

McLean County Regional Planning Commission



1985 Annual Report



Honorable Mayor and Members
 of the Bloomington City Council
 President and Members of the Normal Board
 of Trustees
 Chairman and Members of the McLean County Board
 Citizens of Bloomington, Normal, and McLean County
 Ladies and Gentlemen:

The McLean County Regional Planning Commission is pleased to present, herewith, its Eighteenth Annual Report covering activities for the year ending December 31, 1985. The report indicates the major aspects of the year's work as well as the goals that remain to be accomplished in the future.

The staff and the Commission are indebted to those responsible for the cooperation of all governmental units and those individuals who have given so generously of their time, advice, and inspiration in assisting our work of regional planning. We hope that we can merit their continued support and cooperation.

Sincerely yours,

Joseph Sommer

Joseph Sommer
 Chairman



Kenneth J. Emmons

Kenneth J. Emmons
 Executive Director



Responsibilities

The Commission is responsible for the preparation and maintenance of a Comprehensive Regional Plan for McLean County, the preparation of special planning studies for units of local government, and for providing the County Board and County Zoning Board of Appeals; the Bloomington City Council, Planning Commission, Historic Preservation Commission, and Board of Zoning Appeals; the Normal Board of Trustees, Planning Commission, and Zoning Board of Appeals with certain basic planning services designed to assist them in making day to day decisions which have planning, preservation, and development implications.

Membership

The following persons were members of the McLean County Regional Planning Commission on December 31, 1985:

McLean County

Danny J. Leifel, Bloomington
 John English, Bloomington
 E. J. King, Leroy
 Joseph Sommer, Chenoa — Chairman
 Anne Nadakavukaren, Normal
 Charles Armitage, Normal

Bloomington

Gary Scheets — Secretary/Treasurer
 Karl Passmore
 James Yates

Normal

Paul Mattingly
 Randall Middleton — Vice Chairman
 Garrett Scott

Technical Staff

The present staff consists of six persons—the Executive Director, two Principal Planners, two Associate Planners and a Secretary.

Kenneth J. Emmons, Executive Director
 Mary Anne Nelson, Principal Planner
 Thomas A. Hamilton, Principal Planner
 Bill Givens, Associate Planner
 Leroy E. Barber, Associate Planner
 Linda Rigdon, Secretary

Regional Studies — (County Wide)

Stormwater

The Commission has continued to coordinate the work necessary to complete a plan for dealing with stormwater problems in the urban area. The Corps of Engineers has been working on a two year study which will lead to the development of a plan to alleviate the problems associated with flooding related to stream bank overflow. The completed plan should be ready for local review during the next eight months.

Federal Flood Insurance Program Management

The Commission has continued its activities to qualify residents of units of local government for federally subsidized flood insurance. The staff prepared the necessary ordinance amendments to qualify the County of McLean's unincorporated area for the Regular Phase of the Federal Flood Insurance Program.

Transportation

The Commission's transportation planning process includes a Long Range Element and a Short Range Element. The technical activities conducted by the staff strives towards attaining the goal of meeting the transportation needs of those people who live in the Bloomington-Normal Urbanized Area and those passing through by providing a transportation system that is efficient, safe, and makes all parts of Bloomington-Normal easily accessible.

Long Range planning in 1985 focused on three items. The first was continued review, comment, and assessment of the alternative alignments and facility types for the upgrading of U.S. Route 51 north of Normal. The Commission intends to follow this project through construction and provide input whenever necessary insuring realization of a facility that is in the best interest of McLean County. The Commission staff sponsored two sets of meetings regarding this project. The first meeting was a public informational hearing involving officials from Bloomington, Normal, McLean County, and the Illinois Department of Transportation. The second meeting involved the McLean County Transportation Study's Policy and Technical Committees, and focused on review of the U.S. 51 and I-55 interchange alternatives. The Commission staff also reviewed and commented on the Environmental Impact Statement for F.A.P. 412 (U.S. 51) between Normal and Oglesby.

The second item was the review and assessment of the potential impacts of a new one mile long runway at the Bloomington-Normal Airport. The facility, when constructed, will have a major impact on travel within the eastern portion of the City of Bloomington. The Commission staff also reviewed and commented on the Bloomington-Normal Airport Authority's Master Plan Update for the Bloomington-Normal Airport. The third item was continued work on updating the Street and Highway Plan for the urban area focusing on the development of a roadway plan to serve the area's Enterprise Zone. Considerable time was spent on developing a transportation network to service the Diamond-Star Automobile Plant site, while incorporating the State's plans for the new U.S. Route 150.

