

CHIPPEWA-EAU CLAIRE

MPO QUARTERLY

May 2023
Edition #10

CHIPPEWA-EAU CLAIRE
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION



Urban Area
Boundary
Update Process
Has Started

Water Mains
New Map Shows
Age Of Water
Mains In MPA

Street Art
Project Ideas
and Grant
Application

ROAD
CLOSED



Urban Area Boundary Update

In April, MPO staff met with WisDOT to discuss 2020 Census data and the process of updating the MPO Urban Area Boundary (UAB), which is required to be completed by June 2024. The UAB consists of all the incorporated areas and any areas outside the incorporated areas that are or have a potential to be developed at an urban density in the next 10 years. In addition, this is the area eligible for federal Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funding.

MPO staff reached out to the two counties and four incorporated communities to schedule meetings with them regarding where urban density growth is expected to happen in the next ten years. To date, staff has met with Chippewa Falls, Lake Hallie, Eau Claire, and Eau Claire County.

The UAB is different from the Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA), which is the area where growth is expected during the next 20 years. In addition, the MPA is the area where federally funded projects need to be in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and where the MPO can work on projects for counties, towns, cities/villages. The MPA update will also start in 2023 and should be completed in 2024.

Map Of The Quarter

Communities will often coordinate street reconstruction with when a water main needs replacement, as replacing a water main in the street requires the street to be reconstructed. Many consider the average water main's life expectancy to be in the 70-80 year range.

This [link](#) will take you to an online map that shows the age of water mains in our urban area. From the map and associated data (community-level data on the last page of the newsletter), one can anticipate how many water main and street projects will be needed in the future. For instance, a community can see how many miles of water mains are from between 1960 and 1979 (201 total miles in the MPA). With that, communities can prepare for how many miles of water mains will need to be replaced in approximately five to 25 years. This number does not include water mains built earlier that might be behind schedule and/or repairs on newer water mains that might need fixing.

Here is the breakdown of age of water mains in the MPA:

1880-1919: 24 miles (3%)	1980-1999: 222 miles (26%)
1920-1939: 27 miles (3%)	2000-2009: 151 miles (18%)
1940-1959: 69 miles (8%)	2010-2022: 115 miles (14%)
1960-1979: 201 miles (24%)	Unknown: 37 miles (4%)

Project Updates

Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Story Maps - [Chippewa Falls 2023-2026](#), [Chippewa County 2023-2026](#), [Lake Hallie 2023-2026](#) - Completed. Eau Claire County 2023-2026 - Will be completed in late May or early June.

City of Chippewa Falls Wayfinding Plan - Ongoing.

Village of Lake Hallie Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan - Starting in June.

MPO Title VI Plan three-year update - Ongoing.

Vision Zero Plan - Starting in June.

MPO Public Hearing - Held public hearing for City of Eau Claire's Sewer Service Area Boundary Amendment.

Urban Area Boundary adjustments - Ongoing.

Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) update - Starting in June.

Chippewa Valley Safe Routes To School (SRTS) Partnership - Ongoing. Completed Eau Claire SRTS Plan. Facilitated and hosted second annual Chippewa Valley Walk and Roll Challenge.

Chippewa Valley Bike Routes - Communities continue to purchase and install additional signage. MPO staff continues to facilitate.

Cover Photo: Street reconstruction and new water main installment on Chauncey St. in Eau Claire.

Interesting Listen

Of all the modes of transportation, air travel is most likely the least understood for the vast majority of people. In the past we have shared [Freakonomics](#) podcasts about roundabouts, transportation infrastructure, and transit. A couple of months ago, the podcast had a three-part series on air travel. The podcasts look at how much of a miracle air travel is compared to how our ancestors traveled just two or three generations ago, what goes into the price of a ticket, and the behind the scenes look of a major airport. In addition, the second episode is titled [Why Is Flying Safer Than Driving?](#), and it looks at how flying has become so safe and how can we, as a society, take those concepts and introduce them to our vehicles and roads. Each episode is approximately one hour... a perfect amount of time to listen to all or part of it while on a walk, eating lunch, cleaning the kitchen, or just sitting back and relaxing.

