

Chippewa-Eau Claire MPO
Policy Council

August 28, 2024

Meeting Packet

CHIPPEWA-EAU CLAIRE
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION



800 Wisconsin Street, Mail Box 9
Eau Claire, WI 54703
715.836.2918 wcvrpo.org

MEETING NOTICE

**Chippewa-Eau Claire Metropolitan Planning Organization
Policy Council**

Wednesday, August 28, 2024
5:30 p.m.

Meeting Location:
Chippewa-Eau Claire MPO
Banbury Place, 800 Wisconsin St.
Building 2 – Eau Claire Room
Eau Claire, WI

AGENDA

1. Call to order
2. Welcome and introductions
3. Approval of minutes of May 01, 2024 Policy Council meeting
4. Review of minutes of August 14, 2024 TAC meeting
5. Review and approval of Amendment #3 (Projects) to the Transportation Improvement Program for the Eau Claire Urbanized Area, 2024-2028
6. Review Draft 2025 Urban Work Program
7. Acting as the Areawide Water Quality Management Policy Advisory Committee: Consideration and potential approval of the updated Study (Planning) Area for the Chippewa Falls-Eau Claire Urban Sewer Service Area Plan Update
8. Other Business
9. Establish next meeting date (tentatively October 09, 2024)
10. Adjournment

Includes the Cities of Altoona, Chippewa Falls, and Eau Claire, the Village of Lake Hallie, and the Towns of Anson, Brunswick, Eagle Point, Hallie, Lafayette, Pleasant Valley, Seymour, Tilden, Union, Washington, and Wheaton

CHIPPEWA-EAU CLAIRE
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION



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**Minutes of the
Chippewa-Eau Claire Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Policy Council**
Wednesday, May 1, 2024, 5:30 p.m.
Held at: Room 405H, Building 2, Banbury Place, 800 Wisconsin Street, Eau Claire, WI

Members Present (9): Gary Spilde - Village of Lake Hallie (Chair), Jim Dunning – Eau Claire County (outgoing Vice-chair), Duane Shoebridge – Chippewa County, Matt Biren – City of Altoona, Greg Hoffman – City of Chippewa Falls, Emily Berge – City of Eau Claire, Connie Russell – Eau Claire County (new, incoming Vice-chair), Jennifer Meyer – Town of Union, Robert Solberg – Town of Washington, Alice Droske – Town of Wheaton

Members with no representative present (8): Town of Anson, Town of Brunswick, Town of Eagle Point, Town of Hallie, Town of Lafayette, Town of Pleasant Valley, Town of Seymour, Town of Tilden

Staff Present: Eric Anderson & Edwin Rothrock - Chippewa-Eau Claire MPO, Chris Straight & Scott Allen – WCWRPC

Minutes

1. Chairman Spilde called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.
2. Welcome and Introductions, two new members introduced (Mr. Shoebridge and Ms. Russell).
3. Elections were held for Chair and Vice-chair positions. Mr. Spilde was nominated for Chair by Mr. Hoffman, seconded by Mr. Solberg. Mr. Spilde was elected by a unanimous vote. Ms. Russell was nominated by Mr. Hoffman for Vice-chair, seconded by Mr. Biren. Ms. Russell was elected unanimously.
4. Review and Approval of the minutes of the January 31, 2024, MPO Policy Council meeting. Mr. Biren moved to approve; Mr. Solberg seconded the motion. The motion to approve passed unanimously.
5. The minutes of the April 10, 2024, MPO Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting were reviewed.
6. Mr. Anderson presented Amendment #2 (TAM performance measures) to the Chippewa – Eau Claire MPO Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) 2024-2028. Mr. Spilde moved to approve, Mr. Biren seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
7. Mr. Anderson presented the recommendation from the MPO TAC for the distribution of \$4,870,716 funds received in the recent STP-Urban grant to the MPO. The TAC recommendation was to allocate three of the four requests for project funding at the full amount requested. The fourth request could not be accommodated within the funding restriction for the funds. The recommended funding would leave \$283,666 in STP-Urban funds unallocated and available for use in future grant funding rounds. There was a discussion about the process of requesting and allocating the funds, the rules regarding allowable expenses, and the limits on percentages of total allowable projects costs that this grant funding can be allocated for. Mr. Shoebridge asked about geographic spread of the recommended grant awards. Mr. Rothrock discussed the balance of funding for recent rounds of STP-Urban grant projects and said staff will send a link to Members of a map showing the location of Federal grant funding.

