



**To:** Public Works Committee  
**From:** Casey Bradley, City Administrator  
**Date:** February 18, 2026  
**Subject:** Application for Acquisition of Sheboygan Breakwater Lighthouse

### **Background**

The City of Sheboygan has submitted an application to the National Park Service under the National Historic Lighthouse Preservation Act (NHLPA) to acquire the Sheboygan Breakwater Lighthouse at no cost. This lighthouse, located at the north end of Sheboygan Harbor on Lake Michigan, has served as a vital navigational aid since its relocation in 1915. The structure remains an active aid to navigation and is an iconic feature of our waterfront.

### **Justification for City Ownership**

- **Historic Preservation:** The lighthouse is a significant maritime resource and cultural landmark. City ownership ensures its preservation in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties.
- **Public Benefit:** The lighthouse will remain in public ownership, integrated into waterfront revitalization plans, and continue to serve as a visual and cultural asset for residents and visitors.
- **Financial & Organizational Capacity:** The City has the expertise and resources to manage long-term stewardship. A preservation plan and maintenance schedule have been developed, and capital repairs estimated at \$495,857 will be funded through grants and internal funding. If adopted, we would incorporate this structure into our capital operation plan through the Facilities Department.
- **Environmental & Regulatory Compliance:** The proposed acquisition poses no adverse environmental impacts and aligns with federal and state requirements.

### **Current Status**

The Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) reviewed the application and unanimously recommended approval by the Common Council.

**Casey Bradley**  
City Administrator

CITY HALL  
828 CENTER AVE.  
SHEBOYGAN, WI 53081

920-459-3317  
[www.sheboyganwi.gov](http://www.sheboyganwi.gov)



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**Projected Cost Overview to Refurbish**

Item	Estimated Cost
Spalled Concrete Repairs	\$46,434
Cracks in Concrete	\$6,745
Metal Stairs Replacement	\$28,142
Surface Mounted Conduit	\$5,590
Corrosion Mitigation (Steel Tower)	\$249,198
Tower Connection to Concrete	\$118,846
Ladder to Lower Chamber	\$12,984
Doors & Portholes	\$2,447
Roof Hatch	\$4,028
Guardrail at Roof Level	\$21,444
<b>Total Estimated Construction Cost</b>	<b>\$495,857</b>

**Requested Action**

The Public Works Committee is requested to review the application and if in favor of the application, recommend approval of the City’s NHLPA application for acquisition of the Sheboygan Breakwater Lighthouse and forward this recommendation to the Common Council for final approval.

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