Short Range Transportation Planning composed the largest portion of the staff's work program during 1985. The culmination of this work was a publication of the **Fiscal Years 1986-1990 Short Range Plan**. This plan contains three major components: (1) the Transit Development Program for the Bloomington-Normal Public Transit System; (2) a Street and Highway Element; and (3) the Fiscal Years 1986-1990 Transportation Improvement Program. The overall objective of the short range process is to react to the specific problems and needs of the area's transportation system as they arise.

The Transit Development Program focuses on the analysis of operational data and financial productivity of the Bloomington-Normal Public Transit System during calendar year 1984. Service deficiencies

were identified and corrective measures were recommended. Forecasts of the System's financial needs were made, along with a discussion of changing roles regarding funding of public transit. This program also presents a detailed discussion of the operational and financial impacts that have occurred due to major engine failures over the last four years. The staff was also involved in the development, evaluation and marketing of a bus route realignment.

The Street and Highway Element focuses on three major topics: (1) traffic safety; (2) pavement management; and (3) energy concerns. Traffic safety is assessed by regional and urban area trends, identification of hazardous roadway segments, and detailed location-specific accident studies. For the "energy concerns" section of the Short Range Plan, fuel consumption estimates for the urban area and region were made.

The Transportation Improvement Program presents those roadway improvements, transit equipment purchases and transit operating assistance needs programmed over the five year period: FY 1986-1990. Many of the roadway projects and transit equipment purchases shown in this program resulted from some of the technical studies conducted for the Short Range Plan.

A-95 Review

The objective of the A-95 Review and Comment Process is to provide State and local officials with a mechanism for influencing proposed federal assistance in light of their own comprehensive planning goals and objectives.

Applicants applying for federal funding are required to notify the McLean County Regional Planning Commission (the Substate Clearinghouse) of their intent.

The following is a list of funding applications reviewed during the year:

1. East Central Illinois Health Systems Agency (ECIHSA) Continuation Application.
2. Washington Street at Veterans Parkway Intersection Improvements (City of Bloomington Federal Aid Urban Project).
3. City of Bloomington Community Block Grant Program Application for CDBG Program Year 11.
4. Bloomington-Normal Public Transit System Application for the U.M.T.A. Section 10 Managerial Training Grant Program.
5. Oakbrook Terrace Apartments, Bloomington, Illinois (Illinois Housing Development Authority Development No. F-1138) (HUD 14.156 Low Income Housing Assistance Program).
6. Illinois Department of Transportation Replacement of the West Locust Street Bridge over the Illinois Central Gulf Railroad in Bloomington, Illinois.
7. Meadows Mennonite Home of Chenoa purchase of two 14 passenger vans for SHOW BUS (Seniors and Handicapped on Wheels).

8. McLean County Head Start, Inc., Developmental Services to 14 two and three year olds and their parents in an innovative child learning project and to 27 three to five year olds and their families.
9. Salvation Army Sponsored Connection House Run-A-Way Youth Crisis Center, Program Year 1985.
10. McLean County Head Start, Inc., Comprehensive Developmental Services Application for 1985-86 Fiscal Year.
11. Bridge over the Little Kickapoo Creek on Ireland Grove Road west of the Towanda-Barnes Road.
12. Bridge over Sugar Creek on County Highway 36.
13. East Central Illinois Agency on the Aging Application.
14. Primary Runway Friction Treatment and Electrical Vault at the Bloomington-Normal Airport.
15. Y.W.C.A. of McLean County Retired Senior Volunteer Program (R.S.V.P.) 1986 Budget and Request for Continued Funding.
16. Bridge Replacement over the Mackinaw River near Colfax.
17. Widening of Linden Street from Emerson Street north to Bloomington City Limits.

Program Development

Community Development

The Commission provides technical assistance to the City of Bloomington in operating its Community Development Block Grant Program. During 1985, the City of Bloomington received \$710,000 as a Community Development Block Grant entitlement city.

Special services provided under the Community Development program included the preparation of the Housing Assistance Plan, the Environmental Review Record and other special studies.

Mid Central Community Action, Inc. (M.C.C.A.I.)

The Commission provides research services to the Mid Central Community Action, Inc. During this year the staff completed a statistical profile for M.C.C.A.I.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

1980 Decennial Census

The staff continued to act as a liaison to the Bureau of the Census for the decennial census taken April 1, 1980. Local knowledge and documentation of various conditions are necessary as a part of the Bureau's efforts to certify the information they received.

Due to restrictions in funding, the U.S. Bureau of the Census has released much of the census information in "non-printed" form, i.e., computer tapes. In cooperation with Illinois State University's Community Research Services, however, the computer tapes have been transformed into paper printouts. Census information is now available for the entire county, townships, incorporated places, census tracts, and enumeration

districts. Since the publication of data by the Bureau will be minimal, the staff has been actively participating in the dissemination of census information. This includes acting as a clearinghouse for census data and generally providing information to the public on what data can be found in the census.