Mr. Spilde moved to approve the TAC-recommended allocations, a motion seconded by Ms. Berge. The motion was approved unanimously.

Approved project funding:

Eau Claire County – State Street/CTH F: \$1,920,000
City of Eau Claire – Prairie Lane : \$1,418,746
City of Chippewa Falls – Bridgewater Avenue: \$1,248,304

Includes the Cities of Altoona, Chippewa Falls, and Eau Claire, the Village of Lake Hallie, and the Towns of Anson, Brunswick, Eagle Point, Hallie, Lafayette, Pleasant Valley, Seymour, Tilden, Union, Washington, and Wheaton

8. Mr. Anderson presented the proposed update to the Chippewa – Eau Claire MPO Metropolitan Planning Area Boundary recommended for approval by the MPO TAC. This TAC recommendation had been considered at the January 31, 2024, Policy Council meeting. After amendments to both add and delete areas had been approved at the earlier meeting, the consideration of the amended map had been tabled until this meeting. Mr. Anderson reviewed the amendments for Members. Mr. Rothrock reminded Members that the Wisconsin Department of Transportation would review the map and has to approve the map before it is official.

Mr. Solberg made a motion to approve the MPO Boundary map as presented with the previously approved amendments. Ms. Berge seconded the motion. The map was approved unanimously.
9. Mr. Straight asked the Policy Council to appoint a Water Quality Technical Advisory Committee (WQ-TAC) to replace the MPO TAC during the process of developing the upcoming Sewer Service Plan update. He discussed that, with the finalization of the agreement with the Department of Natural Resource (DNR) to fund work on the update, the process could start moving forward quickly. He discussed the historical make-up of the WQ-TAC, one representative from each government entity in the planning area and suggested that the make-up of the new WQ-TAC follow that model. Mr. Hoffman moved to approve that make-up of the WQ-TAC, seconded by Mr. Biren. The motion passed unanimously. The Members agreed to designate the appointees quickly. Mr. Rothrock stated that the MPO staff will reach out to all the absent Members to get their appointees.
10. Mr. Anderson reviewed the Chippewa Valley Bike Route project. He presented the recently released on-line map which is optimized for mobile users, such as those bike riding. He detailed the press release which had been sent out and recent media. There was a discussion about further steps to be taken and who the responsible parties might be for those steps.
11. Mr. Rothrock discussed recent decisions by the City of Chippewa Falls and their Transit Board to expand, on a trial basis, their Shared Ride Taxi Service to serve one or two bus stops on the Eau Claire Transit fixed-route system. This change was in response to the shut-down of the HSHS/Prevea healthcare facilities in Chippewa Falls and the resulting difficulty for Chippewa Falls residents to access transportation to replacement medical providers in Eau Claire.
12. Other Business - none
13. The next meeting date was tentatively set for August 28th, 2024.
14. Adjournment – Mr. Hoffman moved to adjourn the meeting; Ms. Meyers seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Spilde adjourned the meeting at 7:20 p.m.



**Minutes of the Chippewa-Eau Claire Metropolitan Planning Organization
Transportation Technical Advisory Committee**

Meeting held virtually using Zoom, Wednesday, August 14th, 2024, 1:30 p.m.

Members present: Fred Anderson – Chippewa County Highway Department, Taylor Greenwell – City of Altoona Planning, Brandon Cesafsky – City of Chippewa Falls Public Works, Brad Hentschel – City of Chippewa Falls Planning, Ned Noel – City of Eau Claire Planning, Jon Johnson – Eau Claire County Highway Department, Jennifer Meyer - Town of Union, Carolyn Kaiser – Town of Wheaton, Jeff Abboud – WisDOT NW Region

Staff present: Eric Anderson – Director Chippewa-Eau Claire Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), Edwin Rothrock - Chippewa-Eau Claire MPO, Scott Allen – WCWRPC Director

