

**Wadena Comprehensive Plan and Transportation Study**  
**Steering Committee Meeting #1**  
**January 25, 2012 from 3 – 5 pm**  
**City Hall**

**MEETING SUMMARY**

Those in Attendance:	Representing
Terry Lynk	Development Authority Board
Bruce Uselman	Wadena Police Department
Shiloh Wahl	MnDOT - District 4
Dean Uselman	WDA/ Planning and Zoning Director
Don Hickman	Initiative Foundation
Ryan Odden	Wadena County Engineer
Brad Swenson	City Administrator
Ann Pate	WDC ISD 2155
Jake Huebsch	Region 5 Development Commission
Ron Bucholz	Wadena Parks & Recreation Dept.
Steve Voss	MnDOT - District 3
Bridget Miller	MnDOT - District 4
Brian Shorten	SRF Consulting Group, Inc.
Cindy Gray	SRF Consulting Group, Inc.

1. Welcome and Introductions

Brian Shorten welcomed the group and thanked them for coming. He introduced himself and Cindy Gray, also from SRF Consulting Group. Steering Committee members introduced themselves.

2. Study Purpose and Process

- Scope - Brian explained the scope of the project, which includes a Comprehensive Plan update, a Transportation Plan, and preliminary roadway design for improvements that are recommended as part of the transportation plan.
- Products - Brian explained that the products will be a Comprehensive Plan document with a land use map and other guidance for the city's future, a Transportation Plan, which is meant to identify transportation system needs that respond to the city's growth plans as identified in the Comprehensive Plan, and preliminary roadway designs that will help the city identify the necessary right of way and funding needed for future changes to the roadway network.
- Schedule - Brian explained the schedule that was included in the handout materials.

3. Steering Committee Input on Needs and Opportunities for the Comprehensive and Transportation Plans

Committee members asked for further information on the content of a Comprehensive Plan. Cindy Gray provided a summary of the subject areas covered in a Comprehensive Plan and the use of the plan after adoption.

Committee members took turns identifying and discussing issues of concern to them with respect to existing conditions and the community's future. Comments from the Committee are summarized in Attachment A.

4. Preliminary Data Findings

Brian Shorten and Cindy Gray briefly reviewed information that had been sent to Committee members prior to the meeting regarding the Origin Destination Study and various other data sets that have been collected, such as traffic, transportation system, land use, zoning, and demographic information.

5. Proposed Early Public Input Process

- Date/Times/Places for Open House Public Meeting

A public meeting date of February 16 was agreed upon for the open house public meeting. A meeting time of 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. was also agreed upon. M|State was discussed as the preferred location for the meeting, and other options were discussed if that facility isn't available.

- Focus Groups

The group also agreed that Focus Group meetings could be held earlier in the day on February 16. Brad Swenson will invite the appropriate individuals to the meetings.

- Electronic Facilitation and Draft Questionnaire (Attachment #5 and 6)

SRF provided a draft list of questions being considered for the electronic facilitation exercise for review by the Committee.

6. Next Steps

- News Release/Meeting Notification

Timeframes for public notification were discussed. The city was scheduled to send out a utility billing and agreed to include a flyer containing information about the public meeting, which was to be prepared by SRF. SRF was to establish a meeting location, and prepare a meeting notification for use in the newspaper. Preparation of posters for display at various public notice boards throughout the community was also discussed.

- Website

SRF was to provide a news release for use by MnDOT so information could be posted distributed to media organizations and posted on MnDOT's website.

7. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:00 p.m.

