

Intergovernmental Cooperation

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INTRODUCTION

The Intergovernmental Cooperation element outlines potential opportunities for joint planning and decision-making with other jurisdictions for the maintenance of existing relationships with other governing entities, and the pursuit of new relationships with others.

The Sun Prairie area is a vibrant, growing region within Dane County, and is comprised of a number of different governmental units and jurisdictions. Many of these local communities are striving to ensure their own identity and economic vitality. As Sun Prairie and communities around it continue to grow, the likelihood for conflict may increase due to changing jurisdictional controls and differences in planned uses for given areas. These potential conflicts underscore the need for intergovernmental cooperation whenever possible to help ensure that the City and the region can benefit as a whole.

Volume 1 of this plan element includes a summary of the existing relationships that Sun Prairie has with adjacent units of government. Although existing intergovernmental agreements may serve current needs, the City must continue to evaluate opportunities to work with other jurisdictions as opportunities arise.

The goals, objectives, policies and recommendations in this chapter are based on past and existing relationships with governmental units, along with input from citizens, the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee, the Plan Commission and Common Council, and are meant to foster intergovernmental cooperation between the City and surrounding units of government.

PUBLIC INPUT

STEERING COMMITTEE ISSUE IDENTIFICATION

At the beginning of the planning process, the Steering Committee completed a SWOT exercise to identify perceived strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats in the community. This exercise helped to identify some of the issues to be addressed in the plan.

The Steering Committee identified reactionary planning for schools as the primary threat relating to intergovernmental cooperation, but did not identify any weaknesses.

Strengths identified included cooperation between the City and The Sun Prairie Area School District, while opportunities included transportation (bike trails and streets) linkages between Madison and surrounding communities, and working with and sharing services with other governments.

HOUSEHOLD SURVEY AND OPEN HOUSE

Other opportunities for public input regarding intergovernmental cooperation included a household survey, open house workshops, and several meetings of the Steering Committee that focused on intergovernmental issues. Results from the survey indicated that residents favor intergovernmental cooperation, with 72% of respondents agreeing that more cooperation is needed between neighboring local governments as communities grow. Full results from the various methods of public input are located in the appendices.

ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES

The City has a record of good intergovernmental relations, as evidenced by the successful adoption of a number of boundary and intergovernmental agreements with adjacent units of government (as identified in the Introduction section of Volume 1 of this plan), and the City's continuing participation in extraterritorial zoning with the Town of Windsor. Through such agreements, growth boundaries have been established to the north and west of the City in areas currently located within the Towns of Bristol, Burke and Windsor. These agreements also address boundaries with the City of Madison and the Village of DeForest within these Towns.

In addition to governmental units, the City has had long standing relationships with other jurisdictions such as, the Sun Prairie Area School District, the Madison Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and the designated regional planning commission (known as the Capital Area Regional Planning Commission). One member of the Sun Prairie Area School District (SPASD) board is required to serve on the City's Plan Commission as a means of maintaining communication between the SPASD and the City.

Although the City's relationship with surrounding jurisdictions has generally been good, not all issues have been resolved. Known boundary issues exist between the City and Town of Sun Prairie, and it is likely that new issues will arise during the course of the planning horizon that have not yet been identified. The intent of this chapter is to provide the framework for minimizing conflict.

The following issues and potential conflicts were identified through this planning process to help create goals and objectives for maintaining or improving intergovernmental cooperation among the surrounding governments and jurisdictions. Recommended methods of conflict resolution are included in the policies and recommendations section.

