

CHIPPEWA-EAU CLAIRE

MPO QUARTERLY

September 2021
Edition #03

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New Staff



In July, Hailee Bushman was hired for our Regional Safe Routes To School Coordinator position. Hailee graduated from University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire with a bachelor’s degree in Environmental Geography, minor in German and GIS certificate. She grew up in Watertown, Minnesota.



In August, Michael Mills was hired. Michael will primarily be working on transportation and natural resource projects. Michael was born and raised in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point with a bachelor’s degree in Natural Resource Planning, a minor in Sustainable Energy, and GIS Certificate in Urban and Regional Planning.

SRTS Kick Off

With the hire of Hailee Bushman, we are now able to kick off our regional Safe Routes To School (SRTS) program. This program is funded 80 percent by WisDOT funding and 20 percent by the school districts and/or communities we are working with.

Within the MPA, we are working with the Altoona, Chippewa Falls, and Eau Claire school districts and the cities. We have met with all three working groups and have put together a work program for each of the school districts and the cities. Among the activities are: mapping existing signage, highlighting signage needs, promotional material for national Bike To School Day (October 6th), developing sidewalk maps that show sidewalk gaps, and more. In addition, we will start updating the Altoona SRTS plan in February.

In addition to working with these three school districts, we are now also a SRTS coordinator for Osceola and will be developing plans for Amery, Bloomer, Cumberland, Fall Creek, and Thorp.

Project Updates

City of Altoona Bike/Ped & Safe Routes To Parks Plan - Public input is complete.

CTH T Official Mapping - Second public meeting was held in September.

City of Eau Claire - Bike/Ped Plan Further Study Report - walk/bike observation audits are complete. Working on issues and opportunities.

West Central Wisconsin County Crash Report - Planned finish in October. Includes Chippewa and Eau Claire counties.

City of Chippewa Falls Wayfinding Plan - Started in August.

Chippewa Falls Shared Ride Taxi administration - Ongoing.

Chippewa Valley SRTS Partnership and various projects - Ongoing.

Chippewa Valley Bike Routes - Ongoing. Signage is being installed.

Capital Improvement Plan Story Maps - Chippewa Falls is complete. Final draft for Chippewa County is complete. Will start working on Eau Claire County next.

Listening Recommendation

In July, the popular podcast Freakonomics had another episode that focused on transportation. This one focuses on the condition of the wide range of transportation options in the nation and how our transportation infrastructure can be improved to better meet our needs and meet the standards that are common in many other countries. You can listen [here](#).



While other countries seem to build spectacular bridges, dams, and even entire cities with ease, the U.S. is stuck in pothole-fixing mode. We speak with an array of transportation nerds — including the Secretary of Transportation and his immediate predecessor — to see if a massive federal infrastructure package can put America back in the driver’s seat.

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

CIP Story Maps

Over the summer, the MPO has been working on developing Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Story Maps. At this time, we have completed a CIP Story Map for the City of Chippewa Falls and just finished the final draft for Chippewa County. These maps allow users to see the location and specific year for each project within the respective jurisdiction. In addition, a variety of different information is available for the user, including project cost, funding source, and any project details. The story maps can also show photos of existing conditions of the specific project. Staff can use the maps to show projects to elected and appointed officials, the general public, and/or other departments. The next CIP story map we will be working on is for Eau Claire County.

Moving forward, the MPO is able to create CIP story maps for other municipalities in the MPA. We are able to easily customize the map to the needs of each community. The Chippewa Falls Story Map can be found [here](#). The Chippewa County Story Map can be found [here](#).

The Delaware Yield (Safe Yielding for Cyclists)

While doing research for projects we are working on, we sometimes stumble upon new and different ideas and/or concepts. One of these recent finds was a safe yielding policy for cyclists in Delaware.

The Delaware Yield allows cyclists to treat most Stop signs as yield signs. The law permits a cyclist to slow down and proceed carefully through an intersection without having to come to a complete stop, if it's safe to do that. Data show that the new law has helped reduce crashes involving bicycles at stops signs by over 20 percent. And did you know there is an Idaho Stop? This law allows cyclists to treat red lights as if they are stop signs. Currently eight states have one or both of these laws, and since Delaware started their yield law in 2017, six new states have implemented the law in their states.

You can find a fun and informative 1-minute Facebook video [here](#).

You can find the Bike Delaware website [here](#).

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Inside the MPA:

What's Your Guess?

In 2010, the MPA had a total population of 111,905 and 45,467 housing units. According to the 2020 Census, what was the MPA population and number of housing units in 2020?

Did You Know?

The Chippewa-Eau Claire MPO is ranked last of all 14 Wisconsin metropolitan areas for average annual wages. Low average wages can contribute to a variety of transportation issues and needs for individuals, families, and employers.

What's Your Guess Answer: The MPA had a 2020 population of 117,942, which was an increase of 6,037 persons and a 5.4 percent increase. In addition, the MPA had 50,981 housing units, which was an increase of 5,514 housing units and a 12.1 percent increase.