



BAY-LAKE Regional Planning Commission

NEWSLETTER 3rd Quarter 2000

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.

CITY OF OCONTO FALLS ADOPTS COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

The Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission recently developed a Comprehensive Plan for the City of Oconto Falls in Oconto County. This Comprehensive Plan is the first for the community developed under Wis. Stats. 62.23 and is a statement of public policy concerning the development for the community. The plan provides a guide to where future growth and development should occur and will be consulted when making future decisions concerning land use. The plan inventoried and analyzed the city's population figures, physical setting, economy, land use, transportation, outdoor recreation, community facilities and housing. The Commission, working closely with local citizens and city

officials, developed a 2015 General Plan Design for the city. Highlights of this plan include the creation of new neighborhoods and development that exhibits characteristics of cities and small towns in Wisconsin. The plan also calls for the development of a transportation system along with trailways to provide better access to various areas within the community. The Oconto Falls City Council adopted the plan October 10, 2000. For more information on developing a comprehensive plan or the ordinances used to implement land use plans, please contact Brandon Robinson of the Commission staff.

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING GRANTS AWARDED

Last spring the Wisconsin Department of Administration administered a transportation planning grant program, funded by federal transportation funds through the Wisconsin Department of Transportation. Grants were provided for the development of the transportation element of local comprehensive plans. Communities were required to match at least 25 percent of the grant request. A total of \$1 million was available for 1999-2000. The Commission assisted and submitted transportation planning grants for the city of Marinette, the city of Kiel, the village of Sister Bay, the village of Mishicot and the town of Grover.

Lake Region included the town of Gillett for \$2,250; the city of Green Bay for \$250,000; the town of Grover for \$3,000; the village of Howard for \$12,000; the city of Kiel for \$6,000; the town of Little River for \$3,750; the town of Manitowoc Rapids for \$10,375; the town of Oconto for \$3,750; and, the city of Plymouth for \$5,000. In total, 62 transportation planning grant applications were received statewide, and 42 (or nearly 70 percent) of the applicants received funding. The DOA is administering a second grant program to fund the development of comprehensive plans, with applications for those funds due by November 15, 2000.

Successful grant applications for communities within the Bay-

MULTI-REGIONAL GIS USER'S GROUP

On September 6th, Bay-Lake, East Central, and North Central Regional Planning Commissions co-hosted the first multi-regional GIS User's Group meeting in Keshena. The topics discussed varied from software, to smart growth issues and data sharing. Mike Koutnik and Dick Chronowski from ESRI demonstrated an upcoming version of ArcView and the new GIS software program ArcPad, as well as time saving scripts for ArcView. Jerry Sullivan and Lisa Olson-McDonald from the Office of Land Information Services (OLIS) spoke about metadata options, creating statewide cooperation, as well as available statewide data sets such as the newly finished 24,000 hydrography layer. OLIS also spoke about what data is available for completing components of the new comprehensive plan, where data is available, and the relevancy of the data to different levels of government in completing a plan. The day long meeting had an outstanding attendance of over 50 people. For more information on upcoming events of the GIS User's Group please contact Mark Walter or Candice Kasprzak at the Commission.

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2000 SHEBOYGAN SYSTEM BOARDING AND ALIGHTING SURVEY

The Commission administered a boarding and alighting survey of the Sheboygan Transit System in May. The survey was completed with the assistance of Olsten Staffing Services of Sheboygan, a temporary employment firm. Analysis of survey data and preparation of a report on survey findings occurred between late June and mid August. Survey findings were reported to the Sheboygan Parking and Transit Utility Commission at its August 15, 2000, meeting, and to the Sheboygan MPO Technical and Policy Advisory Committees at their August 24, 2000, joint meeting. The report on survey findings includes the boarding and alighting survey methodology, information on total daily outbound and inbound boardings and alightings, maximum loads on each route by trip, a peak and off-peak boarding and alighting comparison for the entire

transit system and for each route, and route-specific outbound and inbound boarding and alighting profiles. The report on survey findings also includes an analysis of low demand segments for individual routes (this is useful in considering minor modifications to the existing route structure where warranted by low demand), as well as high demand loading points for individual routes (this is useful in considering placement of additional passenger shelters where warranted by ten or more daily boardings). Maps were utilized in the survey findings report to indicate low demand segments for individual routes as well as high demand loading points for those routes.

