

Dane Plan Mailbox

From: Susan De Vos <mabaa@tds.net>
Sent: Friday, September 27, 2013 12:26 PM
To: Matano, Alfred forward
Cc: Dane Plan Mailbox
Subject: Fwd: Updating Transportation Element of County's Comprehensive Plan
Attachments: County.pdf

This is a copy of a note re. updating the transportation element of the county's Comprehensive Plan.

Regards, Susan

----- Original Message -----

Subject: Updating Transportation Element of County's Comprehensive Plan

Date: Fri, 06 Sep 2013 10:11:20 -0500

From: Susan De Vos <mabaa@tds.net>

To: Al Matano <matana@mailbag.com>

CC: Susan De Vos <mabaa@tds.net>

Hello Al,

At our last meeting (end of August 2013), the Madison Area Bus Advocates discussed the need to update and strengthen the transit portion of the County's Comprehensive Plan and asked if I would write you a letter. We did not officially vote on a position so what I relay to you cannot be considered our official stance. But I suggest 5 items:

The County needs to be much more aggressive about transit and could prioritize several projects that could be funded immediately if for some reason money were to become available. Projects or plans that materialized *after* the Comprehensive Plan was developed include:

1. a BRT plan overseen by the MPO and with which I am sure you are intimately acquainted; if the entire scheme would be too much, a "starter" line might be chosen;
2. An intercity bus terminal; the County has an interest in fostering non-auto travel between its cities; ideally this would be done in conjunction with the State;
3. Fleshing out the former Dane County RTA Board's Plan for Transit; again, and in conjunction with #2, it could make sense to focus on only parts of it, such as regional express bus service between certain localities.

I also attach a Position Statement that we did approve some time ago. Some of the items could be entered into an updated Comp Plan. For instance, it suggests #4, that

- citizen access to public buildings by all-day transit should be considered when choosing a building location.

It also suggests something about which there has been a lot of discussion:

- reconsidering the present use of the downtown parking structure in which employees only pay \$15/month to park there.

We suggest the County have a more extensive "cash out" program but I know that others have suggested other things such as a more efficient use of the Alliant Energy Center's parking lot. Whatever, **something** should make its way into an updated Plan.

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Susan De Vos

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Madison Area Bus Advocates

<http://www.busadvocates.org>



Madison Area Bus Advocates

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Dane County Issues
November 20, 2010

1. Work with the union to equalize commuting benefits for all employees. Currently, there is a charge of \$15/mth to park in the county's downtown parking lot, while the county provides many surface parking spaces free of charge, and also provides unlimited-ride bus passes to any employee who asks for one. The next logical step is to tie different commuter benefits into one Transportation Demand Management plan that includes a "cash out" option. Such a plan provides equally-valued commuter benefits to all employees, whether that be for parking, van/car pooling, riding transit, bicycling or walking.
2. Define public works and transportation to include transit, walking and bicycling. Currently, the county has a department of "public works, highway, and transportation" that does not deal with non-motorized transportation. Likewise, the county's "public works and transportation" committee only deals with motor vehicle-related transportation although many county residents walk, bike and/or live within areas served by public transit. Many urban counties, with state and federal assistance, now operate Transportation Management Centers (TMCs), and county transportation costs should include helping to pay for bus transit.
3. Provide better travel directions on County web sites by including information on transit, bicycles and walking, not just driving and parking.
4. Consider citizen access to public buildings by all-day transit when choosing building location.