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E-News

May 2011

BLRPC 2012-2013 Work Program

The Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission is soliciting projects from member counties and communities for its **2012-2013 Work Program**. The purpose of this *Work Program* is to generate a comprehensive list of projects from member counties and communities in which the Commission can be of assistance, as authorized under [Section 66.0309](#) of the Wisconsin State Statutes. The development and annual update of the Commission's *Work Program* provides the staff, Commissioners, and member counties and communities the opportunity to review and adjust the types and levels of service provided by the Commission in order to better address changing planning needs at both the local and regional levels.

If your community, county, or organization is thinking about updating existing planning or zoning documents or is in need of some technical assistance on preparing and administering grant applications, please contact the Commission for further information.

Pavement Rating Assistance

State statute requires local government units to submit surface condition ratings for all local roads under their jurisdiction. These ratings must be submitted to the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) every two years. The next submissions to WisDOT are due by December of this year.



Just as we did in 2009, **Commission staff will be providing assistance to local units of government to meet the pavement rating requirement.** A majority of these services will be free-of-charge to Commission members, while non-member communities will be charged time and materials. If your community would like to use the services of Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission for pavement rating assistance, please contact Brandon Robinson at the Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission.

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IMPORTANT DATES

June 4, 2011
[Celebration of the Lake Michigan Water Trail National Recreation Trail Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore](#)

June 10, 2011
BLRPC Full





Wisconsin Lake Michigan Water Trail Planning Update and Some Breaking News!

Two public open houses have been held for the Wisconsin Lake Michigan Water Trail in Green Bay and Milwaukee. The water trail maps were on display for comment, and a presentation providing an overview of the project was given. Thank you to those that were able to attend and

offered feedback. We had great participation from kayakers, local officials involved in tourism and recreation, and interested public. A lot of great comments and suggestions have been received!

Here are a couple of the many comments received:

"I think the project is a splendid idea and feel it would be a tremendous way for Wisconsin to highlight and showcase the Lake Michigan coastline that we are so fortunate to have in our state."

"Count me among outdoor enthusiasts who endorse the Lake Michigan Water Trail. Please do whatever you can to make this trail a reality."

BLRPC, Wisconsin DNR, and National Park Service will meet next month to review and incorporate all the comments into the revised maps. The draft maps, along with additional information about the project, can be viewed on the [BLRPC website](#). Once the maps are finalized, a report will be developed to conclude this initial phase of the Wisconsin Lake Michigan Water Trail planning project.

The next phase of this project will look to develop a branding strategy that local communities and private affiliates can embrace as a Wisconsin Lake Michigan Water Trail network. The next phase will also consider the best user-friendly outputs for the water trail maps. Some options being considered include waterproof maps, a website where GPS coordinates can be downloaded, and mobile applications.

BREAKING NEWS!

Once the Wisconsin Lake Michigan Water Trail is established, it will become part of a complete four-state, lakewide Lake Michigan Water Trail. The Lake Michigan Water trail will be officially designated as a National Recreation Trail by Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar on National Trails Day, which is Saturday, June 4th, 2011. Click [here](#) for event details.

Over the next few years, the Lake Michigan Water Trail will be established to form the longest continuous water trail loop in the world, a four-state 1,600-mile long trail around all of Lake Michigan.

If you have any questions about the Wisconsin Lake Michigan Water Trail, please contact Angela Pierce at the Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission.



Sheboygan MPO May Update

Commission staff are in the process of amending the *Sheboygan Metropolitan Planning Area Transportation Improvement Program (TIP): Calendar Years 2011 - 2014*. These changes are minor, and affect bicycle and pedestrian projects, as well as street and highway projects. Most of the

Commission Meeting
10:00 AM
BLRPC office

June 14, 2011
[Lake Michigan Stakeholders Annual Meeting](#)
LTC, Cleveland, WI
Please RSVP to [Kate Barrett](#) (WDNR)

NOTES

Lake Michigan Forum and Watershed Academy Launch New Websites.

The [Lake Michigan Forum](#) and the [Lake Michigan Watershed Academy](#) focus on protecting and enhancing Lake Michigan. BLRPC has been a member of the Lake Michigan Watershed Academy since its inception in 2003.

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amendments involve technical corrections to cost estimates for existing projects in the TIP. One project, which involves oversight of the Sheboygan County Non-Motorized Transportation Pilot Program, or NMTPP, was extended into 2013 and 2014. Also, two "illustrative," non-programmed projects were added to the bicycle and pedestrian project table of the TIP for informational purposes only.

Commission staff are also delineating traffic analysis zones (TAZs) and districts (TADs) for the 2010 Census. Products from this process will be used in travel forecast modeling to help formulate the next long-range transportation plan for the Sheboygan MPO, which is due in early 2015.

Finally, Commission staff continue to assist Shoreline Metro staff in the completion of its transit development program (TDP).

Please contact Jeff Agee-Aguayo of the Commission staff if you have any questions regarding Sheboygan MPO activities.

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