- 1 The recent rate of growth has had an impact on the school district. How can the City and the SPASD work together to mitigate the negative effects of growth on the school system?
- 2 There is a perception on the part of some residents that there is a lack of coordination between the City and the SPASD. To what extent does an actual lack of coordination exist between the two entities and what can be done to address this perception?
- 3 Although farmland preservation goals are included in adjacent Town plans, unsewered development continues to occur within these areas compromising the quality of these areas for farming and preserving future lands for city growth. How can the City work with surrounding Towns to prevent the premature conversion of agricultural lands to other uses?
- 4 Surrounding communities continue to grow and annex land. How can extraterritorial jurisdiction boundaries be better defined?
- 5 The Town of Sun Prairie is the only adjacent unit of government for which the City does not have an intergovernmental or boundary agreement. To what extent should the City pursue such an agreement to help manage growth and minimize conflict?
- 6 The City of Sun Prairie and some of the surrounding Towns are currently served by a volunteer fire department. At what point will the City need to consider augmenting this service with full time, paid personnel, and how would this impact the City and Towns that are currently served by the volunteer fire department?
- 7 Roads in the City are often built or designed to a different standard than surrounding Towns. How can the City work with surrounding Towns or appropriate jurisdictions to provide a better transition of roads at the corporate limits (e.g. shoulder width, striping, sidewalks, curbs and gutters, etc.)?
- 8 The Capital Area Regional Planning Commission (CARPC) adopted new goals and policies in 2008 for the amendment of urban service area boundaries. To what extent will these regulations conflict with the City's potential for growth and how will this potential conflict be resolved?
- 9 How will differences with Dane County regarding land use issues within the City's extraterritorial jurisdiction areas be resolved?
- 10 The Madison Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) controls and administers federal highway improvement funds. How can the City more effectively work with the MPO on future projects such as STH 19 and US 151 improvements, a Thompson Road overpass, and the proposed US 151/CTH V V interchange?

GOAL 1

Work closely with neighboring units of government and jurisdictions to prepare and implement economically and environmentally sustainable development plans

OBJECTIVES

- 1 Encourage the adoption of intergovernmental agreements in order to avoid municipal boundary disputes.
- 2 Whenever possible, coordinate the plans of federal, state, regional, county and local governments with the plans of the City of Sun Prairie.
- 3 The City of Sun Prairie encourages cooperative intergovernmental planning with neighboring communities to avoid inefficient development patterns and intergovernmental boundary conflicts.
- 4 Provide the framework for a more sustainable region that promotes a strong local economy and the efficient use of energy, natural resources and land.

GOAL 2

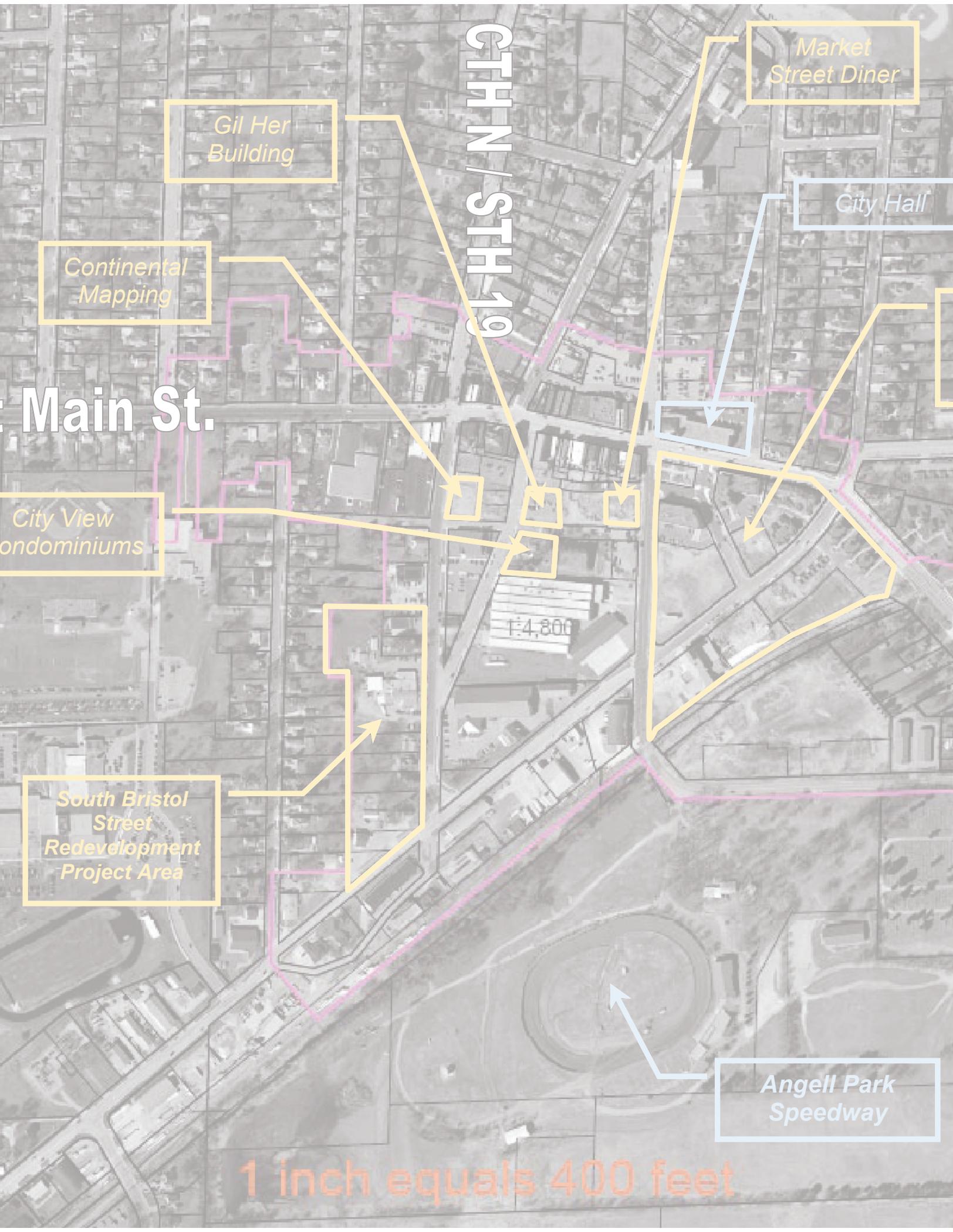
Foster and maintain good relationships with surrounding units of government and jurisdictions to ensure provision of services that are mutually beneficial, while not placing an undue financial burden on the City

