



CAPITAL AREA REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

2026 Work Program

Adopted December 11, 2025

**Prepared by the Staff of the
Capital Area Regional Planning Commission**

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"This document was prepared, in part, with federal funds via the State of Wisconsin but does not necessarily reflect the official views or policy of the U.S. or Wisconsin Departments of Transportation."



The Capital Area Regional Planning Commission represents Dane County and supports planning needs across a wider region on a fee-for-service basis, including five Wisconsin counties not otherwise represented by a regional planning commission (Sauk, Columbia, Dodge, Jefferson, Rock).

Questions regarding this 2026 Work Program are directed to:

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Matthew Krempely, Community Planner
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Commission Approval Resolution

About the Capital Area Regional Planning Commission

The Capital Area Regional Planning Commission (hereafter “Regional Planning Commission,” “CARPC,” or “Agency”) is an independent unit of government established by Executive Order of Governor Jim Doyle in 2007 at the request of units of local government in Dane County (CARPC was preceded by the Dane County Regional Planning Commission, established in 1969 and dissolved in 2004).

The Commission meets on the second Tuesday of each month; agendas and agenda packets are posted on the CARPC website, www.capitalarearpc.org/meetings/.

The Regional Planning Commission assists local communities with a variety of planning services and conducts regional planning and coordination to advance community and regional goals.

The Regional Planning Commission manages the Dane County Water Quality Plan on behalf of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, consistent with Wis. Stat. § 66.0309 and State Administrative Code NR 121.

For more information about CARPC, see www.capitalarearpc.org.

Regional Plan Commission Vision and Mission

In February 2020, the Commission amended its vision and mission statements as part of its strategic planning process:

- **Vision:** A region where communities create exceptional quality of life for all by working together to solve regional challenges.
- **Mission:** The Capital Area Regional Planning Commission strengthens the region by engaging communities through planning, collaboration, and assistance.

Introduction to the 2026 Work Program

The Capital Area RPC adopts an Annual Work Program to guide staff activities.

THEMES OF THE 2026 WORK PROGRAM



Resilience

Making our communities resilient to climate change; Making our internal operations resilient to staff changes



Data Storytelling

Using data and narrative together to help people understand conditions and trends affecting our region



Rural Partnerships

Building connections with rural communities and landowners to bolster agriculture, water quality, and natural systems

ORGANIZATION OF THE WORK PROGRAM

The 2026 CARPC Work Program is organized into seven major programs:

1. Regional Water Quality Planning
2. Wisconsin Salt Wise Program
3. Regional Climate Resilience Planning
4. Regional Land Use Planning
5. Community Assistance
6. Economic Development Assistance
7. Education and Information

For each major program the Work Program describes:

- Program Objectives
- Activities - 2025 Highlights and 2026 Objectives
- Estimated hours
- Funding sources*

**Note: Funding is allocated based on staff hours for each program. Hourly costs are estimated based on hourly wage rates plus multipliers to capture the cost of fringe benefits and agency overhead as described in CARPC's 2026 Cost Allocation Plan (available upon request). An Administrative program is described and hours allocated, but the costs for those hours are distributed out to the other programs using a wage multiplier.*

2026 Work Program Staffing

2026 staffing features one change from 2025 – the Senior Planner and Outreach Coordinator will be designated as Senior Planner and Deputy Director beginning in January 2026.

The Executive Director leads operations and administration, including agency outreach efforts, and is the primary commission liaison. The Administrative Services Manager coordinates accounting, human resources, and office administrative functions in collaboration with the Executive Director. The Deputy Director will support administrative functions to a limited extent, learning systems to build organizational resilience.

Agency staff participate in any project in accordance with their skills and availability. Water quality and climate resilience planning and initiatives are generally led by staff with an environmental focus, including a Senior Environmental Engineer, a Senior Environmental Resources Planner, an Environmental Engineer and two Environmental Resources Planners. Regional land use planning and community planning assistance work is generally led by staff with a community planning focus, including two Senior Planners and a Community Planner.

The Wisconsin Salt Wise Program has a dedicated Project Manager.

Outreach and education activities are coordinated by a Public Relations and Communications Specialist (25% time contract with the Greater Madison MPO) with primary guidance from the Deputy Director. Mapping and data services are coordinated by multiple staff, assigned on a task-by-task basis.

Table 1 shows a breakdown of program hours for each staff person and total time in each program.

Table 1: Staff Hours by Program

	Executive Director Valerius	Senior Environmental Engineer Bower	Environmental Engineer Mehendale	Senior Environmental Engineer Noone	Environmental Resources Planner Michaud	Environmental Resources Planner Levy	WI Salt Wise Program Manager Madison	Senior Community Planner Shanahan	Senior Community Planner & Deputy Director Higgins	Community Planner Krepely	LTEs & Interns	Administrative Services Manager Kozlowski	Total	% of Agency Time
	JV	NB	PM	MN	MM	LL	AM	CS	SH	MK		MK	Total	% of Agency Time
Water Quality Planning	246	1,690	1,508	242	1,580	281	-	24	44	64	120	-	5,799	28%
WI Salt Wise	20	-	-	-	-	-	1,770	-	-	-	-	-	1,790	9%
Climate Resilience Planning	62	60	250	1,256	109	1,012	-	11	-	22	869	-	3,651	18%
Land Use Planning	255	10	40	194	65	356	-	630	998	850	220	-	3,618	17%
Community Assistance	150	-	-	5	5	78	-	610	172	475	400	-	1,895	9%
Economic Development Planning	30	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	20	-	-	60	0%
Information, Education and Connection	120	10	-	60	8	90	-	376	30	18	-	-	712	3%
Accounting, Administration and Commission Support	830	10	12	20	10	7	45	122	59	370	-	1,800	3,285	16%