For further information concerning this planning effort, please contact Jeff Agee-Aguayo at the Commission office.

2000 - 2003 SHEBOYGAN METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM (TIP) AMENDMENT APPROVED

The 2000 - 2003 Sheboygan Metropolitan Area Transportation Improvements Program (TIP) Amendment was adopted by the Commission at a meeting of its Executive Committee on October 13, 2000. The 2000 - 2003 TIP Amendment contains various transit operating and capital projects, elderly and disabled transportation operating and capital projects, Statewide Multimodal Improvement Program (SMIP) projects, and street and highway improvement projects which are eligible for funding during the program period. Additional documentation in the 2000 - 2003 TIP Amendment includes a financial plan demonstrating how projects in the TIP Amendment can be implemented given reasonably available funding sources, the public participation process for the TIP Amendment, and the implementation status of projects recommended for 2000 in the 2000 - 2003 TIP adopted in late 1999. Various appendices also appear in the 2000 - 2003 TIP Amendment, including a glossary of terms, procedures for the involvement of private enterprise in transit programs, a financial capacity assessment of the Sheboygan Transit System, an air quality conformity statement, a letter documenting statewide clearinghouse review of the 2000 - 2003 TIP Amendment, a resolution documenting Commission endorsement of the 2000 - 2003 TIP Amendment, the Surface Transportation Program (STP) Urban System Project Prioritization Policy, and a listing of Sheboygan Metropolitan Planning

Organization (MPO) Technical and Policy Advisory Committee members.

A 30 day public comment period and a public hearing were part of the process used to develop the 2000 - 2003 TIP Amendment, and public comments (as well as the disposition of those comments) have been incorporated into the public participation process section of the 2000 -

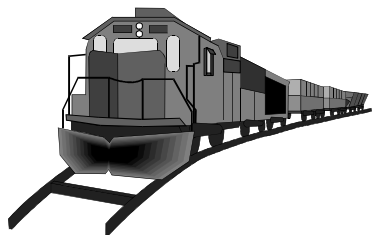
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2003 TIP Amendment. The air quality conformity assessment for the original 2000 - 2003 TIP approved by the Commission in October of 1999 also applies to the recently adopted TIP Amendment, since no air quality sensitive projects were added to or deleted from the original TIP, and since the amended TIP continues to be consistent with the Year 2020 Sheboygan Area Transportation Plan (SATP). The Wisconsin Department

of Transportation is expected to approve the 2000 - 2003 TIP Amendment on behalf of the Governor in the near future.

Please contact Jeff Agee-Aguayo at the Commission office if you have questions concerning the 2000 - 2003 Sheboygan Metropolitan Area Transportation Improvements Program (TIP) Amendment or concerning other elements within the Sheboygan MPO transportation planning program.

STATE RAIL PLAN UNDERWAY



The Wisconsin Department of Transportation has recently initiated a two-year planning process to develop the Wisconsin State Rail Plan. Upon

completion, the plan will provide the policy framework for the preservation and enhancement of Wisconsin's freight and passenger rail system. This will be a long-range plan with a horizon year of 2020.

Two advisory committees - a State Rail Plan Advisory Committee and a Rail Industry Advisory Committee - will serve as advisory bodies for state rail planning effort. Responsibilities of the Committee's include: 1) provide advice and commentary throughout the planning process; 2) review and comment upon draft interim and final reports; and, 3) assist with the public involvement and planning process. The Commission's Regional Transportation Planner, Jim Van Laanen, has accepted an invitation to serve on the advisory committee.

The State Rail Plan will define the rail system's role in the movement of people and goods within the context of Wisconsin's multi-modal transportation system. The plan will assess the rail system's current condition and determine a course for the future considering performance objectives, needed improvements and alternatives to fund them. The final State Rail Plan will be used to communicate the condition of Wisconsin's rail system, the rationale for proposing certain improvements, and the financial needs and

system-wide implications of proposed funding levels.

