

# REGIONAL PLANNING NEWS

A publication of the **Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission**



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Know an employer struggling to get workers to the workplace? Tell them about the Workforce Mobility Team! The Team is here to work with any employers in the Region to help them address their workforce mobility challenges. We will learn about their needs, connect them with available resources and best practices, and even support them as they implement a particular workforce mobility solution.

For more information:  
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To arrange a meeting:  
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## Housing Affordability Reports

As reported in the June 2019 Edition of *Regional Planning News*, cities and villages with populations of 10,000 people or more are required to prepare a housing affordability report by January 1, 2020, per Section 66.10013 of the *Wisconsin Statutes*. SEWRPC has been providing assistance to a number of communities in the Region over the last six months and will continue to do so into the New Year.

The report needs to include extensive data and analyses regarding development activity, development potential, and land use regulations within a community. If your community has not already requested assistance from SEWRPC and does not have the staff capacity to complete the report, there may be an opportunity to apply for a waiver that could be effective for up to four years. As reported by the League of Wisconsin Municipalities, the City of River Falls successfully applied to the Wisconsin Department of Revenue (DOR) for a temporary waiver under Section 66.0143 of the *Wisconsin Statutes*. The City cited a lack of capacity and resources to complete the report by January 1, 2020, in its application, and also emphasized that it had recently completed a comprehensive housing needs analysis. The form for applying for a waiver is available on the DOR website at [revenue.wi.gov/DORForms/pa-050.pdf](http://revenue.wi.gov/DORForms/pa-050.pdf).

For more information about housing affordability reports, please visit the SEWRPC website or contact:

Ben McKay, AICP | Deputy Director  
262-953-3229 | [bmckay@sewrpc.org](mailto:bmckay@sewrpc.org)



**2** 2020 Review and Update of VISION 2050 Initiated



**3** Phantom Lakes Plan Completed



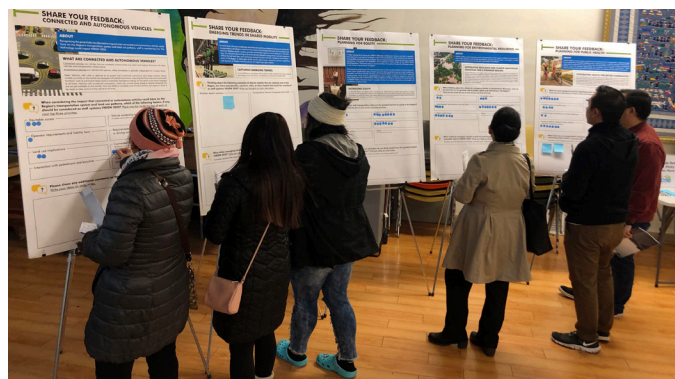
## 2020 Review and Update of VISION 2050 Initiated

The Commission has initiated a federally required interim review and update of VISION 2050, which is expected to be completed in mid-2020. The 2020 Review and Update looks at how well VISION 2050 is being implemented, compares the year 2050 forecasts underlying the plan to current estimates, and explores how the existing transportation system is performing.

The review will also examine whether it remains reasonable for the recommendations in VISION 2050 to be accomplished over the next 30 years, given implementation of the plan to date and available and anticipated funding. As a result of the review and update process, recommendations may be added or changed, and the financial analysis will be updated to reflect any changes in anticipated funding or expenditures.

The first of two rounds of public involvement for the 2020 Review and Update was held in November and December of 2019. The purpose of the first round was to share information with the public about how well the various plan elements are being implemented, and collect feedback about this progress. Staff also obtained comments on changes in technology and trends since VISION 2050 was adopted that should be considered as the plan's recommendations are updated. Staff are considering these comments as the draft 2020 Review and Update is prepared. The comments will be provided to the Advisory Committees guiding VISION 2050 to consider as part of the Review and Update.

A second round of public involvement will take place in early spring 2020. At this time the public will be able to review the draft 2020 Review and Update, including updated financial and equity analyses. Visit the VISION 2050 website to learn more: [vision2050sewis.org](http://vision2050sewis.org).



