

EJTF SUGGESTIONS TO SEWRPC STAFF

INTRODUCTION

This report documents suggestions from Environmental Justice Task Force (EJTF) members from the first EJTF meeting held on August 7, 2007, through its September 12, 2018, meeting. This staff report will be reviewed with the EJTF and updates will be provided over time. The report describes how EJTF member requests were addressed and provides available information on the implementation status of those requests. The report reviews EJTF member suggestions related to how the EJTF should function and related to Commission practices regarding public involvement and outreach, recruitment and hiring, and appointments to Commission advisory committees. The report also covers suggestions made by EJTF members during their review of and input on major regional planning efforts, including the regional water supply plan, regional housing plan, and regional land use and transportation plan (VISION 2050), as well as general suggestions related to land use and transportation planning, which is at the core of the Commission's planning program.

Next to each suggestion, there is either a checkmark to indicate that the suggestion was implemented, or an open box to indicate that the suggestion was not implemented or was only partially implemented. Below each suggestion is a description of if, and how, the suggestion was implemented. While not all suggestions were implemented, Commission staff carefully considered each suggestion and, in many cases, there were extenuating circumstances relating to those suggestions that were not implemented.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND OUTREACH

The list in this section includes suggestions made by EJTF members related to improving how the Commission staff engages the public, accompanied by a brief description of if, and how, each suggestion was implemented.

Suggestions

- ✓ Work with job centers in the Region to inform members of minority and low-income population groups about regional planning activities.
 - *Staff added such job center representatives to the EJTF interested parties list and began distributing all relevant information and materials to them in March 2008. Staff also conducted local meetings in Kenosha and Racine during 2008, and in Waukesha during 2009. The*

individuals representing these job centers have moved on and as a result there are currently no job center representatives on the interested parties list.

- ✓ Seek appearances on radio stations serving large minority and/or low-income population audiences.
 - *Staff has had some success seeking such radio appearances, including three appearances on WXRW 104.1 FM (Riverwest Radio), most recently in January 2018. Staff has also appeared on the "Black Nouveau" television program airing on Milwaukee PBS.*

- ✓ Ensure that certain population groups are represented in targeted public outreach, including minorities, low-income individuals, seniors, people with disabilities, community-based organizations, and groups that receive and/or apply for community development block grant funds.
 - *All of these groups are well-represented in the Commission's list of organizational contacts, which is used to target Commission outreach efforts. The list is continuously being updated and expanded, including additions and revisions suggested by EJTF members, and is reviewed on a regular basis with the EJTF.*

- ✓ Consider Latino/Hispanic media beyond El Conquistador.
 - *The Spanish Journal and Fronteras de la Noticia (no longer in publication) have been routinely provided study information and meeting notices as appropriate.*

- ✓ When public comment is being sought, prepare a short summary on the relevant issue and opportunities to comment, and provide it to minority and low-income organizations for possible use on their newsletters or websites.
 - *This type of information has been shared regularly with minority and low-income organizations. Examples include initial letters to environmental justice organizations regarding the regional water supply plan, brochures and a one-page flyer on the regional housing plan, and in numerous communications during the VISION 2050 process.*

- ✓ Use focus groups, other small group techniques, visioning, brainstorming, and non-traditional meeting places and events, such as fairs and festivals.
 - *Staff has utilized a variety of techniques such as these in its ongoing public involvement and outreach. In particular, during VISION 2050, staff conducted a significant visioning and scenario planning effort and used interactive small group discussions extensively. Staff has shared, and*

continues to share, information at numerous non-traditional meeting places and events each year.

- ✓ Be sure to treat all comments received with respect.
 - *This is an ongoing intent and goal.*

- ✓ Send introductory, easy-to-grasp materials in advance of the technical newsletters to better prepare readers.
 - *Brochures have been shortened, with some sent in advance of more detailed newsletters and others distributed around the same time as newsletters. Staff has made a concerted effort, particularly during VISION 2050, to provide approachable information to encourage input from all interested members of the public.*

- ✓ Include an executive summary at the beginning of each newsletter.
 - *Implemented beginning with the regional housing plan, with subsequent newsletters and longer outreach materials typically including a summary in some form at the beginning to orient readers.*

- ✓ Include a brief mission statement for each advisory committee on the SEWRPC website.
 - *Implemented in spring 2008.*

- ✓ Try to increase awareness among grade school and high school students regarding the kinds of professions that are found within an organization such as SEWRPC.
 - *Staff has tried to reach students through participation in various events and programs geared towards students. Examples include the Testing the Waters environmental education program for high school students in the Milwaukee River Watershed, a traveling interactive floodplain model for children used in classrooms and at various event exhibits, the Homeschool Ed-ventures science education program for 4K-12th grade homeschooled students at the Riveredge Nature Center, the Menomonee Falls Stormwater Expo for middle and high school students, a Lego League robotics fair in Mukwonago for middle school students, and judging a Future City competition for middle school students.*

- ✓ Simplify the language in advertisements and distribute advertisements and news releases to EJTF members electronically so members can forward the materials to their contacts in other organizations throughout the Region.
 - *Staff has made an ongoing effort to simplify language in advertisements, and balance that goal with the need to communicate accurate information to a wide range of potentially interested members of the public. Advertisements have been significantly improved over the years, including traditional newspaper advertisements and website postings, with staff focusing on means that have proven most effective to informing people of an opportunity to get involved, such as e-newsletters, social media, and attending organizational meetings. Staff regularly provides relevant information on these opportunities to the EJTF, in addition to agendas and materials for meetings of the Commission's Advisory Committees on Regional Land Use and Transportation Planning, and updates on Federal Surface Transportation Program Milwaukee Urbanized Area (STP-M) funding.*

- ✓ The Ives Grove location, a common Racine location for past SEWRPC public informational meetings, is not very accessible and locations with public transportation access should be used instead—either Gateway Technical College or City Hall.
 - *Many meetings have been held at the Racine Gateway Campus, Festival Hall at the Racine Civic Centre, or at the historic train station at the Corinne Reid-Owens Transit Center. Commission staff attempts to hold Racine County meetings at transit-accessible locations, if possible.*

- ✓ Review best environmental justice practices.
 - *Following the November 25, 2008, meeting, staff obtained and reviewed references to other metropolitan planning organizations from the Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration. Staff incorporated these best practices into the public participation plan and have added other unique methods over the years, particularly during the VISION 2050 process.*

- During the regional housing plan, attempt to piggy back public outreach efforts in Racine and Kenosha Counties with the IH 94 North-South reconstruction project, and consider using radio stations and cable access channels as outreach mediums.
 - *While this may have been done informally, staff does not recall specifically conducting outreach for the housing plan as part of the IH 94 North-South reconstruction project. News releases for*

the regional housing plan were provided to local radio and TV stations, although radio and TV coverage was very limited.

