

## CHAPTER 7: INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION

### I. Regional Context

#### *Adjacent Towns*

The Town of Cross Plains shares borders with the Towns of Berry, Vermont, Springdale and Middleton.

#### *Adjacent Cities and Villages*

The Town of Cross Plains shares a border with the Village of Cross Plains. The Town is approximately two miles from the Cities of Madison and Middleton to the east, one and a quarter miles from the Village of Black Earth to the northwest, and less than a mile from the Village of Mount Horeb to the southwest. Town residents often commute to the Villages of Cross Plains, Black Earth, Mount Horeb or the Madison Metropolitan Area for shopping, jobs, and entertainment.

#### *Dane County*

The Town of Cross Plains is within County Supervisory District 28. The town relies on a number of Dane County ordinances to regulate land use in the Town. Currently, the Town uses Dane County's zoning ordinance, floodplain zoning ordinance, land division ordinance, subdivision ordinance, erosion control and stormwater management ordinance, and shoreland/wetland zoning ordinance. The town continues to maintain a good relationship with Dane County departments.

#### *School Districts*

The Town is served by the Middleton-Cross Plains School District in the northeast, the Wisconsin Heights School District in the northwest, and the Mount Horeb School District in the south.

#### *Capital Area Regional Planning Commission*

The Capital Area Regional Planning Commission (CARPC) was created on May 2, 2007 to serve as the regional planning and areawide water quality management planning entity for the Dane County region. Its responsibilities include approval of urban service areas and delineation of environmental and open space corridors. The Commission is composed of thirteen Commissioners appointed by the Mayor of the City of Madison (4), the Dane County Executive (3), the Dane County Cities and Villages Association (3), and the Dane County Towns Association (3).

#### *Relevant State Agencies*

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) owns a substantial amount of land in the town (see Public Lands District in Chapter 8: Land Use), and has regulatory authority over stream crossings and other work in navigable streams. The Wisconsin

Chapter 7: Intergovernmental Cooperation

April 11, 2024

Department of Transportation (WISDOT) manages US Highway 14, which runs through the northern portion of the town. The town also participates in the Department of Agriculture Trade & Consumer Protection (DATCP)'s Farmland Preservation Program.

*Relevant Federal Agencies*

The National Park Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service own lands in the eastern portion of the town. Many farmers and other landowners in the town participate in conservation programs funded and operated by the Natural Resource Conservation Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

II. Existing or Potential Conflicts:

*Village of Cross Plains*

The Village of Cross Plains Comprehensive Plan (2018) projects that the majority of the Village's future growth will occur north of the current Village boundaries, into the Town of Berry. The Village of Cross Plains does plan some growth west of the current village boundaries. Urban development in this area is complicated by the floodplains, wetlands and other water resources of Black Earth and Garfoot Creeks.

*Other Cities and Villages*

The adopted comprehensive plans for the Cities of Madison and Middleton and the Villages of Black Earth and Mount Horeb do not show any projected expansion into the Town of Cross Plains within the next 20 years. Consequently, no potential conflicts are anticipated with these municipalities.

III. Intergovernmental Cooperation Goals, Objectives and Policies:

*Goals:*

1. Facilitate and encourage cooperation and communication between all levels of government.
2. Establish a process for mutually beneficial intergovernmental relations with other governmental jurisdictions to promote cooperation and communication.

*Objectives:*

1. Maintain good working relationships with adjoining municipalities and other governmental jurisdictions.
2. Explore opportunities for joint planning and cooperation with other towns, villages, cities, Dane County, and state and federal agencies, including intergovernmental land use, service, and boundary agreements.
3. Actively seek opportunities for shared public service agreements that improve services and lower costs.

***Policies and Programs:***

1. Work cooperatively with the Village of Cross Plains to adopt a binding, long-term intergovernmental agreement between the village and the town. Possible issues for negotiation include:
  - annexation limits;
  - water quality standards and environmental protection for Black Earth and Garfoot Creeks, and;
  - potential for accommodation or collaboration in a comprehensive Transfer of Development Rights program.
2. Continue to actively participate in intergovernmental organizations such as the Dane County Towns Association, the Black Earth Creek Green Infrastructure Plan and events sponsored by the Capital Area Regional Planning Commission, and explore other opportunities to meet with representative from other governments.
3. Continue to actively participate in formal public hearings, workshops, committees and other outreach opportunities sponsored by other governmental units, including Dane County, the Capital Area Regional Planning Commission, the Village of Cross Plains, surrounding towns and state and federal agencies.
4. Provide formal comments and recommendations on proposed municipal, county or state plans, regulations or infrastructure improvements that have the potential to affect the Town of Cross Plains.
5. Work with the Dane County Board of Supervisors to have the *Town of Cross Plains Comprehensive Plan* formally adopted as part of the *Dane County Comprehensive Plan*.