STATEMENT OF THE CHAIRMAN

In July and August of 1968, the Regional Planning Commission acted to establish a Technical Advisory Committee on Regional Housing Studies and to apply for a planning grant from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to assist in the preparation of a Prospectus for a regional housing study. These actions were precipitated by a request from the Mayor of the City of Milwaukee that the Commission address itself to the housing problem within the Region by initiating an areawide housing study. Also influencing these actions of the Commission was the amendment in 1968 of Section 701 of the Housing Act of 1949 to require all areawide planning agencies being assisted with federal planning grants to incorporate a housing element into their planning programs in order to maintain continued eligibility for such grants. The Commission, moreover, believed that the conduct of a comprehensive housing study on an areawide basis, when integrated with other Commission planning programs, would materially assist in achieving the national goal of "... a decent home and a suitable living environment for every citizen. . . ."

Accordingly, the Technical Advisory Committee on Regional Housing Studies began work on the preparation of this Regional Housing Study Prospectus in January 1969. The findings and recommendations presented in the Prospectus document the need for, the scope and timing of, and the cost and staff requirements needed to conduct a comprehensive housing study within the Region. It was determined that three major aspects of the "housing problem" within the Region require immediate attention: a lack of timely, uniform, areawide housing information; the increasing role which government has assumed and can be expected to continue to assume in the housing field; and the determination of housing needs as distinct from housing demands. In addition, the study as outlined in the Prospectus will establish a valuable housing information system for the Region; will provide a framework of agreed-upon regional housing objectives; and will provide a context within which all planning and plan implementation programs within the Region can be focused on housing needs in the resolution of other problems, as, for example, the urgent attention which relocation needs require in relation to public works programs.

This Prospectus was approved by the Technical Advisory Committee on Regional Housing Studies on November 19, 1969; and the Planning and Research Committee of the Commission, pursuant to this recommendation, approved the Prospectus on December 11, 1969. It is hereby recommended to the concerned federal agencies and county boards for cooperative financing and implementation.

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]

George C. Berteau
Chairman