



Department of Planning & Community & Economic Development

Planning Division

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To: Plan Commission

From: Ben Zellers, AICP, CNU-A

Re: City of Madison Cooperative Plan with the Town of Westport, City of Middleton, Village of DeForest, and Village of Waunakee

The Town of Westport submitted an incorporation petition to the State of Wisconsin in October 2024. After submittal of the petition the Town has opted to pursue creation of a Cooperative Plan under the authority of Wis Stat. §66.0307 that would eliminate Town islands, eliminate irregular boundaries, and provide areas for growth (primarily for Waunakee and DeForest), while maintaining significant lands for the future Village of Westport.

For decades the City of Madison's [Comprehensive Plan](#) has maintained the Yahara River as the City's ultimate growth boundary to the northwest. The only land within the City's boundary northwest of the river is conservation land outside of the urban service area owned by the City or Dane County. With no planned city growth, the City has far less at stake in the cooperative plan process than other involved municipalities. However, the cooperative plan process still provides an avenue for discussion of issues of regional importance. It can also create a path towards the City absorbing some City-owned land that has remained in the Town and absorbing a few small Town islands southeast of the Yahara River (see attached map from the Town – all areas except perhaps "MAD 5" would become part of the City, pending drafting and approval of the Cooperative Plan).

Each municipality's governing body must adopt a resolution supporting creation of a Cooperative Plan. The resolution up for consideration at Plan Commission on November 30th and Council on December 9th authorizes the City to participate in drafting a Cooperative Plan. Governmental entities within a five mile radius will need to be notified of the Cooperative Plan process after approval of the resolution by Council. The actual Cooperative Plan, once drafted, would return for Plan Commission review and Common Council approval later.

For reference, the City has participated in several previous cooperative plan processes:

1. [Town of Middleton \(2003\)](#)
2. [Town of Blooming Grove \(2005\)](#)
3. [Town of Burke-Village of DeForest-City of Sun Prairie \(2007\)](#)

Attachment: Potential City absorption of Town land under a Cooperative Plan.