Minutes

1. Mr. Eric Anderson called the meeting to order at 1:32 pm.
2. Introductions were made.
3. The minutes of April 10th, 2024, MPO TAC meeting were approved by all present following a motion by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Fred Anderson.
4. Mr. Eric Anderson presented Amendment #3 (Projects) to the 2024-2028 Transportation Improvement Plan for the Chippewa-Eau Claire MPO. Mr. Johnson asked about the Capital additions for Eau Claire Transit Capital. Mr. Rothrock said that he thought those were for new transit vehicles. Mr. Abboud pointed out a project that was duplicated and suggested that future projects that can be listed as WisDOT projects use them as the sponsoring entity. A motion to recommend this amendment be adopted by the MPO Policy Council was made by Mr. Greenwell, seconded by Mr. Hentschel, all members present voted “Aye.”
5. Mr. Eric Anderson presented a draft of the 2025 Urban Work Program for review. He discussed the potential projects to be undertaken in 2025. He also shared that the MPO Long-Range Transportation Plan will be updated in 2025 and that task will consume a significant percentage of the capacity the MPO has to pursue other work efforts, limiting new activities throughout the year.
6. Mr. Eric Anderson discussed the MPO’s new capabilities for automated traffic studies related to the MioVision camera system purchased earlier this year. He shared a Turn Count report and a Speed Report that have been completed for the City of Eau Claire. He asked that if any of the MPO members have studies they would like to have completed to give him a call or email.
7. Other Business - Mr. Eric Anderson discussed progress on having signage designating Chippewa Valley Bike Routes installed. Various members updated the group on the progress made with installation. Progress has been steady and should be completed within the next year. Mr. Abboud shared that WisDOT is in the process of hiring a new Regional Planner for the area who will be located in the Eau Claire office. Their start date is in late August.
8. Establish next tentative meeting date as August 14th, 2024.
9. At 2:11 pm, a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Abboud, seconded by Mr. Fred Anderson, and passed by all.

**Chippewa-Eau Claire MPO
Resolution No. 24-03**

AMENDMENT NUMBER 3 TO THE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) FOR THE CHIPPEWA-EAU CLAIRE URBANIZED AREA (2024-2028), ADOPTION OF NEW AND AMENDED PROJECTS TO THE TIP.

WHEREAS, the Chippewa-Eau Claire Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) was designated by the Governor of the State of Wisconsin for the purpose of carrying out cooperative, comprehensive, and continuing urban transportation planning in the Eau Claire urbanized area; and

WHEREAS, all transportation projects in the Eau Claire urbanized area which are implemented with federal funds must be included in the annual elements of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and approved by the MPO is a prerequisite for funding approval; and

WHEREAS, the 2024-2028 TIP was approved by the Chippewa-Eau Claire MPO in October 2023; and

WHEREAS, this amendment includes the addition or modification of 20 projects to the 2024-2028 TIP, as attached; and

WHEREAS, the MPO has adopted and followed procedures for amendments to make such changes to the program; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CHIPPEWA-EAU CLAIRE MPO:

That the Chippewa-Eau Claire MPO approves the amendment to the 2024-2028 TIP and that the newly added and modified projects are formally adopted, as attached.