2026 Work Programs

REGIONAL WATER QUALITY PLANNING PROGRAM

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is required to have a continuing water quality management planning process, under Wis. Stat. 283.83. These Areawide Water Quality Management Plans are defined in NR 121 as “a plan for managing, protecting and enhancing groundwater and surface water quality which considers the interrelationship of water quality and land and water resources on an areawide basis.”

CARPC conducts a variety of water quality planning activities in collaboration with the DNR, local municipalities, and other agencies and organizations in the region working to protect our surface and groundwater resources. Much of this work is conducted as part of CARPC’s annual agreement with the DNR for water quality planning services.

Program Objectives

- Maintain the *Dane County Water Quality Plan* (DCWQP) and its component pieces
- Communicate and coordinate the policies and recommendations of the DCWQP with all stakeholders including residents, land development companies, local governments, State agencies, and other entities
- Maintain data that helps CARPC and others protect and improve water quality
- Help prevent adverse water quality impacts as land is developed by protecting Environmental Corridors, ensuring adequate collection and treatment systems for wastewater, and promoting effective nonpoint source pollution prevention methods in new development areas

Program Activities

The regional water quality planning program is organized into nine activity categories:

Internal Coordination (1000)

Communicate and coordinate among CARPC staff to manage water quality planning activities.

External Coordination (1001)

Communicate and coordinate the policies and recommendations of the DCWQP with all stakeholders including residents, land development companies, local governments, State agencies, and other entities.

Sewer Service Area Amendments (1002)

Implement a process for updating Sewer Service Areas (SSAs) across the region, including technical review for consistency with the DCWQP and stakeholder input consideration. Help prevent adverse water quality impacts as land is developed by

protecting Environmental Corridors, ensuring adequate collection and treatment systems for wastewater, and promoting effective nonpoint source pollution prevention methods in new development areas.

Consistency (1003)

Review sewer extension proposals, environmental corridor boundaries, and facility plans to ensure consistency with the DCWQP; respond to inquiries related to DCWQP conformance.

Plan Updates (1004)

Maintain the *Dane County Water Quality Plan (DCWQP)* and its component pieces; pursue updates as appropriate to ensure an effective continuous planning process.

Projects (1005)

Conduct studies and plans, prepare outreach and education tools, and pursue data collection and analysis initiatives. This activity captures specific projects and initiatives which may also relate to External Coordination (1001) and/or Data and Mapping (1006).

Data and Mapping (1006)

Maintain in-house datasets related to water quality, service areas and environmental corridors and make data available to the public via an open data portal and interactive web maps.

Monitoring: (1007)

Facilitate ongoing collection of stream flow, water quality and lake level data; coordinate the efforts and funding of local, state, and federal resources to sustain local monitoring programs.

Training & Innovation (1009)

Pursue continuing education opportunities and best practice research to ensure that staff are fluent in the latest issues and methods related to water quality protection.

Activities - 2025 Highlights and 2026 Objectives

ACTIVITIES	2025 HIGHLIGHTS	2026 OBJECTIVES
PLAN AMENDMENTS (1002)		
Sewer Service Area Amendments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 USA Amendments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anticipating 8-10 SSA amendments
CONSISTENCY REVIEWS (1003)		
Water Quality Plan Conformance Reviews	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 95 Sewer Extension Reviews; 8 MMSD Annexation Reviews; 4 Facility Plan review (Jan-Nov) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anticipating a similar load of conformance reviews in 2026

ACTIVITIES	2025 HIGHLIGHTS	2026 OBJECTIVES
PLAN UPDATES (1004)		
Water Quality Plan Updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administered and prepared updates to the Plan (see sections below for detail) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete an update to the <i>Dane County Water Quality Plan</i> (Summary Plan document)
Sewer Service Area Amendment Process Updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued work with the CARPC Ad Hoc Water Quality Planning Committee to evaluate and update the Sewer Service Area amendments process, drafted new materials, including <i>SSA Amendment Policies & Criteria</i>, flowcharts, and application forms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete stakeholder review and CARPC and DNR adoption of the <i>SSA Amendment Policies & Criteria</i>
Environmental Corridor Report Updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adopted the updated <i>Environmental Corridor Report</i> as an amendment to the <i>Dane County Water Quality Plan</i> Engaged with subject matter experts to prepare a draft update to the <i>Environmental Corridor Policies and Criteria</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete stakeholder review, final editing and adoption of updated <i>Environmental Corridor Policies and Criteria</i> Begin work on iterative update to the <i>Environmental Corridors Report</i>, post adoption of <i>Policies and Criteria</i>
WATER QUALITY MONITORING (1007)		
USGS Cooperative Water Resources Monitoring Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinated and administered 2 monitoring programs with USGS, DNR, and local stakeholders: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dane County Cooperative Water Resources Monitoring Black Earth Creek Watershed Monitoring program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to coordinate and administer the monitoring programs
OTHER PROJECTS AND EFFORTS (1001, 1005, 1006)		
Starkweather. Creek Watershed Chloride Management Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued chloride monitoring with real time interactive map reporting Created a diverse Technical Task Force to identify next steps for the project vision, expand partnerships and seek funding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use grant funding to upgrade monitoring equipment and continue the monitoring program Continue to focus on education of stakeholders and plan implementation

