

BAY-LAKE Regional Planning Commission

NEWSLETTER 2nd Quarter 1998

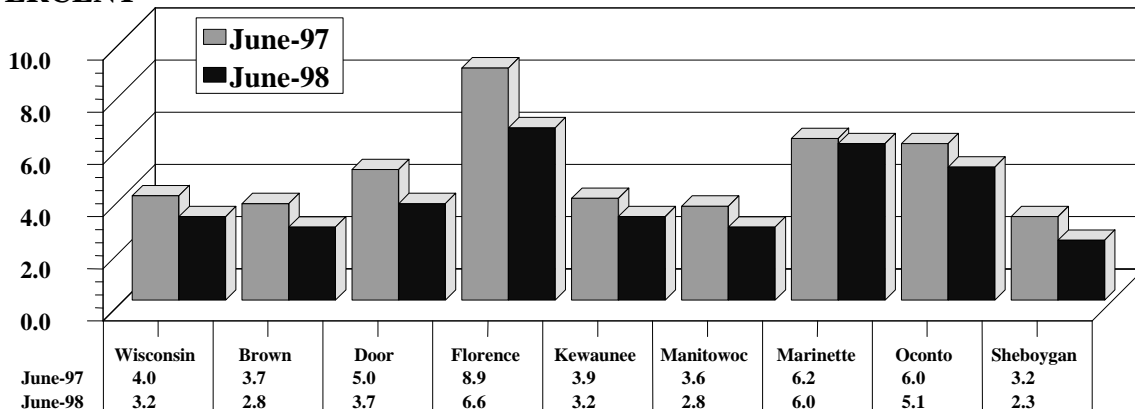
The Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission was established by Governor Lucey in April 1972 by Executive Order 35 to provide planning services on area-wide issues, to represent local interests on state and federal planning program activities, and to provide local planning assistance to communities in the northeastern Wisconsin region.

BAY-LAKE REGION UNEMPLOYMENT RATES DECLINE IN ALL EIGHT COUNTIES

According to the Wisconsin Bureau of Workforce Information, all eight counties in the Bay-Lake Region experienced declines in their unemployment rates from June of 1997 to June of 1998. The largest decline was experienced by Florence County which dropped from a

8.9 percent rate of unemployment in 1997 to 6.6 percent in 1998. Declines in unemployment rates for the remaining seven counties ranged from 0.2 percent in Marinette County to 1.3 percent in Door County.

PERCENT



COUNTY

COASTAL AWARENESS MONTH

The 20th Anniversary of the Wisconsin Coastal Management Program was celebrated this September. The celebration included a special announcement by Governor Thompson designating September as Coastal Awareness month. This celebration included opening ceremonies, nature walks, schooner tours and a special symposium, held Monday, September 14th, 1998, at the Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center in Madison, Wisconsin, which were designed to help facilitate the transfer of coastal information as well as to help inspire and encourage future involvement in Wisconsin's Great Lakes issues.

If you would like further information, please contact Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission's Community Assistance Planner, Dale Mohr at (920) 448-2820 .

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CITY OF GREEN BAY AWARDED BROWNFIELD GRANT

On June 30, 1998, the city of Green Bay was awarded an \$800,000 grant for the redevelopment of a fifteen acre former industrial site along the west bank of the Fox River, north of the Mason Street Bridge. The grant was obtained through the Wisconsin Department of Commerce Brownfields Initiative Grant Program, and was written cooperatively by the city of Green Bay, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and the Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission. The city of Green Bay was the only applicant from Northeastern Wisconsin. It was one of fourteen projects funded from a pool of forty-three applicants asking for \$23 million dollars although only \$5 million dollars were available to the program. The funds from the grant will be used to finish cleaning up contaminants on the site that are left over from its time as a storage place for coal, coke and salt shipped via the Great Lakes, as well as further site and utility preparation for



redevelopment. Once clean-up is completed, one of the three developers interested in the site will be selected to develop the property. Envisioned development for the site includes a combination of retail, office and residential uses that would take advantage of a large boat slip on the Fox River, and would promote further redevelopment in the Broadway Main Street Program Area.

The next round of Wisconsin Department of Commerce Brownfield Grants will have another \$5 million dollars available for brownfield redevelopment. For more information on the Brownfields Grant Initiative or the Community Development Block

Grant - Blight Elimination and Brownfields Remediation Program, please contact the Commission at (920) 448-2820.

HELPING GUIDE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT FOR THE TOWNS OF FLORENCE AND LONG LAKE

The towns of Florence and Long Lake in Florence County are beginning the first steps of a comprehensive land use plan to help guide future development. The towns do not have town land use plans to guide planning decisions concerning development within the towns. The County's land use plan was prepared in 1972, and has not been updated.

The grant is helping to develop the visioning, demographic, physical, and land use inventory and assessment portions of a land use plan.

The Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission and the towns of Florence and Long Lake, with the assistance of the Florence County UW-Extension Community Resource Development Agent, and the Florence County Zoning Administrator, are preparing Planning Assessments for the Spread Eagle Chain of Lakes and the town of Long Lake. The planning assessments include: developing a vision for each area, identifying those areas that are and are not most suitable for development, analyzing past population and

housing characteristics, as well as future trends and projections, and identifying existing and conflicting land uses. The project will also identify deficiencies in data and make recommendations for additional data collection that will be the subject of future grant applications. The findings will be summarized and recommendations will be made on the towns' regulatory controls for land use.

