



# CONNECTING THE REGION

## A Newsletter from the Greater Madison MPO

Issue 2 | 2022

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### Message from the Director

Many exciting transportation developments occurred in 2022 at the national, regional, and local levels, beginning with implementation of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). Passed in late 2021, the BIL represents an historic investment in transportation and other infrastructure that has allowed the Greater Madison MPO to allocate funding to a number of local projects (see TIP article, p. 2).

Even more exciting than the increased funding is the policy change it represents, paving the way for a more sustainable and equitable transportation system that is safe for all users, with new funding programs for carbon reduction, resiliency, and safety.



In May, the MPO adopted the [Connect Greater Madison 2050 Regional Transportation Plan](#), setting the framework for the future of transportation in the Madison region. Implementation of that vision is already underway, with work begun to develop a Regional Safety Action Plan and an Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Plan, and to improve and expand upon the MPO's RoundTrip TDM program (see later articles).

Even more satisfying than developing a vision for the future is seeing that vision start to become a reality, as with the Bus Rapid Transit project, which has a ground-breaking scheduled in mid-December. The MPO laid the foundation for this truly transformational project with a feasibility study conducted in 2013 through a Sustainable Communities grant secured by our partner regional agency, CARPC.

Exciting local projects that the MPO supported this year include the redesign of Metro's transit system, the planned expansion of transit service in Sun Prairie, Vision Zero efforts by the cities of Madison and Sun Prairie, and safety initiatives led by the Dane County Traffic Safety Commission.

We look forward to continuing our work with regional partners in 2023 to "connect greater Madison," helping to achieve an exceptional quality of life for all.

Best Wishes,

*William Schaefer*

### ABOUT US Greater Madison MPO

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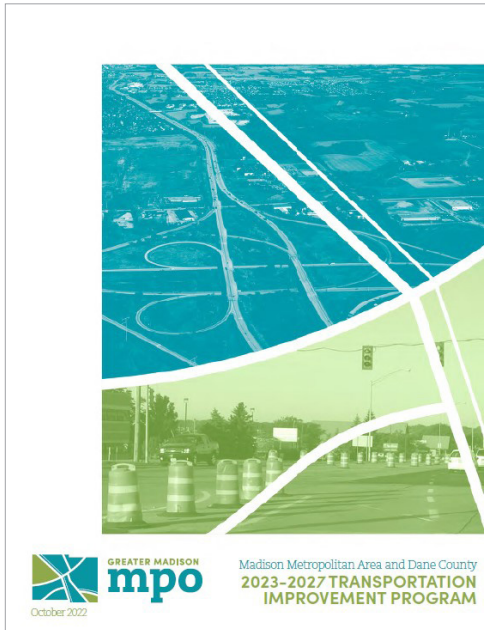


Greater Madison MPO

# 2023–2027 Transportation Improvement Program Approved

The MPO Policy Board approved the [2023-2027 Transportation Improvement Program \(TIP\) for the Madison Metropolitan Area & Dane County](#) on October 12, 2022. The TIP lists major transportation improvements and studies with approved or committed funding during the next five-year period.

The Greater Madison MPO must approve all projects with federal funding and/or that are regionally significant, including those selected or programmed by implementing agencies such as WisDOT and Metro Transit. As part of the TIP process, the MPO ensures coordination amongst implementing agencies and consistency of projects with the [Regional Transportation Plan](#).



As part of the TIP approval, the Greater Madison MPO approved \$8.49 million for roadway projects and one transit project through the federal Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) – Urban program and another \$2.14 million for bicycle/pedestrian projects through the Transportation Alternatives (TA) program. The STBG – Urban funding awarded by the MPO is supplemental funding provided by the Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act (IIJA), also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill (BIL). The TA funding is a combination of regular, or base level funding, and supplemental FY 2022 BIL funding for infrastructure and planning projects next year. The MPO is [soliciting additional TA projects now for use of the FY 2023-2026 BIL funding](#).

