

MEMO

TO: Mayor McFarland and Plan Commission Members
FROM: Andrew M. Beyer, P.E.
DATE: August 7, 2024
RE: Plan Commission Meeting of August 12, 2024

Item: Review and take possible action: WisDOT/FHWA – Watertown Urban Area Boundary Update

Background:

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) through the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) maintains Urban Area Boundary Maps for urbanized areas. The Urban Area Boundary is a census defined urban area, and surrounding area that may be developed in the next decade. The map is updated every ten years following the completion of the census.

The map is important to urbanized areas, like Watertown as it impacts potential federal surface transportation block grant funding, like Surface Transportation Program (STP)-Urban and STP-Rural programs. Eligible streets within the Urban Area Boundary are eligible for STP-Urban funding, for which the City could pursue grant funding. Roadways outside of the urban area boundary could receive funding through township grant applications to the STP-Rural program.

The City has been working with WisDOT since early 2024 on updating the map. Key City staff in addition to the City's planner, Vandewalle and Associates, met in March to review the Urban Area Boundary Map provided by WisDOT. After review, proposed map updates were forwarded onto WisDOT. Proposed changes were based on the Comprehensive Plan, development patterns, and areas within the townships most likely to develop in the next decade. WisDOT staff agreed with proposed changes and updated the Urban Area Boundary Map accordingly.

The revised Urban Area Boundary needs to be approved by the City of Watertown Common Council via resolution. A map showing proposed changes to the Urban Area Boundary, a clean version of the proposed Urban Area Boundary Map, and draft resolution are attached for Commission Review.