Funding for the lake assessment is being provided by the Wisconsin DNR through its Lake Management Planning Grant Program. The grant is helping to develop the visioning, demographic, physical, and land use inventory and assessment portions of a land use plan. The projects will be used as a pilot project that will be applied to similar lakes in Florence that have a low rate of second home development and that are located in areas that are very rural in nature and are comprised primarily of the Nicolet National Forest.

For further information on the Florence Lakes Planning Grants please contact Mark Walter or Aaron Schuette of the Commission office at (920) 448-2820.

SHEBOYGAN TRANSIT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (TDP) DRAFT RECOMMENDED PLAN FORMULATED AND APPROVED

In the 4th Quarter 1997 newsletter, readers were informed that the review committee for the Sheboygan Transit Development Program (TDP) examined numerous alternate transit system configurations at three meetings in the fourth quarter of 1997. In the first quarter of 1998, the TDP review committee selected a “preferred alternative” which would be developed into a recommended plan.

At the January 1998 meeting of the TDP review committee, a “short list” of alternatives was compiled that included the following:

- (1) Continue Status Quo Fixed-Route Transit Service;
- (2) Extension of Fixed-Route Service Hours to 12:15 a.m. on Weeknights;
- (3) Extend Service Hours to Cover the 5:15 a.m. to 7:15 a.m. period on Saturdays: Under Status Quo Fixed-Route Service;
- (4) Add Limited Sunday Service: Under Status Quo Fixed-Route Service;
- (5) Route Deviation During Non-Peak Periods;
- (6) Demand Responsive Service During Nights: Under Status Quo Fixed-Route Service: With a \$1.25 Base Cash Fare; and
- (7) Shared-Ride Taxis During Nights: Under Status Quo Fixed-Route Service.

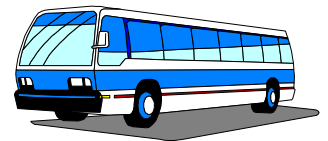
Shortly after the January 1998 meeting, a committee member requested that an eighth alternative be examined as part of the “short list.” Restoration of 15-Minute Peak Hour Service on Weekdays was examined at the February 1998 meeting of the TDP review committee. Committee members spent most of the February 1998 meeting

weighing the advantages and disadvantages of the remaining alternatives. A “preferred alternative” for the TDP was developed through a prioritization process at the meeting. The “preferred alternative” incorporates extended night service and new limited Sunday service, but also would restore 15-minute peak hour service on weekdays.

*The “preferred alternative”
incorporates extended night service
and new limited Sunday service...*

In addition to these recommended systemic service changes, the draft plan includes minor routing and service changes (including additions to ADA paratransit service), a financial plan, a fare policy, a capital improvements program, marketing recommendations, a monitoring program, land use planning recommendations, contingency measures, and an implementation strategy. The capital improvements program includes the original transit program of projects, a bus purchase to accommodate the afternoon peak 15-minute transit service, and the purchase of new passenger shelters for installation at recommended locations.

A series of public informational/input meetings on the transit alternatives and the recommended plan was held in April. The TDP review committee continued review of the recommended plan chapter of the TDP in May and June, with the chapter being approved by the committee in June. Commission staff has assembled a final draft of the TDP, which the review committee has recently approved for discussion at public hearings. Please contact Jeff Agee-Aguayo at the Commission office if you would like details concerning these alternatives or if you wish to learn more about the TDP planning process for the Sheboygan Transit System.



SHORELAND DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE SCHEDULED

The Wisconsin Environmental Initiative is sponsoring a Shoreland Development Conference on October 7, 1998, at the Holiday Inn, Rhinelander, WI. The purpose of the conference is to educate various stakeholders on interrelated shoreland development issues, build on similar recent events sponsored by other organizations,

facilitate quality non-partisan discussion in a neutral setting, and provide a catalyst for further cooperation among traditionally opposing interests. For more information on the conference, please contact Karl Bryan of the Wisconsin Environmental Initiative at (608) 280-0360.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANTS FOR HOUSING AND PUBLIC FACILITIES



The Wisconsin Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program for Small Cities Public Facilities is now in its 1998-99 competitive grant season.

The Wisconsin CDBG Public Facilities Program, which is administered by the Wisconsin Department of Commerce, is designed to assist economically distressed smaller communities with public facility improvements. Some of

the activities eligible under this grant program include: publicly owned utility system improvements; streets; handicapped accessibility projects; and community centers. The maximum grant for any single applicant is \$750,000. Applications for the 1998-99 CDBG Public Facilities Program are due September 30, 1998. To obtain more information on either the Small Cities Housing Program or the Public Facilities Program, please call the Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission's Economic Development Planner, Cindy Wojtczak at (920) 448-2820.

October 9; 10:00 a.m.

1998 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October 1; 1:30 p.m.
Sheboygan MPO Technical Advisory/
Policy Committee Meeting
Sheboygan, WI

October 1; 5:00 p.m.
Sheboygan TDP Review Committee
Meeting
Sheboygan, WI

October 8; 10:00 a.m.
GIS Users Group
Commission Offices

Executive Committee Meeting
Florence, WI

November 13; 10:00 a.m.
Full Commission Meeting
Green Bay, WI

November 19; 10:00 a.m.
Economic Development Advisory
Committee Meeting
Commission Offices

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