The following eight (8) projects were awarded new or additional funding through the STBG Urban program:

- County Trunk Highway (CTH) M (Oncken Rd. to STH 113) – Reconstruction and expansion to 4-lane divided cross-section with intersection improvements, bike lanes, and multi-use path. Scheduled for construction in 2023-'24.
- John Nolen Drive (Lakeside St. to N. Shore Dr.) – Reconstruct roadway and the bridges along it, reconstruct shoreline, and expand multi-use path. Scheduled for construction in 2026-'27.
- N. Thompson Road (St. Albert the Great Dr. to W. Main St.) and St. Albert the Great Drive (CTH C to N. Thompson Rd.) – Replace street pavement, add bike lanes, and add multi-use path on section of St. Albert the Great Drive. Tentatively scheduled for construction in 2024.
- N. Bird Street (STH 19/Windsor St. to USH 151) – Reconstruct the street, expand west side sidewalk to multi-use path, and add a protected two-way bicycle lane on the USH 151 bridge. Tentatively scheduled for construction in 2024.
- Nichols Avenue (Winnequah Rd. to Monona Dr.) – Replace street pavement, realign intersection, and improve pedestrian crossings.



## MPO Receives 2022 Climate Champion Recognition for Employee Commuting

The MPO is proud to be awarded Dane County Climate Champion status by the Dane County Office of Energy and Climate Change. The [Climate Champions program](#) recognizes local entities that are leading on climate action, including individuals, governments, schools, businesses, and nonprofits. Entities can apply to be recognized in one or more of ten different categories, and receive up to 4-star designation depending on the sustainability practices they have implemented.

The MPO achieved 4-star status in the [Employee Commuting category](#) by encouraging alternative transportation options, leading to 100% of employees primarily commuting by bus, bicycling, and telework.

[Learn more about the Dane County Climate Champions program and make your plan to join us in 2023!](#)

Scheduled for construction in 2026.

- Windsor Road (Charlie Grimm Rd. to CTH CV) – Replace street pavement and replace sidewalk with multi-use path. Tentatively scheduled for construction in 2024.
- S. Fourth Street (Milwaukee St. to Isham St.) – Reconstruct the street and add multi-use path on east side. Scheduled for 2025.
- Fitchburg Bus Shelters – Install eight new bus shelters on Fish Hatchery Road, in the Allied Drive area, and on Anton Drive/ Fitchrona Road in conjunction with improved bus service in 2023. Scheduled for construction in 2023.

The following eight (8) bicycle/pedestrian projects were awarded funding through the TA program:

- 2023-2026 Dane County Safe Routes to School Program – Administered by the Wisconsin Bike Fed, the program provides educational resources, encouragement strategies, and technical and programmatic support to identified schools, prioritizing those most at-risk of adverse health, safety, & environmental outcomes.
- City of Madison BCycle Expansion – Add 11 stations to expand the bike share system and increase equity. Scheduled for 2023.
- City of Fitchburg BCycle Expansion – Expands bike share system, adding 10 stations and bikes, building off initial extension to city planned for next year. Scheduled for 2023.
- N. Bird Street Path – Construct multi-use path, add rectangular rapid flashing beacons (RRFB) at path crossing of N. Bird Street and at intersection of Egge Road and Longhorn Lane. Scheduled for construction in 2023.
- Badger Rusk Path – Construct multi-use path along W Badger Rd. and N Rusk Ave. to provide low traffic stress connection to existing pedestrian/bicycle overpass of the Beltline. Scheduled for construction in 2024.
- Madison Safe Routes to School Plan – Develop comprehensive SRTS plan with in-depth assistance for 7-10 schools. Scheduled for 2023.
- Yahara River Trail Extension Plan (in Stoughton) – Feasibility study of extending trail to Mandt Park. Scheduled for 2023.
- Sun Prairie Vision Zero Action Plan – Complete plan to develop solid, multi-disciplinary strategies to achieve a vision of zero fatalities or serious injuries caused by traffic crashes. Scheduled for 2023.

View the final [2023-2027 Transportation Improvement Program](#). View an [interactive ArcGIS map of the major TIP projects](#).