- ✓ Make summary materials more graphical, with more bite-sized pieces of information and simplified language.
 - *The Commission staff has made a concerted effort to create visually pleasing, easy-to-understand summary materials for its various planning efforts. This was a particular focus of VISION 2050, for which staff received numerous positive comments on summary materials prepared during the planning process. Staff will continue to work with the EJTF to make improvements in this area.*

- ✓ Consider using marketing vendors in African-American, Latino, and Hmong communities to assist outreach efforts.
 - *This was implemented during preparation of the socio-economic analysis for the regional water supply plan. Prism Technical Management & Marketing LLC was hired to conduct community outreach and coordinated public participation for the socio-economic analysis.*

- Consider reaching out to local schools with digital graphics programs that may have students willing to produce illustrations for communications pieces as projects at no charge.
 - *Staff considered this suggestion, but ultimately decided not to reach out to such schools. However, staff internally produced a substantial number of improved visualizations, particularly during the VISION 2050 process, and the Commission has now hired a full-time graphic designer who produces high-quality graphics to better communicate the Commission's work.*

- For sharing information about the housing plan socio-economic analysis and the housing plan itself, consider using coding on simple outreach materials, such as that from the documentary film, "Urbanized," which allows the reader to scan the code and access a webpage with more detailed information.
 - *Staff did not incorporate coding into the outreach materials for the socio-economic analysis and the housing plan.*

- ✓ Work with other organizations in areas where turnout for housing plan public meetings was low, perhaps asking to be added to their regular meeting agendas.
 - *Staff has regularly attended meetings with hundreds of organizations to discuss regional planning issues, particularly the regional housing plan, and has given numerous presentations on the housing plan to interested organizations.*

- ✓ Consider using social media to reach more young adults.
 - *Staff began using Twitter early in the VISION 2050 process, and converted the Twitter account to a SEWRPC account following VISION 2050, in addition to creating a SEWRPC Facebook page. Staff regularly shares information relevant to SEWRPC planning issues via these active social media accounts.*

- Consider establishing an office located in the heart of the City of Milwaukee with an open door policy to the public.
 - *SEWRPC created a Public Involvement and Outreach Division in 2009 for the purpose of establishing and building relationships within the community, particularly with organizations representing environmental justice populations. In addition, the Commission has had a satellite office in the City of Milwaukee since October 2011, when it established an office at 2711 W. Wells Street (City Campus Building owned by Milwaukee County). The Commission temporarily moved the office to 1915 N. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive in February 2015, where it shared space with the Urban Economic Development Association of Wisconsin, prior to opening its current satellite office in the Global Water Center at 227 W. Freshwater Way in January 2016. Foot traffic to the various Milwaukee office locations has been limited. Direct contact with Public Involvement and Outreach staff has proven to be an effective use of public outreach resources.*

- Develop methods to obtain input on environmental justice issues from the incarcerated population in the Region.
 - *This suggestion was made during the July 2018 retreat and staff will consult with the EJTF on how to best address it.*

RECRUITMENT AND HIRING

The list in this section includes suggestions made by EJTF members regarding Commission recruitment and hiring practices, accompanied by a brief description of if, and how, each suggestion was implemented.

Suggestions

- ✓ Continue efforts to diversify the Commission staff, particularly in staff conducting public involvement, to assist in engaging minority populations.
 - *SEWRPC continually seeks to build a diverse staff in accordance with its affirmative action plan. SEWRPC created a Public Involvement and Outreach Division and hired Mr. Steve Adams as its first Public Involvement and Outreach Manager in 2009. This Division has been very successful at establishing and building relationships within the community, particular with organizations representing environmental justice populations. The Commission also conducted a minority student co-op program, which involved hiring students at area universities for part-time jobs during the school year and full-time summer jobs. That program resulted in the hiring of several full-time minority staff.*

- ✓ Consider a broader, more open hiring process, including consideration of outside candidates and EJTF suggestions for candidates for various staff positions, and consider using a specialist to assist with minority recruitment and recruitment for specialized positions that are difficult to fill.
 - *SEWRPC has made a concentrated effort to broaden its hiring process, beginning most notably with the Public Involvement and Outreach Manager hiring process, including consideration of outside candidates and EJTF suggestions for candidates for a variety of staff positions as they have become available. SEWRPC has enlisted a professional staffing agency to help identify candidates tailored to certain specific positions as they become available, and also emails all job opportunities to EJTF members so they can be forwarded to their various contacts.*

- ✓ Consider creating a satellite office as the main office location may be a barrier to attracting minority candidates.
 - *The Commission has had a satellite office in the City of Milwaukee since October 2011, when it established a new satellite office at 2711 W. Wells Street (City Campus Building owned by Milwaukee County). The Commission temporarily moved the office to 1915 N. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive in February 2015, where it shared space with the Urban Economic Development Association of Wisconsin, prior to opening its current satellite office in the Global Water Center at 227 W. Freshwater Way in January 2016.*

ADVISORY COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

The list in this section includes suggestions made by EJTF members regarding appointments to Commission advisory committees, accompanied by a brief description of if, and how, each suggestion was implemented.

Suggestions

- ✓ Bring proposed new SEWRPC advisory committees to the EJTF for their suggestions prior to action by the Commission.
 - *Completed for the Regional Housing Plan Advisory Committee, the only applicable body appointed by the Commission since receiving the suggestion.*

- ✓ Consider ways to increase minority representation on advisory committees.
 - *While staff has continuously considered how to effectively address this issue, including specific ideas brought up by EJTF members, there has been relatively limited success in achieving racial proportionality on most of the Commission's committees. Existing advisory committee members are typically identified based on professional expertise and experience and their current positions (e.g., a public works director from a specific community). At the root of the issue is that, at least for existing advisory committees, most of the current positions are filled by non-minority individuals, even in communities with a high proportion of minority residents. To a large extent, this is a nationwide problem within the fields pertinent to the Commission's work. Nevertheless, the Commission makes a concerted effort to identify minority advisory committee candidates whenever possible. The Regional Housing Plan Advisory Committee was the most successful example.*

- Make a list of minority professional organizations that could be consulted to help identify prospective minority committee members.
 - *Staff does not maintain a specific list of minority professional organizations, as there are a low number of such organizations that would be appropriate to consult regarding potential advisory committee appointments. However, should such an opportunity arise in the future, staff would consult groups such as the National Society of Black Engineers, the National Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers, and other relevant minority professional organizations, and would as well consult the EJTF for suggestions.*

- ✓ Work together with the EJTF to expand the pool of potential advisory committee representatives who are racial minorities, people with disabilities, or from disadvantaged backgrounds.
 - *Completed for the Regional Housing Plan Advisory Committee, with those unable to be chosen being contacted regarding future input and possible participation.*

- ✓ Consider including an EJTF member on SEWRPC advisory committees who is able to express the recommendations of the EJTF, which would provide a greater opportunity to make comments on various SEWRPC plans.
 - *Implemented beginning with the Regional Housing Plan Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee on Regional Transportation Planning also includes an EJTF member who serves as the EJTF's liaison and the Commission itself includes an EJTF member as one of its 21 members. Staff and/or the EJTF liaison update EJTF members regarding advisory committee actions made in response to EJTF suggestions.*

TASK FORCE FUNCTIONING

The list in this section includes suggestions made by EJTF members related to how the EJTF functions, accompanied by a brief description of if, and how, each suggestion was implemented.

