

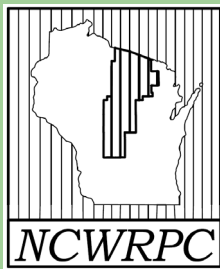


NCWRPC News

The official newsletter of the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission
Serving Adams, Forest, Juneau, Langlade, Lincoln, Marathon, Oneida, Portage, Vilas, and Wood Counties since 1973.

Photo: midleader.wordpress.com

Spring 2015
Issue 56



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Quarterly Quote

"A good plan is like a road map: It shows the final destination and usually the best way to get there."

- H. Stanley Judd

FirstNet Moving Forward

For over a decade, the NCWRPC has been involved in emergency communications at the local and regional levels. Communication is critical during all emergencies and building a reliable network is the goal of federal, state, regional and local agencies. At the federal level an initiative called FirstNet, which has the vision of building, operating, and maintaining a high-speed, nationwide wireless broadband network dedicated to public safety, continues to move forward.

FirstNet was created in 2012, and was provided \$7 billion to build a network over the next decade. The challenge is developing a system that complements the Land Mobile Radio System to serve 60,000 public safety agencies, 3,144 counties and 566 tribes. A 15 member board governs the effort. In addition, there is a 40 member Public Safety Advisory Committee, which advises FirstNet on public safety and intergovernmental matters.

As this program moves forward each state will provide comments. FirstNet will meet with a variety of users in Wisconsin later this year. Topics of discussion will include: Construction of core network and any RAN build-out; placement of towers; coverage areas of the network, whether at the regional, state, tribal, or local levels; adequacy of hardening, security, reliability, and resiliency requirements; assignment of priority of local users; and assignment of priority and selection of entities seeking access to or use of the nationwide interoperable public safety broadband network and training needs of local users.

FirstNet has been working to get this network up and running and has been meeting with state officials to determine how best to build the systems infrastructure. The goal is to ensure there is service in all 50 states, 5 territories, and the District of Columbia by 2022.

If you would like more information about FirstNet contact Andy Faust 715-849-5510, Extension 305, or afaust@ncwrpc.org.



Staff Receives WLIA Award

Matt Guptail was recently awarded a 2nd place in the Black and White Map category at the 2015 Wisconsin Land Information Association (WLIA) Annual Conference. This is the 17th consecutive year that staff has won an award in the WLIA Annual Conference Map Poster Competition.

WLIA is an organization of professionals working to develop, maintain, and apply a network of statewide land information systems. WLIA is united by an interest in land records modernization, GIS, and related technologies, and by the need for government policies and programs that support their efficient and effective application. WLIA is open to individual, non-profit and corporate members. For more information go to www.wlia.org

Pavement Rating Assistance Available

It is time once again for local governments in Wisconsin to submit surface condition ratings for all local roads under their jurisdiction. State statute 86.302(2) requires that the ratings be submitted to the Wisconsin Department of Transportation every two years. In 2013, the NCWRPC rated and submitted road condition ratings for many communities. The next round of submissions are due by the end of the year to WisDOT.

Commission Staff will be providing a variety of services to local units of government within the Region to meet their needs for pavement rating and submitting to WisDOT. Most of these services will be provided free-of-charge to Commission members while non-members will be charged for assistance per our 2014-2015 fee schedule.

If you think your community would like to utilize the services of the NCWRPC to help you with this pavement rating mandate, please contact Matt Guptail at 715-849-5510, Extension 303, or email to mguptail@ncwrpc.org.



Planning Tools

NCWRPC wants you to have the tools needed to plan effectively for your community, which is why this section will introduce you to new planning tools in every newsletter.

Measuring Distress: StatsAmerica

StatsAmerica is a tool created by the Indiana Business Research Center and funded by the U.S. Commerce Department's Economic Development Administration to provide data for economic developers to use in site requests, developing metrics, grant writing, and strategic planning. Criteria for Federal Grants often require a "level of community distress". StatsAmerica is a fast simple way to calculate whether a county, region, or neighborhood meets grant thresholds for unemployment and income. The table generated can be used directly in grant applications and other documents to show community distress.

StatsAmerica provides a variety of applications to help communities assess their current conditions. Applications range from community profiles to industry clusters to quarterly workforce indicators.

