Minutes of the Seventy-Second Meeting of the

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND BENEFITS TASK FORCE

DATE: October 14, 2026

TIME: 5:00 p.m.

PLACE: Virtual Meeting

Members Present
Aloysius Nelson, Chair ..... Sigma Pi Phi (the Boulé)
Huda Alkaff ..... Founder & Director, Wisconsin Green Muslims
Donna Brown-Martin..... (Retired) Director, Milwaukee County Department of Transportation and Bureau Director, Wisconsin Department of Transportation
Jennifer Harris..... Deputy Director, Comprehensive Injury Center, Medical College of Wisconsin
Kermiath McClendon..... Impact Investment Manager, Greater Milwaukee Foundation
GeorgeAnn Stinson.....President, African American Chamber of Commerce of Greater Racine

Members Excused
Yolanda Adams..... Board of Education Member, Kenosha Unified School District
Annabell Bustillos..... Bilingual Outreach Advocate, BeLeaf Survivors
N. Lynnette McNeely.....Legal Redress Chair, Waukesha County NAACP
Sara Nichols.....Executive Director, Open Arms Free Clinic, Inc.
Jackie Schellinger ..... Indian Community Representative, Retired Judge

Members Unexcused
Brad Holz.....Board Member, Independence First
Keith Martin..... Construction Representative Senior, Wisconsin Department of Administration

Commission Staff Present
Chris Hiebert..... MPO Director
Benjamin McKay..... Deputy Director
Sam Mercier.....Senior Planner
Nakeisha Payne.....Chief Community Engagement Specialist
Jennifer Sarnecki.....Deputy Chief Transportation Planner
Dana M. Shinners.....Senior Planner
Bryan Walter.....Senior Planner

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Mr. Nelson called the meeting of the Community Engagement and Benefits Task Force (Task Force) to order at 5:05 p.m. and welcomed those in attendance. Mr. Nelson requested Commission staff to provide an update on the potential appointment of Tanya McLean as a Task Force member. Mr. McKay indicated staff are reviewing Ms. McLean's qualifications.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON DECEMBER 9, 2025

A quorum of members was not present to approve minutes of the June 9, 2026, meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

UPDATE ON VISION 2060

Mr. Nelson invited Commission staff to present on VISION 2060. Mr. Mercier noted that the Task Force received a presentation on the VISION 2060 plan concept at its March meeting and on community engagement efforts for the plan at its June meeting. Mr. Mercier and Mr. Walter shared a presentation on inventory phase progress, including the first three completed technical reports: Review of VISION 2050, Land Use and Resource Base of Southeastern Wisconsin, and Transportation System of Southeastern Wisconsin (link).

Mr. Walter invited Ms. Brown-Martin to raise any topics from her review of the three technical reports as the Task Force liaison to the VISION 2060 Advisory Committee. Ms. Brown-Martin noted implementation gaps in the land use and transportation elements and expressed concerns regarding the impacts of greenfield development on water quality, air quality, housing, and food access. She emphasized the importance of explaining regional planning progress to the public.

The following discussion occurred during the presentation:

1. Mr. Nelson asked how the reports addressed increasing use of e-bikes or e-motos and ensuring traveler safety. Mr. Mercier stated that e-bike and e-moto safety conversations are increasing nationwide, including in the Region. He noted some communities have responded by restricting e-bike use on certain streets and limiting the sale of certain models of e-bikes. Ms. Brown-Martin asked about statewide e-bike regulations or county coordination to ensure consistency. Mr. Mercier said that it is likely to be more of a patch-work response across communities and that Commission staff will follow up with additional information.

   [Secretary's Note: Wisconsin state law defines three classes of electric bicycles; it treats e-bikes and their operators similarly to bicycles and bicyclists for most rights and duties (Section 346.806, *Wisconsin Statutes*). No license, registration, or insurance is required to operate e-bikes, and the only statewide age limit applies to Class 3 e-bikes, which provide pedal assistance up to 28 miles per hour. A person under 16 may not operate a Class 3 e-bike but may ride one as a passenger. Helmets are not required under State law for e-bike riders of any age. Operating e-bikes on sidewalks is subject to local ordinance.