Suggestions

- ✓ Set up an e-mail listserv for EJTF members.
 - *Staff set up an EJTF listserv in April 2008. The listserv was replaced with an email distribution list in January 2010.*

- ✓ Provide the EJTF with a timeline for preparing the housing plan and timelines for preparing other regional plans.
 - *The housing plan timeline was completed as an attachment to the meeting minutes of January 27, 2009, and staff has provided and will continue to provide the anticipated schedules for subsequent regional plans as part of the initial overview of each plan provided to the EJTF.*

- Invite an individual who was involved in the formation of the EJTF, such as Joel Rast, to speak regarding its purpose.
 - *Mr. Rast attended numerous EJTF meetings, although it was primarily in his capacity in producing socio-economic analyses for the regional water supply and housing plans. He has not been asked*

to speak to the EJTF specifically regarding its purpose, but could be invited to do so in the future if requested by EJTF members.

- Invite an expert on urban sprawl to speak to the EJTF.
 - *Staff worked with Ms. Nancy Holmlund of the EJTF in 2009 to invite Mr. David Rusk to speak to the EJTF regarding urban sprawl, but such a presentation never materialized. Staff did, however, have extensive conversations at EJTF meetings regarding land use, including a strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOT) exercise at the July 28, 2009, meeting.*

- ✓ Increase electronic communications between EJTF meetings, including providing SEWRPC study meeting agenda and materials.
 - *Staff has increased communications to the EJTF between meetings over the years, including routinely providing notifications about relevant SEWRPC advisory committee meetings and forwarding e-newsletters containing updates on the Foxconn development in Mount Pleasant.*

- ✓ When EJTF members step down, they should be replaced by individuals who represent the same categories so no groups are underrepresented on the EJTF.
 - *This is a major consideration and ongoing goal as members are replaced, and the roster makeup reflects this goal. Staff also strives for balanced geographic representation in accordance with the EJTF background document.*

- ✓ Consider more centrally located meeting locations to increase EJTF member attendance.
 - *Following this request, the Sijan Room at General Mitchell International Airport was initially used for the March 24, 2009, meeting. The EJTF agreed to hold subsequent meetings at IndependenceFirst given an offer to host by then-member Mr. Brian Peters. Mr. Peters resigned from the EJTF following the April 16, 2013, meeting and subsequent meetings have primarily been held at the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District based on a suggestion by Mr. Willie Wade.*

- ✓ Review EJTF recommendations and the extent to which they have been implemented.
 - *Following this initial request in January 2009, lists of recommendations and their status were assembled by category in early 2009. This request has again been made more recently and is being addressed through this report.*

- ✓ Provide more materials to the EJTF prior to, or in between, EJTF meetings so that the number of items on each agenda can be reduced and meetings can stay on schedule more consistently.
 - *Following the meeting of January 27, 2009, more materials have been distributed via listserv or email prior to, or in between, meetings. The intent is to provide fewer materials for the first time during meetings.*

- ✓ Establish consistent meeting start times, strictly adhere to meeting end times, and limit the number of discussion items on the agenda to keep meetings on schedule.
 - *Meetings initially started at 4:00 p.m. and ended at 6:00 p.m., but were adjusted to start at 4:30 p.m. and end at 6:00 p.m. beginning with the November 5, 2013, meeting. Meetings are to last no longer than 90 minutes, unless an extension is agreed upon by EJTF members in attendance. Staff attempts to include a manageable number of items on each meeting agenda, although oftentimes discussion between EJTF members and staff causes meetings to run long.*

- ✓ Move EJTF meetings from Tuesdays to Thursdays.
 - *Completed starting with the September 24, 2009, meeting, although Tuesdays have more recently become the preferred day of the week for meetings. Staff is always flexible regarding the day of the week for meetings and modifies it based on EJTF member availability.*

- ✓ Consider allowing some EJTF members to attend remotely rather than in person in an effort to increase member attendance.
 - *Members have been able to attend remotely beginning with the December 13, 2011, meeting.*

- ✓ Arrange for a presentation to the EJTF on regional housing trust fund efforts.
 - *Ms. Cathie Madden, then-Vice Chair of the City of Milwaukee Housing Trust Fund, discussed a proposed Housing Trust Fund of Southeastern Wisconsin at the December 13, 2011, meeting.*

- ✓ Provide food to EJTF members given the time of day of EJTF meetings.
 - *Following this suggestion, staff has provided light dinners at each EJTF meeting.*

- ✓ Replace EJTF members whose schedules do not permit them to regularly attend meetings.
 - *This has been an ongoing issue regarding EJTF participation and staff has made attempts on several occasions to reach out to certain EJTF members regarding their level of interest in*

continued membership. Different ideas have been discussed to address this issue, and staff will work with EJTF members to address the issue going forward.

- ✓ Set the meeting schedule ahead of time to limit the need to reschedule meetings, which can cause difficulties for maintaining and updating calendars. Schedule meetings quarterly, but reserve the ability to add a meeting if appropriate for key issues or to accommodate review schedules.
 - *Staff in the past attempted to work with EJTF members to set meeting schedules annually, but this proved to be problematic. During recent years, the Commission's planning program has driven the EJTF meeting schedule. Staff is currently attempting to schedule meetings quarterly and schedule additional meetings as warranted, but will consider any alternatives to this approach agreed upon by EJTF members.*

- ✓ Schedule a retreat for the EJTF to re-examine the purpose and function of the EJTF.
 - *Staff held an EJTF retreat on July 12, 2018. The retreat included three expert speakers who provided their experiences and insights and engaged EJTF members, Commission staff, and other interested parties in dialogue. The retreat covered the history of discriminatory practices and concentration of minority populations and low-income populations in the Region; the Commission's role in land use, environmental, and transportation planning; the relationship between the work of the Commission and the EJTF; and how regional planning can be part of the solution to disparities. The retreat concluded with a discussion of next steps for the EJTF.*