ACTIVITIES	2025 HIGHLIGHTS	2026 OBJECTIVES
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recruited community organizations to sponsor monitoring equipment Coordinated with WI Salt Wise to reduce salt application at priority locations 	
Other Planning and initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued fostering relationships with regional stakeholders to promote watershed-level planning and project execution Increased engagement with the Clean Lakes Alliance, including Co-Chairing of the Renew the Blue Council (Jason Valerius) Formed and facilitated a Water Quality Monitoring Workgroup to evaluate monitoring practices and commitments across Dane County 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to collaborate with regional partners to advance and implement the Plan Identify opportunities to collaborate on watershed planning projects with activities in urban and rural settings Continue supporting the Clean Lakes Alliance Renew the Blue Council with data describing land-based conditions affecting water quality Engage with the Dane County Drainage Board to better understand their activities and advocate for water quality benefits in the projects they implement

Estimated Hours by Staff

STAFF	HOURS
Executive Director - Valerius	246
Senior Environmental Engineer - Bower	1,690
Environmental Engineer - Mehendale	1,508
Senior Environmental Resources Planner - Noone	242
Environmental Resources Planner - Michaud	1,580
Environmental Resources Planner - Levy	281
Senior Community Planner & Deputy Director - Shanahan	24

Senior Community Planner - Higgins	44
Community Planner - Krempely	64
LTEs & Interns	120
Total	5,799

Estimated Hours & Cost by Activity

	Activity	Hours	Cost
1000	Internal Coordination	882	\$ 95,500
1001	External Coordination	703	\$ 84,500
1002	(SSA) Amendments	725	\$ 80,800
1003	Consistency	1,108	\$ 113,100
1004	Plan Updates	822	\$ 86,700
1005	Projects	691	\$ 68,300
1006	Data and Mapping	586	\$ 53,500
1007	Monitoring	56	\$ 5,800
1009	Training and Innovation	226	\$ 23,600
Totals		5,799	\$ 611,800

Funding Sources

Tax Levy	Fees	Grant	DNR Agreement	Total
56%	18%	10%	16%	100%
\$344,800	\$110,000	\$62,000	\$95,000	\$611,800

WI SALT WISE PROGRAM

Initiated in 2015 as a collaboration of local agencies working to reduce salt pollution in Dane County surface and drinking waters, WI Salt Wise is now a statewide initiative with one full-time staff person and a variety of funding sources. CARPC hosts this program as a service to the Dane County region due to our commitment to water quality protection.

Program Objectives

- Provide information, education, best practices, and training to support the reduction of salt pollution in our lakes, streams and drinking water
- Support communities in making informed water quality decisions and investments

Activities - 2025 Highlights and 2026 Objectives

ACTIVITIES	2025 HIGHLIGHTS	2026 OBJECTIVES
Program Coordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secured funding from the Fund for Lake Michigan for 2026 and 2027 (\$75,000/year) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop sustainable funding mechanisms to support Salt Wise beyond the current grant-supported model, including fee-for-service education, public donations, corporate sponsorships, and state agency contributions
Outreach and Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Winter Salt Week 2025 (over 900 registrants from 30+ states) • Salt Wise season debriefs with public and private winter maintenance professional • Development and coordination of a Property Manager’s Salt Wise 101 workshop • Extensive professional training (14 Smart Salting workshops; 8 Salt Wise Equipment Open Houses; 8 agency trainings)and communications to expand the use of Salt Wise practices • Presented at the National APWA Snow Conference and Adirondack Champlain Regional Salt Summit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Winter Salt Week 2026 (goal of >1,000 registrants) • Continue to coordinate and provide Smart Salting Workshops, Salt Wise Open Houses, Agency Trainings, and Salt Wise 101 workshops for Property Managers • Strengthen connections between municipal and private winter maintenance professionals through more frequent in-person Salt Wise events • Coordinate local salter calibration clinics • Roll out a Salt Wise Star Recognition Program for private winter maintenance companies

ACTIVITIES	2025 HIGHLIGHTS	2026 OBJECTIVES
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> and dozens of local and state presentations Coordinated the Wisconsin APWA Excellence in Snow and Ice Control Award judging Serve on the Technical Committee for the Cold Climate Stormwater Center of Excellence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase public awareness of chloride as a pollutant and measures to reduce chloride pollution
Public Policy Advocacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Successfully lobbied for \$5 million in a statewide Winter Maintenance Safety Improvement Grant program which was included in the Governor’s Executive budget Legislative lobbying to preserve statewide equipment grant program Legislators and staff invited to Salt Wise-County Hwy Dept Equipment Open House events around the state State and local proclamations in recognition of Winter Salt Week. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Informational Meeting for legislators and staff in February 2026 Collaboration with the newly-formed Snow and Ice Management Association Legislative Council

