

**Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission Staff Report on Projects for the Bimonthly Meeting on 6.14.2023**

Agenda Topic or Project Name	Purpose, Benefit, Project deliverables, and Contract Amount	Project Time Period	Project Status	Contact
EDA CARES Act MRRPC Supplemental Funding	MRRPC received a \$400,000 grant to assist the region with recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. The award timeframe is July 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2020 through June 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2022. Contract was extended to June 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2023	July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2023	Staff has responded to requests from municipalities regarding pandemic questions and helps where able. Grant ends June 30, 2023.	Jon Bingol Executive Director 608.785.9396 jon@MRRPC.com
EDA CARES Act Supplemental Funding – SMRT Bus Marketing Plan	A portion of the CARES Supplemental funding will be used to develop a marketing plan to increase ridership, enhance signage, and identify growth opportunities.	Start date: March 2021	Staff are coordinating with Vendi and Gundersen Lutheran for aN “All of Us” campaign, and also fielding inquiries for wraps and sponsorships from other entities. No new updates for this quarter.	Ken Harwood Planner 608.785.9396 ken@MRRPC.com
EDA CARES Act Supplemental Funding – Location-based Data Project	A portion of the CARES Supplemental funding will be used to purchase data and travel pattern analysis to support community businesses, capture tourist opportunities, and support local planning and economic development efforts.	Start date: January 2021	Received 3 proposals and staff selected Cambridge Systematics and held a kickoff and planning meeting in late January 2021. Gollnik and Nicewander have worked with CS staff to devise a dashboard displaying 2019 Q4 LBS Data. 2020 data was received in late June, and MRRPC staff has met with agencies to identify applications opportunities for applying the data throughout the region. Data is frozen for the past time period of study so no new data is available from this system. No new updates for this quarter.	Ken Harwood Planner 608.785.9396 ken@MRRPC.com
MRRPC Build Grant	MRRPC submitted a planning grant proposal to USDOT in May 2020 to develop a “Freight Strategy” for its Counties. Notification of award was in September 2020. The study includes developing background information on freight transportation in the region, generating freight growth projects and system performance for major commodities in the region, and creating content to incorporate into County and local comprehensive plans	Anticipated start date: January 15, 2022	Staff are working with Federal Highway Administration and WisDOT with the assistance of SRF Consulting.  SRF completed Tech Memo 1 in April 2023 and is almost finished with Tech Memo 2. MRRPC staff are acquiring software and a regional database to add an extensive survey component and AI analytics to expand the project and validate the study. The goal is to identify potential projects and priorities in all nine counties to improve Freight movement.	Ken Harwood Planner 608.785.9396 ken@MRRPC.com
T. Farmington Comprehensive Plan Update	In March 2021, the Town of Farmington signed a contract with MRRPC to update its Comprehensive Plan.	March 2021 – December 2021	The planning committee from the town clerk are reviewing final materials. MRRPC is confirming Plan completion and adoption.	Jon Bingol Executive Director 608.785.9396 jon@MRRPC.com

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Jackson County Comprehensive Plan Update	In August 2022, Jackson County signed a contract with the MRRPC to update its Comprehensive Plan.	August 2022 – December 2023	MRRPC staff are working on data updates to the existing Plan. MRRPC staff have created a survey for Jackson County and the County is currently reviewing the survey. Jackson County dispersed current land use map to municipalities to determine land use updates. MRRPC Staff presented County with Existing conditions report. MRRPC staff is working with County to update survey and distribute survey.	Jamie Schoen Planner 608.785.9396 jamie@MRRPC.com
Outdoor Recreation Plan Update Requests	V. West Salem; V. Ellsworth	April 2023 – December 2023	MRRPC Staff are assisting the Villages of West Salem and Ellsworth with a request to update their Outdoor Recreation Plans. Staff have shared the initial findings and inventory as well as possible survey questions with the Village staff.	Aurora Bergeron Planner 608.785.9396 aurora@MRRPC.com
Hazard Mitigation Planning Grant Applications	Submitted planning grant applications for Monroe, Pierce, and Trempealeau Counties. Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plans are prepared to reduce costs and losses from natural disasters for counties and municipalities.  Ho-Chunk may be added to the list as well because they submitted a grant application naming MRRPC as author.	2022-2023	MRRPC staff is working on a grant application for Pierce and Trempealeau County to receive a planning grant for \$60,000. MRRPC is working in collaboration with Monroe County staff to submit a planning grant application to WEM. The work on these plans would begin late 2023 through 2025. The grant applications have all been submitted to WEM and FEMA as of Jan. 23 <sup>rd</sup> . FEMA will send out approvals this summer for these grants.	Aurora Bergeron Planner 608.785.9396 aurora@MRRPC.com
Hazard Mitigation Plan Updates – Crawford and Vernon County	Update the Crawford and Vernon County Hazard Mitigation Plans. A grant application was submitted to WEM in the amount of \$59,987.60 and \$59,749.20 respectively. Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plans are prepared to reduce costs and losses from natural disasters for counties and municipalities	2022-2024	Grant award announcements were given in September 2022. MRRPC and Counties created a contract for work to be done on the planning project.  MRRPC staff and interns are working on updating demographic information and tables in the Vernon and Crawford County plans. Surveys have been distributed by County staff results have been added to the plans. Vernon County held a stake holder meeting on 5/31/23 and had some input for the plan.	Aurora Bergeron Planner 608.785.9396 aurora@MRRPC.com
Scenic Mississippi Regional Transit (SMRT) bus serving Crawford, Vernon, Monroe, and La Crosse counties	Develop a fixed route public transportation service for Crawford, La Crosse, Monroe, and Vernon Counties. Bus transportation will service commuters, elderly, disabled, medical appointments, and personal travel. Funding comes from a federal DOT grant, local governments, corporate donations, Bremer Foundation Grants, and the fare box.	Service Began on December 3, 2012 - present	MRRPC staff assisted La Crosse County with the electric bus application and the successful Bremer Foundation grant to help cover operating costs. MRRPC has also assisted in electrification.  SMRT is further discussing electric bus purchase and sustainable revenue streams beyond 2021. RPC staff has met with local municipalities to discuss sustainable funding for the next 5-7 years and strategic planning. No new updates for this period.	Ken Harwood Planner 608.785.9396 ken@MRRPC.com