- ✓ Fill EJTF vacancies with experts who are well versed in issues facing environmental justice populations and obtain suggestions on candidates to fill vacancies from EJTF members.
 - *In addition to geographic representation, guidelines used to consider potential candidates for the EJTF include representation of low-income populations, minority populations, people with disabilities, and/or transit-dependent populations. Staff also strives to identify candidates with expertise in areas such as transit, workforce development, housing, and aging populations. Staff has requested suggestions from EJTF members for vacancies and will continue this practice as new vacancies arise.*

- ✓ Document EJTF comments on regional plans within the plan reports.
 - *Commission reports always acknowledge the groups and individuals that provide input during the planning process. This does not indicate that all who provide input, including the EJTF, agree with everything in the plan report. However, for plans reviewed by the EJTF, staff will add a note*

- in the report directing the public to the meeting minutes that document any comments EJTF members made during review of the plan.*
- ✓ Allow EJTF members to provide input on meeting agendas and include an update on public involvement and outreach on every agenda.
 - *Staff has begun sharing potential agenda items with EJTF members and asking for additional suggestions prior to each meeting. Staff also seeks approval of meeting agendas from the EJTF Chair. Public Involvement and Outreach Division updates are included on every agenda.*
 - ✓ Schedule EJTF meetings in community settings such as libraries, schools, or churches.
 - *Staff has begun scheduling EJTF meetings in community facilities such as libraries, schools, and churches, and has encouraged EJTF members to suggest specific meeting location options.*
 - ✓ Include a legal adviser on the EJTF.
 - *The EJTF currently includes members with backgrounds in the legal field and the Commission has an attorney on retainer that can be consulted on an as-needed basis.*
 - Establish a permanent role for environmental justice experts in the Commission's structure and allow these experts to provide guidance on developing EJTF meeting agendas. This suggestion was made during the July 2018 retreat.
 - *The primary role of the EJTF is to enhance the consideration and integration of environmental justice throughout the regional planning process. Staff will assist the EJTF with this role by involving environmental justice experts. This could involve guest speakers at EJTF meetings. This could also involve alternative methods such as peer exchanges where participants with environmental justice expertise, including representatives from other metropolitan planning organizations, gather to share best practices and lessons learned. Staff will consult with the EJTF on possible additional approaches to addressing this comment.*
 - State clearly in SEWRPC reports that environmental justice populations include undocumented immigrants residing in the Region. This suggestion was made during the July 2018 retreat.
 - *Staff has attempted to use neutral language within its reports to be as inclusive as possible. Staff will consider this and other EJTF suggestions in preparing future reports and materials.*

- Work with the EJTF to perform a SWOT analysis or similar exercise on planning issues facing the Region to establish criteria for developing agendas and reviewing materials (i.e., a “cheat sheet”). This suggestion was made during the July 2018 retreat.
 - *Staff will consult with the EJTF on how to best address this comment.*

- Provide more technology options, such as video conferencing or mobile apps, to make the EJTF more appealing to younger individuals. This suggestion was made during the July 2018 retreat.
 - *Staff will consult with the EJTF on how to best address this comment.*

REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY PLAN

The list in this section includes suggestions made by EJTF members during the process to prepare the regional water supply plan, accompanied by a brief description of if, and how, each suggestion was implemented. The EJTF reviewed and provided feedback on the water supply plan beginning at its November 27, 2007, meeting, and concluding at its September 02, 2010, meeting. The water supply plan was adopted by the Commission in December 2010.

Suggestions

- ✓ Complete a socio-economic impact analysis to determine the impact of the water supply plan recommendations on the Region’s populations.
 - *A socio-economic impact analysis was completed in July 2010 by the UWM Center for Economic Development, with extensive input provided by the EJTF.*

- ✓ Allow sufficient time for public comment following development of the plan alternatives, but before a final recommended plan is developed, and distribute the comments received and the responses to those comments to EJTF members.
 - *A series of nine public meetings was held throughout the Region in January and early February 2009 to brief residents on the plan alternatives and preliminary recommended plan and obtain public comment. A formal comment period was initially announced as January 12 through February 9, 2009, but was extended at the EJTF’s suggestion to March 16, 2009. Staff distributed the comments and staff responses via the EJTF listserv in June 2009.*

- Review the regional water supply plan five years following completion and amend the plan if the planning assumptions appear to no longer be accurate.
 - *A formal review of the water supply plan and its assumptions has not yet been completed. The five-year mark for the water supply plan was 2015, which came at a time when the City of Waukesha's application for a Lake Michigan diversion was being reviewed by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. It would not have been worthwhile to review the plan at that time because a major plan recommendation (the Waukesha diversion) was in the process of being considered for implementation and the outcome of that process would significantly affect the plan review. Now that the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Council has approved the Waukesha diversion application, staff is considering a review of the water supply plan.*

REGIONAL HOUSING PLAN

The list in this section includes suggestions made by EJTF members during the process to prepare the regional housing plan, accompanied by a brief description of if, and how, each suggestion was implemented. The EJTF reviewed and provided feedback on the housing plan beginning at its November 4, 2010, meeting, and concluding at its January 17, 2013, meeting. The housing plan was adopted by the Commission in March 2013.

In general, EJTF members have been highly supportive of the regional housing plan and its stated vision: "Provide financially sustainable housing for persons of all income levels, age groups, and special needs throughout the entire Southeastern Wisconsin Region." Staff monitors implementation of housing plan recommendations on a one, five, or 10 year basis, in accordance with a monitoring schedule included in the plan. Annual Regional Housing Plan Implementation Reports are available on the Commission's website.¹ Staff is currently preparing a five-year implementation report, which should be available on the website by the end of 2018.

Suggestions

- ✓ The advisory committee should take land use development patterns into consideration during preparation of the housing plan.
 - *Land use development patterns were considered extensively while preparing the regional housing plan, including a significant inventory and analysis effort and a review of the regional land use*

¹ <http://www.sewrpc.org/SEWRPC/Housing/Implementation-Reports.htm>

plan. Achieving a desirable development pattern is embodied in the housing plan recommendations, most notably in the affordable housing recommendations.