Go to www.statsamerica.org/distress to learn more or see a Distress Report for your community.

Regional Livability Plan Completed

North Central Wisconsin is very good at attracting the Baby Boom generation but struggles to attract and keep members of the Millennial generation. This dichotomy leads to projected future challenges of slow population growth and a labor force unable to fill employment needs. The Regional Livability Plan (RLP) addresses these and other projected challenges by making recommendations to create more livable communities.

What are the key elements to a livable community? A variety of housing options are present to accommodate smaller household sizes and all income levels. Denser development provides easier access for people between the places they need to go. Multiple modes of transportation are available for people to travel between home, work, school, shopping, and other destinations. Jobs pay a living wage that can sustain a family living in the community where they work. Communities with these livable elements will be attractive to a larger percentage of the population and help attract new residents to the region.

The RLP goes into greater detail on the issues the region is facing and specific solutions to address those issues. The RLP is intended to be a guide for communities, both urban and rural. Consider how the regional issues are relevant to individual community contexts and adapt the goals, see sidebar, and objectives to each unique setting.

The RLP can be found online at www.ncwrpc.org/rlp. If you have any questions about the RLP contact Dennis Lawrence at 715-849-5510, Extension 304, or at dlawrence@ncwrpc.org.



Regional Livability Plan Goals:

1. Promote a variety of safe and affordable housing options that meet the needs of all community members.
2. Ensure the future availability of a skilled and flexible workforce.
3. Support and develop a diverse economic base ensuring economic resiliency and growth.
4. Support infrastructure needed for economic development.
5. Develop tourism and knowledge based economy into leading economic sectors.
6. Provide and improve access and transportation to people of all ages and abilities ensuring lifelong mobility and accessibility to the community.
7. Fund the maintenance and expansion of the transportation system.
8. Enhance the regional economy by reinforcing airports and freight rail.
9. Preserve and protect the region's landscape, environmental resources, and sensitive lands while encouraging healthy communities.
10. Promote the reuse of vacant and underutilized buildings and land.
11. Monitor and update the Regional Livability Plan.

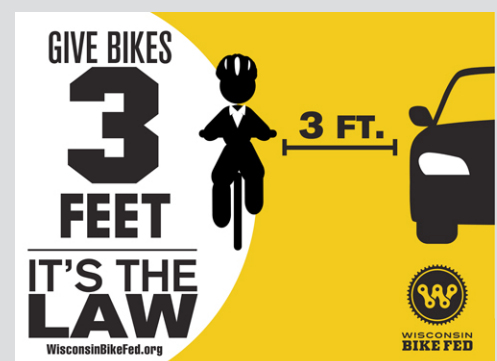
Making Wisconsin's Roads Safer

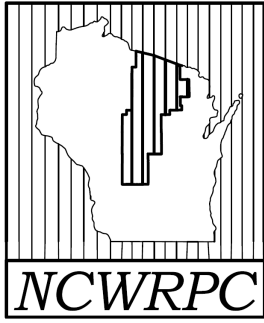
In order for Wisconsin roads to be safe for all, everyone needs to share the road and understand our mutual rights and responsibilities.

Share & Be Aware is a statewide campaign to raise awareness among all road users (people who drive, walk and bike) that everyone would be safer if all obeyed our traffic laws. You may send an online request for an Ambassador to present a variety of bicycle topics at your event.

Follow the links online to learn more about your rights and responsibilities when bicycling, walking, and driving.

See more online at: <http://www.wisconsinbikefed.org/for-your-community/share-be-aware>.





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Is It Time To Update Your Comprehensive Plan?

Every ten years your comprehensive plan needs to be updated. So every plan completed in 2005 or earlier is due for an update. An update can range from a total rewrite to a simple map amendment.

NCWRPC staff has substantial experience working with communities to develop and update comprehensive plans. Since 2000, we have completed nearly 90 comprehensive plans in our ten county region. All of our planners have Masters Degrees and/or are nationally certified planners (AICP) by the American Planning Association. The NCWRPC website provides a variety of information and contains links to many of the plans that have been completed. Visit www.ncwrpc.org.

We can help. Give our office a call and we can discuss the best approach for your community. Contact Dennis Lawrence at 715-849-5510, Extension 304, or at dlawrence@ncwrpc.org.

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