

9 ACTION PLAN

The purpose of this element is to provide a clear set of actions to be taken by the Town of Onalaska in a preferred sequence to implement this Plan. In most cases, the policies and recommendations identified within each element are action statements and have been restated in this element with additional details such as the priority, approximate timeframe, and responsible party. However, in some instances the action statements are taken one step further and establish clear tasks to be accomplished. In addition, there are a few issues that require further recommendations for implementation.

For purposes of complying with Wisconsin's "Smart Growth" Comprehensive Planning Law, "actions" are used synonymously with the law's "programs" to implement this plan.

9.1 Goals and Objectives

Goal 1: The Town of Onalaska shall maintain an up-to-date Comprehensive Plan which reflects the community's wishes, regularly monitor the progress in implementing the Plan, and ensure the Plan remains in compliance with Wisconsin State Laws.

Objectives

- a. Ensure effective implementation of the Comprehensive Plan by coordinating Plan priorities with the Town's budget decisions.
- b. Ensure that annual budget expenditures address current community priorities and implement identified action items as well as long-term goals for the physical development and preservation of the Town.
- c. Ensure that the Comprehensive Plan remains a dynamic, up-to-date, responsive guide for the physical development of the Town.

- d. Assure the Comprehensive Plan is updated and kept in conformance with the requirements of the Wisconsin's Comprehensive Planning Law and other State statutes.

Policies and Recommendations

1. The Town shall continue to provide funding for the administration of the Plan.
2. The Town Board will be ultimately responsible for administration and enforcement of the Plan and will work with the Plan Commission, Town Staff, and others to implement the Plan.
3. The Town shall continue to provide public participation procedures to encourage public participation in the comprehensive planning process, including consideration of amendments to the Plan and annual monitoring of the Plan.
4. The Plan Commission and Board shall provide and maintain procedures for processing Plan amendments and updates.
5. Establish and regularly update an Action Plan to implement the Comprehensive Plan. The Action Plan should be evaluated and possibly revised if the Town hires an Administrator to more expeditiously implement the Action Plan.
6. The Comprehensive Plan is intended to be a 20-year Plan.
7. Involve the public in the consideration of Plan amendments, including notifying all affected parties and individuals in a timely manner and conducting at least one public hearing, as required by State Law.
8. Establish the following procedures to change the Plan:
 - a. The Town Board adopts a resolution outlining the procedures that will be undertaken to ensure public participation during every stage of the plan amendment process.
 - b. The Town Plan Commission will notify all concerned individuals and conduct a public meeting to gather and present information.

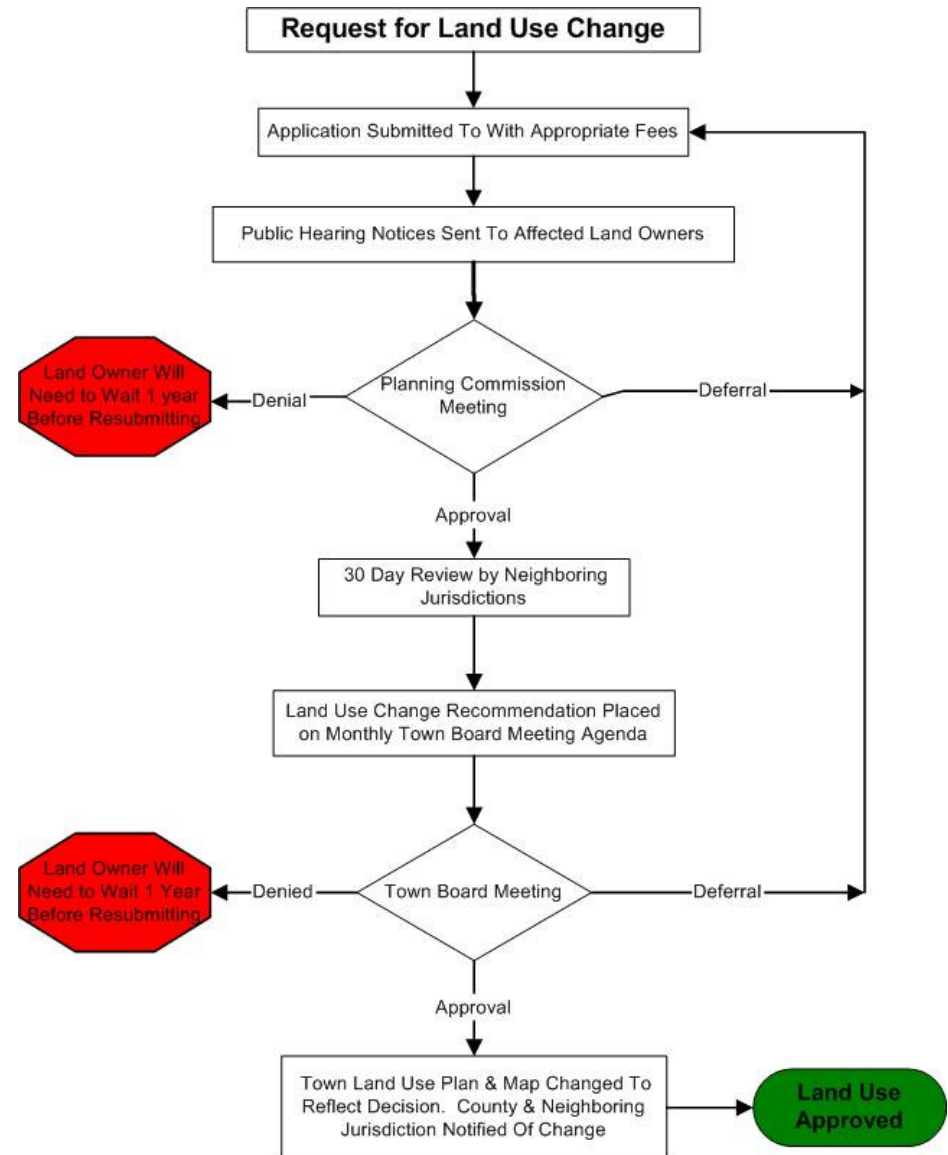
- c. Following the public meeting, the Plan Commission shall make a recommendation to the Town Board.
- d. The recommended plan amendment shall be sent to all adjacent and surrounding jurisdictions as required under Section 66.1001(4), Wisconsin Statutes.
- e. The Town Board shall hold a public hearing on the recommendations of the Plan Commission. This public hearing will follow the notification requirements listed under Section 66.1001(4), Wisconsin Statutes.
- f. The Town Board at a regular meeting shall act on the Plan Commission's recommendation and approve, deny, or amend any proposed change to this Plan by ordinance.
- g. The Town will forward any amendment to the County for incorporation into its Comprehensive Plan.