- ✓ It seems like Kenosha County is often underrepresented on such committees and the EJTF should ensure that there is gender, ethnicity, and age diversity on the housing committee; young adults could be included as one of the potential groups for representation.
 - *The EJTF participated in the advisory committee nomination process during 2008.*

- ✓ Prepare a one-page handout explaining the expectations for advisory committee members and the general scope of the housing study.
 - *Completed in July 2008 and sent to the EJTF via listserv.*

- ✓ Consider lists of candidates and biographies provided by EJTF members for inclusion on the advisory committee.
 - *All candidates and submitted biographies were considered during committee selection.*

- ✓ Advisory committee members should be comprised of a minimum of 20 percent minorities, low-income group representatives, females, and people with disabilities.
 - *Objective exceeded with committee appointment.*

- ✓ In response to the document entitled "Conceptual Framework for the Membership Structure of the Proposed SEWRPC Housing Plan Advisory Committee," the EJTF accepted the categories of representation including housing production, government, housing advocacy organizations, and research and policy, and requested that migrant labor housing issues, green developers, and affordable housing be represented.
 - *The committee appointments generally followed the Conceptual Framework, but departed in needing to include more county and local government representatives, including housing authorities, resulting in fewer housing advocacy representatives.*

- ✓ Send a thank you letter to those individuals who were nominated by the EJTF but not appointed to the advisory committee, and that those nominated but not selected be used by the Commission as possible replacements if a need arises.
 - *Thank you letters were sent in February 2009. Staff retained the list of nominations that were not initially selected, but ultimately there were no applicable replacement opportunities.*

- ✓ During preparation of the housing plan, consider and analyze the effect of urban design and housing patterns on neighborhood crime and safety issues.
 - *Chapter XI (Best Housing Practices) contains a Neighborhood Safety section beginning on page 662, which focuses on the crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED) concept. The CPTED concept is based on the idea that the proper design of the built environment can lead to a reduction in the incidence and fear of crime and increase quality of life.*

- ✓ Use the housing plan as an opportunity to educate people about the impacts of urban sprawl, and find a way to make a connection between the housing plan recommendations and environmentally conscious decision-making.
 - *A central theme of the housing plan is that modifying local land use regulations to allow and encourage more modest single-family and multifamily housing would discourage urban sprawl and address the significant need for additional housing affordable to the workforce. This theme and the reasoning behind it are thoroughly covered in the housing plan, outreach materials, and whenever staff gives a presentation on the housing plan. Environmental benefits were specifically noted during public meetings on the preliminary housing plan recommendations, and Objective No. 7 of the plan is to "Encourage the use of environmentally responsible residential development practices throughout the Region." That plan objective is accompanied by a principle and standards for achieving the objective. In addition, environmentally responsible ("green") building practices, focused on initiatives local governments can undertake to encourage the use of environmentally responsible residential development, are summarized under Part 2 of Chapter XI (Best Housing Practices).*

- ✓ Complete a socio-economic impact analysis for the housing plan.
 - *A socio-economic impact analysis was completed in January 2013 by the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (UWM) Center for Economic Development, with extensive input provided by the EJTF.*

- ✓ Populations to be included in the socio-economic impact analysis should be identified early on in the planning process.
 - *The purpose of the socio-economic impact analysis was to determine whether or not any of the preliminary housing plan recommendations would have any potential benefits or adverse impacts on minority populations, low-income populations, and people with disabilities. Identifying those population groups was one of the first steps of the process.*

- ✓ Map the proportion of owner- and renter-occupied housing units in each housing plan sub-area.
 - *Map 31 in Chapter IV (Existing Housing) shows the percentage of owner- and renter-occupied housing units in each sub-area in 2010.*

- ✓ Attempt to show State and regional foreclosure trends in a combined figure rather than separately.
 - *Figure 10 in Chapter IV (Existing Housing) shows a comparison of foreclosures in the Region and the State in 2000, 2005, and 2009.*

- ✓ Review statistics on ethnicities that would be pertinent in helping to identify the principal reasons for increased mortgage foreclosures, particularly in Kenosha and Racine Counties.
 - *Maps 42 and 43 in Chapter IV (Existing Housing) show that areas of the Region with high rates of foreclosure activity tend to coincide with areas that have high concentrations of minority populations and low-income populations. Map 44 shows the percentage of rented homes among occupied single-family homes in the Region, which illustrates a correlation between foreclosures and areas with a high percentage of rented single-family homes in the City of Milwaukee, and, to a lesser extent, in the Cities of Kenosha and Racine. Map 45 shows the percentage of high cost loans in each census tract in the Region from 2004 through 2006.*

- ✓ Review a report prepared by the Greater Milwaukee Foundation working with UWM, which examined mortgage foreclosures and identified eight key economic indicators, one of which was related to foreclosures.
 - *Staff likely reviewed this report as part of a thorough literature review conducted during development of the regional housing plan; however, staff does not recall if this specific report was reviewed.*

- ✓ In contrast to the detailed housing plan newsletter, prepare a shorter, more visually appealing summary product for the regional housing plan.
 - *Staff assembled a brochure and a one-page flyer, which were reviewed by the EJTF and were well received by EJTF members.*

- ✓ On the series of maps displaying the locations of different minority groups, use the same population density ranges rather than varying the ranges by map, and clearly identify where minority population concentrations are attributable to correctional institutions.
 - *Staff modified maps in the series to all use the same population density ranges and to add a symbol with accompanying note to each applicable map to identify locations of correctional institutions.*

- ✓ Examine migrant worker housing in the housing plan.
 - *Staff added discussion on migrant worker housing to Chapter VIII (Job/Housing Balance).*

- ✓ In the map of annual household income by housing analysis area, subdivide the highest income category of greater than \$70,000 annually.
 - *Staff added another category to depict annual household incomes greater than \$85,000.*

- ✓ Provide information on the housing plan to colleges and universities.
 - *Staff provided the housing plan report and/or summary newsletter to each college or university library located in the Region and frequently conducts outreach to colleges and universities across the Region, including providing housing plan summary materials. Staff has also given an annual presentation specifically regarding the housing plan to students of a UWM Urban Planning course.*

- ✓ Add a section to the socio-economic analysis examining the impacts on minority populations and low-income populations of not implementing certain housing plan recommendations.
 - *Staff worked with UWM Center for Economic Development staff to add this discussion to Chapter 9 (Summary and Conclusions) of the socio-economic analysis.*

- ✓ Tie compliance with housing plan recommendations to community development block grants and the school property tax to encourage housing plan implementation among communities that have not historically followed housing plan recommendations.
 - *Recommendation 3 under Fair Housing/Opportunity states: "Entitlement jurisdictions should explicitly require sub-grantees to certify that they will affirmatively further fair housing as a condition of receiving Community Planning and Development (CPD) funds, which include the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME programs."*

- ✓ Consider bringing Federal officials, as opposed to State legislators, into the process of implementing housing plan recommendations.
 - *The Federal government has a large role in ensuring the housing plan is implemented, and is one of the parties responsible for implementing 20 of the 50 housing plan recommendations. Table 214 summarizes the final plan recommendations and indicates the unit of government or agency that would need to take action to implement each recommendation.*

- ✓ Strengthen language in the housing plan regarding Independent Living Centers, and include independent living centers in the recommendation on continued State funding for publicly funded, Long Term Care programs.
 - *Recommendation 3 under Accessible Housing recommends that the Governor and State Legislature continue to support funding for publicly funded, Long Term Care programs. Recommendation 4 recommends that public funding be maintained for Independent Living Centers to continue providing services to people with disabilities.*

