ABOUT THE COMMISSION

AUTHORITY

The Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission was established in 1960 under Section 66.945 of the Wisconsin Statutes as the official area-wide planning agency for the highly urbanized southeastern region of the State. The Commission was created to provide the basic information and planning services necessary to solve problems which transcend the corporate boundaries and fiscal capabilities of the local units of government comprising the Region.

AREA SERVED

The Commission serves a Region consisting, as shown on Map 1, of the seven counties of Kenosha, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine, Walworth, Washington, and Waukesha. These seven counties have an area of about 2,689 square miles, or about 5 percent of the total area of the State. These counties, however, have a resident population of 1.88 million persons, or about 37 percent of the total population of the State. The seven counties provide about 1.13 million jobs, or about 38 percent of the total employ-
ment of the State, and contain real property worth about $60.8 billion as measured in equalized valuation, or about 40 percent of all the tangible wealth of the State as measured by such valuation. There are 154 general-purpose local units of government in the seven-county Region, all of which participate in the work of the Commission.

BASIC CONCEPTS

Regional, or areawide, planning has become increasingly accepted as a necessary governmental function in the large metropolitan areas of the United States. This acceptance is based, in part, on a growing awareness that problems of physical and economic development and of environmental deterioration transcend the geographic limits and fiscal capabilities of local units of government and that sound resolution of these problems requires the cooperation of all units and agencies of government concerned and of private interests as well.

As used by the Commission, the term “region” means an area larger than a county but smaller than a state, united by economic interests, geography, and common developmental and environmental problems. A regional basis is necessary to provide a meaningful technical approach to the proper planning and design of such systems of public works as highway and transit and sewerage and water supply, and of park and open space facilities. A regional basis is also essential to provide a sound approach to the resolution of such environmental problems as flooding, air and water pollution, natural resource base deterioration, and changing land use.

Private as well as public interests are vitally affected by these kinds of areawide problems and by proposed solutions to these problems, and it appears neither desirable nor possible for any one level or agency of government to impose the decisions required to resolve these kinds of problems. Such decisions can better come from consensus among the public and private interests concerned, based on a common interest in the welfare of the entire Region. Regional planning is necessary to promote this consensus and the necessary cooperation among urban and rural, local, State, and Federal, and public and private interests. In this light, regional planning is not a substitute for Federal, State, or local public planning or for private planning. Rather, regional planning is a vital supplement to such planning.

The work of the Regional Planning Commission is entirely advisory in nature. Therefore, the regional planning program in Southeastern Wisconsin has emphasized the promotion of close cooperation among the various governmental agencies concerned with land use development and with the development and operation of supporting public works facilities. The Commission believes that the highest form of areawide planning combines accurate data and competent technical work with the active participation of knowledgeable and concerned public officials and private citizens in the formulation of plans that address clearly identified problems. Such planning is intended to lead not only to a more efficient regional development pattern but also to a more desirable environment in which to live and work.

BASIC FUNCTIONS

The Commission conceives regional planning as having three basic functions. The first involves the collection, analysis, and dissemination of basic planning and engineering data on a uniform, areawide basis in order that better development decisions can be made in both the public and private sectors. The
Commission believes that the establishment and utilization of such data can in and of itself contribute to better development decision making within the Region. The second function involves the preparation of a framework of long-range areawide plans for the physical development of the Region. This function is mandated by State enabling legislation. While the scope and content of these plans can extend to all phases of regional development, the Commission believes that emphasis should be placed on the preparation of plans for land use and supporting transportation, utility, and community facilities. The third function involves the provision of a center for the coordination of day-to-day planning and plan implementation activities of all of the units and levels of government operating within the Region. Through this function, the Commission seeks to integrate regional and local plans and planning efforts and thereby to promote regional plan implementation.

ORGANIZATION

The Commission consists of 21 members, three from each of the seven member counties. One Commissioner from each county is appointed or, in those counties where a county executive appoints, confirmed by the county board and is usually an elected county board supervisor. The remaining two from each county are appointed by the Governor, one from a list prepared by the county board.

The full Commission meets at least four times a year and is responsible for establishing overall policy, adopting the annual budget, and adopting regional plan elements. The Commission has four standing committees: Executive, Administrative, Planning and Research, and Intergovernmental and Public Relations. The Executive Committee normally meets monthly to oversee the work effort of the Commission and is empowered to act for the Commission in all matters except the adoption of the budget and the adoption of the regional plan elements. The Administrative Committee also normally meets monthly to oversee the routine but essential housekeeping activities of the Commission. The Planning and Research Committee meets as necessary to review all of the technical work carried out by the Commission staff and its consultants. The Intergovernmental and Public Relations Committee serves as the Commission's principal arm in communicating with the constituent county boards. The Committee meets as necessary to consider intergovernmental problems. The Commission and committee rosters are set forth in Appendix A. The Commission is assisted in its work by 29 technical, citizen, and intergovernmental coordinating and advisory committees. These committees include both elected and appointed public officials and interested citizens with knowledge in the Commission work areas. The committees perform a significant function in both the formulation and the execution of the Commission work programs. Membership on the advisory committees, which totals 614 persons, is set forth in Appendix B.