Estimated Annual Hours – WI Salt Wise Program

STAFF	HOURS
WI Salt Wise Program Manager - Madison	1,770
Executive Director - Valerius	20
Total	1,790

Funding Sources – WI Salt Wise Program

TAX LEVY	GRANTS	SERVICE AGREEMENTS AND DONATIONS	TOTAL
30%	35%	35%	100%
\$65,000	\$75,000	\$76,000	\$216,000

CLIMATE RESILIENCE PLANNING PROGRAM

The Climate Resilience Planning Program was established to promote activities across the region that improve our communities’ ability to manage the effects of wetter, warmer weather patterns. The activities address flood resilience, green infrastructure and the urban tree canopy.

Objectives

- Collaborate with communities in the region to develop and implement plans that build regional climate resilience
- Support communities in making decisions that strengthen regional climate resilience

Activities - 2025 Highlights and 2026 Objectives

ACTIVITIES	2025 HIGHLIGHTS	2026 OBJECTIVES
Black Earth Creek Watershed Green Infrastructure Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitated Steering Committee meetings for implementation of priority projects • Coordinated funding efforts for ongoing water quality monitoring in Black Earth Creek and tributaries, including securing funding through grants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to lead Steering Committee to facilitate ongoing collaborations and project implementation • Provide assistance in preparing concepts, identifying funding sources, and taking initial steps toward project implementation, as requested by local communities
Tree Canopy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participated in the Neighborhood Forest Project with Eco-Latinos, Operation Fresh Start, Sustain Dane, and Urban Tree Alliance to involve residents in planting and maintaining 100-125 trees per year in south Madison • Partnered with the State cartographer’s Office and Sustain Dane’s Powerful Teen Leaders program to train young people in tree inventorying and GIS skills • Secured a \$5,000 grant from the CD Besadny Conservation Fund to support the Dane County School Tree Nursery Program and develop K-12 curriculum around tree nurseries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to support the Neighborhood Forest Project • Develop a standardized municipal tree canopy report for use by local government as a planning and advocacy tool • Develop and promote model tree ordinances for urban and rural communities, with input from municipal foresters • Implement the Dane County School Tree Nursery Program and develop K-12 curriculum around tree nurseries • Maintain the Growing Shade website

ACTIVITIES	2025 HIGHLIGHTS	2026 OBJECTIVES
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Piloted a program with Dane County to offer free oak saplings to rural homeowners building new homes. 	
Midwest Climate Collaborative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Co-hosted and presented at the 2025 Midwest Climate Summit in Madison, April 30-May 2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participate in the MCC Steering Committee and Green Infrastructure and Local Government Working Groups Attend 2026 Midwest Climate Summit in Cleveland, OH Explore opportunities for collaboration on climate projects and potential grant funding
Regional Stream Crossing Inventory and Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secured funding from WEM to complete the inventory across 29 PLSS Townships Signed partnership agreement with Trout Unlimited for work in western Dane County Hired two part-time Environmental Resources Technicians Collected data at 581 road-stream crossings Finalized and sent out reports to 4 towns – reports in progress for 7 towns Created a project website 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to contribute data to Great Lakes Stream Crossing Inventory database Complete data collection within Dane County and begin data collection for subwatersheds that straddle the county line Complete reports for all municipalities within the project area Engage with municipalities to discuss inventory results Hire additional LTEs as necessary

Estimated Annual Hours – Climate Resilience Projects

STAFF	HOURS
Executive Director - Valerius	62
Senior Environmental Engineer - Bower	60
Environmental Engineer - Mehendale	250
Senior Environmental Resources Planner - Noone	1,256
Environmental Resources Planner - Michaud	109
Environmental Resources Planner - Levy	1,012
Senior Community Planner & Deputy Director - Shanahan	11
Community Planner - Krempely	22
LTEs & Interns	869
Total	3,651

Funding Sources – Climate Resilience Projects

TAX LEVY	GRANT	TOTAL
84%	16%	100%
\$272,000	\$52,500	\$324,500

LAND USE PLANNING PROGRAM

The Regional Planning Commission is charged under state statutes with “the function and duty of making and adopting a master plan for the physical development of the region.” This involves facilitating processes that build broad agreement on goals and objectives for how the region grows, preparing and updating a regional land use plan, and maintaining mapping and data systems.