Part 1: [Air Travel Is a Miracle. Why Do We Hate It?](#)

Part 2: [Why Is Flying Safer Than Driving?](#)

Part 3: [Is Your Plane Ticket Too Expensive — or Too Cheap?](#)

The Chippewa-Eau Claire MPA includes:

The cities of Altoona, Chippewa Falls, and Eau Claire, the Village of Lake Hallie, and all or parts of the towns of Anson, Brunswick, Eagle Point, Hallie, Lafayette, Pleasant Valley, Seymour, Tilden, Union, Washington, and Wheaton.
www.wcwrpc.org 715.836.2918

Parking Requirements

Most of us know about the historical concept of minimum parking requirements in zoning codes. However, not every day does a major news outlet have a story about parking requirements on their homepage, so we thought we would share a recent [article](#) about parking requirements from CNN.

The article does a good job discussing the history of minimum parking requirements, how that has impacted development patterns and the character of our downtowns and other developed areas, and also the trend of communities making significant changes to their parking requirements, and some communities even changing to a requirement for a maximum number of parking spots.

Interesting tidbit: The article also cites a study that says that the average cost to construct a parking spot is \$28,000.

The article *“This little-known rule shapes parking in America. Cities are reversing it.”* is about a five minute read.

Street Art Grant and Ideas

Bloomberg Philanthropies has opened a [grant application](#) process for their Asphalt Art Initiative. The Asphalt Art Initiative grant program is designed to fund visual art on roadways, pedestrian spaces, and public infrastructure in cities. Typically, the projects are painted murals, organized in collaboration between city governments and local communities, with the following primary goals:

- Improving street and pedestrian safety
- Revitalizing and activating underutilized public space
- Promoting collaboration and civic engagement in local communities

This grant program could be a great fit for communities in our MPA to implement street art to slow traffic, make intersections safer for students and all pedestrians, use utility boxes as art, and more. Even if you do not apply for the grant, many of the [examples](#) show a wide range of ideas (many have a before/after slider that shows the changes) that you could do in your community. One issue that often comes up in both rural and urban areas are streets without sidewalks. This [example](#) from Atlanta shows a dedicated walking lane for pedestrians. Some other really interesting projects are in [Kodiak](#), [Sioux Falls](#), and [Durham](#).

Contact Information

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MPA Geography - 101

How good is your geography in the MPA? If you cannot get this one, there is a hint in the bottom right corner of the photo. This hint might help you locate the general location.



MPA Geography 101 Answer: This photo is from the west side of Eau Claire. The new pavement in the photo is both Truax Blvd. and Folsom St. and the north/south street is 3rd St. The hint is the dam. Here is a [link](#) to the map.

Map Of The Quarter

Here is the breakdown of the age of water mains for each community in the MPA:

The [map](#) is color coded for two-decade timeframes. Dark red shows the oldest water mains and dark blue shows the newest water mains. The legend can be accessed from the top right corner of the map. Just click on the icon with the three horizontal lines with the small dot features next to them.

Jurisdiction	Total Miles	Miles of Water Mains By Year Constructed							
		1880 to 1919	1920 to 1939	1940 to 1959	1960 to 1979	1980 to 1999	2000 to 2009	2010 to 2022	Unknown
City of Altoona	65.22	-	-	0.03	3.65	12.72	17.82	13.73	17.27
City of Chippewa Falls	145.57	10.58	10.92	9.84	35.79	27.16	15.36	18.10	17.82
City of Eau Claire	560.40	12.96	15.91	58.63	161.32	155.65	84.41	69.51	2.02
Village of Lake Hallie	73.48	-	-	-	-	26.52	33.58	13.37	-
TOTAL	844.67	23.55	26.83	68.50	200.76	222.05	151.17	114.70	37.11