

MINUTES
SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
QUARTERLY COMMISSION MEETING

Wednesday, March 5, 2025

3:00 p.m.

The Abbey Resort
269 Fontana Blvd.
Fontana-on-Geneva Lake, WI 53125

Meeting Occurred in Person and Via Video and Telephone Conference

Present:

Commissioners:

Charles Colman, Chairperson
Donna Brown-Martin
Michael Crowley
Paul Decker
Katrina Hanson
John Holloway
Brian Holt
Dewayne Johnson
Trevor Jung
Thomas Kramer
Amy Maurer
Natalia Minkel-Dumit
Joe Messinger
Robert Pitts
Eric Stelter
David Stroik
Donald Trottier

Excused:

Priscilla Coggs-Jones
Mary Knipper
Michael Maistelman
Jeffrey Schleif

Staff:

Stephanie Hacker	Executive Director
Benjamin McKay	Deputy Director
Elizabeth Larsen	Director of Administration
James Zehner	Communications Specialist
Alina Panasiuk	Accounting/HR Specialist

Guests:

Samatha Kerkman	Kenosha County Executive
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ROLL CALL

Chairperson Colman called the 290th meeting of the Commission to order at 3:00 p.m. Roll call was taken, and a quorum was declared present. Chairperson Colman indicated for the record that Commissioners Coggs-Jones, Knipper, Maistelman, and Schleif had asked to be excused.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 4, 2024, QUARTERLY COMMISSION MEETING

On a motion by Mr. Stroik, seconded by Mr. Pitts, and carried unanimously, the minutes of the December 4, 2024, Quarterly Commission Meeting were approved as published.

REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION OF TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) AMENDMENTS (COPY OF EXHIBIT AND RESOLUTION NO. 2025-03)

Chairperson Colman asked the Commission to consider adoption of Resolution No. 2025-03, which is an amendment to the Transportation Improvement Program for Southeastern Wisconsin: 2025-2028. Mr. McKay presented Resolution 2025-03, amending the 2025-2028 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). He noted the projects included in the amendment are summarized in Table 1 attached to the resolution, and they are in conformance with the regional transportation plan. He also stated the projects have been endorsed by the Advisory Committees on Transportation System Planning and Programming for the Milwaukee and Racine urbanized areas. He further noted there are changes to nine existing projects and two new projects to be amended into the TIP.

He stated that Table 2 shows the impact of the amendment on the TIP is a decrease in total programmed expenditures due to a bridge project in the Village of Slinger. The funding amount for this project was previously overstated.

In response to an inquiry by Ms. Minkel-Dumit, Mr. McKay stated the Town of Fredonia project is being funded with Federal PROTECT funding.

There being no questions or comments, on a motion by Mr. Stroik, to approve Resolution No. 2025-03, seconded by Mr. Crowley, and carried by a vote of 17 ayes and 0 nays, Resolution No. 2025-03 was approved (copy of Resolution 2025-03 attached to Official Minutes).

CONSIDERATION OF AMENDMENT TO THE 2025 OVERALL WORK PROGRAM (RESOLUTION NO. 2025-04)

Chairperson Colman asked the Commission to consider adoption of Resolution No. 2025-04, which is an amendment to the 2025 Commission Overall Work Program (OWP).

Ms. Larsen stated that this amendment is a proposed revision of the 2025 OWP, which includes a transfer within the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) funding from FHWA-Planning (FHWA-PL) funds to FHWA-Safe and Accessible Transportation Options (FHWA-SATO) funds. This amendment also reflects the addition of \$55,564 in FHWA-PL funds that were released from the Green Bay MPO. These funds have been added to the Chloride Impact Study.

In response to an inquiry by Mr. Stroik, Mr. McKay stated the Chloride Impact Study is expected to be completed by December 2026.