- ✓ Provide more community or local-level recommendations in addition to the many recommendations tied to the State and Federal levels of government.
 - *While many recommendations indeed require State and Federal involvement to implement, the vast majority of recommendations, include the plan's key recommendations related to encouraging more affordable housing and improved job/housing balance, would require action by local governments.*

- ✓ Consider giving further attention to migrant worker housing beyond the discussion in Chapter VIII (Job/Housing Balance).
 - *In addition to the Chapter VIII discussion, the housing plan recommends that the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development develop a method to document the number of migrant agricultural workers that come to the Region without a work agreement. This would help quantify the potential need for temporary housing for workers and their families.*

- ✓ Give a brief PowerPoint presentation regarding the socio-economic analysis and the housing plan during the public meetings on the preliminary housing plan recommendations to get unfamiliar attendees up to speed, particularly as information on the display boards could be overwhelming to some attendees.
 - *This presentation was given during the series of public meetings held in November and December, 2012.*

- ✓ Prepare an explanation of why implementing the housing plan would be good for the Region.
 - *Part 5 (Conclusions) of Chapter XII (Recommended Housing Plan for the Region) describes the reasons for considering plan implementation, and was also made into a separate handout.*

- ✓ Identify and provide employment data related to how many City of Milwaukee residents are employed in the City of Milwaukee.
 - *Staff provided data at the April 16, 2013, meeting that indicated about 63 percent of City of Milwaukee residents were employed in the City of Milwaukee, and also attached to that meeting's minutes a table from the regional housing plan showing the percentage of workers who are employed in their county of residence by sub-area.*

VISION 2050: A REGIONAL LAND USE AND TRANSPORTATION PLAN

The list in this section includes suggestions made by EJTF members during the process to prepare VISION 2050 and an amendment to VISION 2050 related to Foxconn, accompanied by a brief description of if, and how, each suggestion was implemented. The EJTF reviewed and provided feedback on VISION 2050 beginning at its April 16, 2013, meeting, and concluding at its June 21, 2016, meeting. VISION 2050 was then adopted by the Commission in July 2016. The EJTF reviewed and provided feedback on the VISION 2050 amendment related to Foxconn at its September 13, 2018, meeting.

In general, EJTF members have been highly supportive of VISION 2050 and its recommendations, particularly those related to improving public transit to better connect residents to jobs and other daily needs, encouraging more compact development that focuses on infill and redevelopment in existing urban centers, and providing a variety of housing options near employment. Staff monitors implementation of the plan every one, four, or 10 years, in accordance with a monitoring schedule included in the plan. Given that VISION 2050 was completed recently and is long range in nature, there is limited information available as to plan implementation status.

The following provides a status update regarding the main plan elements based on general observations by staff:

- **Land use:** There has been a reasonably high level of additional infill and redevelopment in existing urban centers and a significant number of multifamily developments moving forward around the Region in accordance with the plan, although not necessarily a notable transformation in development densities. In pursuit of land use plan implementation, staff is working with several communities and counties to update their comprehensive plans and in the process making them aware of VISION 2050's recommendations and the resulting benefits.
- **Public transit:** There has been limited progress toward implementing the significant improvement and expansion of transit service recommended by VISION 2050 and no current prospects for providing additional transit funding. However, there are a number of efforts underway, which the Commission staff is involved in to varying degrees, with the potential to result in progress toward plan implementation. These efforts include the Milwaukee County East-West Bus Rapid Transit, Milwaukee Streetcar expansion, MCTS NEXT system redesign, Ozaukee County transit development plan, Regional Transit Leadership Council, Eastern Racine County Transportation Task Force, and Milwaukee County proposed bus service to the Foxconn manufacturing campus.
- **Arterial streets and highways:** Arterial reconstruction projects have been completed since the plan's completion, but the overall transportation funding situation continues to hinder progress on maintaining the arterial system in a state of good repair. Regarding freeway construction, notable progress has been made toward reconstructing a 35-mile segment of I-94 North-South in Kenosha, Racine, and Milwaukee Counties. However, reconstruction of the segment of I-94 East-West between 70th Street and 16th Street in the City of Milwaukee has been postponed indefinitely by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT). Staff has also reviewed the financial analysis originally prepared for the VISION 2050 transportation component. The updated analysis shows that expected revenues will be insufficient to complete the recommended reconstruction of several portions of the Region's arterial street and highway system by 2050, particularly affecting freeway system reconstruction. As a result, several segments of the regional freeway system that were previously recommended for reconstruction are no longer included in the fiscally constrained portion of the arterial streets and highways element. This analysis was updated as part of a plan amendment incorporating land use changes and transportation improvements related to the planned Foxconn manufacturing campus. This plan amendment is expected to be completed by the end of 2018. Staff has also begun preparing new county jurisdictional highway system plans to refine and amend the functional improvements recommended under VISION 2050, with the first such plan, for Ozaukee County, completed in late 2018 or early 2019.

- **Bicycle and pedestrian:** Staff has observed progress in terms of additional bicycle accommodations, including some additional bike lanes, additional connections within the regional off-street path system, and the Region's first protected bike lanes on the North Avenue and Locust Street bridges in the City of Milwaukee. Staff is participating as appropriate in several efforts that could lead to additional implementation, including the City of Milwaukee's Path to Platinum initiative, the Route of the Badger, a bicycle and pedestrian plan for Washington County, and expanded dockless bike sharing in Milwaukee County.

Suggestions

- ✓ Recommend ways to improve transit service connecting Milwaukee County residents to job opportunities in outlying counties of the Region and recommend expanding service hours to serve second- and third-shift workers.
 - *VISION 2050 recommends a variety of transit improvements that would better connect Milwaukee County residents to jobs in outlying counties. The plan also recommends expanding existing service hours on a number of services.*
- ✓ In the evaluation of VISION 2050, continue to include analyses of potential adverse impacts on minority populations and low-income populations and identification of any disproportionate adverse impacts, and also include identification of measures to mitigate any disproportionate adverse impacts.
 - *Throughout the VISION 2050 process, staff considered the potential benefits and impacts to minority populations and low-income populations of alternate futures for land use and transportation. Each "equity analysis" prepared at various stages of the process was guided broadly by an overriding consideration specified as part of the initial VISION 2050 Guiding Statements: "the benefits and impacts of investments in the Region's land and transportation system should be shared fairly and equitably among all groups of people." An initial analysis was conducted for the conceptual land use and transportation scenarios on a sketch level, followed by much more detailed analyses for the alternative plans, preliminary recommended plan, and fiscally constrained transportation plan.*
- ✓ Consider addressing urban farming, including community gardens and vertical farming, in addition to farming in rural areas.
 - *VISION 2050 recommends developing a regional food system (Recommendation 1.15) and recommends local government land use policies consider allowing urban agriculture, such as*

vertical farming and community gardens on vacant lots. Design Guidelines 1.15.1 and 1.15.3 (Appendix K) provide additional guidance related to urban agriculture.