## Transit Project and Planning Updates

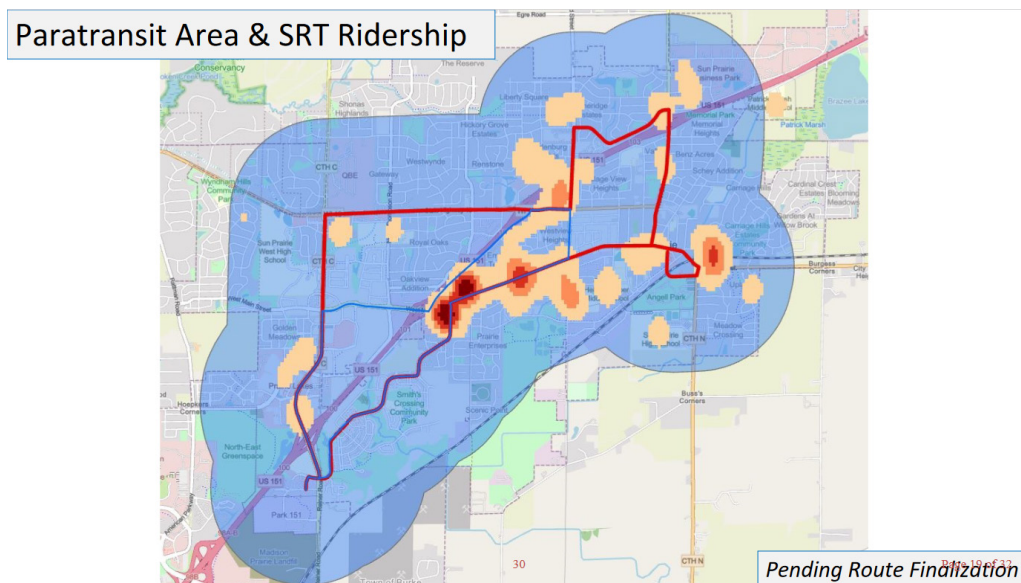
The following are updates on major transit projects and service planning efforts in the region. There are many exciting things happening that will greatly improve the transit system in the near future. MPO staff have been providing support for a number of these efforts.

**Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)** – The main construction package for the East-West corridor is out for bid and closes on December 6, 2022. Early work is already

underway, including removing bulb-outs and bus pull-outs. The remainder of construction will occur in 2023 and early 2024; routes will begin operating in June of 2023 without full build-out of stations and transit priority treatments. [View the “Early Works” project map and site plans, BRT site plans, and architectural renderings for the project.](#)

**Metro Transit Network Redesign, Title VI & Equity Analysis** – The project team considered equity at every stage of the network redesign process; however, a full analysis of the equity impacts of the plan could not take place until that plan was finalized. In addition to the federally-required analysis to identify any disparate or disproportionate impacts on protected populations, the City of Madison Common Council required the project team to undertake a more detailed analysis of impacts of individual racial and ethnic groups. The analysis found that on average, non-white and low-income populations would benefit from the implementation of the new network at the same or higher rates than white or non-low-income populations. View the [Equity Analysis Summary](#) and full [Title VI Service Equity Analysis report](#). The redesigned transit network is scheduled to launch in June 2023.

**Sun Prairie Local Bus Service** – With the implementation of the Transit Network Redesign and BRT in June of 2023, the existing Route 23 serving Sun Prairie will cease to exist, and be replaced by BRT service to the Sun Prairie Park and Ride. Sun Prairie’s current shared-ride taxi service experiences long wait times and is not considered reliable by many who rely on it. The City of Sun Prairie, Metro, and the MPO have been working to plan local bus service to replace shared-ride taxi that will be useful for people travelling within Sun Prairie and that will connect to the East-West BRT at the Sun Prairie Park and Ride. A two-route plan was unanimously approved by the Sun Prairie Transit Commission, and is anticipated to be considered by the Sun Prairie Common Council in December 2022. [View the routes and some of the analysis that went into their design.](#)



