

TAKING STEPS TOWARDS MORE INTEGRATED LAND USE AND TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

Land use and transportation are interconnected. For example, new urban development means greater use of roads and paths, and expansion of road capacity can spur additional urban development. Consequently, land use and transportation planning should occur together to account for this reciprocal relationship.

Yet, in the Greater Madison region, two completely separate entities carry out regional land use and transportation planning. The **Capital Area Regional Planning Commission** conducts land use (as well as environmental) planning, while the **Madison Area Transportation Planning Board** conducts transportation planning.

The staff of the two agencies share information and work together on projects when they can. But this coordination falls short of needed integrated planning. For example, the agencies produce separate regional land use and transportation plans.

Recognizing this shortfall, the governing bodies of each agency formed a **Joint CARPC-MATPB Work Group** in 2017. It was charged with exploring options and preparing recommendations for achieving more integrated regional land use, environmental and transportation planning.

Last fall, the Work Group completed its work and provided a report to both agencies. Recommended short-term actions (next 1-2 years) include co-locating the staffs of the two agencies and working together to produce regional land use and transportation plans on the same cycle. Medium (3-5 years) and long-term (5+ years) options involve more closely integrating operations and governance of the two agencies. These options should be considered as the short-term recommendations are carried out, according to the report.

The governing boards of CARPC and MATPB met jointly in January to review the Work Group recommendations. Following positive feedback at the joint meeting, the Regional Planning Commission voted to accept the Work Group report, and direct staff to carry out the short-term recommendations. The Transportation Board is expected to accept the report and recommendations at its next meeting. Staff are currently working on possible co-location.