- ✓ Make environmental justice principles an overarching consideration applying to all VISION 2050 Guiding Statements.
 - *The following sentence was added to the introductory paragraph for the Guiding Statements: “An overriding consideration for all Guiding Statements is that the benefits and impacts of investments in the Region’s land and transportation system should be shared fairly and equitably among all groups of people.”*

- ✓ Evaluate environmental justice-related benefits and impacts during each step of the planning process.
 - *Environmental justice was established as an important consideration during the initial visioning stage. It was evaluated at a sketch-level during the scenarios stage and in more detailed “equitable access” analyses prepared to evaluate the alternative plans, draft plan, and final plan.*

- ✓ Attempt to attract younger audiences to visioning workshops.
 - *Participation generally skewed older at most of the public workshops, but there were numerous students that attended from local colleges and universities based on contacts made by Commission staff, staff gave presentations on VISION 2050 to several college/university classes, and there was a high turnout of younger individuals at several partner workshops.*

- ✓ Revisit past plans to determine whether resources have been allocated according to the plan recommendations.
 - *An assessment of how well the 2035 regional land use and transportations plans were implemented is documented in Volume I, Chapter 3 of the VISION 2050 plan report.*

- ✓ Address new travel technologies and preferences.
 - *Travel habits and patterns are documented in Volume I, Chapter 5 of the VISION 2050 plan report. The impacts of technology changes were considered in Criterion 4.1.3 of the evaluations conducted for the alternative plans and the draft plan.*

- ✓ Address safety issues, particularly related to freeway on-ramps.
 - *VISION 2050 includes a systems-level safety element, but specific recommendations related to the geometric configuration of intersections and freeway ramps at specific locations are beyond the scope of the plan and would be addressed during the preliminary engineering of a project.*

- ✓ Address lack of transit reverse commute options between the City of Milwaukee and outlying employment areas.
 - *VISION 2050 recommends commuter bus and rail services be provided in both directions, which would include reverse-commute service (Recommendation 2.2). The plan also recommends expanding local transit services to provide access to suburban employment centers.*

- Include a policy statement about the positive impact of hiring requirements for government-funded construction projects on areas with low incomes and high unemployment.
 - *Staff did not incorporate language reinforcing this policy in the recommended plan.*

- ✓ Consider implications of climate change.
 - *The ability of the alternative plans and draft plan to address issues related to climate change was considered in Criterion 1.4.6 of the evaluations conducted for the alternative plans and draft plan.*

- Recommend funding for public art and freeway aesthetics.
 - *Staff did not include a recommendation for funding public art in the final plan.*

- ✓ Do not consider Scenario A, which includes a reduction in transit service, as a basis for the plan.
 - *Scenario A was intended to provide a baseline comparison for the other scenarios and was not used as the basis for the recommended plan.*

- ✓ Address the potential for gentrification and displacement of low-income residents in some neighborhoods as a result of transit-oriented development (TOD).
 - *Strategies to address concerns about gentrification and displacement through the provision of mixed-income housing in TODs are presented under Recommendation 1.2. The potential for increased property values in fixed-guideway station areas and strategies for including affordable housing in those areas was also considered in Criterion 3.1.1 of the evaluations conducted for the alternative plans and the draft plan.*

- ✓ Consider expanding equitable access analyses to include protected classes beyond low-income populations and minority populations.
 - *For the draft plan evaluation, benefits and impacts for people with disabilities and families with incomes less than twice the poverty level were analyzed in addition to minority populations and families in poverty.*

- ✓ Encourage job access programs that assist individuals in obtaining reliable transportation to jobs.
 - *Under Recommendation 2.9, VISION 2050 recommends that all levels of government support job access programs, including driver's license recovery programs and low-interest vehicle loan programs for low-income individuals, to assist low-income individuals in accessing job opportunities.*

- ✓ Consider the transportation needs of the aging population.
 - *The ability of the alternative plans and draft plan to accommodate demographic shifts, such as the aging of the Baby Boomer generation, was considered in Criterion 2.2.2 of the evaluations conducted for the alternative plans and the draft plan.*

- ✓ Connect with community organizations to ensure those groups that wish to participate in the VISION 2050 effort are aware of the opportunity.
 - *The Commission partnered with eight nonprofit, community organizations to conduct targeted outreach to their constituents. This outreach effort was largely designed to reach and engage minority populations, people with disabilities, and low-income individuals, thereby increasing awareness of the VISION 2050 effort and encouraging participation by all groups and individuals. In addition, during each stage of the planning process, Mr. Steve Adams of the Commission staff sent a personalized letter to each of approximately 100 organizations that serve as a formal distribution network for information about Commission planning activities. The organizations on the contact list serve low-income areas; areas predominantly consisting of communities of color and targeted ethnicities; people with disabilities; and/or communities or neighborhoods where issues related to employment, transportation, land use, and environmental deterioration relate directly to the Commission's planning efforts. Staff was regularly in contact with most of these groups, and followed up with them directly following the letters, as appropriate.*

- ✓ Explain what is meant by the term “bicycle facilities” within the text of the VISION 2050 plan report.
 - *Definitions for different types of transportation investments, including different types of bicycle facilities, are provided along with photo examples in Figure 1.2 of Volume III of the plan report.*

- ✓ Revise Recommendation 1.6 (Provide a mix of housing types near employment-supporting land uses) to refer to business parks instead of industrial land, given that industrial land tends to be incompatible with residential land.
 - *Staff revised text in Recommendation 1.6 to read: “Commercial land and business parks should be developed in mixed-use settings where compatible, or near a mix of housing types to avoid job-worker mismatches.”*

- ✓ Continue to share suggestions for publicizing events with the Commission’s partner organizations following VISION 2050.
 - *Staff continues to regularly engage the eight VISION 2050 partner organizations—and a ninth partner added following VISION 2050—and ensures that opportunities to provide input on Commission planning efforts are shared with the partners.*

- ✓ In the amendment related to Foxconn, include a recommendation similar to the former Ways to Work program.
 - *Staff, after consulting the administrator of YWCA’s Auto Loan Access Program, added Recommendation 2.9 (Implement programs to improve access to suburban employment centers) from the original VISION 2050 plan to the amendment as a pertinent transportation recommendation.*

- ✓ Regarding the amendment related to Foxconn, involve Foxconn management to better understand the transportation and housing needs associated with the Foxconn development.
 - *While staff has not directly contacted Foxconn management specifically regarding the VISION 2050 amendment, the appropriate elected officials and other government agency representatives have been involved. These representatives have been in communication with Foxconn officials regarding their specific needs and the elected officials will ultimately drive the decision-making process.*

LAND USE AND TRANSPORTATION

The list in this section includes suggestions made by EJTF members regarding land use and transportation, but not specifically in reference to VISION 2050, accompanied by a brief description of if, and how, each suggestion was implemented.