Map of draft Sun Prairie routes (blue and red lines), with corresponding paratransit service area (blue shape) and historic Shared-Ride Taxi (SRT) destinations (tan to red heat map blobs). Courtesy City of Sun Prairie

**Monona Transit** – The City of Monona currently operates a peak-hour express bus to downtown Madison (Monona Express) and a deviated route local service (Monona Lift). Monona is currently considering replacing this service with Metro service, which already passes through Monona but does not have bus stops in Monona. Additionally, a new one-way loop within Monona would connect to other Metro routes at the Pinney Library on Cottage Grove Road. [View Monona’s web page on the future of transit in the community.](#)

**Cottage Grove/Amazon** – The planned Project Silver Eagle, an Amazon distribution facility at the intersection of County Highways TT and N, will have over 660 employees per shift and will operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Amazon, the Village of Cottage Grove, Metro, and the MPO have met to discuss how transit could address some traffic concerns resulting from the project and provide a transportation option for employees. If Metro service is extended to serve this facility, it will likely be funded at least in part by Amazon, much as Epic funds Metro service to the City of Verona.

**Village of Oregon** – The MPO is working with the Village of Oregon’s Ad-Hoc Transportation Committee to investigate transportation options for the village, with a public survey set to be released in the near future. The Ad-Hoc Transportation Committee is looking into how to best serve trips both within the community and to neighboring communities, and how to support active transportation within the community.

**Transit Development Plan Update** – The Transit Development Plan (TDP) is typically a short-range (five-year) planning document that guides system changes over the planning horizon, as well as compiling data on past performance. The TDP was last updated in 2013, with a horizon of 2017. Due to a number of factors, updating the TDP has been delayed three times in the years since 2017. The 2023–2027 TDP process is just beginning, and anticipated to kick off with the first review/steering committee meeting in January 2023. Under the MPO/Metro/WisDOT Cooperative Agreement, the MPO-led TDP must include discussion of transit system policies, an assessment of service demands, any planned transit service improvements, fares, and capital facility needs. In addition to these minimum requirements, staff anticipate and will recommend revisions to service planning guidelines and the adoption of new performance measures.

**Madison (Draft) Transit Oriented Development Overlay Zone** – Transit Oriented Development (TOD) is a design paradigm that concentrates land use density and diversity using context-sensitive, human-scaled design to promote the use of alternative modes and support transit. The City of Madison is drafting an overlay zone and ordinance to focus appropriate development along the high-frequency bus network that will result from implementing BRT and the Transit Network Redesign. In these corridors, the overlay zone would allow greater residential densities, higher buildings, and lower or no parking requirements based on the underlying zoning district.

The draft ordinance is intended to promote infill and redevelopment along frequent transit service routes and corridors to reduce reliance on private automobiles and facilitate the use of alternative modes. This ordinance is expected to be introduced to the Common Council in December 2022.

# Reducing Fatal and Serious Injury Crashes: Creating a Safety Action Plan for the Madison Metropolitan Area

Reducing fatal and serious injury crashes towards zero for all roadway users is a top priority in the MPO's [Connect Greater Madison 2050](#) Regional Transportation Plan. The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act introduced a new funding program called [Safe Streets and Roads for All \(SS4A\)](#), which will award \$5 billion over the next 5 years to MPOs and local governments to create safety action plans and implement safety projects. The MPO recently issued a request for proposals to hire a consultant to help create a safety action plan for the Madison metropolitan area and assist in putting together a regional application for funding to implement safety projects with interested local governments in the planning area.

The safety action plan will be based on the safe systems approach, and will include a detailed analysis of existing conditions and historical crash trends, to help develop a prioritized list of projects and strategies to improve the safety of everyone who uses our roadways. Project identification will include a focus on equity and the safety of vulnerable roadway users, including bicyclists and pedestrians. This process will complement the outreach and community engagement work of the Dane County Traffic Safety Commission and other local safety initiatives. The project will kick-off in early 2023 and is expected to be complete by late next summer.

