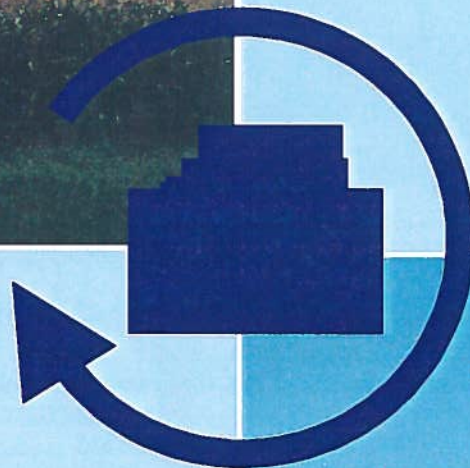
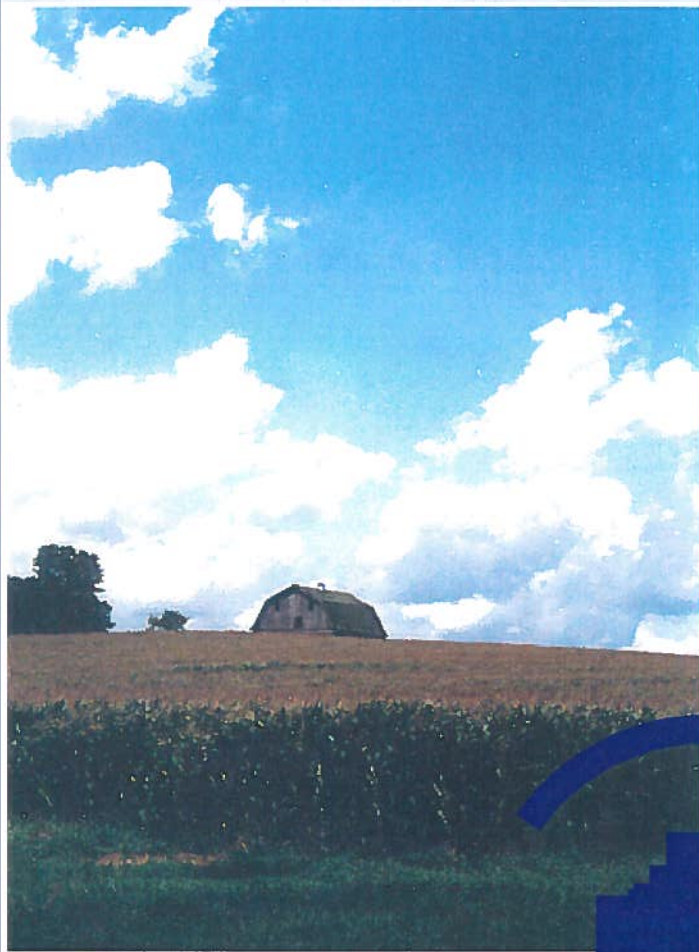
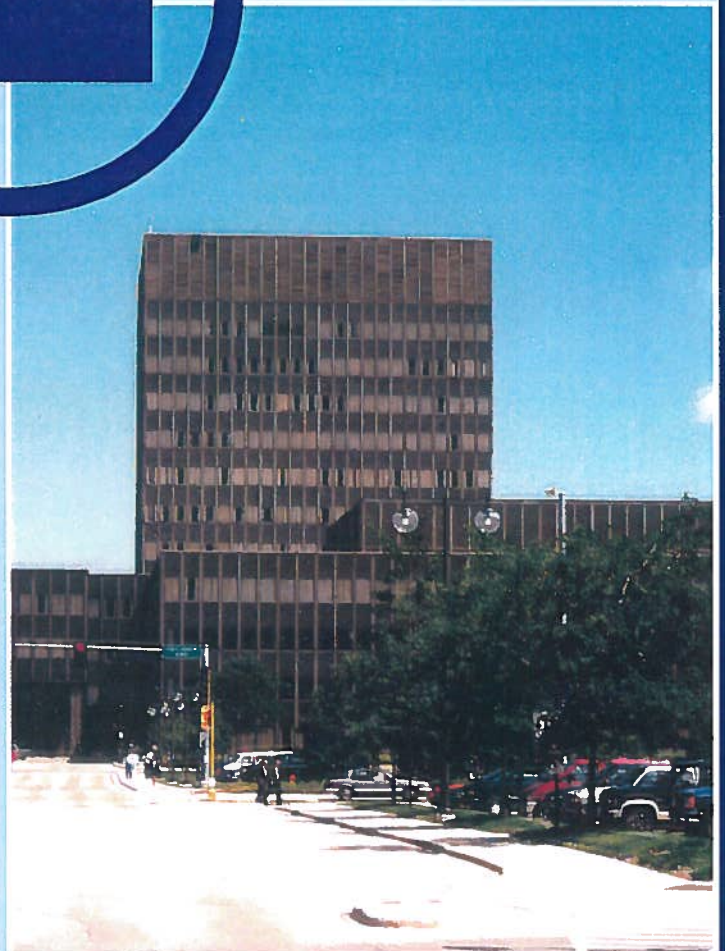


