

**City of Madison
Interdepartmental Correspondence**

Date: August 28, 2009
To: Transit and Parking Commission
From: Linda Horvath, Planning Division
Subject: FINAL DRAFT Northport-Warner Park-Sherman Neighborhood Plan

The Northport-Warner Park-Sherman Neighborhoods received planning assistance to prepare neighborhood plans in 1992 and 1996, and to update these plans in 2007. The FINAL DRAFT 2009 Northport-Warner Park-Sherman Neighborhood Plan is an update of the 1992 and 1996 plans. Review and approval of the 2009 Final Draft by 11 Boards, Committees, and Commissions is underway. Plan adoption by the Common Council is anticipated October 6, 2009.

The draft plan is 111 pages. Since the land use and transportation recommendations are the most relevant for the Transit and Parking Commission to review, enclosed you will find an excerpt of the plan which includes only those relevant sections. The full Volume I (recommendations) and Volume II (background data and information) can be found here: <http://www.cityofmadison.com/neighborhoods/northsideplan/index.cfm>

A neighborhood-based Steering Committee, appointed by the Mayor, prepared the 2009 final draft neighborhood plan. The Northport-Warner Park-Sherman Neighborhood Plan Steering Committee (NWS SC) includes 23 Committee member positions for neighborhood residents and business owners. City Planning Division staff managed the planning process which included facilitating 37 Steering Committee meetings and helping the SC host four large-scale public open house events, two public input coffees, 20 interviews with area community organization representatives, and participation in area neighborhood association and other community group meetings, activities, and events.

FINAL DRAFT Northport-Warner Park-Sherman Neighborhood Plan

The *City of Madison Comprehensive Plan* (adopted 2006) recommends adoption of neighborhood plans for established residential neighborhoods within the City. The *Northport-Warner Park-Sherman Neighborhood Plan (NWS Plan)* is a mid-range (5-10 year) plan that will be adopted as a supplement to the City's Comprehensive Plan. The planning area boundaries include: Commercial Avenue on the south, Packers Avenue and CTH CV on the east, Wheeler and Havey Roads on the north, and Woodward Drive and Lake Mendota on the west. The *NWS Plan* recommendations are divided into categories consistent with the Comprehensive Plan: land use, transportation, housing, economic development, parks and open space, and community facilities. There are also recommendations for gateway corridors and neighborhood and personal safety.

Implementation of the neighborhood plan will take place over a 5-10 year planning horizon. To help account for limited City resources, plan implementation will be based on NWS SC priorities as indicated by the order of recommendations in each section of Volume I. The SC also set its top six priorities for the overall plan which are included on page four of this memo. Planning assistance through Community Development Block Funds is also available for the SC's list of eligible priority projects included in Volume I, Chapter Ten. Finally, a Tax Incremental Finance District (TIF) has been proposed for the Northside. This potential TIF could provide some resources for eligible neighborhood plan projects.

Board and Commission Review

The *Northport-Warner Park-Sherman Neighborhood Plan* was introduced at the July 7th Common Council meeting. Referrals include the Plan Commission (lead), Community Services Committee, Board of Public Works, Pedestrian/Bicycle/Motor Vehicle Commission, Economic Development Commission, Urban Design Commission, Board of Parks Commissioners, Community Development Block Grant Commission, Long Range Transportation Planning Commission, Transit and Parking Commission, and the Board of Estimates. Boards and Commissions will review the Plan based on their area of expertise. All motions to adopt, or adopt with

conditions, will be forwarded to the Plan Commission. The Plan Commission will compile a *final report* to the Common Council. It is anticipated the Common Council will take action on the Plan at its October 6, 2009 meeting.

Plan Recommendation Summary

The Northside is a post World War II subdivision designed with the automobile as the primary form of transportation. Over the years, Northside population density has increased and communities to the North have expanded substantially, creating higher levels of traffic moving through the area. There is also a growing elderly population, and there are high densities of families with children living in apartments and condominiums along STH 113, the primary transportation route through the area. Children cannot drive, some older folks are not physically able or choose not to, and there are people of all ages who would like the option of walking, biking, and taking public transportation safely and efficiently to their destinations.

