

CHIPPEWA-EAU CLAIRE

MPOQUARTERLY

December 2024

Edition #16

**Chippewa Valley
Bike Routes**

*More Routes Are
Signed*

**Long Range
Transportation
Plan Update**

*Public Participation
Starts in January*

Crash Data

*Teenage Driver
Data for the Two
Counties*

CHIPPEWA-EAU CLAIRE
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION



Long Range Transportation Plan Update

The MPO staff has started the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) update. A LRTP specific webpage will be available on the MPO website in early January.

The MPO will provide a variety of public participation opportunities in January, February, and March. This will include an online survey, open houses, and an opportunity for people to comment on issues and opportunities on an online map. We will be reaching out to the TAC for help promoting the survey and public input opportunities in their respective communities.

At the same time, staff will be gathering existing conditions and trends. One new mapping product we would like to produce is seeing how close areas of our urban area are to being a 10- or 15-minute community (see the Interesting Reads discussion to the right).

The final LRTP will be in document form. However, we will also be creating a poster that we will hand out to local units of government. The poster will include the main goals, issues, and strategies in the Metropolitan Planning Area.

Project Updates

Long Range Transportation Plan Update - Ongoing.

Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Story Maps - Ongoing.

Eau Claire County Vehicle Registration Fund project Story Map - Ongoing.

Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) 2024-2028 amendment - Approved in October. TIP Recertification - Approved in October.

City of Chippewa Falls Wayfinding Plan - Ongoing.

Passenger Rail - Consultant selected and Phase 1 has started with an approximate 6 month completion timeline (March).

Urban Work Program - Adopted in October.

Chippewa Valley Bike Routes - Communities continue to install signage. MPO staff continues to facilitate and update installation map.

Intersection and Traffic Control Analysis - Over 30 studies completed. Please contact us if you would like us to do any intersection or speed studies for your community.

2024 Summary Report - Completed in December.

Chippewa Valley Bike Routes

The MPO continues to work with local units of government on the installation of Chippewa Valley Bike Route (CVBR) signage. At this time 58 percent of the routes are signed. This [map](#) shows what parts of what routes are currently signed. Staff created this internal use map for communities to see what parts of what routes are signed to help them with their best possible approach to signing routes in their community.

MPO staff is also finalizing the QR code sticker that will be placed on the sign. The QR code will take the user to a CVBR webpage that will then have a traditional PDF map and the interactive map, which can be seen [here](#).

Interesting Reads

Planning, the American Planning Association magazine, has an [online list](#) of their 10 most read articles of 2024. All the articles are free to read, and there are several that have connections to recent and current projects, issues, and opportunities in our urban area. Two articles talk about the benefits of complete streets, both for [economic benefits](#) and [pedestrian and bicyclist safety](#). There are also articles about solutions to allow [older adults to age in place and grace](#), the success of a [small car-free development](#), [happy cities](#), and more.

Another [article](#) that incorporates the topics listed above is available on the BBC website. The article goes into detail about Nordhavn, a large Danish development that has been designed to provide the vast majority of needs within a five-minute walk (400 meters). With a growing number of 10-minute developments in the world, Nordhavn proclaims itself as the world's first five-minute development. Obviously a development of this size is out of scale for our urban area, however, principles could be used, and in reality, more and more of our neighborhoods in our urban area are approaching the concept of a 10- or 15-minute community. In addition, perhaps not all needs are within a 5- to 15- minute walk, however, a goal could be to include as many needs as possible within that distance.

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

Annual Summary Report

The MPO completed its Annual Summary Report in December. The 2024 Report can be found online [here](#) and we also distributed the document by email. This is the fourth year in a row that we have completed the Summary Report. The Summary Report details the MPO and projects that staff worked on in 2024. In addition to detailing projects, the document is a great tool to introduce people to the MPO by discussing what MPOs are, required projects, introduce the staff that work on projects, and specific information for our MPO. We have used the document extensively when there are new members on the TAC and Policy Council.

The document has our new MPA Boundary Map, which is also included on Page 4 of this document. The MPO updated the Urban Boundary in 2023 and the MPA Boundary in 2024. These boundaries will be used for the Long Range Transportation Plan, TIP, and all other projects that require those boundaries. The MPA increased from 163 square miles to 175 square miles in size.

If you would like hardcopies of the Summary Report, please contact Eric at eanderson@wcwrpc.org.

Crash Data

At County Traffic Safety Commission meetings, data is often presented regarding crash types and driver demographics. Much of the data show that teenage drivers have a disproportionate number of crashes in both counties compared to the percentage of teenage drivers among all drivers. According to WisDOT, approximately 4.4% of all drivers are teenage drivers. According to the Wisconsin Traffic Operations and Safety Laboratory (TOPS) Community Maps website, as of November 30th, there have been a total of 465 crashes in 2024 involving teenage drivers in Chippewa and Eau Claire counties. This is 19 percent of all crashes (not including deer related crashes). There were 138 crashes in Chippewa County and 327 in Eau Claire County. Of these crashes, two were fatal and 13 resulted in serious injury. This was 17 and 19 percent of the total, again disproportionate versus all crashes.

If we could reduce the number of crashes with a teenage driver by half, that would reduce the total crashes in the two counties by almost 10 percent. This is an example of some of the data we will be looking at in the Long Range Transportation Plan update.

Contact Information

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MPA Geography - 101

How good is your geography in the MPA? We have a new photo in each newsletter.

Good luck!!



MPA Geography 101 Answer: Click on this [link](#) to find the location.

Chippewa - Eau Claire Metropolitan Planning Area 2024 - 2045