Examples of amendments to this plan include, but are not limited to, changing the goals or purpose for a plan element, district or land use category; adding or deleting land uses which may be considered within a plan district or land use category; revising the future land use plan map; or adding or deleting policies or actions for a plan district or land use category.

- 9. Consider the following criteria when reviewing changes to the Plan (the figure on the next page illustrates the general process, but does not illustrate where other municipalities may be involved in that process):
 - a. The change is consistent with the goals and objectives or other elements of this Comprehensive Plan.
 - b. The change does not create an adverse impact on public facilities and services that cannot be mitigated. Public facilities and services include roads, drainage, schools, emergency services and parks.
 - c. Development resulting from the change does not create an undue impact on surrounding properties. Such development should be consistent with the physical character of the surrounding areas or would upgrade and improve the area.
 - d. The change does not have a significant adverse impact on working farms, the Town's rural character, archeological resources, or the natural environment including woodlands, slopes and groundwater, or the impact could be mitigated by improvements on the site or in the same vicinity.

- e. There is a change in Town policies or area characteristics that would justify a change.
- f. The change corrects an error made in the original plan.
- g. There is a community or regional need identified in the Comprehensive Plan for the proposed land use or service.
- h. The change helps the Town implement its overall goals.
- i. The change retains consistency among Plan elements.
- j. The amendment is in compliance with Wisconsin State Laws.

Figure 9.1: Land Use Change Process



Action Plan

Table 9.1 on the next page provides recommended actions, responsible parties, and timeframes to implement this Comprehensive Plan.

For the purposes of this plan, time frames for implementation are defined as:

- Short Term: 1-3 years
- Mid-Term: 3-6 years
- Long Term: 6-10 years

Table 9.1 Action Plan to Implement the Town of Onalaska Comprehensive Plan

✓	Action	Responsible Party	Short, Mid, Long Term
	1. Distribute adopted Comprehensive Plan to neighboring jurisdictions, relevant State of Wisconsin departments, La Crosse County, LAPC, Onalaska and Holmen School Districts, the libraries, and federal agencies, and encourage them to consider this Plan when making land use, transportation, preservation, and economic development decisions.	Clerk	Short Term
	2. Post the Comprehensive Plan on the Town's website.	Clerk, Staff	Short Term
	3. Participate in the La Crosse County Comprehensive Plan update.	Plan Commission, Board	Short Term
	4. Create intergovernmental cooperation agreements with the: City of Onalaska; Village of Holmen; La Crosse County.	Plan Commission and Board, Attorney, Staff	Short Term
	5. Work with La Crosse County to update the Zoning Ordinance to implement this Plan.	Plan Commission, Board	Short Term
	6. Create a Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) Program or a similar program.	PDR Committee, Plan Commission, Village Board, Consultant	Short Term
	7. Update Land Division Ordinance to implement this Plan, including the creation of a conservation subdivision ordinance and lighting ordinance.	Plan Commission, Board, Consultant or Staff	Short Term
	8. Identify a location and build a new Town Hall.	Board, Staff, possible consultant	Short Term
	9. Conduct a complete evaluation of this Plan approximately within 2 years of the adoption date of this Plan to determine if the progress is sufficient to implement the Plan.	Board, Plan Commission, Staff	Short Term
	10. Investigate hiring a Town Administrator.	Board	Short Term