1996 ANNUAL REPORT



**McLEAN
COUNTY
REGIONAL
PLANNING
COMMISSION**



**THE STAFF
OF THE
McLEAN COUNTY
REGIONAL
PLANNING
COMMISSION**

Paul Russell, AICP
Director

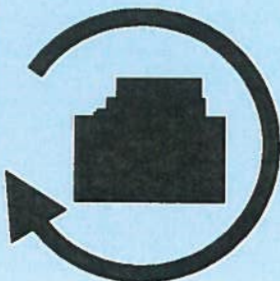
Lisa Trimble
*Project Planner
Transportation*

Jeff Edwards
*Project Planner
Comprehensive Planning*

Todd Plahmer
*Project Planner
Information Services*

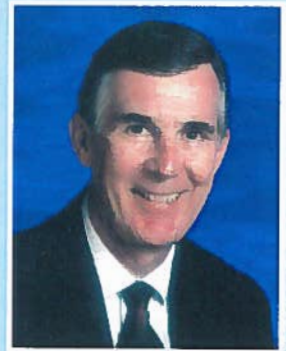
Teresa Casselman
Executive Secretary

Eric Johnson
Student Intern



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Units of Government,
Public Agencies and
Citizens of McLean County



The McLean County Regional Planning Commission is proud to play a role in helping to shape the future of such a vibrant and dynamic community. We thank our funders and our planning partners for their support and cooperation.

The commissioners and staff are pleased to present this 1996 annual report. It details a significant record of accomplishment and sets forth an ambitious agenda of future projects.

Special attention has been devoted to reviewing proposed projects to assure compliance with agreed upon planning principles, goals and comprehensive plans. This is a vital part of the advocacy role for the commission. Our challenge is to deal with the issues of today while focusing on the future development of the community of McLean County consistent with a shared vision.

Respectfully submitted,

Vern J. McGinnis
Chairman

THE REGION

Situated at the hub of America's agricultural heartland, McLean County offers the resources and quality of life that attracts people and business to the Region.

The graph below indicates that no other Illinois county outside the Chicago region has experienced more growth between 1970 and 1990 than has McLean County. Since 1990 the County's growth has been even more dramatic, strongly suggesting that growth will continue at least into the foreseeable future.

Growth brings with it many opportunities, but also many challenges for elected officials, administrators, planners and engineers.