Objectives

- Maintain, update, and implement the [Regional Development Framework](#) to support local planning and development that aligns with shared regional goals and objectives.
- Conduct outreach and provide staff professional development to support regional land use planning.
- Maintain and share GIS geodata and mapping systems, including historical and current inventories of land use in the region.
- Collect, analyze, maintain and share data for key performance indicators that monitor implementation of the Regional Development Framework

Activities - 2025 Highlights and 2026 Objectives

ACTIVITIES	2025 HIGHLIGHTS	2026 OBJECTIVES
Regional Development Framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Piloted a UW-Department of Planning and Landscape Architecture (DPLA) design studio focused on RDF implementation with CARPC and community partners as “clients” on student planner/designer group projects – initial focus is the edge of the Madison metro area east of I-90, loosely the Door Creek watershed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publish online Data Dashboard 2.0 that effectively communicates key performance indicators; establish update schedule • Prepare a plan and schedule for update of the RDF in 2027 • Continue work with DPLA and local community partners to investigate RDF planning and implementation through coursework and studio (design) projects. • Identify multi-governmental opportunities for catalytic projects implementing RDF objectives

ACTIVITIES	2025 HIGHLIGHTS	2026 OBJECTIVES
Farmland Preservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Began attending meetings and special events with groups like Yahara Pride Farms, Groundswell Conservancy, the American Farmland Trust, and Dane Demo Farms Connected with Dane County staff, DCTA staff, Merge Impacts, and others to gauge existing regional needs in farmland preservation and sustainable agriculture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Convene a regional conversation about farmland preservation, beginning with an ad hoc workgroup of known stakeholders with interest in the subject Prepare an updated farmland preservation report for Dane County that provides current information and identifies key roles and recommendations for CARPC
Future Urban Development Area and Intergovernmental Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participated in two growth area planning processes in the City of Fitchburg Facilitated boundary agreement discussions with the City and Town of Sun Prairie 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete the Sun Prairie boundary agreement and participate in others as appropriate Facilitate key stakeholder pre-planning discussions to help Fitchburg and the Village of Oregon work together on land development near their shared boundary
Mapping and Data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintained tracking of development and updates to land use maps and datasets Continued coordination with Dane County on shared land use data and mapping Improved and routinized methods for tracking and updating development data Developed tools to automate data aggregation from common sources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue data and mapping monitoring and updates in coordination with outside agencies Federate and automate collection of current and future land use map changes Continue improvement and routinization of methods for data and map updates Conduct 5-year update to the regional land use inventory with Dane County and City of Madison staff.

Estimated Annual Hours – Land Use Planning & RDF Implementation

STAFF	HOURS
Executive Director - Valerius	195
Senior Environmental Engineer - Bower	5
Environmental Engineer - Mehendale	40
Senior Environmental Resources Planner - Noone	194
Environmental Resources Planner - Michaud	60
Environmental Resources Planner - Levy	356
Senior Community Planner & Deputy Director - Shanahan	580
Senior Community Planner - Higgins	956
Community Planner - Krempely	850
LTEs & Interns	220
Total	3,456

Funding Source – Land Use Planning & RDF Implementation

TAX LEVY
100%
\$379,000

Regional Transportation–Land Use Planning Integration Program

Objective

- Integrate transportation planning with land use and environmental planning in the Dane County region.

Previous and Current Work

CARPC works with the Greater Madison Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to coordinate transportation and land use planning across the region. CARPC periodically updates projections of population and demand for urban land development at the municipal and urban service area level, which the MPO uses for updates of the regional transportation plan. In 2025 CARPC and MPO staff collaborated with other key entities in the region (Dane County, City of Madison, UW-Madison) to prepare new population projections. CARPC is assisting with more detailed population and employment projections at the transportation analysis zone level (TAZ), work that continues into 2026.

MPO staff conduct transportation analyses of applications to amend sewer service area boundaries, which are provided as recommendations to applicant municipalities – three such analyses were completed in 2025.

CARPC and MPO staff also coordinate outreach and education activities through local presentations, joint webinars and community forums, and a joint Communications and Outreach Workgroup. These activities are coordinated by a Marketing and Communications Specialist who is an employee of the MPO with 25% of her time dedicated by contract to CARPC. 2025 highlights include coordination of bike tours of green infrastructure features in Madison for multiple conferences hosted in the City, and a Fall Forum attended by 45 local staff and elected leaders focused on intergovernmental challenges and solutions related to transportation systems and infrastructure.

Work Description, Products and Schedule

CARPC works under contract with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT), which provides funding for some of CARPC's land use and transportation integration activities. CARPC contracts with the MPO to perform various transportation-related activities. Activities and projects anticipated for 2026 include:

- a. Coordinating implementation of the *Regional Development Framework* and the *Connect Greater Madison 2050 Regional Transportation Plan*. Coordination activities may include efforts on measuring performance indicators (though WisDOT funds will not be used for CARPC work on performance indicators).
- b. Conducting joint education and outreach activities. CARPC and MPO staff will conduct a Fall Forum on a topic of interest across the region (in 2025 this was Intergovernmental Coordination on Transportation Systems and Infrastructure). There

may also be one or two webinars on topics of interest to local community officials. These activities support local governments and strengthen the function and perception of CARPC and the MPO as integrated partner agencies.

