

Introduction

Intergovernmental cooperation involves working with neighboring communities, County government, and State agencies to understand how their future planning activities will impact the Town of Bradford. At a minimum, this involves sharing information about Bradford's Plan with neighboring communities and agencies and vice versa. Bradford believes intergovernmental cooperation should not end with the sharing of Plans. Instead, this process should be the beginning for joint planning and decision-making, conflict resolution, and other strategies to promote regional coordination.

Intergovernmental Vision

By 2030, intergovernmental cooperation efforts have enabled Bradford to establish partnerships with neighboring communities, State agencies, Rock County, and the Clinton and Delavan-Darien School Districts to provide coordinated, cost-effective services to residents while maintaining low local tax rates.

Wisconsin's Comprehensive Planning Law includes fourteen goals for local comprehensive planning. The goals listed below specifically relate to planning for intergovernmental cooperation:

- Encouragement of land uses, densities and regulations that promote efficient development patterns and relatively low municipal, State governmental and utility costs.
- Providing an integrated, efficient and economical transportation system that affords mobility, convenience and safety and that meets the needs of all citizens, including transit-dependent and disabled citizens.

The Comprehensive Planning Law requires that the Town of Bradford coordinate planning activities with:

- Town of Clinton
- Town of Darien
- Town of Harmony
- Town of Johnstown
- Town of La Prairie
- Town of Richmond
- Town of Sharon
- Town of Turtle
- Rock County
- Walworth County
- Clinton Community School District
- Delavan/Darien School District
- Wisconsin Department of Administration
- Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
- Wisconsin Department of Transportation

Existing Intergovernmental Activities and Partners

Many current intergovernmental programs have an affect upon the Town of Bradford. This section highlights some of these programs.

ADJACENT GOVERNMENTAL UNITS

- Towns of Clinton, Darien, Harmony, Johnstown, La Prairie, Richmond, Sharon, and Turtle

Bradford's relationship with neighboring Towns can be characterized as one of mutual respect. These communities share a common history, social culture, and rural character with Bradford. Since Towns cannot annex land from one another, boundary disputes are non-existent. Public services such as road maintenance and construction are conducted individually by each community. However, as mutually beneficial opportunities for shared services arise, the Town of Bradford is open to considering shared services options.

CLINTON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

The Town of Bradford is a participant with the Village of Clinton in the *Agreement for Creation and Operation of Clinton Fire Protection District*. The Town and Village of Clinton have been participants in the joint fire protection district since 1962. The Town of Bradford joined the partnership in 1979.

BRADFORD CLINTON TOWN LINE ROAD AGREEMENT

The Towns of Bradford and Clinton entered into an agreement to split the costs of maintenance on the shared road in 2008. Majority approval is required for most expenditures.

SCHOOL DISTRICTS

The Town of Bradford and the Clinton and Delavan/Darien School Districts recognize the significant role each plays in the other's future. Each is dependent upon the other, to varying degrees, to ensure a healthy long-term future. The school districts were discussed in detail in *Chapter 6: Utilities & Community Facilities*. With respect to intergovernmental cooperation, opportunities were identified during the planning effort to strengthen relations between the Town of Bradford and the School Districts. Specific goals and objectives to help realize several of these opportunities are included in the Intergovernmental Cooperation section of *Chapter 12: Implementation*.

ROCK COUNTY

Rock County provides many programs, services, and facilities to Bradford and its residents. Those that most directly affect Bradford include:

- County highway maintenance and improvement programs.
- Library funding support (to help cover the costs of County residents who use the library).
- Social services.
- Land use planning and mapping assistance.

In those areas where Rock County has jurisdiction (i.e. shoreland zoning), the County consults the Town before making decisions affecting Bradford. During the planning process, additional

communication with the County was identified as a priority, particularly with respect to County road improvement projects. Future communication will also be especially important as it relates to:

- Stormwater management
- Coordination with the Rock County Comprehensive Plan
- Public safety

There are a number of issues that will challenge the Town of Bradford and its neighbors during the coming decades, many of which require or benefit from a coordinated multi-jurisdictional response. The Town will cooperate with the County and other local communities to discuss and address matters related to:

- Subdivision, zoning, and other local land use tools.
- Housing, transportation, and services for seniors.
- Affordable housing for Rock County's year-round residents and seasonal workers.
- Wind energy and wind farm regulations.
- Socio-economic and environmental issues related to rising energy costs and global climate change.

WALWORTH COUNTY

Although Bradford does not fall within Walworth County activities in the County and the Town adjoining Bradford will have affects upon the community. Improving lines of communication between Bradford and the communities of Walworth County will enhance plan implementation and may provide opportunities to achieve shared goals.

STATE AGENCIES

- Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR)
- Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT)
- Wisconsin State Historical Society

WDNR and WisDOT are the primary State agencies with whom Bradford must coordinate to achieve the goals and objectives of this Plan.