**Attachment A**  
**Wadena Comprehensive and Transportation Plan**  
**Steering Committee Input on Community Issues**  
**January 25, 2012**

**Transportation**

1. Traffic Circulation around the new school needs attention, including:
  - Traffic on Highway 29 (Colfax Ave SW) at the school
  - Safety of pedestrians at crossings, particularly at Jefferson Street is a concern.
  - Would a drop off on 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> street help the school bus congestion?
  - The need for buses to circulate behind the school is a different circulation pattern and a source of concern.
  - The use of Aldrich and Bryant by school traffic is a concern.
2. Consider complete streets and how they fit into the community.
3. The rail line is an economic asset to the community and has the potential to attract other businesses.
4. Additional grade separated rail crossings are also needed in the community.
5. How does the traffic flow on Highway 10 affect the economic development potential of the city?
6. The implementation of better turn lanes and emergency access to the hospital is needed.
7. There are only three rail road crossings in town. When a train is traveling through Wadena, the flow of traffic is affected, trucks are taking off railroad crossing gates and the routes for emergency access is cut off.
8. An alternate truck route to Highway 29 is desirable.
9. The representation of the trucking industry is needed during the development of the plan.
10. A Central Minnesota Freight Plan is almost done. This may address some of Wadena's issues. (10/71 Intersection- 59/10/71 is the preferred route).
11. Law enforcement receives complaints from truckers about the two-lane segment of Highway 10 through town.
12. The transition from four lanes to two lanes on Highway 10 through Wadena is believed to be the cause of crashes, as drivers in the inside lane end up going the wrong way in the opposing lane, thinking the highway is still a four-lane. Recent crashes have occurred as a result.
13. Is the current public transportation system meeting the needs of the community?
14. Highway 10 to SB 71 at railroad tracks and stop controls nearby result in traffic queue situations.
15. Concern over making the right transportation plan investments able to take the city in the right direction.
16. Planning for safe walking, driving and transit is important as a high percentage of the population consists of senior citizens.
17. Expanded bike routes, highway crossings and safety need to be included in the plan.

18. Industry on east side of town has poor access to Highway 10. Some industrial traffic is going through residential areas to access Highway 10 on streets with hairpin turns and no stacking area.
19. The Alternative Learning Center students cross Highway 71 to the armory for Physical Ed classes (7-12<sup>th</sup> grades).
20. MnDOT is trying to determine how local, regional and statewide issues like Highway 10 through Wadena fits into the CIMS process. They want these plans to gel with the City's plan, the District 3 commuter study, and the State Freight Plan. There's a need to look at priorities and phasing in of improvements to work with funding opportunities. Detroit Lakes is an example of this with the Highway 10 improvements through that community, the rail crossings, and the trade-offs the community was willing to make.
21. Work with County and MnDOT to ensure correct design of roadway facilities for industrial development and truck oriented uses.

### **Utilities**

1. The southeast part of town has infrastructure issues. Ulteig is the City's Engineer.
2. The need for resolving issues with the storm sewers and hydraulic systems is a high priority.
3. The towns infrastructure is extremely important as more than half the town's water and sewer mains are 60 to 100 years old.

### **Recreation**

1. Recreational plans need to be thought out and connections of trail routes need to be planned and constructed.
2. Park facilities are in need of expansion.
3. Blacks Grove Park- improvements to bike and pedestrian access are needed.

### **Intergovernmental Cooperation**

1. Tie the City and County's transportation improvements to get the most out of them.
2. Look at opportunities to work with the City, Wadena Co for intergovernmental cooperation.
3. Help local and regional elected officials work together to achieve cooperation and implementation.

### **Education**

1. What are the future plans of the Technical College?
2. College and school are in the same area and share the same parking.

### **Economy**

1. The city needs to update the theme of community to welcome residents and visitors with lights and banners.
2. The bottlenecking of Highway 10 as hurt the city economically.
3. Think through a potential business park.

### **Overall Planning Process and Results**

1. Correlating the Comprehensive Plan and the Transportation Plan with short term, low cost- high impact improvements as well as medium to big improvements. A long term vision plan would be needed.

### **Land Use**

1. Land use issues need to be addressed as the Industrial Park is close to being full. Two to three businesses are currently looking at the remaining properties, and if they choose to locate in Wadena, there will be no remaining sites in the park.
2. Planning for access to new growth areas is important.
3. Plan land uses for future change.