

CHIPPEWA-EAU CLAIRE

# MPO QUARTERLY

November 2023  
Edition #12



Urban Area  
Boundary Update  
*UAB update process  
and starting the  
MPA update*

Traffic Calming  
Kits  
*Our in-house kits  
are available for  
you to use*

Planning on  
YouTube  
*A list of planning,  
engineering, and  
city design  
channels*





## Urban Area Boundary / MPA Updates

As we have written about in the last two newsletters, MPO staff has been working on the MPO Urban Area Boundary (UAB) update, based on the 2020 Census. Since the last newsletter, staff has had discussions with WisDOT and presented the new UAB to the MPO Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and Policy Council. The updated UAB was approved by the MPO Policy Council in October. The final UAB was then submitted to WisDOT.

Since the UAB process is complete, we will start updating the Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA) boundary. We will email a draft MPA boundary update to the TAC in November. We will ask TAC members to review the draft boundary and contact us if they have any questions/changes/ideas. We will then take the draft MPA boundary and any proposed changes to the January TAC meeting for group discussion. At that meeting, the TAC will decide either to forward a draft MPA boundary to the Policy Council or to send it back to the TAC for more discussions.

Please contact us if you have any questions regarding the upcoming MPA boundary update process.

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## Project Updates

Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Story Maps - [Eau Claire County](#) 2023-2026 additional update - Completed in October.

MPO Title VI Plan and Public Participation Plan three-year update - Completed and approved in October.

Urban Area Boundary adjustments - Completed and approved in October.

Urban Work Program (2024) - Completed and approved in October.

Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) 2024-2028 update - Completed and approved in October.

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

Enhanced transit connections in urban area - Meeting 1 was held in July. Exploratory group will continue to meet.

Vision Zero Plan - Starting in January.

City of Chippewa Falls Wayfinding Plan - Ongoing.

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

McKinley Road multi-use path TAP application - Completed in October.

[Cover Photo](#): Boat launch on Lake Hallie.

## Welcome Emily

A big welcome to Emily Huerta. Emily joined our staff in mid-October. Since starting, she has been working on the mapping aspects of the Lake Hallie Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan and a variety of other projects for the West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (WCWRPC). Before working here, she was an intern at Eau Claire County Planning and Development Department and also worked at Paws & Claws Total Dog. She recently graduated from UWEC with a major in Environmental Geography. At this time she will be working primarily on GIS mapping for a host of different projects. In addition, if we have worked with your community on a CIP story map, she will be your new contact person for those projects. Her contact information is on the next page.

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## Interesting Watches

In addition to interesting listens and reads about planning, there are a wide variety of interesting things to watch on the internet. We have put together a short list of YouTube channels where you will find a variety of information about planning, engineering, city design, and much more. Many videos on these channels are extremely interesting and will introduce you to different concepts for projects you are working on or might work on in the future. If you click on the YouTube page below, it will link you to the homepage.

### [City Nerd](#)

*"CityNerd embraces all things cities and transportation, approaching things with a profound love for urban environments and an analytical bent."*

### [City Beautiful](#)

*"City Beautiful is dedicated to educating everyone about cities and city planning. Cities are amazing! I cover topics such as transportation, land use planning, and urban design."*

### [B1M](#)

*"We love construction and we want the whole world to love it too! Our mission is to fundamentally change the perception of construction on planet Earth, attracting more people to work in this incredible industry."*

For you engineering connoisseurs out there, [this B1M episode](#) about a new highway system along the western Norwegian coast will blow you away.

### [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](http://www.wcwrpc.org) 715.836.2918

### TIP, UAB, Title VI, Oh My

To say our September TAC and October Policy Council meetings had full agendas is an understatement. Very seldom does our agenda have as many items as our most recent meetings had.

Every year we are required to complete an Urban Work Program and every other year we update our Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP), so we do those the same year every other year. In addition, we also updated both our Title VI Plan and Public Participation plans, which are updated every three years. So that means every six years we have all four of those items on our end of year agendas... that is pretty rare.

However, we were also working on our Urban Area Boundary (UAB) update during the same time, and brought that to the same two meetings. We update that boundary after every Census, so every 10 years. As crazy as it may sound, if each item keeps the same required time frames, the MPO will not have all five of these items on its agenda at the same time until the year 2053. In a way, the past TAC/Policy Council meetings were the Halley's Comet of agendas for these required items that the MPO completes.

### Traffic Calming Kit Available

The WCWRPC Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program recently purchased materials to conduct tactical urbanism/pop-up traffic calming projects in the seven-county region that it serves. Materials such as cones (60), delineators (60), planters (8), and stencils (bike, pedestrian, etc.) can be used to set up temporary bump-outs, roundabouts, bike lanes, funnel drop-off and pick-up traffic on school grounds, and a host of other traffic calming measures. Doing a pop-up traffic calming project allows you to see if infrastructure-implementation measures would reduce traffic speeds and create a safer environment for pedestrians and bicyclists before you invest the money for an infrastructure project. It also brings awareness to drivers to slow down and be more aware at those locations.

This summer, the WCWRPC SRTS program worked on traffic calming projects in Amery, Frederic, and Roberts, all with great success and positive feedback. If you have any locations where your community would like to use these materials, please contact Hailee Bushman (contact information below). There is no cost to use the items. The next page of the newsletter shows photos of the three communities that used them this summer.

### Contact Information

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### MPA Geography - 101

How good is your geography in the MPA? For those of you that struggled with the last one, this one should be pretty easy for you. Good luck!!



MPA Geography 101 Answer: This photo is of Haymarket Plaza in downtown Eau Claire. Did you know that the WCWRPC conducted the placemaking project for this public space. Here is a [link](#) to the map.





ROBERTS



AMERY



FREDERIC