

McLean County Regional Planning Commission



1989 Annual Report



McLean County Regional Planning Commission

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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 Twenty-Second Annual Report covering activities for the year ending December 31, 1989. 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,

Anne Nadakavukaren
Chairman



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 Commis-

sion, 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/or development implications.

Membership

The following persons were members of the McLean County Regional Planning Commission on December 31, 1989:

McLean County

Joseph Sommer, Chenoa
Charles Armitage, Normal — Secretary/Treasurer
John English, Bloomington
John Stevens, Bloomington
Anne Nadakavukaren, Normal — Chairman

Mary Tompkins, LeRoy

Bloomington

Gary Scheets — Vice Chairman
Sue Berglund
Jean Anderson

Normal

Randall Middleton
Francis Brown
Garrett Scott

Technical Staff

On December 31, 1989, the staff consisted of seven persons—the Executive Director, three Principal Planners, one Associate Planner, a Secretary and a Part-time Secretary.

Kenneth J. Emmons, Executive Director
Mary Anne Nelson, Principal Planner

Michael Wyneken, Principal Planner
Bruce Ehrich, Principal Planner
Bill Givens, Associate Planner
Judy Jackson, Secretary
Loretta Steil, Part-time Secretary

Transportation

Upon its inception, the McLean County Regional Planning Commission was designated by the Governor of the State of Illinois as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Bloomington-Normal Urbanized Area. That designation charged the Commission with the responsibility for administering the continuous, comprehensive and cooperative (3-C) transportation planning process for the urbanized area. A well-planned, safe and efficient transportation system, developed and maintained through the cooperative efforts of the Town of Normal, the City of Bloomington and McLean County, is the ultimate goal of the 3-C planning process.

The components of the 3-C planning process include short-range planning and system surveillance, long-range planning and planning for the Bloomington-Normal Public Transit System (B-NPTS). The short-range planning component and system surveillance focuses on solving existing transportation problems, and monitoring development within the study area to call attention to near-term system improvements needed to accommodate that growth. Through the surveillance activity, the Commission staff reviews all preliminary subdivision and planned unit development plans, zoning map amendments and requests for special use permits to determine what impacts these proposed developments will have on the transportation system. When the surveillance activity points to potential problems such as a lack of turning lanes at an intersection near a development or the

need for additional lanes on a street, the Commission staff alerts local officials to these problems. The short-range planning process and the five year transportation system improvement planning function will then incorporate the needed changes, identified in the surveillance activity, into the Transportation Improvement Program.

In 1980, the local governments adopted a long-range Street and Highway Plan for the Bloomington-Normal Urbanized Area. This plan, through the long-range planning process, has been updated and kept current during the past decade. The long-range planning process identifies system needs beyond the short-range planning horizon. These needs are identified by incorporating future projected land uses throughout the study area, population projections and other data bases, which project future activities, into the planning process. As the study area grows and future needs are identified, these needs are reflected in the long-range plan. As time passes, the long-range needs are moved into the short-range plan and the actual projects are programmed and constructed. In 1989, the Commission staff recommended expansion of the transportation study area to accommodate the urbanized area growth. Because the staff can only use the planning funds within the urbanized area boundary, expansion of the study area was required to permit the staff to adequately plan for the future transportation system needs.

An important transportation problem, which will occur in downtown Bloomington during 1990, is a severe lack of off-street parking due to construction of a parking structure over a currently existing surface parking lot. The lot, known as the Lincoln Lot is the major public parking facility serving the south end of downtown Bloomington. The lot will be closed during construction, thus eliminating over 300 short-term and long-term parking spaces. The Commission staff undertook a project to identify users of the Lincoln Lot, survey their transportation needs and wants, and target-market these individuals for using the transit system. The staff's philosophy is that reducing the need for vehicular parking will ease the parking shortage and extend the supply of the new parking structure farther into the future. Reducing vehicle usage also reduces congestion, noise and air pollution in the downtown area. The survey achieved a 41% return rate.

The Bloomington-Normal Public Transit System also plays an important role in providing residents of the two cities with an alternative mode of transportation. The Commission staff worked closely with the transit system management to provide the most equitable, efficient and effective service possible. Staff held membership on the Disabled Persons Transportation Advisory Committee (DPTAC), a committee established by the B-NPTS to survey the disabled persons in the community, to determine their transportation needs and wants, and to use the findings to make recommendations to the Board of Trustees on actions which would best address these needs and wants. The survey was completed and the results have been tabulated and reviewed by the committee. The committee's recommendations will be forwarded to the B-NPTS Board of Trustees in March of 1990.