VISION 2050 recommends a long-range vision for land use and transportation in the seven-county Southeastern Wisconsin Region. It makes recommendations to local and State government to shape and guide land use development and transportation improvement, including public transit, arterial streets and highways, and bicycle and pedestrian facilities, to the year 2050.





## Non-Motorized Count Program

Commission staff concluded its 2019 bicycle and pedestrian count season in November. This effort involved collecting short-term two-week counts at 54 locations between March and November, in addition to the continual counts collected year-round at four long-term sites. In addition, staff collected counts at six short-term sites on the Oak Leaf Trail at the request of Milwaukee County. New data from 18 of the short-term locations counted during the summer season (June through August) and the six requested locations are now available on the interactive map on the Commission website at [sewrpc.org/nmcounts](http://sewrpc.org/nmcounts). Fall count data will be made available in early 2020.

Staff regularly coordinates with other entities in the Region that manage bicycle count programs, such as the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT), which conducted 26 short-term counts between May and October. As part of this regional coordination, staff will be working with WisDOT in January to develop short-term bicycle count schedules for the 2020 count season.



Other coordination efforts include working with Dr. Bob Schneider, an associate professor in the Urban Planning Department at UW-Milwaukee, on a pedestrian exposure study. Dr. Schneider's project will evaluate pedestrian crossing exposure rates by conducting pedestrian counts at various intersections in the Region. Staff is assisting Dr. Schneider with this study by conducting pedestrian counts at the Mequon Road/Pilgrim Road intersection in the Village of Germantown during the winter months.



## Phantom Lakes Aquatic Plant Management Plan Completed

SEWRPC recently completed the second edition of Memorandum Report No. 81, *Aquatic Plant Management Plan Update for the Phantom Lakes, Waukesha County, Wisconsin: 2019*. Aquatic plant survey data collected by SEWRPC staff in July and August 2017 shows that the Phantom Lakes, particularly Lower Phantom, contains a rich variety of plant species. Twenty-eight different submerged aquatic plants were found, including several species, such as wild celery (*Vallisneria spiralis*), large leaf pondweed (*Potamogeton amplifolius*), and sago pondweed (*Stuckenia pectinata*) that are considered high-value aquatic plant species under Section NR 107.08 (4) of the *Wisconsin Administrative Code*. Compared to the previous survey in 2011,



Lower Phantom Lake had higher native species diversity and reduced abundance of non native invasive species, demonstrating the effectiveness of the Phantom Lakes Management District's harvesting program and Lake management (see plan for more details). Analysis of the District's aquatic plant harvesting operations found that their harvesting removes up to two tons of phosphorus from the Lakes each year; a valuable method for protecting the Lakes' water quality. Materials in this plan were used to prepare the approved 2019–2023 Mechanical/Manual Aquatic Plant Control permit (SE-2019-68-5219M) for the Lakes.



## SEWRPC 2018 Annual Report Now Available

In the fall of 2019, the Commission distributed its 2018 Annual Report across the Region. The annual report gives the Commission the opportunity to review and reflect on the past year's accomplishments. The Commission took a fresh approach to producing this 58th annual report. The year's activities are presented in an approachable, easy-to-follow format that emphasizes key work efforts. We hope that county and local public officials, as well as other interested residents, find this report useful and informative. We encourage anyone interested in learning about our work to review the 2018 Annual Report online and contact us if you would like us to send you a hardcopy. The 2018 Annual Report is available at [sewrpc.org/2018AnnualReport](http://sewrpc.org/2018AnnualReport).

## Brownfield Assistance

As reported in the June 2017 Edition of *Regional Planning News*, SEWRPC and a number of the other regional planning commissions across the State continue to serve as partners with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) in the Wisconsin Brownfields Coalition. The WDNR can help communities, non-profit organizations, and private parties clean-up and redevelop brownfields. More information about brownfield assistance is available at [dnr.wi.gov/topic/Brownfields/Brownfields.html](http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Brownfields/Brownfields.html).