There being no further questions or comments, on a motion by Mr. Pitts to approve Resolution No. 2025-04, seconded by Mr. Stroik, and carried by a vote of 17 ayes and 0 nays, Resolution No. 2025-04 was approved (copy of Resolution No. 2025-04 is attached to the Official Minutes).

CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENT TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE TASK FORCE

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Mr. McKay provided background information on the Commission's Environmental Justice Task Force (EJTF). He then explained at this time, there is a vacancy representing one of City of Milwaukee positions and stated that there is one candidate to consider for appointment at today's meeting. He stated that the candidate nominated to fill the vacant position is Kermiath McClendon. Mr. McKay then provided a brief overview of Mr. McClendon's professional background.

In response to an inquiry by Mr. Pitts, Mr. McKay responded that Mr. Ali Nelson represents Kenosha County on the EJTF.

In response to an inquiry by Mr. Johnson, Mr. McKay stated that staff have not received guidance indicating that the Task Force should disband. At the next EJTF meeting, the Task Force will review its guidance document and discuss the future direction of the Task Force. The guidance document outlines the purpose and activities of the Task Force.

In response to an inquiry by Mr. Pitts, Mr. McKay stated the term of an EJTF member is a minimum of two years with no maximum limit. Mr. McKay further stated the EJTF meets quarterly.

In response to an inquiry by Mr. Pitts, Mr. McKay stated that staff have not provided regular reports about the EJTF to the Full Commission; however, the EJTF is responsible for reviewing the Commission's regional plans and providing input to Advisory Committees who then take their comments into consideration when approving plans for adoption. EJTF comments are brought back to the Full Commission through this process.

In response to an inquiry from Mr. Colman, Mr. McKay stated that the Commission staff have discussed the future role of the EJTF, including a possible name change. He stated that this will be an agenda item at the next EJTF meeting to get input from the members.

In response to an inquiry by Ms. Maurer, Mr. McKay stated there is not a reappointment process, rather members cycle out of the EJTF primarily due to their own choosing. He further stated that current members often suggest potential new members. In addition, Ms. Nikki Payne, Chief Community Engagement Specialist, will often suggest potential members as she routinely meets people that are interested in serving on this Task Force.

There being no questions or comments on a motion by Mr. Jung, seconded by Ms. Brown-Martin, and passed unanimously, Mr. McClendon was appointed to the Environmental Justice Task Force.

OVERVIEW OF COMMISSION COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT DIVISION

Mr. McKay stated this presentation will be postponed to either the June or September Full Commission meeting as Ms. Payne is not able to present due to illness.

OVERVIEW OF COMMISSION WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA ACTIVITY

Mr. Colman asked Mr. James Zehner, Communications Specialist, to provide an overview of the Commission's website and social media activity for the past year. Mr. Zehner reviewed a presentation highlighting the reach and impact of the Commission's social media outreach.

Mr. Holloway stated he would like a copy of the presentation as it has a lot of useful information.

Mr. Crowley stated he is pleased with the new website.

REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION OF REGIONAL TAX LEVY FOR THE 2026 BUDGET

Mr. Colman asked Ms. Hacker to review the tax levy scenarios that could form the basis for the Commission's 2026 tax levy request. She began by reviewing the Updating the Regional Tax Levy document included in meeting materials.

Ms. Hacker stated she has met with officials or staff from all seven counties regarding a tax levy increase. She noted a number of counties requested the Commission be mindful of more modest future tax levy increases, while at the same time not keeping the same rate for five or six subsequent years and then requesting another large increase. It was also requested that Commission staff meet with the counties annually to review work efforts.

Ms. Hacker then stated she feels comfortable presenting the tax levy request of \$2,488,757 to the Full Commission as the Executive Committee has approved this amount and the counties had not expressed great concern over the new levy amount.

Mr. Holloway thanked Ms. Hacker and staff for reaching out to the counties. The comment he received is there is now more uncertainty about funding and while support for the increase has not been withdrawn, a lot of costs will be examined within the county budgets. Increased funding brings increased scrutiny. He further noted this was a good first step and thanked Ms. Hacker for her efforts.