## New Resources from the RoundTrip Program

### Employer Commute Options Toolkit

A new [Employer Commute Options Toolkit](#) from the RoundTrip program provides Madison area employers with a roadmap for supporting walking, bicycling, riding public transit and carpooling to work.

With increased public and private sector interest in reducing reliance on driving, taking action on climate change, and using our built environment more efficiently, the toolkit provides a dedicated resource for supporting equitable, healthy, and sustainable commute options for employees.

The toolkit is both a call to action and a roadmap to support area employers in beginning or expanding a workplace program. It lays out the business case for investing in commute options and provides simple, customizable steps for all stages of program development. Lastly, it provides insights and resources for users both within and beyond the private sector, including:

- » **Employers** of any size to identify achievable steps and guide early decision making;
- » **Motivated staff** in HR, benefits, sustainability, facilities, wellness, and

## Commute with Confidence When You Walk, Bike, Bus, and Rideshare

Winter is a great time to sign up with the Dane County Emergency Ride Home (ERH) program, available to all commuters who primarily walk, bike, ride the bus, or car/vanpool to work.

The ERH program makes it easier to choose affordable, healthy, and sustainable transportation options without worrying about the “what ifs” of leaving your personal vehicle at home.

To learn more and sign up, [visit the RoundTrip website](#) and click on “Emergency Ride Home.”

ERH is funded by the Dane County Highway & Transportation Department, and administered by the Greater Madison MPO RoundTrip program.



- other areas to jumpstart conversations and gain leadership buy-in;
- » **Membership organizations** to share with their members; and,
- » **Local agencies** to communicate with local employers, property managers, organizations, and advocates.

Employers can use the customizable employee survey and site assessment templates to identify their unique needs and opportunities; select relevant strategies from a detailed table of best practices; and leverage the local resources provided to support implementation.

[View and download the RoundTrip Employer Commute Options Toolkit.](#)

*Thank you to the City of Madison Department of Transportation, City of Sun Prairie Office of Sustainability, Downtown Madison Inc., Sustain Dane, Greater Madison Chamber of Commerce, Dane County Office of Energy and Climate Change, and CUNA Mutual Group for their input on the development of this toolkit.*

## 2023 Regional Rideshare & Mobility Options Platform

The MPO will launch a new mobility management platform through the RoundTrip program in January 2023, aimed at accelerating the use of non-drive-alone transportation options including walking, bicycling, public transit, carpooling, and vanpooling in Dane County.

The platform will be funded and administered in partnership with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) and Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC), strengthening transportation demand management (TDM) coordination statewide.

Powered by RideAmigos, the new platform will replace the platform currently available through the [RoundTrip program website](#), and will help users make alternative transportation choices an everyday habit. Tools that support one-time ride matching, event-based ride matching, rewards, and more, will improve the user experience and expand opportunities for RoundTrip to partner with employers and organizations wishing to offer programs and incentives.

All tools and services will be available for free through RoundTrip. Key features include:

- » **Mobile App** for iOS & Android that includes passive trip logging for challenges and reward programs.
- » **Multimodal Trip Planner** that displays options for carpools, vanpools, bikepools and transit, and allows users to join available pools based on their usual route, time, mode, and space availability.
- » **Travel Choice Impacts** displaying travel time, calorie burned, cost, and CO2 savings compared with driving alone.
- » **One-Time Rideboard** to support one-time and ad-hoc ridesharing.
- » **Event Pages** to support event-based carpooling and bikepooling.
- » **Gamification Tools** for employers to offer challenges and reward programs that encourage walking, bicycling, carpooling, and riding transit. Rewards are supported by an e-gift card system.

To request a demo or learn more about RoundTrip's resources and

partnership opportunities, [email Zia Brucaya](#), RoundTrip Program Manager, or call (608) 266-RIDE (7433).