THE COMMISSION

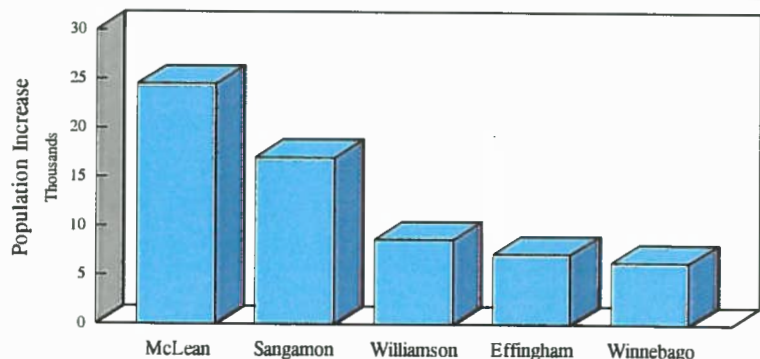
McLean County Regional Planning Commission is dedicated to assisting local governments in meeting challenges and maximizing opportunities through long-range planning.

Created in 1967, the Commission was transformed in 1993 into a citizen based

organization with a renewed commitment to long-range planning.

The Commission's work program and staff organization reflect this commitment. This report summarizes work undertaken by the Commission in support of its mission during the period July 1, 1995 through June 30, 1996.

TOP RANKED ILLINOIS COUNTIES IN ABSOLUTE GROWTH
Counties Outside Chicago Metro Area : 1970 - 1990



SOURCE: U. S. Census of Population 1970, 1980, 1990

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

The Commission's planning activities for FY 96 were organized into the three areas of Comprehensive Planning, Transportation Planning and Information Services.

Comprehensive Planning

Comprehensive plans were completed for three communities to serve as guides for local decision makers on matters pertaining to future development. Each plan is based on an assessment of existing and expected future conditions, and each presents strategies for future development of land use, transportation and selected community facilities. These and other comprehensive planning projects undertaken in FY 96 are summarized below.

Village of Danvers

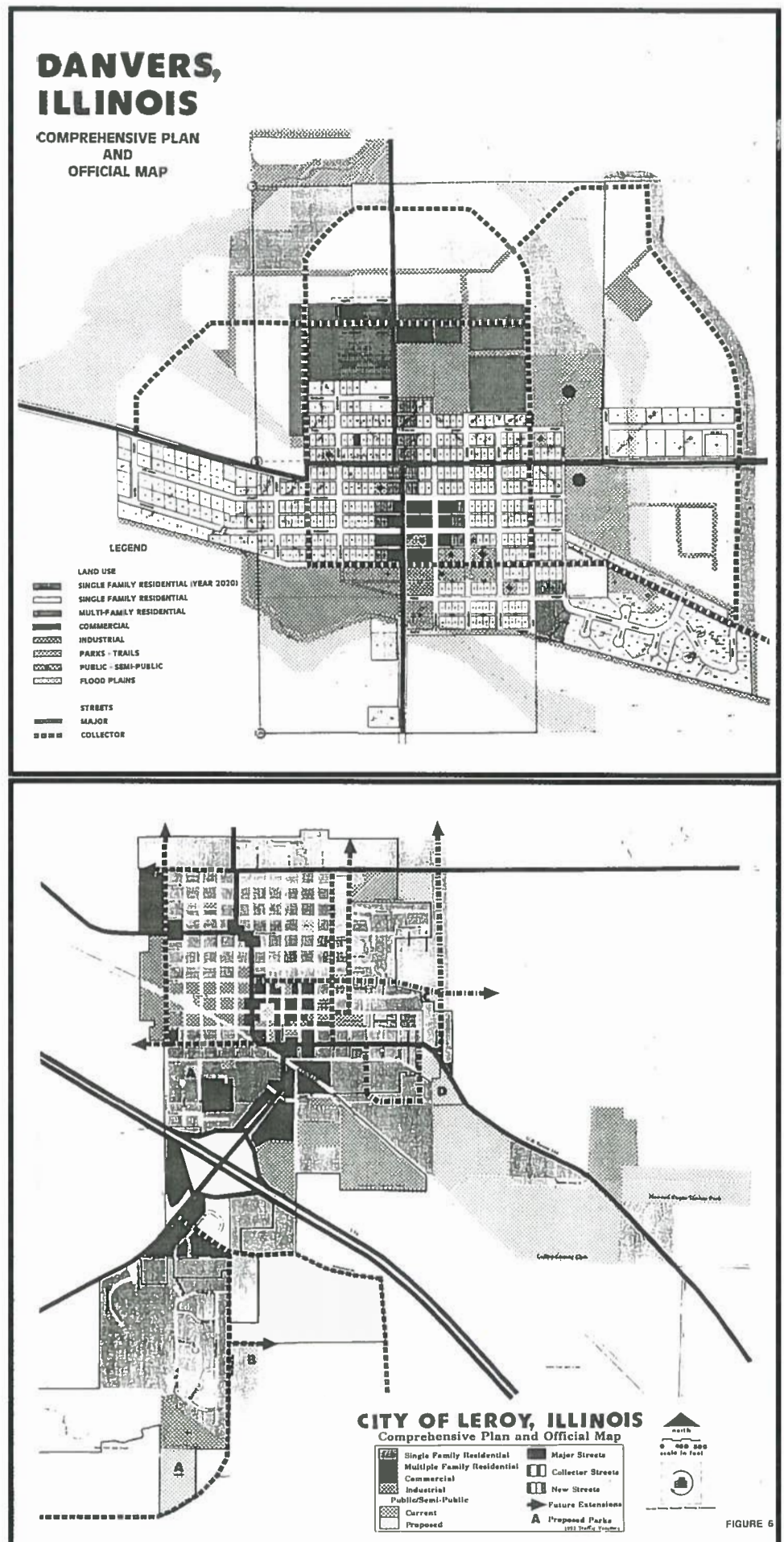
The Danvers plan was the first of the three initiated and completed. It was developed in concert with the Danvers Planning Commission and presents a plan for future residential, commercial, industrial and public uses as well as providing for an interconnected system of parks, trails, streets and open space. The Danvers plan also prioritizes areas for future development based on population projections and land suitability. The plan was adopted by the Village Board in the Fall of 1995.

