



2045 Long Range Transportation Plan Update

Stakeholder Interviews Summary

May 2021

AECOM

Overview

- A series of stakeholder interviews were conducted virtually (via Zoom) with small groups in April 2021.
- Key topics included:
 - Transportation Safety
 - Regional Mobility
 - Transportation and Healthy Communities
 - Transportation Equity
- Additional outreach efforts, based on the results of the interviews, included the distribution of a streamlined version of the project survey to targeted Spanish-speaking audiences, and a follow up interview with selected stakeholders to address Transportation Equity issues, decision-making, and resource allocation.
- Complete interview summaries are included in an appendix to LRTP.

Invited Stakeholders (page 1 of 2)

- Scot Prindiville, City of Beloit
- Kevin Bunge, Village of Rockton
- Seth Gronewold, City of South Beloit
- Duane Jorgenson, Rock County
- Frank Hodina, Winnebago County
- Frank McKearn, Town of Beloit
- Tom Koprowski, WisDOT SW Region
- Rob Bates, IDOT District 2
- Dave Bomkamp, Town of Turtle
- Matt Cuyler, Rockton Township
- Thomas Stigler, Interim Police Chief, City of Beloit
- Adam Truman, Chief of Police, South Beloit
- Stephen Dickson, Chief of Police, Village of Rockton
- Ron Northrop, Chief of Police, Town of Beloit
- Randy Wiessinger, WisDOT Bureau of Transportation Safety
- Rick Barder, Bicycling Advocate
- Carl Lange, Bicycling Advocate
- Jeff Johnson, Bicycling Advocate
- Gus Larson, Beloit Health System, North Pointe, SMTD Board Chair
- BACHC, Beloit Area Community Health Center
- Ann Hankins, Stateline YMCA
- Jen Hall, GBEDC
- Amy Thurmer, Greater Beloit Chamber?
- Stateline Chamber (Rockton/Roscoe/South Beloit)
- Visit Beloit, Celestino Ruffini
- Dan Schooff, Chief of Staff and Secretary of the College, Beloit College
- BTS, Teri Downing
- SMTD Sharon Hecox
- JTS, Becca Smith
- RMTD, Michael Stubbe
- Rock County Mobility Manager, Jennifer McIlhone

Invited Stakeholders (page 2 of 2)

- R1PC, Sydney Turner
- Janesville MPO, Alexander Brown
- Town of Beloit, Joe Rose
- Community Action, Erick Williams
- Community Action, Mark Perry
- Latino Service Providers Coalition, Cecilia Ramirez
- Grinnell Hall Senior Center, Debbie Krause
- Stateline Literacy Council, Leeanna Schultz
- Boys and Girls Club, Mark Rand
- Neighborworks Blackhawk Region, Joy Bosco
- Rosamaria Laursen, Biliteracy Instructional Leadership Coordinator
- Anthony Bosco, Director of Instructional Leadership & Equity
- Cindy Laube, Beloit ESFL Coordinator
- John Pfleiderer, Executive Director of Family Services
- Rick Barder, Beloit Resident – Cycling enthusiast
- Rosamaria Laursen, Biliteracy Coordinator Beloit School District
- Mark Rand, CEO Stateline Boys and Girls Club
- Tony Bosco, Director of Equity for School District of Beloit

Transportation Issues Facing Minority and Low-Income Populations

- Taking transit requires more time than driving so often users choose to drive (“not a benefit”)
- Traffic safety around school zones is an issue – speeding in school zones
- Limited sidewalk availability – gaps, only on one side of the street, etc. (a lot of little things add up)
- Existing transit hours of operation aren’t sufficient to get people to and from jobs
- Lack of bike/ped bridges over the Rock River and Turtle Creek to connect east and west side neighborhoods
- Obstacles to using transit and biking include materials/information being in English and not Spanish – graphics are easier to use vs heavy text documents.

Key Destinations Lacking Transit Access

- Health care provider locations (Beloit Clinic, Community Health Center at Eclipse)
- Merrill Community Center
- Beloit Public Library
- Boys and Girls Club
- Industrial parks (Gateway)
- Downtown and riverfront – consider it “center of town” for everyone

Ways to Improve Community Health

- Accessibility to parks by bike/ped
- Connectivity between the communities
- Equity and access to recreational facilities
- Safe routes to school
 - many schools don't have good, safe access so that students can walk to and from school
 - many are driven/dropped off due to barriers (busy intersections, etc.)
- Expanding bike path along Rock River to Big Hill Park
- Offer transit to Big Hill Park on weekends
- Support more road diets across the region
- Peace Trail connection between Big Hill Park to City of Beloit

Desired Transit Improvements

- Funding public transit at regional level – no regional funding opportunities in WI
- Rockford, Janesville, Beloit function as one region – people live and work within the area and across the Stateline – regional transportation access is key/important
- Coordinate transit hours of operation, convenient transfers between services, consistent fare structures/payments. Access within the region is lengthy and involves switching between transit systems/providers
- Align transit hours of operation with needs of shift workers
- Support land use planning improvements: encourage new development to take place in areas served by transit
- Improve transit access to Gateway area; Rock County Center/ Social services/County Courthouse in Janesville; airport
- Work with large employers to create public/private partnership to provide improved transit service to newer developments
- Create a regional transit website for trip planning, information, purchase passes online, real time bus information
- Allow bikes on buses and/or bike lockers/storage/racks

Areas for Roadway Safety Improvements

- Milwaukee Rd (SH 81) & White Avenue
- Cranston Road near Collingswood Dr
- Henry Ave & Tremont Dr
- CTH D (S Afton Rd) high speeds heading toward Afton, north of Newark Rd
- Driving under the influence is a problem in area
- Speed/reckless driving

Areas for Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements

- Cranston Rd (bike)
- Henry Ave (bike)
- Milwaukee Road and White Ave (bike)
- Stockton Road connection to Stone Bridge Trail
- New Casino – increased bike/ped traffic to and from, also potential for motorist conflicts with bike system users
- Program to increase rates of motorists yielding to pedestrians/bicycles
- Safe Routes to School: Cranston and Prairie Ave (Robinson Elementary); Milwaukee Rd/Oakwood Ave and Colley Road (Todd Elementary); Milwaukee Road (Fruzen Intermediate); Madison Road NB sidewalks aren't continuous to get to the intermediate schools
- Fill in gaps of existing trail network to get more bike/ped off streets
- Support and create bike and ped infrastructure to support more bike/ped activity
- Bike signage (path to Big Hill park)
- Town Hall Road in Town of Turtle/City of Beloit – add sidewalks – many walkers