

Regional Plan and Policy Committee February 13th, 2023

Attendance: P. Zamore, Y. Dandurand, E. Nance, S. Jensen, L. Douglas

Staff: C. Dimitruk, M. Valenta

1. Additions to the Agenda

No additions to the agenda

2. Review of Draft Sections: Transportation

E. Nance asks if a goal regarding climate change should be added given how crucial it is to future transportation goals. People support adding this as a goal. E. Nance asks what invalid roads are referring to in Table 2, C. Dimitruk is not sure and will get an answer from staff. Y. Dandurand notes that all of the free fares are not noted as such. P. Zamore notes multiple trails to be included in the trail section. P. Zamore notes that the sidewalk location chart does not note the differences in amount of sidewalk added in different towns, as some have not added any and some have added a lot. E. Nance questions the effectiveness of Figure 5 as it doesn't show good detail on the park and rides, L. Douglas agrees and notes intermodal facilities should be included as well. L. Douglas notes the conflict of encouraging walking but also understanding safety concerns with underdeveloped roads of areas. Y. Dandurand notes the importance of TAC and encourages additional wording stressing this importance.

3. Review Second Draft, Social Region

E. Nance notes a discrepancy in the data on housing, C. Dimitruk notes this will be double checked to determine the issue. L. Douglas notes the drastic decrease in multi-unit dwellings and wonders about the lack of explanation. C. Dimitruk notes that this is an ongoing issue and there is not a clear answer. Y. Dandurand wants to make sure that the discussion of commuting distances in each county does not put Grand Isle county in a bad light due to high seeming commuter miles. The term boomer is questioned, M. Valenta notes baby boomer is less loaded, the term will be changed. L. Douglas asks about the data surrounding single people buying homes, which shows that being the largest growth group in terms of home buying. This data shows the drastic changes we've been seeing in demographics and housing needs. The committee emphasized the complexity and difficulty of the housing shortage in the region and state wide.

L. Douglas notes the importance of schools emphasizing real world exercise, like skiing and walking and biking instead of sports that often end when a child leaves school.

P. Zamore notes the need to update the map with the added healthcare facility to South Hero and the bike path that extends to the edge of the county, E. Nance asks for the addition of the Northern Forest Canoe Trail and a correction on where the MVRT starts.

4. Schedule Update

C. Dimitruk notes next meeting will be the second draft of the physical region and economic section, as well as the first draft of the introduction. April meeting will have the first draft of the full plan.

5. Commissioner and Staff Announcements

No announcements.