

Minutes of the Sixty-Third Meeting of the
ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE TASK FORCE

DATE: June 25, 2024
TIME: 5:00 p.m.
PLACE: Hybrid Meeting at MKE Urban Stables
143 E. Lincoln Avenue, Milwaukee, WI 53207

Members Present

Aloysius Nelson, Chair Sigma Pi Phi (the Boulé)
Yolanda Adams Board of Education Member, Kenosha Unified School District
Huda Alkaff Founder & Director, Wisconsin Green Muslims
Keith Martin..... Construction Representative Senior, Wisconsin Department of Administration
Andrea Mendez Barrutia.....Director of Milwaukee Chapter of Techqueria
Theresa Schuerman..... Walworth County Bilingual Migrant Worker Outreach
GeorgeAnn Stinson.....President, African American Chamber of Commerce of Greater Racine

Members Excused

Annabell Bustillos..... Bilingual Outreach Advocate, BeLeaf Survivors
Brad Holz.....Board Member, Independence First
Donna Brown-Martin.....Commissioner, Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission;
Director, Milwaukee County Department of Transportation;
Liaison to Advisory Committee on Regional Transportation Planning
Gina Sanchez Juarez Director of Financial Stability, La Casa de Esperanza
Jackie Schellinger Indian Community Representative, Retired Judge

Members Unexcused

Gina Green-Harris.....Director, University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health Center for
Community Engagement and Health Partnerships in Milwaukee
N. Lynnette McNeely.....Legal Redress Chair, Waukesha County NAACP

Guests and Staff Present

Stephanie Hacker Executive Director, SEWRPC
Christopher Hiebert..... MPO Director, SEWRPC
Jeffrey Filipiak Senior Lecturer, University of Wisconsin Extended Campus
Madalena Maestri..... Civil Rights Program Manager, FHWA
Benjamin McKay Deputy Director, SEWRPC
Montre Moore Public Involvement and Outreach Specialist, SEWRPC
Nakeisha Payne..... Public Involvement and Outreach Manager, SEWRPC
Karyn Rotker..... Legal Action of Wisconsin
Jennifer Sarnecki..... Deputy Chief Transportation Planner, SEWRPC
Matt Schreiber..... Urban and Regional Planner – Advanced, WisDOT
Dana M. Shiners.....Transportation Planner, SEWRPC
Jeff Sponcia.....Transportation Program Planning Manager,
Milwaukee County Department of Transportation

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Mr. Nelson called the meeting of the Environmental Justice Task Force (EJTF) to order at 5:05 p.m. and welcomed those in attendance. Mr. Nelson commended the tour of MKE Urban Stables.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS ON DECEMBER 12, 2023

Mr. Nelson asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the March 12, 2024, meeting ([link](#)). Ms. Alkaff moved, and Ms. Adams seconded the approval of the meeting minutes. The motion was approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

PRESENTATION ON WISCONSIN'S ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN 2050

At the request of Mr. Nelson, Mr. Schreiber provided a presentation on Wisconsin's Active Transportation Plan (available [here](#)). Mr. Schreiber explained that it will be a policy-based plan to help the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) move forward over the next 30 years. The policies in the plan will cover safety, transportation equity, active mobility, connectivity, education and awareness, collaboration and coordination, and strategic investments. He reviewed the engagement activities that have taken place over the past year, including five pop-up events to reach the public. He noted that WisDOT is also in the process of updating and improving its active transportation design guidance. The following discussion occurred during the presentation:

1. Mr. Sponcia stated that the State's plan will have many areas of overlap with the Milwaukee County Complete Communities Transportation Planning Project.
2. Ms. Rotker asked for further explanation on policies geared towards achieving transportation equity, especially in terms of neighborhoods lacking infrastructure. Mr. Schreiber shared that all the policies will be developed with equity in mind, in particular policies related to investment.
3. Ms. Barrutia asked if WisDOT had completed all the planned outreach for the plan. Mr. Schreiber confirmed that most of the outreach was complete, but that a draft plan will be available for public comment and will be publicized through virtual open houses. Ms. Barrutia mentioned Sixteenth Street Community Health Center's Annual Bike Day as a possible event for future outreach. Mr. Schreiber shared that WisDOT attended one event per region for this plan and is always striving to do more and better engagement. Ms. Barrutia also asked about the survey finding that most active transportation was for recreation and if tourism was also considered as a factor. Mr. Schreiber said that the survey did not distinguish between tourism and non-tourism data.
4. Mr. Nelson asked about community involvement and policies relating to equity and safety. Mr. Schreiber stated that implementing the policies in the plan will be the responsibility of WisDOT Central Office, WisDOT Regional Offices, and coordination with key partners. Mr. Nelson stated the need to understand community needs in order to achieve equity.

