

REGIONAL PLANNING NEWS

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Work Continues on 2021-2025 CEDS

In a partnership led by the Milwaukee 7 (M7), the Commission continues to work on preparing a new Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for Southeastern Wisconsin. The CEDS makes county and local governments with EDA-defined economically distressed areas eligible to apply for certain EDA grants. A strategic plan to diversify and strengthen the Region's economy, the CEDS draws heavily from the work of M7. In fall 2020, the CEDS partnership obtained initial input for the 2021-2025 CEDS through a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) exercise that will help to inform the strategic direction of the new CEDS. The SWOT input is being considered as M7 and SEWRPC prepare the next pieces of the CEDS. M7 and SEWRPC will share a draft CEDS and ask for input during a second round of stakeholder engagement in early 2021. More information on the current CEDS is available at sewrpc.org/ceds.



Credit: VISIT Milwaukee



Waukesha TDP – Bus Stop Inventory

As part of the evaluation of the Waukesha Metro and Waukesha County Transit systems for the 2021–2025 Waukesha Area Transit Development Plan (TDP), Commission staff collected bus stop information at over 600 bus stops in the City of Waukesha and Waukesha County. Preparation for the data collection began in early 2020 with the development of an online survey using the ArcGIS Survey123 application.

Between July and September, Commission staff collected information on and took photos of amenities such as signage, the presence of connecting sidewalk, bus pads, curb ramps, bus shelters, and lighting. This information will help the transit systems improve the comfort, safety, and convenience of the transit system by identifying needed improvements at specific bus stops. A summary of the findings will be included in the TDP, including a list of recommended improvements and approximate costs for consideration by the Advisory Committee, the City of Waukesha, and Waukesha County.

The Commission can assist other transit systems or communities in conducting inventories of pedestrian and transit amenities in the Region. If you are interested in the inventory services or the Waukesha Area TDP, please email jsarnecki@sewrpc.org or visit sewrpc.org/WaukeshaTransit.



Second Edition of VISION 2050 Published

The Commission adopted the 2020 Review and Update to VISION 2050 in June and has now incorporated all the updates into a Second Edition of VISION 2050. The report documenting the 2020 Update has also been published along with a document summarizing the 2020 Update. While the 2020 Update does not represent a major overhaul of the plan, it ensures the plan stays current and addresses federal requirements. The Second Edition of VISION 2050 and 2020 Update report and summary are available on the VISION 2050 website: vision2050sewis.org. Changes made to VISION 2050 as a result of

the 2020 Update are also reflected throughout the site, including on individual pages for each plan element and within interactive maps of key elements.

The site also has a new page devoted to the transportation funding analysis and a new page for the equity analysis. An important conclusion from the funding analysis was confirmation that a significant funding gap exists for the recommended transportation system. Without additional transportation funding, many of the public transit and highway improvements cannot be accomplished. The plan identifies possible ways to address the transportation funding gap so that VISION 2050 can be fully implemented.

The equity analysis evaluates the potential benefits and impacts to people of color, low-income populations, and people with disabilities related to the updated land use and transportation components of VISION 2050. Notably, the equity analysis of the transportation component concluded that without additional funding to implement the VISION 2050 public transit element, a disparate impact on these population groups is likely to occur.



Healthy Soils: A Triple Win

Soil health initiatives, cropping practices that embrace the living nature of soils, are actively used in portions of Southeastern Wisconsin to protect the environment and provide long-term benefits to producers. These initiatives eliminate most tillage and purposely maintain cover crops to improve soil structure, feed soil biota, capture nutrients, control pests, shield soil from rainfall and runoff, and restore soil's ability to absorb and hold water.

Many lake and river protection organizations actively promote soil health initiatives to further their goals. Producer-led soil health initiatives have also formed throughout the Region. Producer-led groups are largely composed of pragmatic production farmers searching for practical ways to sustain their operations while protecting the environment. Examples of active producer-led groups in Southeastern Wisconsin include the following.

- Cedar Creek Farmers:
www.co.washington.wi.us/departments.iml?Detail=1224
- Milwaukee River Clean Farm Families:
www.cleanfarmfamilies.com
- Watershed Protection Committee of Racine County:
www.wpcracinecounty.org

Soil health initiatives promise stable or increased producer yields, reduced producer input costs, and longer time slots when crops can be planted, tilled, or harvested. Furthermore, soil health initiatives can help reduce runoff volume and help protect groundwater resources. So, a "triple win:" better water quality and reduced erosion, more profitable/sustainable farms, and improved hydrology. As a consequence, soil health initiatives are actively being incorporated into many of the Commission's water resource-focused plans including those addressing Delavan Lake, Geneva Lake's tributaries, and the Oconomowoc River. If you'd like to learn more, this 10 minute video shows the benefits of soil health practices: youtu.be/5rbSWey0pOg. We also encourage anyone interested in soil health to monitor the websites listed above and/or contact their county land conservation or local NRCS/FSA staff.



SEWRPC 2019 Annual Report Now Available

The Commission's 2019 Annual Report is now available and was recently distributed across the Region. 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 2019 Annual Report online and contact us if you would like us to send you a hardcopy.



The annual report gives the us the opportunity to review and reflect on our valuable partnerships and the year's accomplishments. While this 59th annual report emphasizes key work efforts during 2019, it was assembled during the global COVID-19 pandemic that began in early 2020. The Commission recognizes the significant impacts and unprecedented uncertainty the pandemic has caused. In the face of the pandemic, we are committed to continuing to provide high-quality planning services and monitoring changing conditions as they relate to our work.

The 2019 Annual Report is available at sewrpc.org/2019AnnualReport.



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.

For more information:
sewrpc.org/mobility

To arrange a meeting:
mobility@sewrpc.org