OBJECTIVES

- 1 Promote the use of intergovernmental agreements for the provision of public facilities and services and honor and implement policies contained within existing intergovernmental agreements.
- 2 Work with the Sun Prairie Area School District to assist in its planning and facility needs.
- 3 Maintain communication with the Sun Prairie Fire Department to monitor the effectiveness of service provision within the context of intergovernmental agreements.

POLICIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1 Continue to evaluate and review the effectiveness and equity of agreements between the City of Sun Prairie and the Town of Windsor. Such agreements should be amended to the mutual benefit of both municipalities as needed.
- 2 The City shall strive to work closely with neighboring municipalities to implement plan recommendations and policies.
- 3 Work with the Town of Sun Prairie to develop an intergovernmental agreement to help delineate future growth boundaries.
- 4 Work with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT), Dane County, and the surrounding towns to examine alternatives for rerouting truck traffic away from Windsor and Main Streets.
- 5 Work with WisDOT, Dane County and the surrounding towns to address potential upgrades to STH 19 throughout the entire Sun Prairie Planning Area.
- 6 Coordinate with WisDOT on commuter and high speed rail studies. If implemented, stops within Sun Prairie should be encouraged.
- 7 Work with the Sun Prairie Fire Department and surrounding Towns to ensure high quality fire protection.
- 8 Meet or communicate regularly with surrounding municipalities (e.g. Madison, DeForest, Cottage Grove) to determine appropriate extraterritorial boundaries as municipalities continue to grow.
- 9 Work with the City of Madison and the Town of Sun Prairie to reach an agreement regarding the siting, location, and types of development that may occur in areas where jurisdictions overlap.
- 10 Work closely with the school district to improve communication and involvement in the development review process, and help provide information to the public about school planning efforts.
- 11 The City of Sun Prairie shall adhere to criteria that limits the creation of subdivision plats and certified survey maps that create building sites for unsewered, non-farm residential uses within the City of Sun Prairie's three-mile extraterritorial plat approval jurisdiction to help preserve farmland in surrounding Towns and protect future municipal growth areas. In general, non-farm residential land divisions in the extraterritorial areas should adhere to the following criteria:
 - a. The land division shall be compatible with adjacent land uses
 - b. The land division shall result in a development pattern that is compatible with surrounding developments and land uses
 - c. The land division shall not demonstrably adversely affect the city's ability to provide public services, install public improvements or accomplish future annexations
 - d. The land division shall comply with one of the following:
 - It represents infilling of vacant land, or
 - The subdivision represents a separation of the residential component of a farmstead from the agricultural lands
- 12 Meet or communicate regularly with the Capital Area Regional Planning Commission, Madison Metropolitan Planning Organization and other federal, state, and regional organizations to assist the City in achieving its goals and objectives as stated in this plan, and to ensure that Sun Prairie is contributing to the overall growth and betterment of the region.



CTH N / STH 19

Gil Her Building

Continental Mapping

Market Street Diner

City Hall

Main St.

City View Condominiums

South Bristol Street Redevelopment Project Area

Angell Park Speedway

1 inch equals 400 feet