

## **Introduction**

The Intergovernmental Cooperation Element of the Comprehensive Plan is intended to provide a review of the regional framework within which the City of Middleton functions and the relationship of the City to the school district, adjacent local government units, the region, state and other governmental agencies or structure. Many of the issues facing the City are regional or intergovernmental in nature, such as transportation infrastructure and operations; stormwater management; school district and attendance boundaries; and the impacts of local adjacent land uses. It is vital that the community has a strong relationship with the school district, adjacent local governmental units, Dane County, the State of Wisconsin, and other governmental units. Over the years, Middleton has participated in numerous regional planning efforts and entered into various intergovernmental agreements. This element describes those activities and attempts to identify areas where there are still existing or potential conflicts between the city and other jurisdictions.

The goals, objectives and policies listed in this section recognize that the City needs to continue its relationship with these other jurisdictions so as to maintain its ability to provide a high quality of life for existing and future residents and visitors alike, in as efficient a manner as possible.

## **Relationship of City to Other Units of Government**

For a number of decades, the City of Middleton has actively participated in discussions and planning efforts with governmental entities adjacent to the City's boundaries. This approach helps to reduce costly and time-consuming conflicts, and improves the prospects for the orderly growth of the community and region.

### **City of Madison**

In 1994, the City entered into an intergovernmental agreement with the City of Madison, outlining a long-term growth boundary for each community, and describing cooperative efforts with respect to services. (That same year, the City also signed an intergovernmental agreement with the Town of Middleton.) The main thrust of the 1994 agreement was the identification of Blackhawk Road as the long-term growth boundary between the two cities. In 2014 another agreement was entered into with the City of Madison, which allowed property in the City of Middleton, north of Blackhawk Rd., to access water and sanitary sewer service from the City of Madison.

### **Town of Middleton**

The City first entered into an intergovernmental agreement with the Town of Middleton in 1994, at the same time it reached an agreement with the City of Madison. The City and the Town entered into another agreement in 2001, which dealt with an exchange of property between the Town and the City in the Evergreen Rd./Airport Rd./Pleasant View Rd. area and set forth the funding responsibilities for required public improvements, and land use expectations and restrictions.

### **Town of Springfield**

In 2004, the City signed an intergovernmental agreement with the Town of Springfield. This agreement included a plan identifying an urban growth area as well as areas for agricultural preservation and resource protection. (See Appendix B.) This agreement anticipated that Middleton would grow northward to Greenbriar and Balzer Roads within 20 years. The City and Town later agreed to extend the Agreement through 2029.

The City has a preliminary design for an east-west road connection within this growth area in the Town of Springfield, in order to provide an alternative route to Century Avenue. Continued coordination with the Town of Springfield is imperative so that future growth is orderly and minimizes impacts to existing town and city residents.

### **Town of Westport**

In 1998, the City signed an agreement with the Town of Westport, and began a joint planning process that produced a Joint Comprehensive Plan for approximately 2,000 acres in the Town of Westport, adjacent to the City. The plan addressed mutual city and town goals, including protection of environmentally sensitive land, agricultural preservation, mixed-use development, and an integrated bicycle and pedestrian trail system. It was adopted by both the Town and the City in 2001. (See Appendix A.)

Stemming from this joint planning process is the Joint Zoning Committee, to which Middleton and Westport each appoint three members. The Committee reviews proposed plans for lands located in the Joint Planning Area, and makes recommendations to the City and Town regarding proposed developments and other planning and zoning related issues within the Joint Planning Area. City and Town staff administer the Zoning Ordinance for this area, and work together on the planning and review process. The process of coordination between the City and the Town was used in the review, evaluation and approval process for the Community of Bishops Bay, a large, predominantly residential development (with some mixed uses) that encompasses land in both the City and the Town.

### **Middleton Cross-Plains Area School District**

The City of Middleton has coordinated closely with the Middleton Cross Plains Area School District, particularly on issues related to growth areas, timing and density of growth, and recreational opportunities and shared facilities. In the past several years the City has worked closely with district staff on the school district's expansion of Kromrey Middle School and proposed expansion of the Middleton High School.



Kromrey Middle School addition and renovation, opened in 2015, photo by Bray

The City and school district officials enjoy a strong working relationship, and will continue to work together on existing and future needs.

### **Dane County and Other Regional Planning Entities**

In 1999, the City began a contractual relationship with Dane County Land Conservation for assistance with erosion control review and monitoring which continues today. The City has a representative on the Madison Area Metropolitan Planning Organization, which oversees transportation planning activities within the metropolitan area. City officials continue to participate in or closely monitor ongoing County and regional transportation issues and projects.

City staff have worked closely with staff and members of the Capital Area Regional Planning Commission regarding applications for extensions of the Central Urban Service Area boundaries where necessary to provide a full range of urban services. The City also works with the Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District on issues related to sewer service areas and cost allocation for those services.

### **State of Wisconsin**

Over the years, the City has coordinated and discussed major issues with various State of Wisconsin agencies. Major issues include coordination for economic development activities, transportation improvements, and environmental initiatives.

## **City Goals, Objectives & Policies**

The following goal, objectives and policies are based in part on language included in previous city plans.

**Goal:** Maintain the mutually beneficial intergovernmental relationships with surrounding jurisdictions.

### **Objectives:**

1. Continue to work with surrounding communities to implement existing intergovernmental agreements.
2. Continue to work with Dane County and neighboring jurisdictions on joint comprehensive planning and plan implementation efforts.
3. Work with surrounding communities on future municipal boundary changes, sewer service areas, land use policies, and extraterritorial decisions.
4. Work with the Middleton-Cross Plains Area School District on school district planning, potential school siting, and other areas of mutual concern.

**Policies:**

1. Consider joint services and facilities where consolidating, coordinating, or sharing services or facilities will result in better services and cost savings.
2. Cooperate with other governments, Middleton-Cross Plains Area School District, and non-profit agencies on natural resources, places of recreation, open spaces, transportation facilities, and other systems that are under shared authority or cross governmental boundaries.
3. Provide a copy of this Comprehensive Plan to all surrounding local governments.
4. Actively participate, review, and comment on pending comprehensive plans for nearby communities and Dane County.
5. Work to resolve possible future differences between this City of Middleton Comprehensive Plan and plans of adjacent communities.
6. Coordinate with local residents, affected governments, planned neighborhood developers and the Middleton-Cross Plains Area School District on proposed neighborhood development plans.