The Commission staff completed the Transportation Improvement Program, a five-year Street and Highway improvement document. The T.I.P. lists all road projects planned for the five year period by Bloomington, Normal, McLean County and the State of Illinois. The staff also submitted the annual Title VI report which documents minority representation on the various boards and commissions in the study area, and the transit service provided to the minorities within the transit service area.

Solid Waste Management Study

This study is being funded under an intergovernmental agreement between the County of McLean, the City of Bloomington and the Town of Normal, and through the use of a grant provided by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency. A Policy Committee, a Technical Advisory Committee and a Citizen's Advisory Committee have been established to help guide the planning process. In addition, the engineering consulting firms of Camp, Dresser and McKee, Inc., and Farnsworth and Wylie have been retained to assist in the formulation of a twenty year plan for solid waste management.

Phase I of this process, the Solid Waste Needs Assessment, has been completed and submitted to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency for evaluation and comment. The Needs Assessment is a characterization of the waste stream generated within

McLean County by origin (residential, industrial, commercial, etc.), content and weight or volume, as well as assessments for changes in the waste stream over the next twenty years.

The Phase II Plan Development portion of the study will include an examination of a variety of alternative waste management systems. The plan will also include a description of the facilities where municipal waste is currently processed and a description of facilities and systems for waste management over the next twenty years. These alternative systems will eventually be reduced to two or three through the use of a three tiered elimination process. Each proposed system will be evaluated for environmental impacts, energy consumption, economic development impacts, system life cycle costs, and ease of implementation, etc.

Finally, it will be necessary to identify potential sites within the County where each proposed disposal, processing or recycling program will be located and an explanation of how such sites were chosen. Under P.A. 85-1198, the County will be responsible for the implementation of the plan. At least two public hearings for public comment will be held to discuss the various options before final approval of the plan and implementation begin.

Project Reviews Under Executive Order 12372

The objective of the Executive Order 12372 Project Review 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 Sub-state Clearinghouse) of their intent to apply for federal funding.

The following is a list of federal applications reviewed by the Commission in 1989:

1. Project review of renewal of application for US 136 road improvement and bridge replacement between US 150 and Illinois Route 54.
2. Project review of bridge replacement on FAS 482, over Timber Creek, south of Shirley.
3. Project review of FY 1989-1993 Transportation Improvement Program for Bloomington-Normal.
4. Project review of SHOWBUS Section 18 grant request.
5. Project review of bridge replacement on FAS 494, bridge over tributary to north fork of Salt Creek near LeRoy.
6. Project review of application of East Central Illinois Area Agency on Aging for special programs for the aging.
7. Project review of renewal of replacement of three bridges on Illinois Route 165 between Cooksville and Colfax.
8. Project review of proposed traffic signal at College Avenue and old US 150 (White Oak Road).
9. Project review of renewal of notice of intent to replace three bridges on Illinois Route 165 east of Cooksville.

10. Project review of Illinois State University's application to the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration.
11. Project review of the reconstruction and widening of Linden Street and the installation of two traffic signals.
12. Project review of the Bloomington-Normal Airport Authority grant to request to purchase property for new 2-20 runway.
13. Project review of bridge replacement on Township Road 481, over the tributary to Middle Fork of Sugar Creek.
14. Project review of FY 1990-1994 Transportation Improvement Program for Bloomington-Normal urbanized area.
15. Project review of reconstruction of West Washington Street from Euclid Street to west of I-55.

Technical Assistance

McLean County

Zoning — The staff has prepared reports for the McLean County Zoning Board of Appeals concerning the following during 1989:

- 6 Zoning Map Amendments
- 3 Zoning Text Amendments
- 32 Special Uses
- 23 Variations

Subdivisions — The staff reviewed plans or plats for 16 subdivisions, one planned development and one street vacation during 1989.

City of Bloomington

Annexation Agreements — Staff negotiated and made recommendations on six annexation agreements, which also included zoning map amendments.

Zoning — Staff reviewed and made recommendations to the Bloomington Planning Commission, Board of Zoning Appeals and the City Council concerning:

- 14 Zoning Map Amendments
- 3 Zoning Text Amendments
- 10 Special Use Permits
- 1 Regional Shopping Center Site Plan Review

Subdivisions and Planned Unit Developments

The staff reviewed and provided recommendations to the Bloomington Planning Commission and City Council on plans for four subdivisions and two commercial subdivisions.

Street and Alley Vacations — The staff reviewed and made recommendations on two street or alley vacations.

