

First Tuesday minutes 3-6-07

Minutes for Town of Concord Comprehensive Planning Meeting

Tuesday, March 6, 2007

The meeting started at 7:00pm with 10 citizens present. Vanessa Kuehner was also present. Tom Williams gave a presentation on the Transportation Element of the Comprehensive Plan. Items discussed were: Air, Water and Rail Transportation, Transportation for the disabled, Transit, Non-vehicular transportation, Trucking, and Highways.

All present agreed that commercial airports, commercial water transportation, and railroads were either not needed or not applicable to the Town of Concord and that the Town should continue to rely on surrounding communities for these services.

It was also discussed that the Town of Concord does not provide transportation services for the disabled. Several citizens indicated that the Town receives these services from a variety of sources in the surrounding communities. These include Jefferson County Human Services, the Red Bus, Pro Health Care from Oconomowoc Memorial Hospital, and Silver Streak – a service of the Oconomowoc Senior Center. A suggestion was made to further research which of these, or other agencies, provide the Town with transportation for the disabled, and to include this information in our Comprehensive Plan.

A discussion of Transit brought up the fact that the State DOT is currently planning to build a Park & Ride (P&R) at the NE corner of I94 & Hwy F in 2012. A number of citizens in favor of the project cited the following reasons: the closest P&Rs available to Concord residents are in Johnson Creek and Oconomowoc – a P&R in the Town would be more convenient; currently people are leaving their vehicles on Town streets during the day when they carpool – a P&R would alleviate this nuisance; the P&Rs at 83, C, and Oconomowoc are always full; if a P&R were built, it may have the potential to be used as a bus stop for bus transit b/w Milwaukee and Madison. A number of citizens were against the P&R citing the following: while the Town would incur no cost for construction of the P&R, the entire cost of maintenance would belong to the Town which already cannot afford to properly maintain its existing roads; the increase traffic at the interchange may cause problems. Suggestions were made to gather the following information: How many cars does the State DOT estimate will use the P&R? How many parking spots will be available? What would be the estimated yearly cost to the Town for maintenance? Due to lack of consensus, the topic of the P&R will be put in the form a question stating both sides of the issue and presented to the citizens either at another meeting or as part of a survey.

Regarding trails for bikes, pedestrians, and horses; there was agreement by those present that the Town's Comprehensive Plan policy should be that the Town will explore the possibilities for these trails if economically feasible.

In his presentation, Tom Williams indicated that the Town had a moderate amount of commercial trucking. A discussion of the topic revealed that some citizens felt that commercial trucking was fairly heavy on some roads through the Town, especially Hwy F. Tom will change this in his Draft of the

Transportation Element.

Tom's presentation on Highways mainly dealt with the necessity of the town to provide good roads and keep them maintained. Also briefly discussed was the possibility that the state may either remove the Willow Glen exit or develop it into a full interchange. There was lack of consensus on whether or not the Town should encourage the state to develop a full interchange at this site. Pat Emery suggested that we should explore ways of dealing with the increased traffic through the Town from both the east and west. Don Groose said that Waukesha County plans to make Hwy B into a 4-lane Hwy right up to the county line and we need to plan for the traffic congestion this may cause where the 4-lane flows into the existing 2-lane Hwy at the county line.