

7 Intergovernmental Cooperation

Intergovernmental cooperation is a critical component of this planning effort and the future well-being of the Town of Shelby. Local services and planning strategies can be strengthened by cooperative relationships with neighboring communities. This chapter contains an overview of the Town's intergovernmental relationships and identifies known existing or potential conflicts between this Comprehensive Plan and the plans of local cities, villages, towns, School Districts, the State of Wisconsin, and important federal agencies that maintain a presence in the area.

This chapter also contains goals, objectives, and recommendations for maintaining or enhancing intergovernmental relationships.

Existing relationships between the Town of Shelby and each of the surrounding or overlapping jurisdictions are described below. A process for resolving conflicts is detailed at the end of this element.

Existing Relationships

Surrounding Municipalities

Towns

The Town has enjoyed good relationships with adjacent towns. The Town of Greenfield and Shelby are currently working to develop a shared Fire Station.

County Government

La Crosse County

La Crosse County encompasses 481 square miles and is located in western Wisconsin along the Mississippi River. The County's 2004 population was estimated at 109,616. La Crosse County is approximately 150 miles southeast of Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN, 175 miles from Waterloo, Iowa, and 145 miles from Madison, WI. The County is comprised of 18 local units of government: 12 towns, 4 Towns, and 2 cities. Interstate 90 and the La Crosse River bisect the County from east to west. Trempealeau and Jackson County border La Crosse County to the north, Monroe County lies to the East, Vernon County lies to the south, and the Mississippi River and Minnesota lie to the west. The County is currently working on an updated Comprehensive Plan, which is an update to the County's existing plan, the La Crosse County Development Plan 2020. In addition, the County has adopted numerous other plans, studies, and ordinances that provide policy and direction to local communities, such as Shelby, including:

- La Crosse County, Wisconsin Farmland Preservation Plan, 1980
- La Crosse County Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, 1998
- La Crosse County Land & Water Resource Management Plan, 1999
- Zoning Ordinance (for unincorporated areas)
- Land Division Ordinance

La Crosse County is also party to general cooperative agreements for fire, police, rescue, road maintenance, solid waste, recycling, and other services with several towns, villages, and cities in the County. La Crosse County enforces shoreland zoning within the Town.

Regional Planning Jurisdiction

MRRPC

The Town of Shelby is located within the Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission's (MRRPC) jurisdiction. The MRRPC prepares and adopts regional or county-wide plans and represents Pierce, Pepin, Buffalo, Trempealeau, La Crosse, Vernon, Crawford, Jackson, and Monroe counties. The RPC was established to:

- Carry out comprehensive and intergovernmental planning;
- Have jurisdiction throughout the seven-county area, including incorporated and unincorporated areas;
- Meet area-wide requirements so local jurisdictions could receive federal grants;
- Provide an organization to receive federal grants.

The MRRPC is currently working with La Crosse County to update their Comprehensive Plan. Shelby is also located within the Western Wisconsin Technology Zone which allows up to \$5M in state income tax credits and is administered by the MRRPC. The MRRPC also administers the La Crosse County Business Fund.

MRRPC recently completed the La Crosse County Outdoor Recreation Plan 2006-2010, which contains the following recommendations for Shelby:

- Pammel Creek Park: develop a play area, walkways, and construct a shelter
- Breidel Coulee Park: purchase playground equipment

Important State and Federal Agency Jurisdictions

There are many state and federal agencies that affect planning in La Crosse County. The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (DOT) District 5 plays a critical role in many aspects of the County's transportation system, from highway design and development to bicycle and pedestrian facilities and networks. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) also has a prominent role in the County because of the many DNR-owned land and facilities that are located here. The University of Wisconsin Extension office is located in the City of La Crosse and serves as an educational resource for County residents. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service maintains a presence in the County because of the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge. The U.S Army Corps of Engineers also maintains a presence in the County because of their ownership and management of locks and dams along the Mississippi River, which borders the western edge of the County. The County and its local units of government recognize the importance of working with these state and federal agencies, and are committed to continuing an ongoing dialogue with these agencies, both during and after the development of this Comprehensive Plan.

Shelby communicates with state and federal agencies on an as-needed basis. For the comprehensive planning process, state agencies may be asked to review the plan documents as follows:

- WisDOT: review the Transportation Element and provide planning expertise and comments, particularly regarding development and related planning for USH 14/61 and STHs 35/31, which traverse Town boundaries.
- WDNR: review the Agricultural, Natural, and Cultural Resources Element regarding protection techniques for Shelby's existing natural resources.

School Districts

The Town continues to have an informal and engaged relationship with both school districts serving Shelby (School District of La Crosse; West Salem School District).

Existing or Potential Conflicts and Processes to Resolve Conflicts

Concern regarding annexation of Town lands because of Shelby’s inability to expand sanitary sewer services is an ongoing issue. Consideration of a long-term boundary agreement with the City is one manner to resolve this conflict.

Goals, Objectives, and Recommendations

Goals and objectives identify what the plan should accomplish. Goals are statements that describe a desired future condition, often in general terms. Objectives are statements that describe a specific future condition to be attained, to reach the established goals.

Recommendations identify the action necessary to achieve goals and objectives. For this reason, recommendations should be actionable, attainable, and specific. Not all recommendations can be achieved in the short-term, so they should be specific enough so that any individual or group wishing to achieve a stated goal can take action.

The following goals, objectives, and recommendations were jointly developed by the Town of Shelby Land Use Planning Committee and its consultants.

Intergovernmental Cooperation – Boundary Protection Goal. Limit the further erosion of the Town’s land area, real property tax base, or population, by annexation especially when the principal reason for property annexation is to receive urban utility services of water and sanitary sewer.

Objectives:

- a. Encourage development of areas adjacent to the City of La Crosse.
- b. Encourage cooperative efforts between Shelby and neighboring municipalities to explore opportunities for shared services.

Recommendations:

- 1. Improve Shelby’s long-term Land Use Planning and capital improvements programming efforts throughout the Town.
- 2. Consider areas where Shelby can assist developments which will remain in the Town – such as financing, help for sewer/septic systems and water management.
- 3. Continue efforts to increase the relationship of the Town with the City of La Crosse and surrounding municipalities. These efforts may include the development of a cooperative boundary agreement.