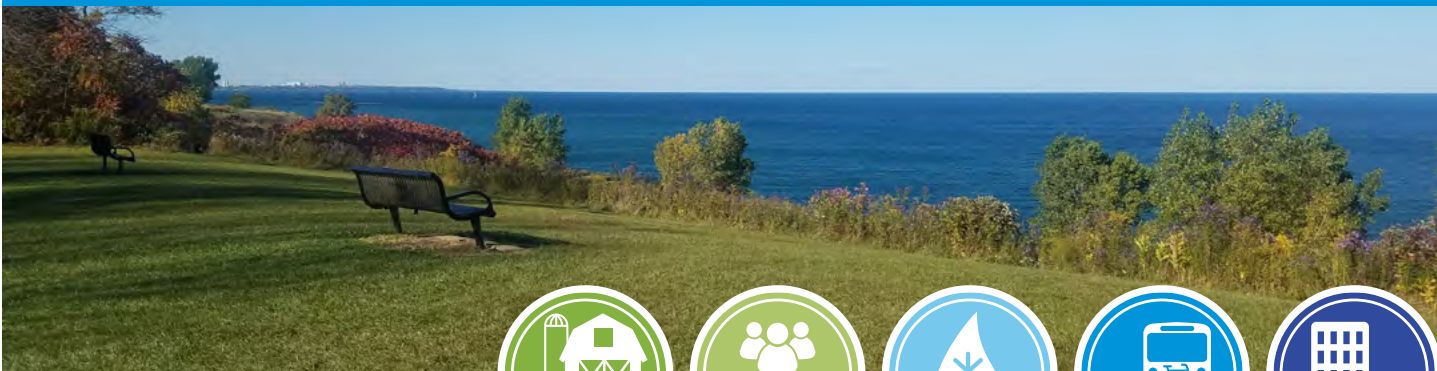


REGIONAL PLANNING NEWS

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2 SEWRPC-UWM Mobility Partnership

In Memory of Kurt W. Bauer

Former Commission Executive Director Kurt W. Bauer P.E., RLS, Ph.D. passed away on December 13, 2020, at the age of 91. Dr. Bauer served as the Executive Director of the Commission between 1961 and 1996 and continued to serve the Commission in an Executive Director Emeritus role until his passing. In his years of service, Dr. Bauer's leadership and vision built the Commission from its infancy into an agency of high caliber, with a well-deserved reputation for excellence. As Executive Director, Dr. Bauer directed the development of the elements of what would become a comprehensive plan for the seven-county Region, including the regional land use, transportation, flood control, water quality management, housing, and park plan elements, as well as numerous guides to aid county and local governments in land use planning and regulation.



Dr. Bauer pioneered innovative approaches in the development of regional plan elements in the early years of the Commission, including preparing a land use plan to serve as the basis of other regional plan elements, precisely identifying the most important elements of the natural resource base, using watersheds as principal planning units for water quality and quantity planning, developing and evaluating alternative plans, and using advisory committees to guide regional planning efforts. Dr. Bauer also directed large-scale topographic and cadastral mapping and survey control programs covering about 75 percent of the Region. In his role as Executive Director Emeritus, Dr. Bauer was instrumental in developing the regional water supply plan. Dr. Bauer was the recipient of a number of special honors during his time as Executive Director of the Commission, from organizations, institutions, and agencies including the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), National Society of Professional Engineering, Marquette University, Great Lakes Commission, Federal Highway Administration, and University of Wisconsin-Madison College of Engineering.

Dr. Bauer will be greatly missed by the Commission and staff. His legacy in planning innovation and regional cooperation will continue within the Commission's work in the years and decades to come.



3 Obtaining Input on Draft 2021-2025 CEDS



SEWRPC Partnering with UWM on Mobility Solutions Grant

Getting workers without access to a car from Milwaukee to jobs in nearby communities without transit service continues to be one of the more challenging transportation issues we face as a Region. A new effort to address this challenge is underway through a Civic Innovation Challenge (CIVIC) Planning Grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF), which was recently awarded to the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee. In partnership with Professor Lingqian (Ivy) Hu, Associate Professor Bob Schneider, and Assistant Professor Jie Yu, Commission staff are working with employers in the Villages of Menomonee Falls and Butler to identify preferred mobility options that connect workers to jobs.

Various mobility options, such as shuttle services and ride hailing apps, were recently presented to a group of business leaders in the study areas. Focus groups with workers were held the week of March 8 to gauge their interest in potential transportation solutions. The goal of the first phase of the project, to be completed by early summer, is to identify specific solutions that could address the challenges for employers and workers and a strategy to implement these solutions as a pilot program.