- c. Contracting with the MPO for 25 percent of the MPO Marketing & Communications Specialist position (WisDOT funds will not be used for this contract).
- d. Continuing to hold regular joint staff meetings and coordinate the sharing of information at commission/board meetings as appropriate.
- e. MPO staff will provide transportation planning services to local planning projects coordinated by CARPC. These may include preparation of transportation analyses and recommendations related to sewer service area amendments and other local planning projects.
 - a. *Sewer Service Area Amendments.* For applications that CARPC receives for amendment to sewer service area (SSA) boundaries, MPO staff may review the applications and make recommendations where appropriate for revisions to improve transportation system function and to achieve greater consistency with Regional Transportation Plan goals and policies. CARPC pays the MPO for this review of transportation system impacts with pass-through funds from WisDOT (funding for CARPC review of SSA amendments comes from sources other than WisDOT).
 - b. *Other local planning projects.* CARPC provides planning services to local communities (see [Community Assistance Planning Program](#)). Assistance such as comprehensive planning can include transportation planning. Transportation planning services provided by MPO staff for such projects may be supported by WisDOT funding (CARPC planning services are funded from sources other than WisDOT).
- f. Monitoring and participating in MPO transportation planning activities, as appropriate.
- g. Assisting local communities with the Transportation Alternatives Program and/or WisDOT grant applications.
- h. Participating in MPO/RPC Quarterly Directors Meetings to discuss transportation planning, policy, financial and technical issues, and questions. Attendance at the WisDOT/MPO/RPC Annual Conference.
- i. Participating in statewide and regional major corridor planning and environmental feasibility studies as coordinated by WisDOT.
- j. Participating in *Public Transit Human Service Transportation Plan* work activities as needed.
- k. Preparing population projections and assisting the MPO with associated travel demand projections with those projections.

Estimated Annual Hours – Regional Transportation–Land Use Planning Integration Program

STAFF	HOURS	% OF ANNUAL HOURS
Senior Environmental Engineer - Bower	5	0.2%
Environmental Resources Planner - Michaud	5	0.2%
Environmental Resources Planner - Levy	12	0.5%
Senior Community Planner & Deputy Director - Shanahan	30	1.4%
Senior Community Planner - Higgins	70	3.4%
Community Planner - Krempely	30	1.4%
Executive Director - Valerius	20	1.0%
Total	162	

Funding Sources – Regional Transportation–Land Use Planning Integration Program

WisDOT provides funding for this program through the Rural Transportation Work Program (RTWP) and State Planning and Research (SPR) funds. Funding comes from a combination of federal and state monies. Thirty-three percent of the funding is passed through to the MPO to support technical assistance by MPO staff on tasks coordinated by CARPC (item e. above). The RTWP budget allocation requires a 10% local match, which CARPC and the MPO provide in proportion to their respective shares of the RTWP funding.

	Federal	State	Local	Total Funds
Percent of Funding	80%	10%	10%	100%
CARPC (66%)	\$7,437.28	\$929.66	\$929.66	\$9,296.60
MPO (33%)	\$3,718.64	\$464.83	\$464.83	\$4,648.30
Totals by Source	\$11,155.92	\$1,394.49	\$1,394.49	\$13,944.90

COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

CARPC provides assistance to local governments and county agencies on request. These services are offered primarily on a fee-for-service basis, though within Dane County CARPC can offer reduced rates or charge no additional fee for small efforts if furthering the objectives of the Regional Development Framework. Outside of Dane County, the fully loaded cost must be supported by the project fees.

Objectives

- Provide planning and data resources to meet the needs of local communities.
- Increase community capacity to address local planning needs and collaborate with other units of government.
- Strengthen regional capacity to collaborate on shared issues and achieve the goals and objectives outlined in regional plans.

Activities - 2025 Highlights and 2026 Objectives

ACTIVITIES	2025 HIGHLIGHTS	2026 OBJECTIVES
Community Assistance Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluated and improved project management methods • Completed deliverables that can serve as templates for future projects • Adopted guidelines for work outside of Dane County • Created a Project Development Strategy outlining how we connect and work with communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to refine and routinize project creation and management tools and procedures • Expand fee-for-service work contracts, including work outside Dane County
Fitchburg-Oregon Joint Planning Assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signed an agreement with the City of Fitchburg and Village of Oregon to facilitate conversations on Fitchburg development that may require utility service from Oregon 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate a series of meetings with municipal staff and officials, property owners, the Wisconsin Department of Corrections, and area school districts • Map site characteristics and future land use to inform an Urban Service Area amendment proposal (if communities wish to proceed)

ACTIVITIES	2025 HIGHLIGHTS	2026 OBJECTIVES
Rock County Comprehensive Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assembled an advisory workgroup, held a series of community engagement meetings, conducted a public survey, met with cities and villages, and held focus groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete outreach activities, including another round of meetings with towns, cities, and villages and a public open house Finalize and adopt updated Comprehensive and Farmland Preservation Plans for Rock County
Evansville Bike-Ped Plan	Conducted preliminary site visits, stakeholder meetings, focus groups, and a public survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Survey and data analysis, mapping, and final plan preparation
Community Comprehensive Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed a comprehensive plan update for the Town of Rutland Launched a plan update process for the Town of Berry that will lay the groundwork for bringing all parcels into compliance with current Town zoning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct a public outreach process, compile data, and update maps to prepare an updated comp plan for the Town of Berry by EOY 2026
Other Town Projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing mapping services for 5 towns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to assist five Towns with zoning mapping services Other assistance to be determined
Other Projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assisted the Southwestern Wisconsin RPC with their 5-year strategic planning process Compiled data and maps to support the Village of Maple Bluff’s comprehensive and strategic planning processes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare a housing data dashboard for the City of Sun Prairie