STAFFING

The Commission prepares an annual work program which is reviewed and approved by Federal and State funding agencies. This work program is then carried out by a core staff of full-time professional, technical, administrative, and clerical personnel, supplemented by additional temporary staff and consultants as required by the various work programs under way. At the end of 1995, the Commission staff totaled 96, including 85 full-time and 11 part-time employees.

As shown in Figure 1 and in Appendix C, the Commission was in 1995 organized into eight divisions. Five of these divisions, Transportation Planning, Environmental Planning, Land Use Planning, Community Assistance Planning, and Economic Development Assistance, have direct responsibility for the conduct of the Commission's major planning programs. The remaining three divisions, Administrative Services, Cartographic and Graphic Arts, and Geographic Information Systems, provide day-to-day support of the five planning divisions.

FUNDING

Basic financial support for the Commission's work program is provided by county tax levies apportioned on the basis of equalized valuation. These basic funds are supplemented by State and Federal aids. Revenues received by the Commission during 1995 totaled about $5.8 million. County tax levies in 1995 totaled about $1.5 million, or about $0.80 per capita. The sources of this revenue for 1995 and the trend in funding since the inception of the Commission in 1960 are shown in Figures 2 through 5. It may be seen in Figure 2 that there has been little change in the tax levy for regional planning since 1963 when that levy is expressed in constant 1960 dollars.
1995 MEETINGS

COMMISSION AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Full Commission ........................................... 6
Executive Committee ....................................... 8
Administrative Committee .................................. 8
Planning and Research Committee ......................... 4
Intergovernmental and Public Relations Committee .... 1
Technical Coordinating and Advisory Committee on Regional Airport System Planning ............... 3
Technical and Citizen Advisory Committee on Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities System Planning 0
Technical Coordinating and Advisory Committees on Jurisdictional
Highway Planning
Kenosha County ............................................ 0
Milwaukee County ......................................... 0
Ozaukee County ............................................ 0
Racine County ............................................. 0
Walworth County .......................................... 0
Washington County ....................................... 0
Waukesha County ......................................... 1
Technical Coordinating and Advisory Committee on Regional Transportation System Planning .............. 0
Intergovernmental Coordinating and Advisory Committees on Transportation System Planning and Programming
Kenosha Urbanized Area .................................. 2
Milwaukee Urbanized Area ................................ 2
Racine Urbanized Area ................................... 2
Watershed Committees
Root River ................................................... 0
Fox River .................................................... 0
Milwaukee River .......................................... 0
Menomonee River ........................................... 0
Kinnickinnic River ........................................ 0
Pike River .................................................. 0
Des Plaines River .......................................... 4
Oak Creek .................................................. 0
Intergovernmental Coordinating and Technical Advisory Committee for the IH 94 West Freeway Corridor Development Plan .................................................. 0
Technical Coordinating and Advisory Committee on Regional Land Use Planning ......................... 0

Technical Advisory Committee on
Socio-economic Studies .................................... 2
Technical and Citizen Advisory Committee on Coastal Management in Southeastern Wisconsin ........ 0
Technical Advisory Committee for the Protection and Management of Natural Areas in Southeastern Wisconsin ........ 2
Intergovernmental Coordinating and Advisory Committee for the Northwestern Waukesha County Sanitary Sewerage System Plan ........................................ 2
Intergovernmental Coordinating and Advisory Committee for the Kenosha Urban Planning District .... 3
Technical Coordinating and Advisory Committee on the Study of Environmentally Sensitive Lands in the Town of Norway Sanitary District No. 1 ........ 1

STAFF TECHNICAL MEETINGS

Executive Director ......................................... 233
Assistant Directors ........................................ 248
Cartographic and Graphic Arts Division .................. 25
Community Assistance Planning Division ............... 167
Environmental Planning Division ....................... 137
Land Use Planning Division ................................ 146
Transportation Planning Division ......................... 97
Economic Development
Assistance Division ........................................ 397
Geographic Information Systems Division ............. 111

STAFF SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

Executive Director ......................................... 5
Assistant Directors ........................................ 16
Cartographic and Graphic Arts Division ................ 0
Community Assistance Planning Division ............... 3
Environmental Planning Division ....................... 24
Land Use Planning Division ................................ 30
Transportation Planning Division ......................... 13
Economic Development
Assistance Division ........................................ 6
Geographic Information Systems Division ............. 3
The Commission has a complete financial audit performed each year by a certified public accountant. The report of this audit for 1995 is set forth in full in Appendix E. Under the Federal Single Audit Act of 1984, the Commission's audit is subject to the review and approval of the Commission's Federal cognizant agency, the Federal Highway Administration.