Mr. Crowley also applauded Ms. Hacker's efforts in making the bold move to meet with each of the counties. He stated the meetings were well received and also suggested staff continue to meet annually with the counties.

There being no further questions or comments, Mr. Crowley made a motion to approve a tax levy request amount of \$2,488,757 for the 2026 budget, which was seconded by Mr. Holt. It carried by a vote of 17 ayes and 0 nays.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Chairperson Colman asked Mr. Stroik to present the Treasurer's Report. Mr. Stroik noted that a copy of the Treasurer's Report had been provided to all Commissioners for review prior to the meeting and called attention to the following items:

1. Based upon disbursements through January 31, 2025, it is projected that total disbursements for the year will approximate \$9.50 million. Revenues are projected at about \$9.59 million, exclusive of interest income and miscellaneous revenues.
2. The Commission's Reserves Policy indicates a minimum reserve amount of \$5,092,110, with a maximum reserve amount of \$10,058,220. The audited cash and cash equivalents at end of year 2023 are \$6,053,254.
3. As of January 31, 2025, the Commission had in investments and cash on hand approximately \$4.57 million. Just over \$3.74 million were invested in the State of Wisconsin Local Government Investment Pool. As of January 31, 2025, that fund was yielding 4.39 percent interest. Other funds are held in savings, checking, and certificate of deposit accounts at several banks.

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There being no discussion, on a motion by Mr. Pitts, seconded by Ms. Minkel-Dumit, and carried unanimously, the Treasurer's Report for the period ending January 31, 2025, was approved (copy of the Treasurer's Report is attached to the Official Minutes).

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Planning and Research Committee

Chairperson Colman asked Mr. Crowley to present the Planning and Research Committee report. Mr. Crowley noted that the report had been provided to all Commissioners prior to the meeting. He noted that the Planning and Research Committee had met once since the Commission's Quarterly meeting on December 4, 2024.

On February 4, 2025, the Committee took the following action:

1. Reviewed and acted on draft Chapters 1 through 6 of the Regional National Areas Plan Update.

Executive Committee Report

Chairperson Colman noted that the Executive Committee report had been provided to all Commissioners prior to the meeting. He also noted that the Executive Committee met twice, on January 16, 2025, and February 20, 2025, since the previous Commission Meeting.

At both of the meetings, the Committee:

1. Reviewed and approved proposed contracts for planning work. Ten contracts were approved in January, and four contracts were approved in February. The details of those contracts are attached to this report.
2. Reviewed and approved the Work Program report

At the January meeting, the Committee also took the following actions:

1. Reviewed and approved Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendments
2. Reviewed and discussed regional tax levy scenarios and forthcoming conversations with the counties
3. Reviewed and approved the newly created Commissioner email accounts under the sewrpc.org domain
4. Reviewed and approved outside facilitators for the 2024 Strategy
5. Reviewed and approved the Statement of Projected Revenues and Expenditures for reporting period No. 1, 2025
6. Reviewed and approved disbursements for five financial periods: year 2024 Nos. 22, 23, 24, 25, and 26 for the period October 21, 2024, to December 29, 2024

At the February meeting, the Committee also took the following actions:

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1. Received an update from Rockwood Drive leasing agent: Colliers
2. Reviewed and approved Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendments
3. Reviewed and approved the regional tax levy request for 2026 budget
4. Reviewed and approved the Statement of Projected Revenues and Expenditures for reporting period No. 2, 2025
5. Reviewed and approved disbursements for two financial periods: year 2025 Nos. 1 and 2 for the period December 30, 2024, to January 31, 2025

CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Hacker announced that the March 20, 2025, Executive Committee meeting will be cancelled.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission, on a motion by Mr. Stroik, seconded by Ms. Brown-Martin, and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie Hacker
Deputy Secretary