✓	Action	Responsible Party	Short, Mid, Long Term
	<p>11. The Town immediately commit to funding the creation of a detailed site plan for Brice Prairie and work with property owners to rezone industrial zoned land in the Town to a less intensive zoning districts, in order to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address the limitations for development of Brice Prairie identified below. This should be done with consideration of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Providing access to HWY 35 and ○ Protecting groundwater from contamination. ○ Controlling land use that can negatively impact surrounding natural resources • Include <u>meaningful</u> involvement from both landowners and residents in the process • Be open and inclusive of the public • Include input from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, the WI DNR, and other relevant agencies • Be based on good science and economic analysis • Recognize and consider the social, environmental, and economic consequences of future development on Brice Prairie • Be created in collaboration with the City of Onalaska 	<p>Plan Commission, Board, Staff, La Crosse County</p>	<p>Short Term</p>
	<p>12. Create a groundwater overlay protection district.</p>	<p>Plan Commission, Board, Staff or consultant</p>	<p>Short Term</p>
	<p>13. Increase development review fees to cover the costs of reviewing development applications. In addition, employ land use/planning staff, this may include contracting with another entity, to provide development review services to the Town to ensure compliance with this Plan and all applicable ordinances.</p>	<p>Plan Commission, Board, Staff, Other</p>	<p>Short Term</p>
	<p>14. Develop a stormwater management ordinance to prevent soil erosion and protect water quality.</p>	<p>Board, Storm Water Utility</p>	<p>Short Term</p>
	<p>15. Work with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to locate on Brice Prairie.</p>	<p>Board</p>	<p>Short Term</p>
	<p>16. Create at least a 5-year Capital Improvements Plan.</p>	<p>Board</p>	<p>Short Term</p>
	<p>17. Create and adopt an Official Map.</p>	<p>Board, Plan Commission</p>	<p>Short Term</p>
	<p>18. Create a Great River Road Corridor Plan with the City of Onalaska and Village of Holmen.</p>	<p>Plan Commission, Board, City and Village, Staff or consultant</p>	<p>Mid-Term</p>

✓	Action	Responsible Party	Short, Mid, Long Term
	19. Consider creating a general plan to enhance Midway as an important town center.	Plan Commission, Board, Staff or consultant	Mid-Term
	20. Create mechanisms for development projects to pay their own way.	Board, Staff	Long Term
	21. Study the need for improved access to Brice Prairie.	Plan Commission, Board, Staff or consultant	Long Term
	22. Create a Parks and Recreation Plan.	Plan Commission, Board, Staff or consultant, Regional Planning Commission	Long Term
	23. Create attractive gateways to the Town.		Long Term
	24. Explore options to sustain and possibly increase tourism and recreation businesses in the Town through development of biking trails, cross country ski trails, parks, walking trails, wildlife refuges, and/or nature sanctuaries.	Plan Commission, Board, Staff	Ongoing
	25. Annually, the Town Board will hold at least one public meeting to discuss the status of the Comprehensive Plan and progress made toward implementation.	Town Board	Ongoing
	26. Coordinate with the County, neighboring communities and others on land preservation strategies.	Plan Commission, PDR Committee, Board	Ongoing
	27. Participate in regional transportation planning efforts. Specifically, work with surrounding communities to explore strategies for providing cost effective transportation services to transit-dependent and disabled residents, and evaluate the possible extension of shared-ride taxi service to the Town.	Board, Staff	Ongoing
	28. Implement the Town's Watershed Plans.	Board, Staff, Storm Water Utility	Ongoing
	29. Contact La Crosse Area Planning Commission at least one time each year to provide a list of the Town transportation projects and needs to be included in the County's Capital Improvements Program.	Staff	Ongoing
	30. Prepare and annually update a multi-year transportation improvement plan to identify and prioritize short-term and long-term needs and funding sources for road improvements, new roads, pedestrian and bicycle paths and trails, and other transportation facilities. This action should be included in the Capital Improvements Plan.	Plan Commission, Board, Staff	Ongoing
	31. Notify La Crosse County that speeding is the number one traffic safety issue in the Town, and work with the County to identify solutions to this problem.	Staff	Ongoing

✓	Action	Responsible Party	Short, Mid, Long Term
	32. Refer development applications to the appropriate adjacent community if the lands are located in the extra-territorial jurisdiction or Long Range Planning Area, and appropriate school district for review and comment prior to the Town's consideration of the application. Add this action to the subdivision ordinance checklist.	Plan Commission, Board, Staff	Ongoing
	33. Monitor the performance of the septic systems and wells. Monitor the County's records of failing septic systems in the Town to determine if groupings of areas are experiencing problems and if/how/when the problems are resolved.	Board, Staff	Ongoing
	34. Continue to educate new homeowners about living in agricultural areas, such as creating a pamphlet, and posting information on the Town's website.	Staff	Ongoing