Estimated Annual Hours

STAFF	HOURS
Executive Director - Valerius	150
Senior Environmental Resources Planner - Noone	5
Environmental Resources Planner - Michaud	5
Environmental Resources Planner - Levy	78
Senior Community Planner & Deputy Director - Shanahan	610
Senior Community Planner - Higgins	172
Community Planner - Krempely	475
LTEs & Interns	400
Total	1,895

Funding Source

TAX LEVY	FEES	TOTAL
27%	73%	100%
\$51,500	\$140,000	\$191,500

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

CARPC has been providing assistance to the Madison Region Economic Partnership (MadREP) for many years, including data support for the Community Economic Development Strategy (CEDs) and mapping solutions. With the dissolution of MadREP in late 2025 and absorption of some of its functions into the Greater Madison Chamber of Commerce there is still need for economic development assistance across the wider region.

Objectives

- Identify the role for CARPC to support economic development planning and promote community access to funding programs from the US Economic Development Agency (EDA) and other state and federal agencies, including a suitable contractual arrangement and/or organizational structure to enable that role.
- Identify funding support for the CARPC role with these activities, in particular for support to communities outside of Dane County.

Estimated Annual Hours*

STAFF	HOURS
Executive Director - Valerius	30
Senior Community Planner - Higgins	10
Community Planner - Krempely	20
Total	60

Funding Source*

TOTAL
100%
\$7,800

*The hours and costs described here are only for exploratory efforts. This program may be either eliminated or significantly expanded (or something in between) based on the results of the exploratory efforts in 2026.

EDUCATION, INFORMATION & CONNECTION PROGRAM

As a public agency, CARPC strives to be transparent about its activities, educate partners and the public on key regional issues, share information important to public discourse, and highlight the good work being done by Dane County municipalities, community groups, and government agencies. CARPC’s Education, Information, and Connection Program focuses on strengthening our relationships within the region and connecting communities with valuable information and resources.

Objectives

- Increase awareness and understanding of regional planning and of CARPC and its activities among local community leaders and their constituents.
- Support local planners and planning processes with information that addresses current challenges in our communities and informs solutions to those challenges.
- Position CARPC as a leader in land use and water quality planning and a trusted resource for data, information, and assistance.

Activities - 2025 Highlights and 2026 Objectives

ACTIVITIES	2025 HIGHLIGHTS	2026 OBJECTIVES
EDUCATION & INFORMATION		
Outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Published monthly newsletters, produced webinars, created social media content, updated and improved websites • Expanded media outreach with TV news coverage and several published press releases • Held an in-person forum on intergovernmental transportation issues in partnership with the Greater Madison MPO 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue current activities • Develop agency communications and outreach strategy • Continue brand implementation • Continue to deliver no- or low-cost education and training opportunities to municipal and agency partners • Continue to work with schools, including speaking to classes, tree planting, and tutoring • Explore opportunities to host additional in-person events • Prioritize storytelling in our outreach efforts

Estimated Annual Hours

STAFF	HOURS
Executive Director - Valerius	120
Senior Environmental Engineer - Bower	10
Senior Environmental Resources Planner - Noone	60
Environmental Resources Planner - Michaud	8
Environmental Resources Planner - Levy	90
Senior Community Planner & Deputy Director - Shanahan	376
Senior Community Planner - Higgins	30
Community Planner - Krempely	18
Total	712

Funding Source

TAX LEVY
100%
\$90,800

ADMINISTRATION AND COMMISSION

The Executive Director is responsible for managing the administrative functions of the Agency and the Commission, with significant assistance from the Administrative Services Manager and additional assistance from the Deputy Executive Director.

Objectives

- Manage CARPC’s financial resources with accuracy and transparency
- Hire, train and retain professional staff to implement the Agency’s programs
- Support effective meetings of the Commission and its committees

Activities - 2025 Highlights and 2026 Objectives

ACTIVITIES	2025 HIGHLIGHTS	2026 OBJECTIVES
Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcomed 3 new commissioners (Dalsoren, Lieberman, Vidaver) • Adopted policies to guide operating reserve fund maintenance and CARPC work outside Dane County • Made presentations to the Commission on agricultural preservation, stormwater management, population projections, MMSD effluent discharge changes, and data center development • Convened the Ad Hoc Water Quality Planning Committee four times and made recommendations to the Commission • Convened the Budget & Personnel Panel four times 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct commissioner training(s) led by CARPC staff on topics of interest to the Commission • Staff will review the Commission bylaws and provide a report to the Commission on potential updates
Administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued reviewing, sorting, scanning and disposing of paper records • Completed an update of the Personnel Manual • Prepared an update of the Agency’s Internal Controls policies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review the Agency’s banking services • Establish new administrative and controls routines involving the Deputy Executive Director • Continue reviewing, sorting, scanning and disposing of paper records • Develop reporting tools to monitor staff time use in relation to this work program