Adopted this 28th day of August, 2024

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

Gary Spilde, Chairperson
Chippewa-Eau Claire
Metropolitan Planning Organization

Eric Anderson, Secretary
Chippewa-Eau Claire
Metropolitan Planning Organization

2024-2028 TIP Project Listing (in 2024 \$; in thousands of \$)																						
Amendment #3																						
Primary Jurisdiction/ Project Sponsor	Project Description	Type of Cost	Jan - Dec 2024				Jan - Dec 2025				Jan - Dec 2026				Jan - Dec 2027				Jan - Dec 2028 (illustrative)			
			Fed	State	Local	Total	Fed	State	Local	Total	Fed	State	Local	Total	Fed	State	Local	Total	Fed	State	Local	Total
Transit - Capital																						
City of Eau Claire	Capital Assistance																					
TIP # 370-23-011	Computer Replacment	CAP	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	24	0	6	30
	Shop Equipment		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	32	0	8	40	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	UWEC Transit Hub		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	200	200	1600	0	400	2000	0	0	0	0
	Bus Surveillance Equipment		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	80	0	20	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Replacement Buses		0	0	0	0	1,520	0	380	1,900	1,596	0	399	1,995	1,675	0	419	2,095	1,760	0	440	2,200
Amendment #3	TOTAL		0	0	0	0	1,520	0	380	1,900	1,708	0	627	2,335	3,275	0	819	4,095	1,784	0	446	2,230
Federal Railroad Admin.																						
Federal Railroad Admin.	Eau Claire to Twin Cities																					
TIP # 370-24-015	Corridor Identification and Development Grant Program Phase 1	PE	500	0	0	500	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		ROW	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		CONST	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Amendment #3	CID	TOTAL	500	0	0	500	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Transit - Operating																						
City of Eau Claire	Operating Assistance																					
TIP # 370-22-014		OPS	4,594	1,250	933	6,777	2,704	1,315	2,347	6,366	1,059	0	0	1,059	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Amendment #3	TOTAL		4,594	1,250	933	6,777	2,704	1,315	2,347	6,366	1,059	0	0	1,059	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bicycle/Pedestrian																						
WisDOT	Birch Street & McKinley Road																					
7995-02-83	STH 312 to River Prairie Drive	PE	0	0	0	0	136	0	34	170	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Safe Routes to School/multi-use path	ROW	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TIP # 370-24-017	(1.3 mi.)	CONST	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Amendment #3	STBG-TA	TOTAL	0	0	0	0	136	0	34	170	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
WisDOT	Various School Districts																					
1009-24-26	WCWRPC, Regional SRTS Program	PE	0	0	0	0	321	0	80	401	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		ROW	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TIP # 370-24-025	(0.0 mi.)	CONST	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Amendment #3	STBG-TA	TOTAL	0	0	0	0	321	0	80	401	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

WCWRPC learned on July 26th that Wisconsin Department of Administration would not have updated population projections completed until later in 2024. Since NR 121 demands consistency between the SSA Plan and the State’s official population projections, it is necessary to postpone work on the forecasts that will help determine the size of the eventual sewer service area. WQM-TAC meetings may continue in the interim, but the meetings will focus on other aspects of the SSA Plan, such as the policies and plan administration.

SSA Plan Study Area - Potential Action by the Policy Council

WCWRPC is requesting MPO Policy Council approval of the attached draft Sewer Service Area Plan Study Area, potentially including changes considered during the meeting. Before analysis of the sewer service area can begin, the Policy Council must approve the Study Area.

The study area is the area for which data is being gathered. WDNR water quality staff emphasized that the study area is “for data collection purposes” and “has no regulatory significance.”

A study area must be defined so that we can begin data collection. WCWRPC created the draft Study Area based on three primary factors:

1. For consistency with NR 121, we require smaller geographic units for which there is existing and forecasted population and growth data available. To the extent possible, the Study Area follows and does not subdivide Transportation Analysis Zone (TAZ) boundaries that were created by Wisconsin Department of Transportation and will be used for the MPO’s Long-Range Transportation Plan update.
2. We attempted to include clusters or concentrations of existing residential, commercial, and manufacturing development within the Study Area.
3. We reviewed the future land use maps in current city, village, town, and county comprehensive plans and attempted to include planned growth areas within the Study Area.

Attached is a **draft Study Area Map** that identifies:

- WCWRPC’s currently proposed Study Area for the SSA Plan update (Pink boundary)
- The 2024 Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA) boundary for transportation planning, which was recently approved by the MPO Policy Council. (Black boundary)
- The 2005 Study Area boundary from the existing SSA Plan. (Blue-dot boundary)
- The current 2025 Sewer Service Area boundary. (Yellow boundary)


Please Note:
The Study Area is not the Sewer Service Area
The Study Area must be large enough to encompass whatever is eventually identified as the Sewer Service Area (SSA). It is expected that many areas within the Study Area will not be sewerred and may not even be developed within the next 20 years.

From 2000-2020, the number of MPO households grew 20.2% (+8,568) from 2000-2020 and we are required to anticipate what growth will occur during the next 20 years (2045). As such, it makes sense that the updated Study Area would be larger than the Study (Planning) Area that we used when the SSA Plan was last updated in 2005. Even so, I will note that the updated Study Area boundary is very similar to 2005 boundary in many areas, while the Study Area boundary is larger in some other areas so that we do not split or subdivide a TAZ.


