

7 INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION

7.4 Goals and Objectives

Goal 1: To continue to work cooperatively and maintain excellent relations with all governmental units in and around the region.

Objectives

- a. By frequently communicating with other government officials (staff, elected and appointed officials) both formally (on committees, etc.) and informally (telephone calls, emails, etc.).
- b. By participating on regional or joint planning committees.
- c. By coordinating on planning efforts (e.g., comprehensive, land use, transportation, and natural resource protection), regulations, and specific land use decisions.
- d. By sharing information, equipment, resources, facilities, technology, services and possibly revenue that have cross-jurisdictional use.
- e. By creating intergovernmental agreements with the City of La Crosse; Village of Holmen; Towns of Onalaska, Medary, and Hamilton; and the Village of West Salem.
- f. By resolving conflicts in non-aggressive/non-confrontational manners to the greatest extent possible.
- g. By maintaining, improving or expanding existing successful intergovernmental cooperation efforts.

Goal 2: To work with neighboring communities to lower the costs of providing services.

Objectives

- a. By achieving cost efficiencies, combined with excellent public service delivery, through cooperative public service arrangements.
- b. By identifying opportunities to jointly provide expanded or new services such as additional recreational programs or parks facilities with neighboring communities.

Goal 3: To collaborate with all neighboring jurisdictions, La Crosse County, and organizations (e.g., Mississippi River Land Trust) to implement this Comprehensive Plan.

Objectives

- a. By collectively protecting bluffs, water quality and prime farmland.
- b. By working together to create a coordinated growth and development strategy for the region.
- c. By jointly pursuing economic development initiatives.

7.5 Policies and Recommendations

1. Work together with the Village of Holmen, City of La Crosse, surrounding towns and La Crosse County to develop compatible land use and zoning regulations. Continue to implement the County's new land use classification system.
2. Cooperate with surrounding jurisdictions to determine the feasibility of combining City and Village services in order to save money and improve service delivery through the reduction or elimination of the duplication of services. This may be accomplished through cooperative agreements and/or other methods.
3. Jointly plan transportation and trail (bicycle and pedestrian) improvements and connections between the City and neighboring communities.
4. Work with neighboring communities and regional planning agencies to implement this Comprehensive Plan and coordinate regional planning efforts, such as open space corridors, recreational systems, adjacent land uses.
5. Develop separate intergovernmental agreements with the Towns of Onalaska, Medary and Hamilton to address issues such as:
 - a) The boundaries for which the agreement will be implemented, which should be the City's Long Range Planning Area.
 - b) The period for which the plan will remain in effect and intervals in which either or both communities can call for the agreement to be amended or re-negotiated.
 - c) The mechanism(s) and/or forum(s) for representatives of the City and the Town(s) to discuss and plan for the orderly development or conservation of lands within the agreement's boundaries.
 - d) Describe how development or other Town actions will not impede the logical expansion of the City's urban expansion to areas appropriate for such growth and development.
 - e) Create criteria/standards on which to base annexation decisions. The criteria/standards should address:
 - i. Economic impacts.
 - ii. Social impacts.
 - iii. Environmental impacts.
 - f) The City's use of extraterritorial zoning and plat authority in the Town within the Long Range Planning Area based on the City's Future Land Use Plan.
 - g) Seek to establish consistency between the communities' Future Land Use Plans and policies within the Long Range Planning Area. For example, the City and Town(s) may agree that conservation development is appropriate in the Town, but the agreement should define conservation development in terms of land use, density, open space, etc.
 - h) Determine an approximate schedule for City's growth into the Town.

- i) Revenue sharing and financial participation in the provision of public parks, trails, recreation and other public facilities in both communities.
 - j) Describe how services and facilities will be provided to area(s) designated by the agreement for the expansion of such services and facilities.
 - k) Providing/selling public utilities without annexation.
 - l) Identify a formal method for conflict resolution.
6. Develop an intergovernmental agreement with the Village of Holmen to address the following:
- a) A mechanism and/or forum for representatives of the City and Village to discuss and plan for the orderly development of territory located between and adjacent to the City and Village boundary known as the CTH OT growth area.
 - b) To provide for appropriate and cost effective municipal services within the growth area.
 - c) To provide a forum and mechanism to discuss boundary issues between the City and Village.
 - d) To include the Town of Onalaska and La Crosse County in the planning and zoning of the growth area by including a representative from the Town and County in the planning committee.
 - e) To control urban sprawl by preventing unplanned development, to promote quality and orderly development, and to protect the area's natural resources, including waterways, wetlands, groundwater and woodlands.
 - f) To promote and jointly plan orderly highway improvements.
 - g) To discuss the possibility of interconnecting Village and City water utilities in the event of a community emergency.
 - h) Identify a formal method for conflict resolution.
7. Develop an intergovernmental agreement with the Village of West Salem to address the following issues:
- a) Create a long-term cooperative boundary between the two municipalities, including a joint land use plan for the area contained within this boundary, decision making mechanisms, the provision of public services and facilities, etc.
 - b) Identify a formal method for conflict resolution.
8. Develop an intergovernmental agreement with the City of La Crosse to address the following issues:
- a) Create logical municipal boundaries for the cost effective provision of public services and facilities.
 - b) Jointly plan for the eventual redevelopment and/or infill of the area along and surrounding State Highway 16, particularly the mall and cinema sites.
 - c) Identify a formal method for conflict resolution.

9. Participate in planners' meetings proposed by La Crosse County to include planning and zoning administrators from area cities, villages and towns.
10. Continue to participate in existing intergovernmental cooperation efforts such as the Fire Department District, the Shared Ride Transit Service and the La Crosse Metropolitan Transit Utility.
11. Support regional economic development efforts that are consistent with the City's vision and goals.
12. Work with surrounding jurisdictions to provide affordable housing for the existing and growing population on a regional basis.
13. Work with the Village of Holmen, Town of Onalaska, and City of La Crosse to make the Great River Road a signature corridor that provides a sense of pride for residents and a major attraction for tourists through the region. The Great River Road corridor should contain high quality streetscape amenities reflective of its name and location; high quality building and site design; preserved and improved views of the Mississippi River, Lake Onalaska, and bluffs; and public gathering places.
14. Involve the school districts in long range planning efforts and in reviewing current development proposals.
15. Consider participating in a regional Purchase of Development Rights and similar programs to preserve environmentally sensitive areas, important open spaces for recreational uses or other public purposes, and farmland.