Professional Activities — The staff participated in two state-wide planning conferences in 1989. A presentation on the process and results of the Downtown Bloomington Origin-Destination Study was made at the Illinois Department of Transportation Annual Fall Planning Conference in Collinsville, Illinois. In addition, a staff member was the moderator of a panel discussion with developers at the quarterly meeting of the Greater Illinois Section of the American Planning Association in Champaign, Illinois.

Neighborhood Zoning Plan — The staff conducted a land use survey and zoning analysis for the Old Eastside Neighborhood. Based on the findings and goals established at public meetings, the staff developed a neighborhood plan designed to preserve the residential nature of the area and reduce the density by curtailing the establishment of additional multiple-family units.

Historic Preservation — During 1989 the staff served as recording secretary for 11 meetings of the Bloomington Historic Preservation Commission and assisted in the review of 15 Certificates of Appropriateness for exterior improvements to buildings in the City's S-4 zoned historic districts and one zoning text amendment. As the Historic Preservation Commission's "designated staff" the staff has reviewed and approved six of the 15 Certificates of Appropriateness under the City's new administrative review procedures for minor repairs. In addition, the staff was responsible for developing, designing and producing the Bloomington Historic Preservation Commission's first "Heritage Awards" program. The staff also prepared the City's Certified Local Government Annual Report for the 1988-89 fiscal year as required for submission to the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency.

Town of Normal

Zoning — During 1989, 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:

- 6 Zoning Map Amendments
- 4 Site Plan Reviews
- 4 Zoning Text Amendments
- 2 Special Use Permits
- 15 Zoning Variations

Subdivisions — The staff has prepared reports and recommendations, as a part of the Town staff, to the City Manager, Town Council and/or Normal Planning Commission on nine preliminary subdivision plans and 16 final subdivision plats.

Planned Unit Developments — The staff has prepared reports and recommendations, as a part of the Town staff, to the City Manager, Town Council and/or Normal Planning Commission on six preliminary developments, two final development plans for planned unit developments, and two amendments to final development plans.

Amendment to Comprehensive Plan — The staff prepared a Land Use Plan for the North Normal/I-39 and U.S. Route 51 Corridor. The plan was adopted by the Town Council as an amendment to the Town's *Comprehensive Plan*, November 20, 1989.

Capital Improvements — The staff prepared maps depicting the location of capital improvement projects which were included in the Town's Five Year Operating and Capital Improvements Budget 1990-1991 through 1994-1995.

Financial Report
 January 1, 1989 through
 December 31, 1989

Income:

Bloomington — Planning Services Agreement.....	\$ 36,000.00
Normal — Planning Services Agreement.....	68,000.00
McLean County — Planning Services Agreement.....	30,000.00
Federal Highway Administration — Transportation Study.....	54,910.54
Urban Mass Transit Administration — Transportation Study.....	28,219.98
Bloomington Historic Preservation.....	6,000.00
Solid Waste Management Study	
Bloomington.....	12,000.00
Normal.....	12,000.00
McLean County.....	12,000.00
City Wide Survey.....	8,000.00
Fair Housing Study.....	4,000.00
Interest Income.....	1,583.98
Expense Account Credits.....	2,523.57
	<u>\$ 275,238.07</u>

Expenses:

Books.....	\$ 684.50
Services.....	13,858.13
Dues.....	1,645.00
Equipment.....	—0—
Automobile.....	96.57
General Insurance.....	895.00
Hospital Insurance.....	7,984.54
Supplies.....	2,850.71
Postage.....	2,625.60
Rent.....	13,679.96
Reproduction.....	4,336.89
Retirement.....	27,721.18
Unemployment.....	347.78
Salaries.....	178,653.98
Sundry.....	—0—
Telephone.....	2,454.83
Travel.....	6,310.95
	<u>\$ 264,145.62</u>

Bank Balance (1-1-89).....	\$ 39,884.19
Income.....	275,238.07
	<u>\$ 315,122.26</u>
Expenses.....	\$ -264,145.62
Bank Balance (1-1-90).....	\$ 50,976.64

Bibliography

Report No. AR-MCRPC-89

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Planning Commission

Report Due: April, 1990

Author: McLean County Regional Planning Commission

Performing Organization — McLean County Regional Planning
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Type of Report and Period Covered: Twenty-Second Annual Report

Abstract: This is the Twenty-Second 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 year 1989, including work completed, financial statements, listing of members and proposed work program.

Availability Statement: Limited copies of this report are available to the residents of McLean County, Illinois.

Price: \$2.00