The State Rail Plan will be comprised of six major components: 1) intercity passenger rail, 2) freight rail, 3) highway-rail crossings, 4) funding, 5) economic benefits and 6) environmental evaluation

Work to be done under the passenger rail component will be coordinated with the efforts of the *Midwest Regional Rail Initiative*, the *Wisconsin-Minnesota High Speed Rail Corridor Study*, and the *Milwaukee-Madison Corridor Study*. In addition, the findings of the *Governor's Blue Ribbon Task Force on Passenger Rail Service* will be incorporated in the State Rail Plan.

The freight rail component of the plan will have a policy focus, reflecting the recognition that the majority of Wisconsin's railroad system is owned and maintained by the private sector. The highway-rail crossing element will refine and/or build upon the statewide assessment of highway-rail crossing needs initially developed by the State Highway Plan.

The amount of public investment required to implement the plan, and economic benefits and potential environmental impacts of implementing the plan, will also be examined. Public participation is encouraged throughout the development of the State Rail Plan. Meetings will be held around the state at various stages in the planning process.

If you would like more information regarding the planning process and upcoming meeting dates please contact the Commission. You may also want to visit the Department of Transportation's web page or contact the project leader, Donna Brown, at donna.brown@dot.state.wi.us

2000 COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

The Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission recently adopted the *Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) 2000 Annual Report*. Each year, the Commission prepares a CEDS Annual Report to remain eligible for Economic Development Administration (EDA) funds. The CEDS Annual Report describes the past year's activities, changes in the area's economy, and the area's economic development projects for the next one to two years. During 1999, the Commission provided assistance to implement projects listed in the 1998 OEDP, now known as CEDS. Major projects include: creation of an adjustment strategy to address job losses in the paper industry, grant administration for the village of Pulaski's CDBG grant for water tower replacement, assistance with industrial park expansion in Florence County and

Sturgeon Bay, grant assistance for economic development in Kewaunee and Manitowoc County, and several other community revitalization and economic development projects. The CEDS is a locally initiated planning process designed to create employment opportunities, encourage stable and diversified local economies, improve local conditions, and provide a mechanism for guiding and coordinating the efforts of local individuals and organizations concerned with the economic development of the district. The CEDS has also been submitted to EDA for approval and to fulfill the statutory requirement to continue eligibility of the Bay-Lake Region as an Economic Development District. Data within the report is useful for the economic element of Smart Growth plans. If you would like further information, please contact Cindy Wojtczak of the Commission staff.

COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM GRANTS

The Wisconsin Department of Administration has announced that the Wisconsin Coastal Management Program (WCMP) is requesting proposals to fund priority projects in the coastal zone. The WCMP provides grants to encourage the management and protection of Wisconsin's coastal resources and to increase public access to the Great Lakes. Eligible applicants include local units of government, state agencies, colleges, universities, tribal units of government, regional planning commissions, and private non-profit organizations. The four priority funding areas are: 1) wetlands protection, 2) cumulative and secondary impacts of development, 3) coastal resources protection through land use and management planning, and 4) waterfront redevelopment/public access.

Funded projects may start as early as October 1, 2001, but must be completed by September 30, 2002. For projects over \$30,000, applicants must provide a local 60 percent monetary match. For projects less than \$30,000, the local match is 50 percent.

On November 27, 2000, the WCMP and the BLRPC will host a public information meeting in Green Bay on the WCMP grant program. The meeting will be held from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Brown County Public Library at 515 Pine Street. Registration is not required.

BAY-LAKE Regional Planning Commission

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

November 16; 1:30 p.m.
Sheboygan MPO Technical and Policy
Advisory Committees Joint Meeting
Sheboygan, WI

November 21; 10:00 a.m.
Economic Development Advisory
Committee Meeting
Commission Office
Green Bay, WI

November 27; 1:30 p.m.
WCMP Information Workshop
Brown County Library
Green Bay, WI

December 6; 10:00 a.m.
Regional Technical Advisory
Committee Meeting
Commission Office
Green Bay, WI

December 7; 1:30 p.m.
Regional Harbor Council
Commission Office
Green Bay, WI

December 8; 10:00 a.m.
Commission Meeting
Green Bay, WI

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