

CRANES

Capital Region Advocacy Network for Environmental Sustainability

On behalf of its member organizations and individuals, advocating collaboratively for the environment of the South Central Wisconsin region (eight counties: Columbia, Dane, Dodge, Green, Iowa, Jefferson, Rock and Sauk) toward a high quality of life; an ecologically sustainable and just culture; and, the celebration of the beauty of this place, both natural and built.

VISION The Capital area's environment, including water, land, and air resources, will be conserved or restored to ensure the region's quality of life and the beauty of this special place, for all who live or visit here, now and in the future.

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Capital Area Regional Planning Commission

Jeff Miller, Chair

c/o Kamran Mesbah, Commission Staff

City-County Building Rm. 362

210 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd

Madison, WI 53703

12 November 2009

Re: City of Middleton/Town of Westport CUSA named Bishops Bay

Dear Chair Miller and CARPC Commissioners:

The *Capital Region Advocacy Network for Environmental Sustainability* (CRANES) urges a vote to deny the Central Urban Service Area (CUSA) amendment application by the City of Middleton and the Town of Westport, scheduled for initial consideration by the *Capital Area Regional Planning Commission* (CARPC) on 12 November 2009.

The opposition of CRANES to this application is grounded primarily in the many unanswered questions about the amendment's impacts on water quality and quantity, and the region's environmental sustainability, as well as many other matters in the public interest. Please see the attached list of questions, which were formulated in just the five days since the application and the CARPC staff report were posted. The studies and data that will allow CARPC and the public to make a fully informed decision about the merits of this proposal are lacking; a "No" vote will send a clear message that this application was not ripe for consideration, much less approval.

There is also the matter of intercommunity equity; this application, if approved, because of its size alone will perforce place many burdens on other neighboring or downstream communities, in Dane County and beyond, while necessarily limiting their own planning options.

Moreover, it is the position of CRANES that such nontrivial USA amendment applications can only be considered properly by CARPC after completion of two important planning programs: (1) the FUDA process; and, (2) a watershed-level intergovernmental study of water quality and quantity issues. We urge a moratorium on the review of this and other USA applications of sizeable acreage and/or natural resource impacts until this crucial planning is completed. The floods of 2008 and climate-change-driven precipitation trends, warn that any other approach likely threatens public safety.

Additionally, CRANES maintains that, prior to further consideration of such nontrivial applications, transportation planning by entities such as the MPO and the RTA must be integrated with that of CARPC. For CARPC to proceed otherwise could mean that huge developments are built that cause new severe traffic problems, only to find the public unwilling or even unable to fund new roads or other transit solutions.

CRANES therefore urges a NO vote on this application, and also requests a moratorium on the review of future such nontrivial USA applications until this crucial FUDA, watershed-level, and transportation planning is completed.

Cordially,



Gary Werner

for the CRANES Interim Steering Group

ADDENDUM: The potential regional impact of such large USA amendment applications requires responsible public input that takes time to prepare. This application, as well as any others over 50 acres (and smaller applications with significant natural resource implications) should require a minimum 90-day period for review by the public. To be fair, the public should then be provided the opportunity to report findings to CARPC in a way that provides equity with the opportunity provided the applicant. CRANES requested these procedural enhancements in October 2008, and thus asks that CARPC enact these immediately, applying them to current applications.