Recognizing these and other issues and concerns, the NWS SC developed land use and redevelopment, and transportation recommendations that emphasize safety and efficiency improvements for pedestrians and bicyclists, while recognizing the need for efficient and safe flow of motorized vehicles. A summary of relevant recommendations is included below:

Land Use and Redevelopment Recommendations (Volume I, pages 5-22)

- Northside TownCenter
 - Increased density and more compact building form in relation to transit-oriented development (TOD) principles as stated in the City of Madison Comprehensive Plan.
 - Private and/or public main streets north-south and east-west through the site with high visibility crosswalks, sidewalks, pedestrian signs, and other pedestrian safety and access amenities.
 - Promote site as Park n' Ride facility.
 - Well-designed connection across North Sherman Avenue to Warner Park with safe pedestrian crossing.
- Airport-Gateway
 - Potential passenger rail connection between Dane County Regional Airport and Downtown Madison with a transit stop in this location integrated with other modes and well-connected with surrounding neighborhoods.
 - Bike/pedestrian path using City-owned rail right-of-way linking to a larger system that circulates throughout Madison.
 - Safer pedestrian crossings and intersection improvements at CTH CV-Darwin Road and Packers Avenue-Schlimgen Avenue.
 - Improvements to Packers Avenue/CTH CV/Northport Drive intersection as separate project from the long-term reconstruction of STH 113 to aid in redevelopment of this gateway area.
- Northport-Troy
 - Public cul-de-sac with sidewalks from Northport Drive to the future UW Credit Union site, Woodlands Apartments, and commercial uses; and a pedestrian/bicycle connection using the easement behind UW Credit Union and connecting from the northwest corner of Warner Park to the southeast corner of Lake View Hill Park.
- Raemisch Farm Property
 - A compact development pattern using TOD principles.
 - Street/path system connecting to adjacent sites, the rest of the Northside, and the City.
 - Bike/pedestrian pathway linked to other proposed pathways to the Cherokee Marsh Conservation Park and south to existing and proposed bicycle routes.
- Northgate – Oscar Mayer
 - Increased density and use of TOD principles.
 - Consider relocating North Transfer point to this site.
 - “Main street” system connecting existing streets like Stephen Street and Ruskin Street, and new streets to enhance connectivity within and through the site.
 - Extend Ruskin Street near Commercial Avenue north to Huxley Street – mitigate traffic impacts to the surrounding neighborhood.
 - Connection between potential street/path system, commuter rail, and bus transfer point.

- Street or pedestrian/bike east-west connection near Schlimgen Avenue across Packers Avenue to Pankratz Street.
- Support Sherman Flyer bikepath and interim bikepath proposed to extend from Commercial Avenue to Roth Street and Huxley Street.

Gateway Corridor Recommendations (Volume I, pages 23-25)

- Streetscape enhancements with a uniform design clustered near commercial areas to create a “main street”.
- Benches in convenient locations for bus riders and others that rely on walking to get around.
- Artistically designed bus shelters in as part of the “main street” commercial area(s).

Transportation Recommendations (Volume I, pages 33-36)

- **Short-term (0 to 3 years)**
 - Pedestrian safety and aesthetic improvements along North Sherman Avenue from Trailsway Street to Northport Drive with landscaped pedestrian islands and high visibility crosswalks.
 - High visibility crosswalks and other pedestrian amenities at locations along Northport Drive, North Sherman Avenue and Packers Avenue.
 - Remove free-flow right turn lane from Northport Drive onto North Sherman Avenue and replace with a dedicated right turn lane and pedestrian safety enhancements.
 - Support efforts to continue planning for the Sherman Flyer and Hartmeyer bike paths.
 - Relocate bus stop immediately east of Northport/Kennedy Drive intersection further east to reduce loitering by area apartment residents which may improve the comfort and safety of children/youth waiting for bus.
 - Relocate bus stop on Northport Drive currently located adjacent to the East Bluff Condominiums with the entrance to the WPCRC.
- **Long-term (more than 3 years)**
 - Comprehensive transportation plans for the North Sherman Avenue and Northport/Packers/CTH CV corridors with recommendations for pedestrian, bike, bus, and motor vehicle movement and safety improvements; corridor connections to potential high-speed rail station; economic development strategies; aesthetic enhancements.
 - With pedestrian improvements, explore relocating bus stops as necessary to accommodate new crosswalks and make all bus stops ADA accessible.
 - On Northport Drive from Packers Avenue to North Sherman Avenue or Troy Drive consider: a) reducing Northport Drive from three lanes to two lanes; b) widen terrace, and plant street trees and other landscaping; c) mark bike lanes.
 - On Northport Drive from Troy Drive to Knutson Road, consider widening street terrace and narrowing median, plant street trees and other landscaping, install environmentally friendly drainage on median, and mark bike lanes.
 - “Main street” along North Sherman Avenue, perhaps where commercial development is concentrated, with safer pedestrian and bicycle connections, streetscape enhancements, etc.
 - On Aberg Avenue, pedestrian island at Huxley Street, high visibility crosswalks, bike lanes from Packers Avenue to North Sherman Avenue.
 - Work with DOT to explore options for pedestrian, bike and motor vehicle safety and traffic flow improvements to intersection of Northport Drive/Packers Avenue/CTH CV with possible reconstruction to a roundabout or t-intersection, high visibility crosswalks, wide sidewalks and bike facilities.
 - In Airport/Packers Gateway area, new public street connecting Packers Avenue/CTH CV/Northport intersection and American Drive.
 - Widen sidewalk along Warner Park side of Northport Drive from North Sherman Avenue to Troy Drive.
 - Consider marking bike lanes along a possible future street connection from Eliot Lane to Prairie View Road with any new development in Tennyson Lane and Raemisch farm areas.
 - Pankratz Street connection to Shopko Drive.
 - Sidewalk and street lighting on southside of Darwin Road from Packers Avenue to River Food Pantry.