Following the July 22, 2024, meeting, the following WQM-TAC members provided feedback on the draft Study Area:

- The City of Chippewa Falls requested that the Study Area be expanded to encompass the area west of the County Highway “S” and U.S. Highway 53 interchange.
- The Town of Union requested “to keep the SSA study area for our town the same as the current SSA boundary line.” The Town further noted, “At this time, the [Town’s] committee does not feel that the traffic analysis (TAZ's) would be sufficient enough as accurate research for the data analysis of the SSA and clean drinking water for town residents. We feel well quality and PFAS test results would be the ideal data to use for future SSA boundary line determinations.”
- The Village of Lake Hallie supports using the full TAZ’s to define the Study Area.

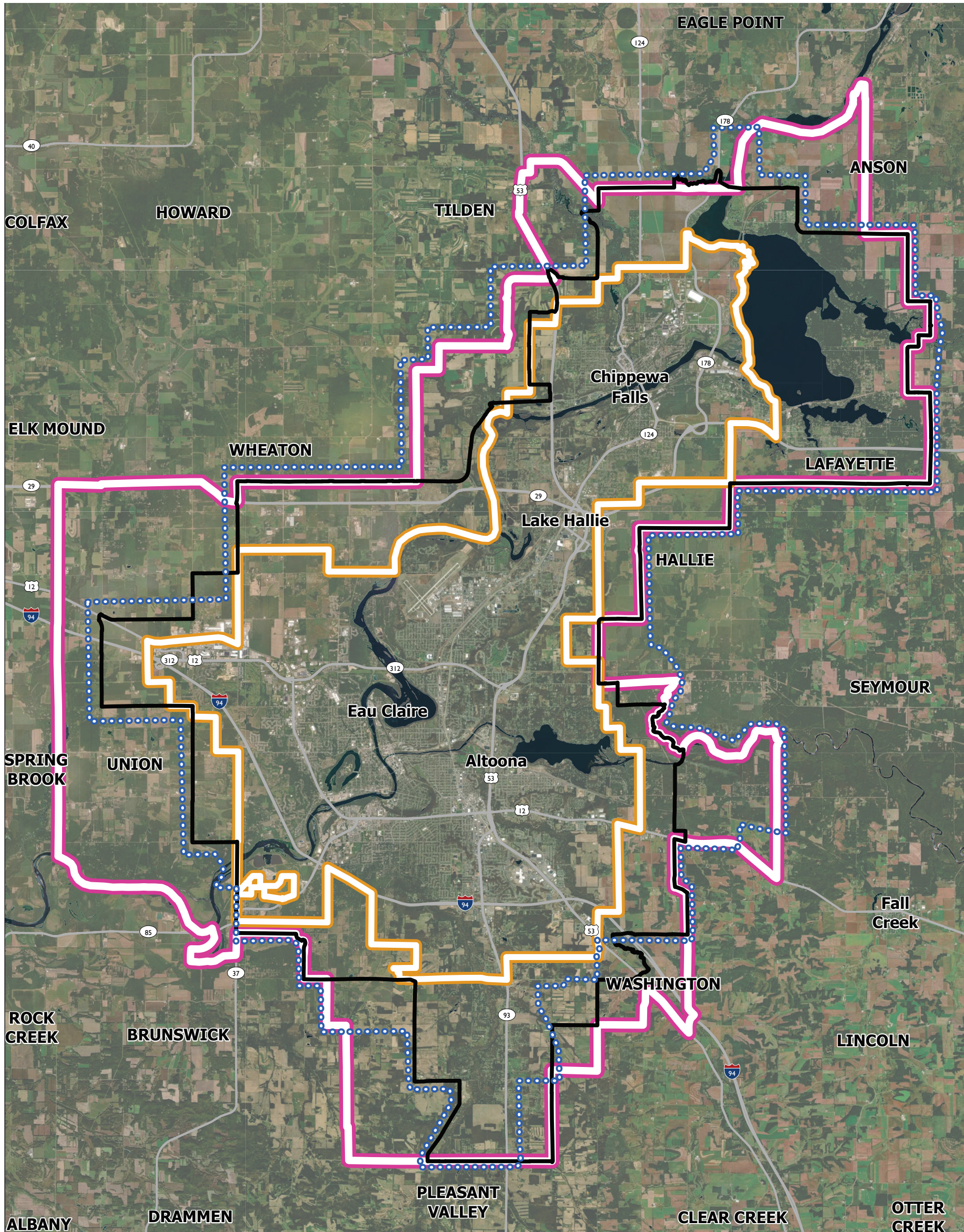
We will discuss the above comments during our meeting on July 28th.

