

INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION

This element of the Comprehensive Plan analyzes the relationship of the Town of Shelby in terms of planning and decision making to adjacent local governmental units and quasi-public, regional, state, and federal governmental entities. It provides goals, objectives, and actions to increase intergovernmental cooperation and involvement. A description of the relationship between the Town of Shelby and other local, regional, and state entities resides in this section.

The Town of Shelby commenced the comprehensive planning process, deliberately, at a time when the County was undergoing a comprehensive planning update. The Town's intent was to formally join the discussion already underway over directions for future land use and development in the region and ensure a fully coordinated planning process. Further, the Town wanted to ensure the planning process would consider the larger regional context and involve through communication neighboring governmental jurisdictions, planning organizations, agencies, stakeholders, and strong cross-boundary public participation.

GOAL 1
<p>Boundary protection: 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.</p> <p><i>Objective 1-1:</i> Encourage development of areas adjacent to the City of La Crosse.</p> <p><i>Objective 1-2:</i> Explore cooperative efforts between Shelby and neighboring municipalities to explore opportunities for shared services.</p>
GOAL 2
<p>The Town will maintain good relationships with governmental units in and around the region.</p> <p><i>Objective 2-1:</i> Establish and maintain excellent communication with other government officials (staff, elected and appointed officials) both formally (on committees, etc.) and informally (telephone calls, emails, etc.); and continue to build and establish new relationships.</p>
GOAL 3
<p>Participate in regional planning efforts and coordinate all planning activities with neighboring communities and La Crosse County.</p> <p><i>Objective 3-1:</i> Participate in regional planning efforts and coordinate planning efforts (e.g., comprehensive, land use, transportation, and natural resource protection), regulations, and specific land use decisions with neighboring communities, La Crosse County, Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission (MRRPC), and the La Crosse Area Planning Committee (LAPC).</p>

GOAL 4

Coordinate with neighboring communities and La Crosse County to provide high quality services in the most cost-effective manner possible.

Objective 4-1: Continue to work cooperatively with neighboring communities to provide more effective and lower cost services provision.

ACTIONS

Action 1: Improve Shelby's long-term land use planning and capital improvement programming efforts throughout the Town.

Action 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.

Action 3: Continue efforts to increase the relationship with the City of La Crosse and surrounding municipalities. These efforts may include the development of a cooperative boundary agreement.

Action 4: Provide a copy of this Comprehensive Plan and any proposed updates or amendments to all governmental units as required by State Statutes 66.1001.

Action 5: Inform other governmental units and agencies about changes in the local community and establish regular communication through newsletters or periodic visits and/or phone calls.

Action 6: Participate in regional or joint planning committees and commissions.

Action 7: Involve local school districts in long-range planning efforts and in reviewing current development proposals where appropriate.

Action 8: Support regional economic development efforts that are consistent with the Town's vision and goals.

Action 9: Support regional efforts to expand transportation choices through such measures as expanding transit service and connecting multi-use trails to neighboring communities and regional trail networks.

Action 10: If necessary, when a development application is received, consult appropriate government, agency, or staff in a timely manner, and consider their comments during the Town's decision-making process. Request these entities respond in kind with their local development.

Action 11: Identify and possibly formalize a process for resolving conflicts in nonaggressive/non-confrontational manners.

Action 12: Work collectively with all other local governments and agencies to protect bluffs, water quality and prime farmland.

Action 13: Share information, equipment, resources, facilities, technology, services and possibly revenue streams that have cross-jurisdictional applications.

Action 14: Identify opportunities to jointly provide new or expanded services with other local communities. Ideas include adding recreational programs in local parks, increasing transit options, and installing multi-use trails.

Action 15: Jointly plan and pursue public utilities and services improvements with neighboring communities and willing partners.

Action 16: Identify opportunities to avoid duplication in the provision of public services with other governments including the school districts. This may include consolidation of services, building joint facilities, and equipment sharing for such things as road plows.

La Crosse County

La Crosse County encompasses 481 square miles and is located in western Wisconsin along the Mississippi River. The County's 2019 population was estimated at 118,016. 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 villages, 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 – Amended in 2014
- La Crosse County Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, 1998 – Amended in 2020
- La Crosse County Land & Water Resource Management Plan, 1999 – Amended in 2020
- Zoning Ordinance – Comprehensive Revision in 2012
- 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. The Town of Selby also is part of the Bluffland Coalition and Regional Stormwater Group.

Surrounding Municipalities

The Town of Shelby borders the Town of Barre, Bergen, Greenfield, and Medary.

The following are existing contracts or agreements the Town of Shelby has with surrounding municipalities:

Town of Greenfield: Fire Services Contract

City of La Crosse: Sewer services, stormwater management, and drainage issues.

Regional Planning Jurisdiction

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 Buffalo, Crawford, Jackson, La Crosse, Monroe, Pierce, Pepin, Trempealeau, and Vernon 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.

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 2019-2024 and La Crosse County Multi-Hazards Mitigation Plan (HMP) 2020-2024. Included in the HMP are the following goals for the Town of Shelby:

- Elevate Hanifl Road to provide dry land access during high water events
- Purchase a boat to provide emergency services to areas not accessible by dry land during high water events
- Purchase a truck to haul water in the event lightning strikes a well
- Purchase communication equipment to coordinate water and sewer departments during storm events
- Purchase backup power generators for municipal wells
- Purchase communication system for sewer lift stations and water wells
- Purchase brush chipper to manage dead and excessively overgrown areas
- Install dry well (water points) locations on ponds and creeks for firefighting purposes

Important State and Federal Agency Jurisdiction

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 Town of Shelby is in Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) La Crosse Area Planning Committee (LAPC). As required by 23 CFR 450.300, the purpose of metropolitan transportation planning and programming is to:

- Carry out a continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive performance-based multimodal transportation planning process, including the development of a Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and a Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), that:
 - Encourages and promotes the safe and efficient development, management, and operation of surface transportation systems to serve the mobility needs of people and freight;
 - Fosters economic growth and development; and,
 - Takes into consideration resiliency needs, while minimizing transportation-related fuel consumption and air pollution.
- Encourage continued development and improvement of metropolitan transportation planning processes guided by the planning factors (23 CFR 450.306).

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 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 Town works with FEMA for flooding and disaster events and the Public Service Commission for water rate setting.

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 and federal agencies may be asked to review the plan documents as follows:

- WisDOT and LAPC: Review the Transportation Element and provide expertise and comments on development and planning goals.
- WDNR: Review the Agricultural, Natural Resources, and Cultural Resources Element regarding protection techniques for Shelby's existing natural resources.

School Districts

The Town of Shelby is included within the boundaries of the La Crosse and West Salem School Districts. There are athletic field use agreements between the Town and school districts. The school districts help with maintenance on Township fields as needed.

Existing or Potential Conflicts and Processes to Resolve Conflicts

There is concern regarding annexation of Town lands because of Shelby's inability to expand sanitary services as an ongoing issue. A long-term boundary agreement and negotiations with the City of La Crosse is one step being taken to resolve this conflict.