

## Memo

**To:** Emiko Atherton  
John Robert Smith  
Christopher Zimmerman  
Brian Lutenegger

**From:** Kim Biedermann

**Date:** September 13, 2018

**re:** ECWRPC Complete Streets Policy One Month Memo

We are pleased to report the progress we have made as of September 13, 2018 regarding the Complete Streets policy.

### Community Partner Engagement

East Central WI Regional Planning Commission (ECWRPC) staff has continued to engage community partners in Complete Streets efforts. By engaging community partners, we are able to leverage resources throughout the region in ensuring support for Complete Streets policies and ensuring we are creating policies that are inclusive and beneficial for all.

#### *Weight of the Fox Valley*

ECWRPC continues to work with [Weight of the Fox Valley's \(WOTFV\)](#) Active Communities Team on its Complete Streets efforts. WOTFV worked with ECWRPC and partners to create metrics to track the success of Complete Streets policies. These metrics include miles of bicycle and pedestrian facilities added, number of local Complete Streets policies adopted, and number of people using the facilities (preliminary counts have been done and will be conducted on regular basis).

Working with ECWRPC, WOTFV produced a one-pager on Complete Streets, which is available for individuals, communities, and decision-makers to reference.

#### *Appleton (Fox Cities) and Oshkosh MPO Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee (BPAC)*

The BPAC voted formally to adopt the Regional Complete Streets policy, and the committee provided critical input on the policy for the MPOs.

#### *Fox Valley Thrives*

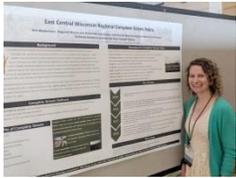
Fox Valley Thrives is a healthy equity group representing the Fox Valley region of Wisconsin, and it has been an ongoing partner in ensuring equity is interwoven throughout the Complete Streets policies.

#### *Technical Advisory Committees*

ECWRPC has discussed the Regional Complete Streets Policy and the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Complete Streets Policy with our technical advisory committees (TAC) for the MPOs. We have engaged these community partners in dialogue about the MPO policy and have provided opportunities for them to learn more about the draft MPO

policy through interactive webinars, which will be discussed below.

## **Regional Complete Streets Policy Adoption**



On April 27, 2018, the ECWRPC Commissioners voted to adopt the Regional Complete Streets Policy (attached). With the formal adoption of this policy came the opportunity to do a poster session at the Wisconsin Public Health Association's annual conference in Green Bay, WI in May.

Through this poster session, ECWRPC was invited to participate in a phone call with the Healthy Kids Collaborative of Dane County to discuss the process of adopting a Complete Streets policy. One point addressed during this conversation is how to ensure that Complete Streets are implemented equitably throughout communities. This was taken back to ECWRPC, and we will incorporate Complete Streets into the environmental justice components of our work program, including transportation improvement plans.

## **MPO Policy**

### *Timeline*

While ECWRPC initially anticipated adoption of the Complete Streets policy for the Appleton (Fox Cities) and Oshkosh MPOs in July 2018, there have been proposed and implemented changes at the state level that impacted how ECWRPC wanted to approach the policy. The implemented policy that most directly impacts this policy is the prohibition of using eminent domain to acquire land for bicycle and pedestrian facilities. This eminent domain policy was adopted in the state budget, and since that adoption there has been little to no guidance regarding how this will impact projects that are funded with federal funds. The proposed change that most directly impacts the policy is how STBG funds will be allocated. In light of these changes, ECWRPC wanted to take more time to understand how the implemented and proposed changes would impact a policy at the MPO level.

We will be presenting the draft policy to our Transportation Committee on October 9, 2018 and will be presenting a final policy for vote by the full Commission on October 26, 2018.

### *Draft Policy*

Under advisement of partners, ECWRPC drafted a MPO policy that is currently under a comment period.

### *Engagement*

ECWRPC used the Regional Complete Streets policy as the framework for the MPO policy and took into consideration comments that were collected during the December 7, 2017 workshop (included in the six-month memo). A draft policy was released on September 5, 2018. Since the release of the draft policy, ECWRPC held two webinars to present the policy and to gather preliminary feedback. We have also sent emails to our partners and have an [online form](#) for comment and feedback. ECWRPC will continue to engage community partners in this policy through the end of September.

## **Technical Assistance and Local Policies**

Each year, ECWRPC awards technical assistance to communities in its eight member counties. One award for 2018 was to the City of Oshkosh for assistance with a Complete Streets policy. The City of Oshkosh is currently navigating its political landscape to identify the proper procedure for creating a Complete Streets policy. This policy, along with the process, will serve as an example for local policies. ECWRPC will use the Regional Complete Streets policy, along with the Ten Elements of a Complete Streets Policy from Smart Growth America as the framework for local policies.

ECWRPC is continuing its work to identify other communities ready to adopt policies, and we have incorporated working with local communities to adopt their own policies for the 2019 work program.

## **Moving Forward**

To ensure sustainability of this policy, ECWRPC will be placing Complete Streets components into its MPO work program and regional transportation program. We will also create easy-to-use reference documents on Complete Streets for communities and assist local communities in creating and adopting their own policies.

ECWRPC is honored to have been one of the six communities selected for this technical assistance, and we look forward to seeing how these policies advance multimodal transportation throughout East Central Wisconsin. Thank you!