PRESENTATION ON MILWAUKEE COUNTY COMPLETE COMMUNITIES

At Mr. Nelson's request, Mr. Sponcia provided an overview of the Milwaukee County Complete Communities Transportation Planning Project (available [here](#)). Mr. Sponcia stated that Director Brown-Martin envisions a pathway to create safe streets across the County. The Complete Communities project has been funded in two phases: phase one received Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) funding and phase two received Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) funding. SS4A was established under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Phase one of the project undertook a public engagement process called the Safe Streets Roadshow, which included a minimum of one public meeting in each municipality of the County and resulted in the Transportation Safety Assessment Report ([link](#)). Mr. Sponcia explained that phase two of the project will generate Comprehensive Safety Action Plans for the County and each participating municipality. He stated that next steps for the project include hosting five public meetings on the identified corridors of concern, seeking County Board approval for Vision Zero targets, and pursuing additional funding to build safe streets infrastructure. The following discussion occurred during the presentation:

1. Ms. Alkaff asked what percentage of crash data represent trucks and heavy-duty vehicles. Mr. Sponcia shared that there are a greater number of larger and heavier vehicles on roadways than ever before, which creates more trauma in crashes. He noted that the data have not been evaluated in terms of truck or heavy-duty vehicles involved in crashes, but that would be a potential area to explore in phase two.
2. Ms. Payne asked if driver education in schools will be included in the action plan. Mr. Sponcia responded that a discussion about the impact of a lack of driver education in schools and the DMV Road Test Waiver pilot program has come up during outreach efforts. He added that Milwaukee Recreation serves on the Safety Working Group.
3. Mr. Nelson asked about installing cameras in low-income areas to enforce speed. Mr. Sponcia shared that red light enforcement cameras are currently illegal in the State of Wisconsin. He noted that this will likely to be addressed in a recommendation in the Action Plan and that data show enforcement cameras reduce crash rates and speeding.
4. Ms. Alkaff asked which corridors of concern were highways. Mr. Sponcia clarified that there are two types of highways – State Trunk Highways overseen by WisDOT's and County Trunk Highways overseen by the Milwaukee County Department of Transportation. He noted that the map of corridors of concern could be updated to indicate jurisdiction and that many of the corridors of concern are State and County highways. He added that WisDOT will need to be a key partner in addressing these concerns on these roadways.
5. Ms. Barrutia asked if the data show a difference in crashes based on the seasons. Mr. Sponcia replied that crashes happen year-round and are more impacted by wide streets and a lack of following the rules of the road. Ms. Barrutia suggested that the Motor Vehicle Collision (MVC) dashboard is a great tool and should be used to share meaningful information with impacted communities. Mr. Sponcia said that the County hopes that municipalities will help share information to encourage people to be careful.
6. Ms. Payne asked how impaired driving will impact the Action Plan. Mr. Sponcia indicated there are many action items that can contribute to keeping roads safer – such as bus routes from Brewers games and improved driver education. He added that impaired driving data have not been specifically evaluated as part of this project yet.

REVIEW OF PUBLIC OUTREACH FOR THE 2024 TRANSPORTATION PLANNING CERTIFICATION REVIEW

At the request of Mr. Nelson, Mr. Hiebert provided an update on the 2024 Transportation Planning Certification Review. Mr. Hiebert shared that the Commission is responsible for developing a metropolitan transportation plan and Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) for the MPO. He explained that the Commission conducts an annual self-certification to ensure the Region is following federal regulations and FHWA and FTA conduct a quadrennial review process, which is occurring in 2024. Meetings with FHWA and FTA will be held at Commission offices on July 23 and 24, 2024, with a public meeting on July 23, 2024, 5:30 p.m. at Riverworks Development Corporation. He stated that meeting details will be shared with the EJTF. There will also be a public survey related to certification review. There was no discussion following Mr. Hiebert's update.

REVIEW OF EJTF ACTION ITEM LIST

At Mr. Nelson's request, Ms. Sarnecki reviewed the current action item list, which was linked within the agenda (available [here](#)). Ms. Sarnecki highlighted one recently closed item for a presentation on the Natural Areas Preservation Plan for the Milwaukee County Committee on Parks and Culture.

Ms. Alkaff asked to add a presentation from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Equity Office and the State Office of Environmental Justice.

OVERVIEW OF COMPOSITION OF APPLICANTS FOR RECENTLY FILLED COMMISSION POSITIONS

At Mr. Nelson's request, Mr. McKay shared that there have not been any recently filled Commission positions.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. McKay announced that the Commission will launch a new website on June 26, 2024. He also shared that the 2024 Review and Update to VISION 2050 was adopted at the June Commission meeting. The next steps include finalizing the report and publishing the 3rd Edition of Volume III of the VISION 2050 plan report.

Ms. Stinson shared that the African American Chamber of Commerce of Greater Racine has a Lakefront Expo on September 7, 2024. Ms. Payne shared that RYDE Racine will be there with electric buses.

NEXT MEETING DATES

Mr. Nelson indicated that the next meeting is scheduled for September 10, 2024.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Nelson adjourned the meeting at 6:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dana M. Shiners
Recording Secretary

BRM/EDL/JBS/DMS
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