*RoundTrip is a program of the Greater Madison MPO that connects individuals and employers in the Madison region with convenient alternatives to driving alone. RoundTrip promotes walking, bicycling, public transit, carpooling, and vanpooling, to reduce driving and improve quality of life for all in Dane County.*

## Work Begins on Regional Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Plan

The MPO recently began work on a regional electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure plan to help Dane County communities assess the current and future adequacy of their charging infrastructure, increase the availability of charging infrastructure where needed, and secure and make the best possible use of grant funding for EV infrastructure expansion.



The plan will include an inventory of existing public EV charging infrastructure, the types of trips and locations for which public charging infrastructure is best suited, current and projected levels of EV ownership, and strategies for local governments to increase the supply of public EV charging infrastructure in their communities. It will also include an equity analysis investigating the barriers to EV charging and EV adoption facing low-income people and apartment dwellers, and detailing strategies to facilitate charging access for people who are not single-family homeowners.

A steering committee made up of representatives of local and state government, energy utilities, and nonprofit organizations has assisted in defining the plan's goals and components, and will continue to offer guidance over the course of the project. MPO staff hopes to complete the plan by the fourth quarter of next year.

## Get to Know Your MPO Board Member: Vice Chair Doug Wood

**Doug Wood is Alder of the City of Monona and owner of Wisconsin Railroad Consulting and Mediation. He brings years of regulatory and legal expertise in the transportation sector to the policy board.**

Doug Wood was appointed to the policy board to represent small cities and villages in the Madison metropolitan area. He was a logical fit, given his nearly thirty years of service as a legal counsel and Administrative Law Judge for the Office of the Commissioner of Railroads (OCR)-- one of the first state agencies that regulated railroads. He brings years of professional and legal experience to the board, and a demonstrated commitment to public service in the transportation field.

In addition to his work with the OCR, Doug is a member of the Wisconsin



*“The Emergency Ride Home program is a valuable service: if you bike, bus, or car-share, you deserve a ride home in case of emergency.”*



Bike Fed and previously served with the Wisconsin DOT’s Stoughton Road Policy Advisory Committee. He has served on the Monona City Council for over 20 years, most recently serving as an Alder since 2003, and previously after being elected in 1989. Part of his platform involves making Monona more walkable.

Doug grew up in southern Illinois and received his Bachelor’s degree in Political Science at the University of Illinois in 1979, studying history and Chinese affairs. He moved to Dane County in 1979 to attend UW Law School, where he worked for the UW Legal Assistance to Institutionalized Persons Project and received his J.D. in 1982.

Doug did not intend to stay in the Madison area, but fell in love with Dane County and the beautiful Madison summers. He particularly enjoyed Madison’s lakes and bike paths, which have become an integral part of his life.

If you had asked Doug what he thought he would be doing after law school, it wouldn’t have involved transportation and railroad policy; he was originally training to become a labor attorney, and prior to serving with the OCR, had established his own private law firm, Wood, Engmann & Demopoulos – Rodriguez, where he worked for four years.

Doug first became involved with the MPO as a member of the former Citizen Advisory Committee, and was later nominated to the policy board by the Dane County Cities and Villages Association. He believes that we have to look at transportation issues regionally, and sees his role as helping to set regional transportation policy and select projects. His focus is ensuring that the interests of Monona and the East Side are represented in the projects the MPO funds.

*“I wish more people in the Madison area knew about RoundTrip and the Emergency Ride Home program. It is a valuable service: if you bike, bus, or car-share, you deserve a ride home in case of emergency. I believe if more people knew about that, they may be more likely to adjust their transportation choices”*

Doug’s priorities including nudging transportation decisions to address climate change and global warming, while reducing congestion and developing a transportation network that works for the majority of users. He supports the Beltline project and is excited to see what it can provide for the region. He is also eager to work towards making mass transit more convenient and reliable for more people in the Madison area. He hopes to see more education around transportation planning issues, and would like to increase public awareness of the MPO and its regional planning work.

In his spare time, you can find Doug at the library. He finds comfort reading in his backyard during the summer (particularly history and historical fiction), and enjoys being out on his bike. He bikes nearly 70 miles every week, and last year biked over 3,000 miles!