 Proposed Study Area
(V2 - Modified 7/23/24)

 2024 MPA Boundary

 2005 Study Area Boundary

 Current SSA Boundary



West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (WCWRPC) is working with local partners and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) to update the outdated 2007 Sewer Service Area Plan for the Chippewa Falls-Eau Claire area, which is available for download at the WCWRPC website.



WORKING TOGETHER TO KEEP OUR WATER HEALTHY

WHY YOUR PARTICIPATION IS IMPORTANT

- ✓ Water quality is important to all of us and the factors that influence water quality cross governmental boundaries.
- ✓ This SSA update may influence your community's ability to grow through the next generation of residents.
- ✓ The SSA Plan can impact wastewater treatment facility plans, private mains, holding tanks, smaller shared systems, and land spreading.
- ✓ The SSA Plan is a regional plan with policies that apply to the entire SSA regardless of whether connected to municipal sewer or not.
- ✓ You can provide insight into your community's comprehensive plan, related policies, and any proposed development projects.
- ✓ Our area is required to have an SSA Plan, which should be regularly updated.
- ✓ Help strengthen consistency between the SSA Plan and your community's plans and policies.
- ✓ Municipal sanitary sewer in the area cannot be extended outside the SSA boundary.
- ✓ The SSA Plan defines the process for considering future SSA Plan decision-making and who is involved.
- ✓ The data and policies in the SSA Plan will influence other regional and local plans.

What is a Sewer Service Area Plan (SSA Plan)?

The SSA Plan is a cooperative, areawide water quality management plan driven by Section 208 of the Clean Water Act and NR 110 & 121. The SSA Plan:

- » Anticipates a community's future needs for wastewater treatment.
- » Discourages the development of environmentally sensitive areas where development would adversely impact water quality.
- » Coordinates plans and consolidates water quality protection programs and policies within the plan area.
- » Is used by local, State, and Federal agencies when considering municipal wastewater facility plans, permitting for municipal sewer extensions (i.e., 208 reviews), and certain related grant applications.
- » Is not intended to restrict growth, obligate municipalities to provide sewer service, or affect community annexation policies.



WHAT IS INCLUDED IN THE SSA PLAN UPDATE?

The SSA Plan content is largely identified in NR 121.05, though the plan may reference (and not duplicate) other plans and policies that address the required elements of an areawide water quality management plan. Major components of the SSA Plan update include:

- » A water quality assessment for the planning area, including consideration of climate trends and equity/environmental justice.
- » Analysis of wastewater treatment systems, capacities, and needs.
- » 20-year population and land use growth forecasts.
- » A review of environmentally sensitive areas (ESA) definitions and maps.
- » An updated sewer service area boundary where sanitary sewer may be provided in a cost-effective and environmentally sound manner over the next 20 years.
- » A review and update of goals, objectives, policies, and administrative procedures to guide sewered development and protect water quality within the SSA.

SSA Plan Update Process

The Plan update process began in May 2024 and is expected to require 9 to 15 months for the completion of a final draft plan for submittal to WDNR for approval. Major steps during this process includes:

- » 6 planned meeting with the water quality management technical advisory committee (WQM-TAC).
- » Review and consideration of related community plans and policies including comprehensive plans, wastewater facility plans, water quality-related regulations, and intergovernmental agreements.
- » An open house and public hearing on the updated draft plan.
- » An advisory action on the final draft plan by the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Policy Council.
- » WDNR review and approval.

Key SSA Plan Update Roles

Wisconsin DNR Under NR 121, WDNR has authority over the preparation and administration of the urban area's SSA Plan.

WCWRPC WDNR has designated WCWRPC as the local planning agency to facilitate the SSA Plan's update. WCWRPC has also been serving as the local administrator of the SSA Plan, including reviewing proposed sanitary sewer extensions for consistency with the Plan.

MPO Policy Council The MPO Policy Council has agreed to serve as a water quality management policy council to assist WDNR to act in an advisory role on SSA Plan matters. This includes advising WDNR on the adoption of the final draft plan.

Technical Committee Urban area communities were requested to designate a representative to a water quality management technical advisory committee (WQM-TAC) to provide guidance to WCWRPC and the Policy Council during the plan update process.

Questions or Comments?

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