   E-motos, or Out-of-Class Electric Vehicles (OCEV), exceed speed or power limits of e-bike classes as defined in State statutes. In response to perceived safety issues involving e-motos, a number of stakeholders have pursued efforts to clarify State transportation policy and enforcement to create a clear regulatory framework for these devices. However, such efforts are still an emerging issue at the time of writing. For example, the Greater Madison MPO published municipal guidance in 2026 on e-moto and other e-micromobility regulation to foster the development of consistent local ordinances across local units of government. The Wisconsin Bike Fed has noted it plans to draft legislation on e-moto definitions and create an enforcement framework for consideration by the Wisconsin legislature in the 2027 legislative session.

To further explore the issue and potential impacts on VISION 2060, Commission staff will continue to track legislation related to e-bikes and e-motos.

2. Ms. Brown-Martin asked about the freight implications of large truck stop developments in the Region. Mr. Mercier responded that staff would consider this implication further and noted that a potentially related freight travel trend is the increase in last-mile deliveries.

   [Secretary's Note: Ms. Brown-Martin's question referred to large travel centers such as the Buc-ee's under construction in Oak Creek along IH 94. The Commission's regional plan update process analyzes changes in freight movement at the system level rather than through individual developments.

   As part of the VISION 2060 inventory phase, Technical Report #5, *Travel Habits and Patterns in Southeastern Wisconsin*, will analyze Region-wide travel patterns, including freight travel, and how they have changed since 2011 as key data inputs to updating the regional travel demand model. The effects of an individual development on nearby streets and highways are typically evaluated in detailed studies, such as those completed during preliminary engineering. Should those studies necessitate changes to roadway recommendations on Commission's arterial system plan for VISION 2060, the plan can be amended to incorporate those results.

3. Ms. Alkaff asked for additional information on commuter bus routes. Ms. Sarnecki responded that commuter bus routes, including the Washington County Commuter Express, the Ozaukee Commuter Bus, and the commuter buses out of Waukesha County, were eliminated between about 2023 and 2025. She stated that reasons for their discontinuation were varied, but that ridership was declining to a point where the cost per ride was no longer sustainable.

4. Mr. McClendon asked whether the research identified fundraising opportunities, corporate contributions, or other funding strategies to address program funding shortfalls, particularly as temporary federal funding such as the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) expires. Mr. McKay noted that VISION 2050 identified funding gaps between the regional vision and fiscally constrained system and evaluated potential funding strategies, such as gas and wheel taxes, with similar analysis anticipated for VISION 2060. Mr. Mercier added that many funding sources, except the wheel tax, would require Wisconsin State Legislature action. Ms. Sarnecki noted that transit operators used federal relief funding to offset declining ridership and farebox collection, but rising inflation and vehicle expenses, combined with state funding that has not kept pace with inflation, are contributing to funding gaps as relief funds expire. Mr. Mercier added that similar transit funding challenges are occurring nationally.

5. Ms. Alkaff asked if the technical reports considered shared-ride taxis. Mr. Mercier confirmed that ridership data are reported in the Transportation System of Southeastern Wisconsin report.

Mr. McKay explained that VISION 2060 materials will undergo an iterative review by the Task Force and VISION 2060 Advisory Committee. Staff will share Task Force comments received with the Advisory Committee and consider comments to revise draft reports before finalizing them for public comment.

UPDATE ON OTHER REGIONAL PLANS AND PROJECTS

At Mr. Nelson's request, Mr. McKay shared a presentation on recent regional projects and plans (link). Mr. McKay provided updates on the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), Regional Chloride Impact Study, and Regional Food System Plan. The Task Force expressed interest in learning more about what will be included in the regional food system web-based plan.

Mr. Nelson asked how the CEDS differs from VISION 2060. Mr. McKay clarified that CEDS supports eligibility for economic development funding from the U.S. Economic Development Administration, while VISION 2060 addresses long-range regional land use and transportation planning.

Ms. Sarnecki provided updates on the Milwaukee County Transit Benefits Study, the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), Pollution Reduction Plan, and the Title VI Program. Ms. Brown-Martin expressed interest in the Pollution Reduction Plan and the 2026 Title VI Program. Ms. Sarnecki responded that Commission staff will follow-up with Ms. Brown Martin.

REVIEW OF TASK FORCE ACTION ITEM LIST

Ms. Sarnecki shared the action item list (link). She stated that the document will also be used to track general items of interest to the Task Force.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. McKay announced that public information meetings for the Regional Chloride Study will be held on November 18, 2026.

NEXT MEETING DATES

Ms. Sarnecki stated that the December meeting dates being considered are December 8, 9, or 15, 2026.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Nelson adjourned the meeting at 6:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dana M. Shinners
Recording Secretary

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BRM/JBS/SAM/DMS
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