## Get to Know Your MPO Board Member: Kristi Williams



Board Member Kristi Williams is Board Supervisor of the Town of Cottage Grove. She brings years of public service to the policy board.

Kristi Williams has spent a lifetime learning and listening to her community. She is new to the planning and policy world, but came to the MPO with a desire to be involved in the conversation. On the policy board, Kristi represents towns in the Madison area. She believes that the work Madison and Dane County are doing is vital for the region and important for the country as a whole.

Among her many years of public service and work experience, Kristi served as executive director of the Wisconsin Foundation for the Arts from 1997 to 2012, and has volunteered her time with a variety of organizations focused on improving the lives of area

residents, including the Overture Center for the Arts and the Dane County Library System Board of Trustees.

Kristi has lived in Dane County for nearly five decades and currently lives in Cottage Grove. She recognizes that it is nearly impossible for residents of Cottage Grove to get to where they live, work, and play without a car. To support a more sustainable, equitable, and efficient transportation system in her municipality, Kristi would like to see the bicycle path expanded to connect Cottage Grove to Madison. She appreciates what she has learned from the MPO so far through various programs and plans, including the RoundTrip and Emergency Ride Home programs.

*"I am thankful to my fellow town board supervisors as we work to move forward a more friendly pedestrian and bicycle network. Bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure is a valuable asset to the community and will help realize a more connected and integrated Madison and Cottage Grove."*

Kristi's transportation priorities focus on expanding and improving bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure in the greater Madison area, and making public transit a realistic, efficient, and sustainable mode of transportation in Dane County. She would like more people to understand that everyone plays a role in the outcomes of the transportation system through the decisions they make every day-- that the transportation options they choose to use and the vehicles they choose to purchase affect the safety and environmental sustainability of the transportation network.

*"I believe that expanding bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure and improving the bus network is an important first step in creating an integrated and sustainable transportation system. My husband and my family appreciate the value of mass transit. We have had the great fortune to use it in cities abroad and would like to see it become more abundant and available here in Dane County."*

*"We all have  
a role to  
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Kristi grew up on a farm in central Wisconsin and attended the UW after high school, which was a critical part of her life and career development. She is a proud alumni and advocate of the UW education system. She worked in Iowa County for three years after college, and moved back to Madison when her husband began graduate school at the UW. They fell in love with every aspect of Dane County, from the nature preserves and educational opportunities, to the different cultural events and venues.

Outside of her role on the policy board, Kristi is active in her community. She has served on the Monona Grove School District Board and the South Central Library System Board, and was appointed by the Governor to the Council on Library and Network Development (COLAND), which advises the State Superintendent of Public Instruction and Governor about library issues. She appreciates the efforts Dane County has taken to preserve the environment, be conscious of climate impacts, and promote public health.

Kristi has always loved learning and is currently a senior auditor at UW-Madison, where she takes one class a semester. She enjoys listening to students and their concerns, and feels it keeps her in touch with a younger generation. She also enjoys spending time with family and is blessed to have three grandchildren at different stages in life; her first grandchild just received her driver's license, providing yet another reason to promote safety in the transportation network. Something that not many people know about Kristi is that although she has run for and been elected to public office nine times over her career, she tends to be a private person, yet is always willing to listen to her constituents.

## CARPC Corner: Current & Upcoming Projects

As 2022 comes to a close, the Capital Area Regional Planning Commission is working on a variety of exciting projects, with more on the horizon in 2023. Below are some of the recent highlights along with links for more information.



### Partnering with UW, Communities on Local Code Assessment

As part of our work to implement the [2050 Regional Development Framework](#), CARPC is [partnering with communities and the UW-Madison Department of Planning and Landscape Architecture](#) to assess local zoning and subdivision ordinances for consistency with the Framework, local comprehensive plans, and best practices.

### 2020 Dane County Land Use Inventory Now Available

After a multiyear effort, CARPC and Dane County have [completed the 2020 Dane County Land Use Inventory](#). The data is available for viewing on the CARPC Dane County [Land Use Inventory web map](#) and for download on the [CARPC Open Data Portal](#).