It is anticipated that UWM will apply for a second grant, through the NSF, to implement the pilot program.



Credit: City of Dublin, Ohio, USA



Credit: Mass Transit Magazine



At the request of Milwaukee County, the Commission is assisting in a transit study along and near 27th Street to enhance transit service. The purpose of the study is to support mobility throughout Milwaukee County, focusing on underserved residents in the corridor and supporting the County’s commitment to racial equity and social justice investments. Both rail and bus services are being evaluated, and could increase frequency, add amenities, and potentially expand the existing Milwaukee County Transit Service (MCTS) PurpleLine service area—one of the most popular transit lines in the County. These transit improvements are expected to increase transit ridership along the corridor and will serve those residents and businesses along the chosen preferred alternative.

The first round of virtual public involvement for the study took place on February 23 and 24. The presentation and recordings of the public meetings can be viewed at www.mkenorthsouth.com/engage. Comments on the project for this phase of the study are being accepted through March 31.

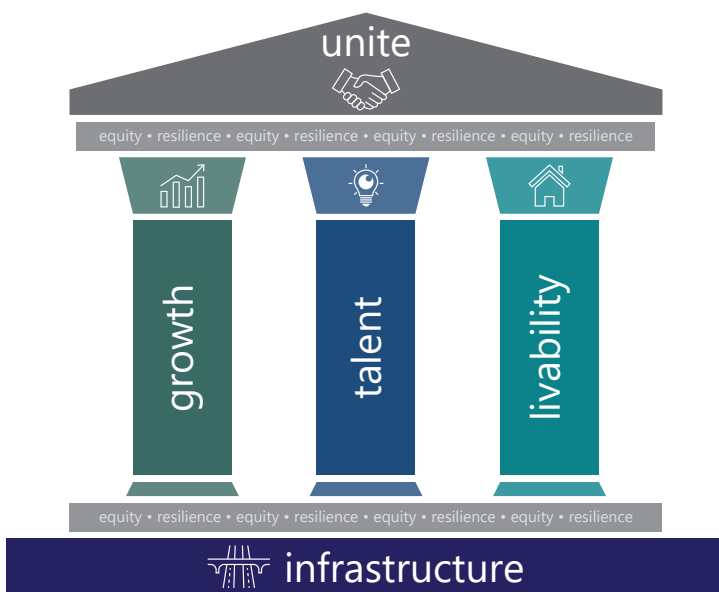


Obtaining Input on Draft 2021-2025 CEDS

In late February, the Milwaukee 7 Economic Development Partnership (M7) and the Commission released the draft 2021-2025 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for Southeastern Wisconsin. The CEDS represents a collaborative effort to develop a strategic plan that will diversify and strengthen the Region’s economy. Regions must prepare a new CEDS at least every five years for communities and organizations within the Region to qualify for funding from the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA).

M7 and the Commission held a virtual stakeholder meeting to discuss the draft CEDS on March 16. As part of this virtual meeting, attendees had the opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback on the goals and strategies identified for the CEDS. Public comments are also being accepted through March 31, 2021, via email, mail, phone, and the CEDS webpage. M7 and SEWRPC will consider all comments prior to preparing the final CEDS, which will then be considered for adoption by each county and the Commission.

The draft CEDS and ways to provide comments can be accessed at www.sewrpc.org/CEDS.



TIMELINE



Did You Know?

Did you know that SEWRPC can provide a wealth of data to county and local governments upon request? SEWRPC has provided data for many different types of projects throughout the Region, ranging from comprehensive plan updates and economic development planning to estimates for COVID-19 vaccine demand!

COVID-19 Remote Work Survey

The COVID-19 pandemic that started in 2020 rapidly changed the way many people work, with some having to quickly shift to working from home and others adapting to stricter workplace safety guidelines. Throughout March and into April, the Commission is conducting a survey to understand the impacts that the pandemic has had on commuting and remote work trends in Southeastern Wisconsin.

The survey is open to all people of working age (approximately 18-65 years old) in our seven-county Region, regardless of their level of experience with remote work. The survey responses we receive will greatly help the Commission understand remote work adoption rates and help guide strategies for regional alternative transportation programs in a post-pandemic future. An analysis of the survey results will be posted to the Commission's website later this summer.

If you are interested in participating, please access the survey at www.sewrpc.org/C19Survey. The survey consists of 12 questions and should take about 5-10 minutes to complete. The survey will be open for responses through Friday, April 23. All responses are completely confidential. Please feel free to share this survey opportunity with others in your networks and communities.