission staff cannot predict when modeling reasonably expected funding. After additional discussion, Mr. Hiebert noted that not including a widening on a certain freeway segment in the FCTS does not preclude WisDOT from conducting preliminary engineering for a particular freeway segment, which would consider alternatives with and without providing additional lanes. However, at such time a freeway widening project is enumerated for funding, the plan would need to be amended to add it to the FCTS so that project would be eligible for Federal funding. Responding to an inquiry by Mr. Grisa, Mr. Hiebert stated that this would also apply to the planned new IH 94 interchange at Calhoun Road, which is currently recommended in VISION 2050, but not included on the FCTS.
3. Ms. Bussler noted that certain planned freeway improvement projects, such as the planned widening of IH 94 in Waukesha County, would be funded if they were located elsewhere in the State, they have not yet been funded by the State because the Region's need for roadway funding is so great. She suggested that the State is not likely to provide additional funding to address the Region's needs unless it is pressured to do so. Ms. Bussler noted that while VISION 2050 emphasizes a balanced transportation system, the practical impact of fiscal constraint is that certain areas of the Region will not receive the same levels of transportation funding as others. Mr. Hiebert agreed and stated that VISION 2050 identifies the transportation needs of the Region, which

includes the planned improvements being referred to. However, the FCTS represents only projects for which projected future funding can be reasonably expected. She requested that Commission staff clarify this imbalance is not the plan's intent.

[Secretary's Note: Commission staff added text to the 2024 Update noting that fiscal constraint is based on how funding has been historically distributed and does not treat any one area of the Region preferentially.]

4. Ms. Brown-Martin asked how the FCTS compared with WisDOT's asset management plan and whether it was aligned with WisDOT's internal project prioritization. Mr. Hiebert replied that while Commission staff does not utilize WisDOT's asset management plan, it works directly with WisDOT staff to identify the schedule of highway projects that can be implemented within reasonably expected revenue streams. He further noted that Commission staff invites any feedback or corrections from members of the Advisory Committees on the local projects listed in the draft 2024 Update.
5. Mr. Wallace stated that, within the State biennial budget, the funding of Southeastern Wisconsin freeway reconstruction projects is statutorily separated from freeway funding used for such projects located in the rest of the State. The budget has also lacked a consistent base level of funds for Southeastern Wisconsin freeway projects—like many other State highway programs. Because of this, freeway reconstruction projects must be approved on a project-by-project basis by the State Legislature and Governor as part of the biennial State budget, which makes it difficult for WisDOT to plan and prioritize long-term freeway reconstruction projects. He noted that a baseline level of freeway funding for Southeastern Wisconsin, or dissolution of the distinction between the Region and the rest of the State, is a desirable policy goal. Mr. Hiebert replied that while the Commission's advisory role prevents it from lobbying for policy changes, VISION 2050 contains information that decision makers should consider regarding the Region's funding gap and how it may be addressed.
6. Mr. Wade remarked that Commission staff and WisDOT will need to coordinate with respect to establishing targets for the newly created FHWA performance measure related to National Highway System (NHS) Greenhouse (GHG) emission reductions. WisDOT is expected to set a statewide target by February 1, 2024. Following the establishment of this target, the Commission will have 180 days after that date to set a target for Southeastern Wisconsin. Mr. Hoel added that the Commission, in addition to establishing a target for the Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA), will also need to work with the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) to set a joint NHS GHG emission reduction target for the Round Lake Beach Urbanized Area.

Mr. McKay asked if there were any further questions or comments on the agenda item. There were none. Mr. Cotter then asked for a motion to approve the preliminary draft materials for the 2024 Review and Update of VISION 2050 for public review. Ms. Bussler moved for approval and Mr. Thompson seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

#### **DISCUSSION OF SCHEDULE AND LOCATION OF FUTURE JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

Mr. Lynde indicated the third and final joint meeting of the Advisory Committees for the 2024 Update will likely be in March or April 2024, when the Advisory Committees will review public input gathered by

Commission staff and consider approval of the 2024 Update. Following this final joint meeting, the 2024 Update will proceed to the Commission's Planning and Research Committee before being considered for adoption by the Commission at their quarterly meeting in June 2024. Mr. Lynde then asked for input from committee members on whether meetings should be held virtually or in person with a virtual option. Hearing none, Mr. Cotter stated that the current format of in-person meetings with a virtual option should continue.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

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

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Cotter thanked everyone for attending and asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Bussler moved and Mr. Fruth seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 10:53 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Samuel A. Mercier  
Recording Secretary

BRM/CTH/EDL/RWH/SAM

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