### Climate Asset Mapping with the Midwest Climate Collaborative

With support from the Midwest Big Data Innovation Hub, the [Midwest Climate Collaborative is developing a Climate Asset Map](#). CARPC has been assisting with development strategies for this project as a partner in the Climate Asset Map Working Group. Anyone involved in climate work is

invited to take a [15-minute survey](#) to help identify how the map can best suit the needs of users.

## Planning 101 Webinars

Our final RPC-MPO webinar of 2022 was a [two-part session on Planning 101 for Local Plan Commissioners](#). Rebecca Roberts from the [Center for Land Use Education](#) gave an excellent overview of local comprehensive plans, tools for implementing them, and the roles and responsibilities of local plan commissioners throughout the planning process. Slides and recordings of both sessions are available on our website.

## Black Earth Creek Watershed Green Infrastructure Plan Approved

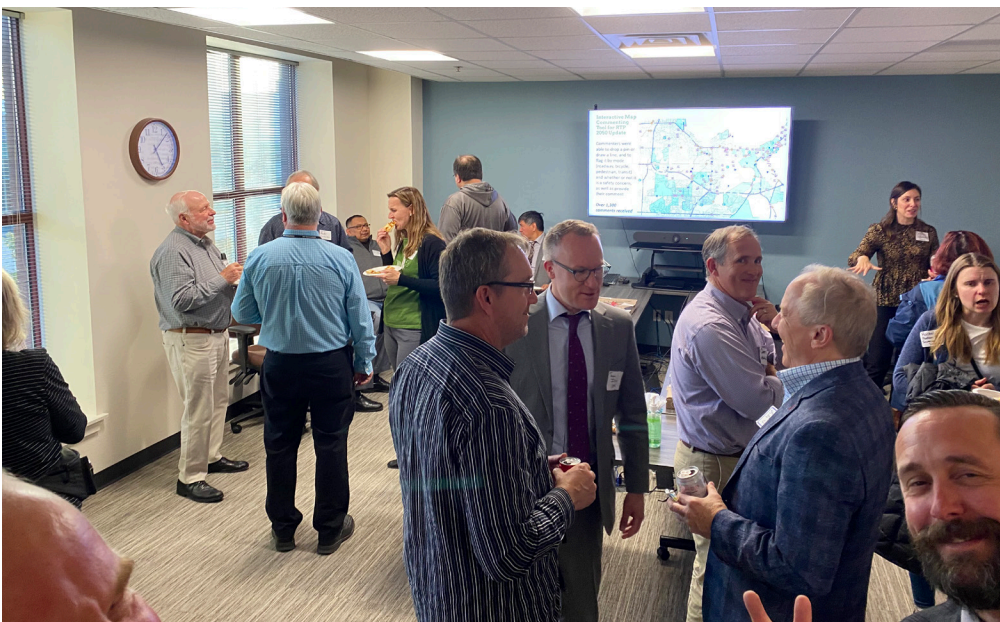
After months of collaboration, analysis, and outreach, [a green infrastructure plan for the Black Earth Creek watershed was formally approved](#) by Wisconsin Emergency Management this September. The final plan and other related information can be viewed on the [project website](#).

## 2022 Heritage Oak Project

CARPC, in collaboration with the UW State Cartography Office, the Dane County Tree Board and the Dane County Tree Canopy Working Group, has begun work on the [2022 Heritage Oak Project](#). Members of the public are invited to contribute to this countywide inventory of oak trees estimated to be at least 200 years old.

## Community Assistance Projects

We have greatly appreciated the opportunity to work with communities on a variety of projects this year, from major updates like the Village of Marshall comprehensive plan and the Rock County hazard mitigation plan to unique mapping initiatives like an interactive web map of Union Cemetery for the Town of Vienna and mapping parcel split history for the Town of Springfield. Projects currently in development for 2023 include a town comprehensive plan update, a village parks and recreation plan, a village neighborhood plan, and cooperative planning activities.



MPO-CARPC Open House on October 20, 2022