Suggestions

- ✓ Provide information regarding the I-94 North/South Project and the KRM Commuter Rail Project; people often think the two projects are the same.
 - *Clarification completed; distributed as an attachment to the August 7, 2007, meeting minutes.*

- Regarding transit funding in peer metro areas, compare all taxes and tax rates across metropolitan areas.
 - *Commission staff have completed a number of analyses comparing the source and level of transit funding in the Milwaukee metro area to those of other major metro areas across the nation. The most recent of these analyses is include in Memorandum Report No. 223, "A Comparison of the Milwaukee Metropolitan Area to Its Peers." Staff have not completed a comprehensive analysis of all tax types and rates in peer metro areas, but could so if the EJTF is still interested.*

- ✓ Incorporate recommendations to address negative land use development trends from the regional land use plan into the regional water supply and housing plans.
 - *The regional land use plan serves as the foundation for all other Commission plans. As such, staff incorporated relevant land use plan recommendations into both the water supply plan and housing plan. Many of these recommendations are aimed at addressing negative land use development trends that have occurred historically. For the water supply plan, the 2035 land use plan served as a basis for determining the population and employment forecasts and land use pattern required to forecast water supply demands. A guiding concept for the water supply plan was that the adopted land use plan would be amended if it were determined that a sustainable water supply could not be achieved through the year 2035 under that land use plan. However, no amendment was needed because it was established that a sustainable water supply could be achieved without modifying the adopted land use plan. The housing plan further refined land use plan recommendations related to housing, which were later incorporated into VISION 2050. These refinements were aided by more in-depth analyses, such as identifying those communities where affordable housing could be accommodated under existing zoning ordinance requirements and analysis of community comprehensive plans to determine areas identified for new housing at*

densities that would accommodate affordable housing. However, when it comes to addressing negative land use development trends, it is important to acknowledge that the Commission's plan recommendations are advisory to local governments, which ultimately have authority over land use development decisions per State law.

- ✓ Noting the infrastructure costs attendant to new development, study more efficient future development alternatives.
 - *The cost of providing infrastructure to new development was analyzed extensively during VISION 2050, particularly during the evaluation of alternative plans. In general, the analyses found that the alternatives proposing a more compact development pattern, with more infill development and redevelopment in existing urban areas, were likely to have a lower cost related to extending supportive infrastructure to new development.*

- Address the demographics of areas in which transit service cuts were being considered in 2011.
 - *This was not completed because no significant cuts have been made since 2010. However, it should be noted that the Federal Transit Administration requires transit agencies like MCTS to perform an equity analysis related to potential impacts to minority populations and low-income populations when considering any major service changes. Given that the minority population and low-income population use transit more on average, transit cuts can reduce mobility for these population groups even when the cuts occur in areas without a concentration of minority residents or low-income residents.*

- SEWRPC and WisDOT should not provide planning support for the expansion of the freeway interchange near Pabst Farms, which is an area being developed with urban uses rather than remaining in rural use as recommended by the 2035 regional land use plan.
 - *The regional land use plan has historically recommended that the Pabst Farms area stay in rural use for several reasons, including the protection of prime agricultural land, the protection of a high-quality groundwater recharge area, and the location being too far from urban centers. However, the three local governments in that location, which have authority over land use development decisions per State law, determined to reject the regional land use plan's advisory recommendation that the area stay in rural use. Regarding the freeway interchange near Pabst Farms, the Commission has long recommended that WisDOT consider converting all freeway half interchanges to full interchanges, and regional transportation plans have recommended converting the subject interchange at CTH P and IH 94 to a full interchange since 1994.*

- ✓ Milwaukee County Transit System (MCTS) service could be improved by providing information about waiting times at bus stops through technologies such as a mobile phone application that provides information about where buses are in their routes.
 - *MCTS launched a real-time bus tracking system in 2014 and, in November 2017, MCTS launched a new mobile app called Ride MCTS, which includes real-time bus tracking, trip planning, and ticket purchasing.*

- Conduct an information campaign about reverse commute service in communities with high unemployment.
 - *Staff did not engage in a formal information campaign. Unfortunately, the availability of reverse commute services has been limited in the Region, and services are typically only provided in the peak commuting direction. It is important to point out that the typically longer travel times associated with reverse commute service can be a barrier, particularly when many of the jobs that would be accessed offer lower wages. However, it has become clearer recently that employers outside existing transit service areas are having difficulties hiring workers and many appear willing to offer higher wages, which would compensate for the longer travel times. In addition, VISION 2050 specifically recommends providing frequent commuter transit services in both directions and extending service to new areas and staff is involved in several current efforts to identify workforce transportation solutions.*

- ✓ During review in 2013 of the procedures for evaluating, prioritizing, and recommending projects for Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Surface Transportation Program – Milwaukee Urbanized Area (STP-M) funding, EJTF members suggested considering job/housing balance, access to transit, deferred maintenance of infrastructure in the City of Milwaukee, and project location relative to concentrations of minority populations and low-income populations.
 - *The Commission heavily involved the EJTF in identifying potential changes to the STP-M process, and communicated EJTF suggestions to the Advisory Committee on Transportation System Planning and Programming for the Milwaukee Urbanized Area (Milwaukee TIP Committee). The Milwaukee TIP Committee considered and approved changes in 2015, including revised criteria providing bonus points for projects located in communities without an identified job/housing imbalance and bonus points for capacity expansion projects based on the community's level of transit service. The pavement condition criterion was also revised so that condition would be evaluated prior to a maintenance overlay, which is used frequently by the City of Milwaukee to extend the life of a roadway until funding becomes available. Staff also conducted an analysis*

comparing the location of candidate projects for STP-M funding in relation to areas with concentrations of minority populations and low-income populations to ensure that environmental justice populations receive a proportional share of benefits from the projects.

- Consider a concern for pedestrians crossing freeway entrance points because of fast-moving vehicles.
 - *This specific safety issue has not been directly addressed in the Commission's planning efforts, although VISION 2050 makes several recommendations related to providing facilities that facilitate safe pedestrian travel and incorporating complete streets concepts into roadway design. One example would be reducing the number of travel lanes on multi-lane roadways that have existing and future traffic volumes that do not require the current number of travel lanes. Reducing travel lanes in these situations can improve pedestrian safety and comfort by shortening crossing distances at intersections, including at freeway entrance points. Staff has also participated in studies such as the City of Milwaukee's WIS 175 Visioning Study, which looked at ways to improve safety where the Stadium Freeway terminates at Lisbon Avenue. The focus of these types of studies is to apply context sensitive design, which considers aspects beyond the physical characteristics of a roadway to fit within the environments where they are being built and which can help to address issues like pedestrian safety at freeway entrance points.*

* * *