

SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

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June 11, 2021

Chairman and Members of the Kenosha County
Board of Supervisors
c/o Ms. Regi Bachochin, Clerk
1010 56th Street
Kenosha, WI 53140

To the Chairman and Members of the
Kenosha County Board of Supervisors:

The Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for Southeastern Wisconsin: 2021-2025 has been completed and is being provided to Kenosha County for consideration for adoption. The report can be accessed at www.sewrpc.org/CEDSReportJune2021. Once adopted, the 2021-2025 CEDS will supplant the currently adopted 2015-2020 CEDS.

The CEDS is a strategic plan for strengthening and diversifying the regional economy and includes a set of goals, strategies, and actions that seek to achieve an overall economic development vision for the Region. Preparation of the CEDS was a cooperative effort by the Milwaukee 7 Regional Economic Development Partnership (M7), including M7's Regional Economic Partnership (REP) working group, and SEWRPC. Todd Battle, President of the Kenosha Area Business Alliance (KABA), is a member of the REP, together with a representative from each of the other six counties in the Region, the City of Milwaukee, M7, We Energies, and SEWRPC. Strategic planning work conducted and implemented by KABA supplements and refines CEDS recommendations for Kenosha County.

Adoption of the CEDS by the County Board would continue to make the County and local governments in the County with economically distressed areas eligible to apply for grants under U. S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration (EDA) Public Works and Economic Adjustment programs, provided the grant project would benefit a distressed area. These programs provide funding for infrastructure projects and revolving loan funds and other business assistance programs, respectively. In addition, other Federal agencies look favorably on joint/regional planning efforts when reviewing proposed projects and grant requests. Approval by all counties in Southeastern Wisconsin could potentially lead to EDA designation of the Region as an Economic Development District (EDD), making it eligible to apply for funding for ongoing economic development activities. Adoption of the sample resolution provided by SEWRPC would also support exploring designation of the Region as an EDD.

The draft CEDS was available for public review and comment from February 22 through March 31 of this year. The CEDS has been revised to address the comments received, which are summarized in Appendix B of the report. The KABA Board of Directors reviewed and endorsed the draft CEDS at a meeting held on May 5 and will provide a letter of endorsement to the County Board.

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It is respectfully requested that your County Board consider adopting the plan. The sample resolution for County Board adoption of the CEDS is enclosed.

Commission staff is working with Andy Buehler, Director of Planning and Development, to schedule a review of the CEDS by the Planning, Development, and Extension Education Committee at their meeting scheduled for July 14. Please contact Eric Lynde of the Commission staff at (262) 953-3222 or elynde@sewrpc.org if you have questions about the CEDS or would like hardcopies of the report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin Muhs", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Kevin Muhs, PE, AICP
Executive Director

KJM/BRM/EDL/CDP/cp
#257726

Enclosure

cc: Mr. Todd Battle, President, Kenosha Area Business Alliance
Ms. Heather Wessling Grosz, Vice President, Kenosha Area Business Alliance
Mr. Jim Kreuser, County Executive, Kenosha County
Mr. Andy Buehler, Director, Kenosha County Planning and Development (with enclosure)
Mr. Pat O'Brien, President, Milwaukee 7