

Shaping the region's future in the 21st century

Welcome to our 13th regular newsletter section focusing on East Central's regional comprehensive plan. Our aim is to provide you with a quarterly update throughout the planning process.

As many of you know, East Central received a grant from the Wisconsin Department of Administration to update the regional plan to meet the standards established in the Smart Growth legislation. Working together with citizens, local governments, and interest groups, East Central's objective is to develop a comprehensive vision for the development of the 10-county area through 2030.

Major Phases of the Regional Comprehensive Planning Process



What's New?

A significant turn of events occurred in May. The Joint Finance Committee, when reviewing the state budget bill, voted on a motion introduced by Representative Meyer and seconded by Representative Ward to repeal the 1999 comprehensive planning law in its entirety. The motion passed, with Meyer, Ward, Jensen, Lazich, Darling, Kaufert, Fitzgerald, Stone, Leibham, Rhoades voting in favor of the motion and Colon, Decker, Pocan, Taylor, Cowles and Olsen voting against. The committee action is one step in the state budget process which is working its way through the legislature. East Central is monitoring this legislative action as it will obviously impact communities within the region and their future planning efforts.

In terms of outstanding contracts with the Wisconsin Department of Administration, East Central's regional comprehensive plan will continue with a new deadline in place. A deadline extension was requested and has been formally approved. Our new deadline is November of 2006 and the overall schedule is as follows:

- *The State of the Region* - Adopted April 2003
- *Issues, Opportunities, and a Vision for the Future* - Adopted July 2004
- *Goals and Strategies for Action* - Oct. 2005/Jan. 2006
- *Plan for Implementation* - January/April 2006

Milestone Report #3: Goals and Strategies for Action

Our next report will include strategies for each element that support the previously identified goals and vision statements developed in *Milestone Report #2: Issues, Opportunities, and a Vision for the Future*. The strategies will be supported by an East Central Position Statement. The position statement explains why the strategy is needed to make progress toward the goal. Establishing mechanisms to track progress is also a component of this report. Creating benchmarks to track progress is important to determine if the strategies are effective in addressing regional goals.

Public Participation

In November and December, East Central will be hosting open houses to seek input from residents of the region. We anticipate also making presentations to groups and organizations to be proactive in seeking input into our planning process. If you wish to let us know what you think or if you are interested in general information regarding the regional plan, please contact Elizabeth Runge at 920-751-4770, or by email at erunge@eastcentralrpc.org.