- High visibility crosswalks, and pedestrian islands at Woodward Drive intersections with Farwell and northwest end of Warner Beach; also install sidewalks in Warner Park along Forster Drive.
- Close gap between Warner Park beach sidewalk and sidewalks on Sheridan Drive and Farwell Drive in Maple Bluff.

Priority Plan Recommendations

The *Northport-Warner Park-Sherman Neighborhood Plan* identifies six top recommendations:

- Strategy to improve the identity, branding, marketing, and retention of Northside businesses (*Economic Development #1*).
- Land use plan for Warner Park (*Parks, Open Space, and Natural Resource #1*).
- “Main street” along North Sherman Avenue, perhaps where commercial development is concentrated, with safer pedestrian and bicycle connections to businesses and adjoining neighborhood streets, and streetscape enhancements. (*Transportation Long-Term #2 and Gateway Corridor #1 for further streetscape details*)
- More programming for children/youth within the neighborhood including after/before school programs for school age children, positive youth development activities, academic support and recreation for middle school and high school age youth. Strive to grow, enhance, and support existing youth programs, and replicate or grow successful programs in areas with unmet needs. (*Community Facilities #1*)
- Neighborhood stabilization options for emerging neighborhood areas including Brentwood, Karstens, Kipling, and Vera Court; include landlord training, property inspection and maintenance, and hiring of local residents for property management or neighborhood improvement activities. Provide support for resident involvement, strengthen connection to local schools and community centers, and improve access to and information of local resources for children/youth and families. (*Housing #3*)
- Improve social services and community support resources for the Northside (*Community Facilities #7*).

Pubic Participation

The Northport-Warner Park-Sherman Neighborhoods solicited input from a wide cross-section of the community prior to and during the planning process:

- *Community Group Interviews* with 20 organizations prior to planning process to identify key issues.
- Four *Large-Scale Public Open Houses* to identify neighborhood issues and review plan drafts.
- Steering Committee members and City staff attended various *neighborhood events and activities* such as Kennedy Heights Spring Fling, Northside Farmer’s Market, and North-Eastside Senior Coalition concerts in Warner Park to inform people about the planning process and to solicit input.
- *Participation in meetings of stakeholder groups* such as the Northside Planning Council, Northside Business Association, and 11 neighborhood associations to discuss plan.
- *Two public input coffees* with representatives of community groups such as the Northport and Packers Community Learning Centers, neighborhood associations, schools, the Northside Planning Council.
- *One-on-one stakeholder interviews* with organizations representing primary property interest.
- *12 focus groups* with stakeholders as part of the Northside Market Study to solicit economic development input and ideas.
- *Neighborhood planning articles and announcements of public input opportunities* in the Northside News, Northport News, Sherman Neighborhood Newsletter, etc., beginning in fall 2007.
- *A planning website* (<http://www.cityofmadison.com/neighborhoods/northsideplan/index.cfm>) with plan overview, agendas, minutes, background information, public open house results, and plan drafts.

Neighborhood planning information was also made available at Lakeview Library.

cc: Ald. Satya Rhodes-Conway, District 12
Ald. Michael Schumacher, District 18