**DOCUMENTATION**

Documentation in the form of published reports is considered very important, if not absolutely essential, to any public planning effort. Printed planning reports represent the best means for disseminating inventory data that have permanent historical value and for promulgating plan recommendations and alternatives to such recommendations. Published reports are intended to serve as important references for public officials at the Federal and State levels, as well as at the local level, when considering important development decisions. Perhaps most importantly, however, published reports are intended to provide a focus for generating enlightened citizen interest in, and action on, plan recommendations. Accordingly, the Commission has established a series of published reports.

The first and most important type of report in the series is the planning report. The planning report is intended to document the adopted elements of the comprehensive plan for the physical development of the Region. As such, these reports constitute the official recommendations of the Regional Planning Commission. Each planning report is carefully reviewed and formally adopted by the Commission.

The second type of report in the series is the planning guide. Planning guides are intended to constitute manuals of local planning practice. As such, planning guides are intended to help improve the overall quality of public planning within the Region, and thereby to promote sound community development properly coordinated on a regionwide basis. The guides discuss basic planning and plan implementation principles, contain examples of good planning practice, and provide local governments with model ordinances and forms to assist them in their everyday planning efforts.

### Figure 5

**REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES: 1995**

**REVENUES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Federal Government</td>
<td>$1,949,108</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Government</td>
<td>$850,470</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Government Tax Levy</td>
<td>$1,496,140</td>
<td>26%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Local Government Contracts</td>
<td>$1,268,764</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>$205,814</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$5,769,296</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**EXPENDITURES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Transportation Planning</td>
<td>$1,722,796</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land Use Planning</td>
<td>$1,236,368</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Planning</td>
<td>$755,510</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Assistance Planning</td>
<td>$569,857</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic Development Assistance</td>
<td>$220,071</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land Information Services to Local Governments</td>
<td>$805,528</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration</td>
<td>$459,166</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$5,769,296</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY 1%
- LOCAL GOVERNMENT TAX LEVY 26%
- LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS/PLANNING 7%
- LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS/LAND INFORMATION SERVICES 15%
- MISCELLANEOUS 4%
- WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES 2%
- WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION 11%
- U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION 24%
- U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION 9%
The third type of report in the series is the technical report. Technical reports are intended to make available to various public and private agencies within the Region valuable information assembled by the Commission staff during the course of its planning work on a work progress basis. Technical reports document the findings of such important basic inventories as detailed soil surveys, stream water quality surveys, potential park and open space site inventories, and horizontal and vertical control surveys.

The fourth type of report in the series is similar to the technical report and is known as the technical record. This journal is published on an irregular basis and is intended primarily to document technical procedures utilized in the Commission planning programs. The documentation of such procedures assists other planning and engineering technicians in more fully understanding the Commission work programs and contributes toward advancing the science and art of planning.

The fifth type of report in the series is the community assistance planning report. These reports are intended to document local plans prepared by the Commission at the request of one or more local units of government. Occasionally, these local plans constitute refinements of, and amendments to, adopted regional and subregional plans, and are then formally adopted by the Regional Planning Commission.

The sixth type of report in the series is the planning program prospectus. Prospectuses are prepared by the Commission as a matter of policy as the initial step in the undertaking of any new major planning program. The major objective of the prospectus is to achieve a consensus among all of the interests concerned on the need for, and objectives of, a particular proposed planning program. The prospectus documents the need for a planning program; specifies the scope and content of the work required to be undertaken; recommends the most effective method for establishing, organizing, and accomplishing the required work; recommends a practical time sequence and schedule for the work; provides sufficient cost data to permit the development of an initial budget; and suggests how to allocate costs among the various levels and units of government concerned. Importantly, the prospectuses serve as the basis for the review, approval, and funding of the proposed planning programs by the constituent county boards.

The seventh type of report in the series is the annual report. The annual report has served an increasing number of functions over the period of the Commission's existence. Originally, and most importantly, the Commission's annual report was, and still is, intended to satisfy a very sound legislative requirement that a regional planning commission each calendar year prepare, publish, and certify to the State Legislature of Wisconsin and to the legislative bodies of the local units of government within the Region an annual report summarizing the activities of the Commission. In addition, the annual report documents activities under the continuing regional land use-transportation study and as such serves as an annual report to the Federal and State Departments of Transportation. The Commission's annual report is also intended to provide local public officials and interested citizens with a comprehensive overview of the Commission's activities and thereby to provide a focal point for the promotion of regional plan implementation.

The eighth type of report in the series is the memorandum report. These reports are intended to document the results of locally requested special studies. These special studies usually involve relatively minor work efforts of a short duration and are not normally intended to document formally adopted plans.

In addition to the eight basic types of reports described above, the Commission documents its work in certain miscellaneous publications, including a bimonthly newsletter, regional planning conference proceedings, study designs, public hearing and public informational meeting minutes, transportation improvement programs, and staff memoranda.

While many of the Commission's publications are relatively long and are, necessarily, written in a technical style, they do provide the conscientious, concerned citizen and elected official, as well as concerned technicians, with all of the data and information needed to comprehend fully the scope and complexity of the area wide developmental and environmental problems and of the Commission's recommendations for the resolution of those problems. A complete publication list is set forth in Appendix D.