Information is also available for various neighborhoods in Bloomington and Normal because the two communities participated in the Bureau of the Census Neighborhood Statistics Program. This program offered detailed census information by locally defined neighborhoods and provided a type of data that has never been available before.

The Commission has also provided data to the Bureau on the annual Boundary and Annexation Survey for McLean County.

Economic Development

The staff researched and provided numerous site and/or location maps for the potential development of industrial and commercial properties located in the metropolitan area for the Bloomington-Normal Area Economic Development Council.

Technical Assistance

McLean County

Zoning — The staff has prepared reports for the McLean County Zoning Board of Appeals concerning the following cases during the last fiscal year:

- 6 Zoning Map Amendments
- 23 Special Uses
- 19 Variations

City of Bloomington

Zoning — During 1985, the staff has provided written recommendations to the Bloomington Planning Commission, Board of Zoning Appeals and City Council on:

- 28 Zoning Map Amendments
- 2 Zoning Text Amendments
- 3 Special Use Permits

Subdivisions and Planned Unit Developments — During 1985, the staff has reviewed and provided planning advice to the Bloomington Planning Commission and City Council on four subdivisions and planned unit developments.

Capital Improvement Program — The staff has advised the Bloomington City Manager, Director of Finance and other department heads in completing a five-year capital improvements program for the 1986-1991 Five Year Budget.

Street and Alley Vacations — During 1985, the staff has provided written recommendations to the Bloomington Planning Commission and City Council on five street or alley vacations.

Historic Preservation — During 1985, the staff has reviewed 19 applications for Certificates of Appropriateness for the Bloomington Historic Preservation Commission.

Town of Normal

Zoning — During 1985, the staff provided reports and recommendations, as part of the Town staff, to the City Manager, Normal Town Council, Planning Commission, and Zoning Board of Appeals concerning:

- 20 Zoning Map Amendments
- 9 Zoning Text Amendments
- 2 Special Use Permits
- 29 Zoning Variations.

Subdivisions — The staff has prepared reports and recommendations, as a part of the Town staff, to the City Manager, Town Council, and Normal Planning Commission on one preliminary subdivision plan.

Comprehensive Rezonings — The staff provided the research and reports necessary for the public hearings held by the Planning Commission and the deliberations of the Town Council on the area-wide rezonings based upon the Town's 1984 **Comprehensive Plan**.

Amortization Ordinance — The staff assisted in the preparation of a proposed Amortization Ordinance for the Town. If it had been adopted by the Town Council, the ordinance would have amortized all non-conforming multiple-family uses located in single-family zones.

Financial Report
 January 1, 1985 through
 December 31, 1985

Income:

Bloomington	\$ 29,500.00
Normal	29,550.00
McLean County	24,108.25
FHWA	57,725.79
UMTA	35,725.94
MCCAI	2,250.00
CD (Bloomington)	14,573.72
Bloomington (CBD Study)	2,306.12
Bloomington East Grove St. Historic Survey	5,889.18
Bloomington Franklin Square/E. Jefferson Historic Surveys	600.00
Interest Income	6,808.54
Expense Account Credits	1,509.03
	<u>\$210,546.57</u>

Expenses:

Books	\$ 369.15
Services	5,397.51
Dues	1,806.88
Auto Expenses	1,547.64
General Insurance	1,799.00
Hospital Insurance	4,148.16
Supplies	1,901.69
Postage	1,800.00
Rent	11,805.28
Printing	2,308.72
Retirement	17,813.73
Unemployment Compensation	104.89
Salaries	137,240.10
Telephone	2,809.17
Travel	2,723.80
Sundry	10.00
Bloomington East Grove St. Historic Survey	5,013.30
Bloomington Franklin Square/E. Jefferson Historic Surveys	561.50
	<u>\$199,160.52</u>

Bank Balance	\$ 70,064.41
(1-1-85)	
Income	<u>\$ 210,546.57</u>
	\$ 280,610.98
Expenses	<u>\$-199,160.52</u>
Bank Balance (1-1-86)	\$ 81,450.46

Bibliography

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Planning Commission

Report Date: January, 1986

Author: McLean County Regional Planning Commission

Performing Organization: McLean County Regional Planning
Commission
207 West Jefferson Street
Bloomington, Illinois 61701

Type of Report and Period Covered: Eighteenth Annual Report

Abstract: This is the Eighteenth Annual Report made by the McLean County Regional Planning Commission to the residents and supporting agencies within McLean County, Illinois. The report includes a resume of the Commission's activities for the fiscal year 1984-1985, including work completed, financial statements, listing of members, and proposed work program.

Availability Statement: Limited copies of this report will be available at no charge to the residents of McLean County, Illinois.

Price: \$2.00