Estimated Annual Hours

STAFF	HOURS
Executive Director - Valerius	830
Senior Environmental Engineer - Bower	10
Environmental Engineer - Mehendale	12
Senior Environmental Resources Planner - Noone	20
Environmental Resources Planner - Michaud	10
Environmental Resources Planner - Levy	7
WI Salt Wise Program Manager - Madison	45
Senior Community Planner & Deputy Director - Shanahan	122
Senior Community Planner - Higgins	59
Community Planner - Krempely	370
Administrative Services Manager - Kozlowski	1,800
Total	3,285

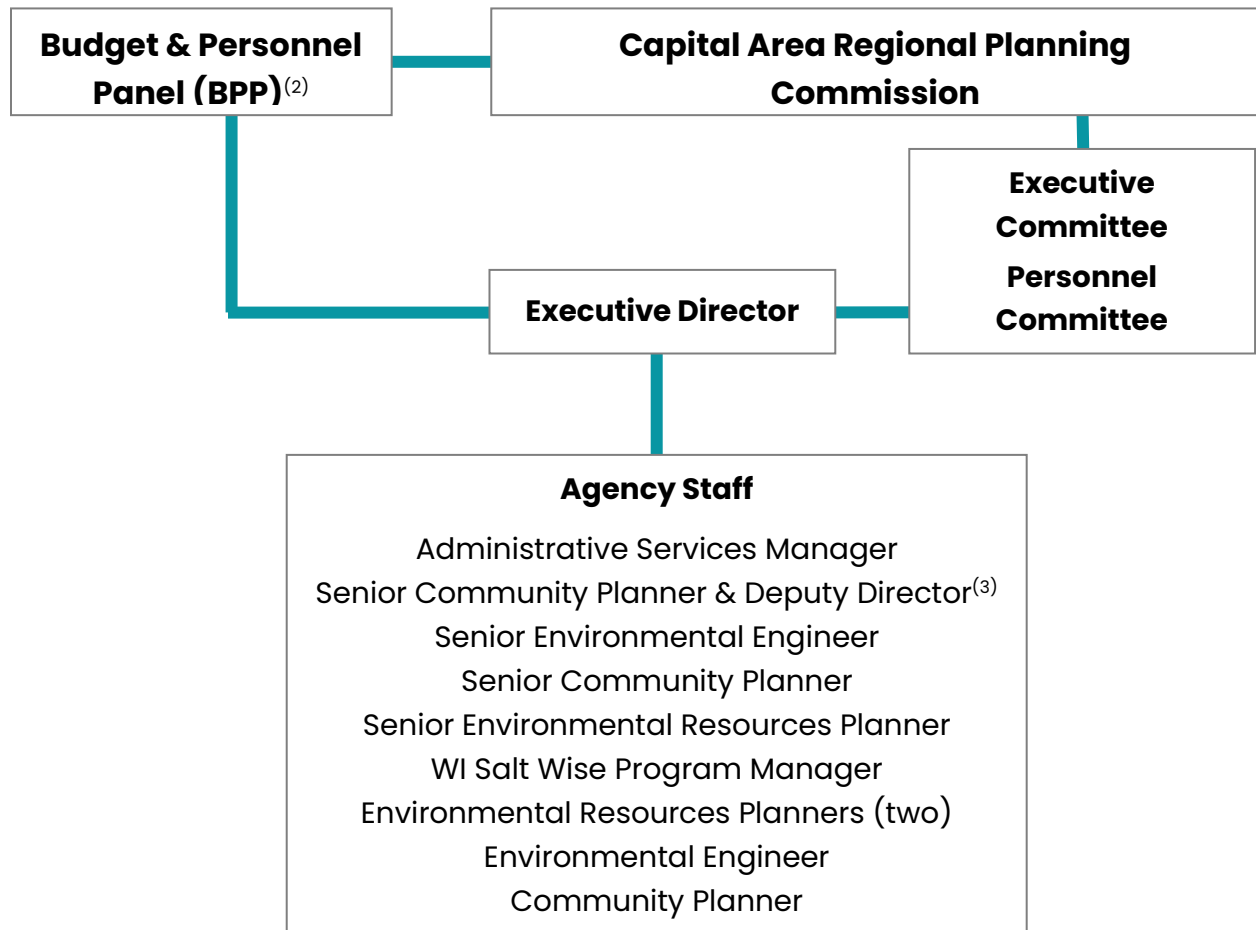
Funding Source

The Agency's administrative functions are funded by all Agency revenue sources through an indirect cost rate applied to all staff time .

Note: Administrative activities account for an estimated 16% of total staff hours for 2026.

Organizational Chart

(Effective January 1, 2026) ⁽¹⁾



Notes:

- (1) This version incorporates the designation of a Deputy Director in 2026
- (2) The BPP has the power to approve the CARPC budget and levy and hire or fire the Executive Director, as described in Article IV of the CARPC Bylaws
- (3) Title VI Officer
- (4) Greater Madison MPO staff, under contract to CARPC for 25% time

APPENDIX A: Self-Certification of Compliance with CFDA 20.205 Federal Funding Requirements

APPENDIX B: Current Signed Title VI Nondiscrimination Agreement

APPENDIX C: Cost Allocation Plan