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DOT Contract Work Plan	WisDOT is beginning to update two long-range plans: Connect 2050 (the Long-Range State Transportation Plan), and the Wisconsin Rail Plan 2050. In addition, the LAPC is in the process of updating the MPO Plan, Beyond Coulee Vision 2040.	Ongoing through 2023	Staff will serve as a regional representative for MRRPC communities and will assist with Public Input and technical activities, as necessary. Had mid-year meeting with DOT on 6/7/23 making progress on work plan and received key dates for upcoming events and 2024 work plan submission. We will also be completing a 2024 Transit Plan by mid-December for the Region.	Ken Harwood Planner 608.785.9396 ken@MRRPC.com
West Salem TAP Grant Application	Traffic analysis and Safe Routes to School Program	2023	The grant was awarded, and we are awaiting WisDOT direction on next steps and contractor procurement. Ken assisted them in creating the RFP and sending to approved contractors.	Ken Harwood Planner 608.785.9396 ken@MRRPC.com
Monroe County Economic Development Committee	Assisting the Committee with Strategic Planning	Ongoing	Committee has developed subcommittees to work on County economic development priorities.	Jon Bingol Executive Director 608.785.9396 jon@MRRPC.com
Vernon County Economic Development Committee RLF	County EDC approved a new loan manual and MRRPC to administer the fund. Will be paid for actual costs time and materials.	Ongoing	Committee and County Board has approved a contract for MRRPC to administer the RLF and are completing updates to new RLF loan manual.	Jon Bingol Executive Director 608.785.9396 jon@MRRPC.com
Vernon County Comprehensive Plan	County asked to have MRRPC update their Comprehensive Plan. Proposed \$35,000	2023 - 2024	MRRPC Board approved the contract in April. Waiting for direction and approval from Vernon County	Jon Bingol Executive Director 608.785.9396 jon@MRRPC.com
Buffalo County Comprehensive Plan Update	County asked to have MRRPC update their Comprehensive Plan. Proposed \$35,000	2023 - 2024	MRRPC Board approved the contract in April. Waiting for direction from Buffalo County.	Jon Bingol Executive Director 608.785.9396 jon@MRRPC.com
Town of Bangor Comprehensive Plan Update	Township asked to have MRRPC update their Comprehensive Plan. Contract amount \$9,500	2023 - 2024	MRRPC Board approved the contract in April. Town approved contract and sent in first payment. Sent Town initial survey and are working on first draft of existing conditions.	Jamie Schoen Planner 608.785.9396 jamie@MRRPC.com
Town of Uticia Comprehensive Plan Update	Township asked to have MRRPC update their Comprehensive Plan. Proposed \$12,000	2023 - 2024	MRRPC Board approved the contract in April. Waiting for Town direction.	Jon Bingol Executive Director 608.785.9396 jon@MRRPC.com
City of Black River Falls Comp Plan and Outdoor Rec Plan	City has asked MRRPC to update their Comprehensive Plan and their Outdoor Recreation Plan. Proposed \$16,000 & \$1,000	2023 - 2024	Requesting MRRPC Board approval for contracts at 6/14/23 meeting	Jon Bingol Executive Director 608.785.9396 jon@MRRPC.com
Vernon County Economic Development Strategy	County has approved MRRPC to Partner with Place Dynamics to update their ED Strategy	2023	Requesting MRRPC Board approval at the 6/14/23 meeting	Jon Bingol Executive Director 608.785.9396 jon@MRRPC.com
Pepin, Pierce, Buffalo, Trempealeau and Vernon Counties Broadband Plan	Counties have received PSC grant for Broadband planning and may use MRRPC to assist with their Plan. Vernon asked MRRPC for help proposed \$10,337	2023	Just received details on Plan requirements due 6/19/23. Still waiting on four county assistance and Vernon is moving ahead, held stakeholder meeting and set goals 6/5/23.	Jon Bingol Executive Director 608.785.9396 jon@MRRPC.com