WDNR takes a lead role in wildlife protection and the sustainable management of woodlands, stormwater regulations, wetlands, State parks, and other natural wildlife habitat areas. Given the priority Town residents give to natural resource protection, the WDNR is an important partner with the Town of Bradford in planning for the future.

WisDOT is a key player in the planning and development of highways and pedestrian/cycling facilities in the Town and region. Bradford has a good relationship with WisDOT and

The activities of the WDNR are discussed further in *Chapter 7: Agricultural, Natural and Cultural Resources*. Additional information is also available on-line at: www.dnr.state.wi.us.



For additional information about WisDOT activities in the Town of Bradford, refer to *Chapter 5: Transportation*. Additional information is also available on-line at: www.dot.state.wi.us

will continue to work with them, particularly with respect to ongoing and future work within the USH 14/STH 11 and STH 140 corridors. The Town will continue to communicate with WisDOT about land use and transportation decisions made locally.

Intergovernmental Comprehensive Planning Process

To facilitate a planning environment open to intergovernmental cooperation, all Plan documents, including text and maps, were available throughout the plan program on the project website for review and comment to ensure the widest range of public participation and input from overlapping and neighboring jurisdictions as well as any other interested entity or individual. The Town also coordinated with Rock County to obtain mapping resources as well as information from existing Plan documents.

More than thirty days prior to the public hearing, all intergovernmental partners were informed of the meeting and of where they could review the Pre-Public Hearing Draft of the Comprehensive Plan. Comments received prior to and during the public hearing were entered into the record for the planning process.

Existing and Proposed Plans

LOCAL COMPREHENSIVE PLANS

The communities adjoining the Town of Bradford are in various stages of the comprehensive planning process. The current status of comprehensive planning efforts in adjoining communities is as follows:

- Town of Clinton – Plan in progress with anticipated adoption in September 2009.
- Town of Darien – Plan in progress with anticipated adoption in October 2009.
- Town of Harmony – Plan in progress with anticipated completion date of November 2009.
- Town of Johnstown – Plan completed and awaiting adoption by the Town Board.
- Town of La Prairie – Plan completed and adopted in June 2009.
- Town of Richmond – Plan in progress with anticipated adoption in October 2009.
- Town of Sharon - Plan in progress with anticipated adoption in October 2009.
- Town of Turtle – Plan in progress with anticipated adoption in September 2009.
- Rock County – Plan completed and awaiting adoption by County Board.
- Walworth County – Plan in progress with anticipated adoption in November 2009.

CLINTON COMMUNITY AND DELAVAN/DARIEN SCHOOL DISTRICTS

At this time, the school districts have no plans to construct new facilities within the Town of Bradford. In order to facilitate future school district planning efforts, this Plan recommends that the Town continue to work with the Districts on studies related to future enrollment and facilities needs. The districts' current facilities can accommodate additional students. To further facilitate

school district planning, this Plan has been made available to those districts as a tool to predict future school enrollments from the Town of Bradford.

STATE AGENCIES

The WDNR takes a lead role in wildlife protection and the protection and sustained management of woodlands, wetlands and other natural wildlife habitat areas. These priorities are reflected in the Agricultural, Natural and Cultural Resources section of *Chapter 12: Implementation*.

The WisDOT has completed a series of Statewide planning documents for use in the development of local Comprehensive Plans. These documents include plans for the State highway corridors, bicycle corridors, rail corridors, and air transportation. The plans were used as a starting point when preparing *Chapter 5: Transportation of this Plan*.

Infrastructure to Support Town Success

Historically, Bradford has been able to function very well with no hired staff. However, as the Town's population continues to grow, staff may be needed to meet the demands of a growing community. The addition of future staff will be carefully considered as part of a larger organization structure designed to meet resident, economic, and intergovernmental challenges.

The provision of adequate space for government to function is also an issue that will impact the Town's ability to coordinate well with neighboring communities and provide needed services for residents. This issue is addressed in *Chapter 6: Utilities and Community Facilities* as it relates to the future Town Hall and park facilities.

Relationship to Other Comprehensive Plan Chapters

Intergovernmental Cooperation weaves its ways into every chapter of this Plan. Regional housing demand and supplies determine the market for housing in the Town of Bradford. Transportation improvements made to County and State highways have the potential to affect land use and development patterns in the Town. Likewise, the Town's ability to expand economically depends on quality services being provided, not only by the Town, but also its intergovernmental partners (i.e. schools, police, fire, etc.). Moreover, the Town's ability to support development opportunities at its perimeter must be coordinated with neighboring communities to ensure compatibility with adjacent land uses.

Intergovernmental Cooperation Goals, Objectives, and Policies

The goals objectives, and policies related to Intergovernmental Cooperation in Bradford can be found in *Chapter 12: Implementation*.