City of LeRoy

The LeRoy plan was the second of the three community plans completed during the year. The LeRoy Comprehensive Plan was prepared in concert with the LeRoy Pride Action Committee (LPAC) and presents visions and strategies for the future development of the community. The plan encompasses all of the various facets of community development cited above. The LeRoy Comprehensive Plan was adopted by the City Council in the Winter of 1996.

Town of Normal

The Town of Normal Comprehensive Plan was adopted by the Town Council in July of 1996. The plan reflects the



combined efforts of the Town Council, 2015 and 2020 Committees, Planning Commission, Zoning Board and staff. It provides for aggressive growth while addressing a wide range of resident needs through a system of sustainable neighborhoods. According to the plan, each developing neighborhood would contain a commercial and mixed use core surrounded by decreasing densities of residential development. The plan also provides for a system of greenways and transportation facilities that would interconnect neighborhoods and regional service centers.

Southwest Bloomington Plan

The Southwest Bloomington Plan is one of a number of other projects that were initiated or were ongoing during

FY 96. This plan was completed in response to accelerated development in this part of the metro area. It was adopted by the City Council in April of 1996 to serve as an interim guide until the Bloomington Comprehensive Plan is completed in FY 97.

Regional Greenways Planning

This project was initiated during the year to preserve linear open space for aesthetic, environmental and recreational purposes. Greenways are bands of open space that may serve to protect environmentally sensitive areas or preserve wildlife habitat. Greenways may be as narrow as a fence row or as wide as several miles or more. In an urban setting greenways can provide a scenic break from the urban landscape. Some greenways

may also contain parks and trails for recreational use. The project is to be completed in FY 97 and is funded in part by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

Standardization of Subdivision Ordinances

The Commission is coordinating the review of the subdivision ordinances of Bloomington, Normal and McLean County in order to update and achieve a greater degree of consistency among the local ordinances. This work also includes incorporating metric measurements into the ordinances and has directly involved the local staffs throughout the process.

Gridley Codification

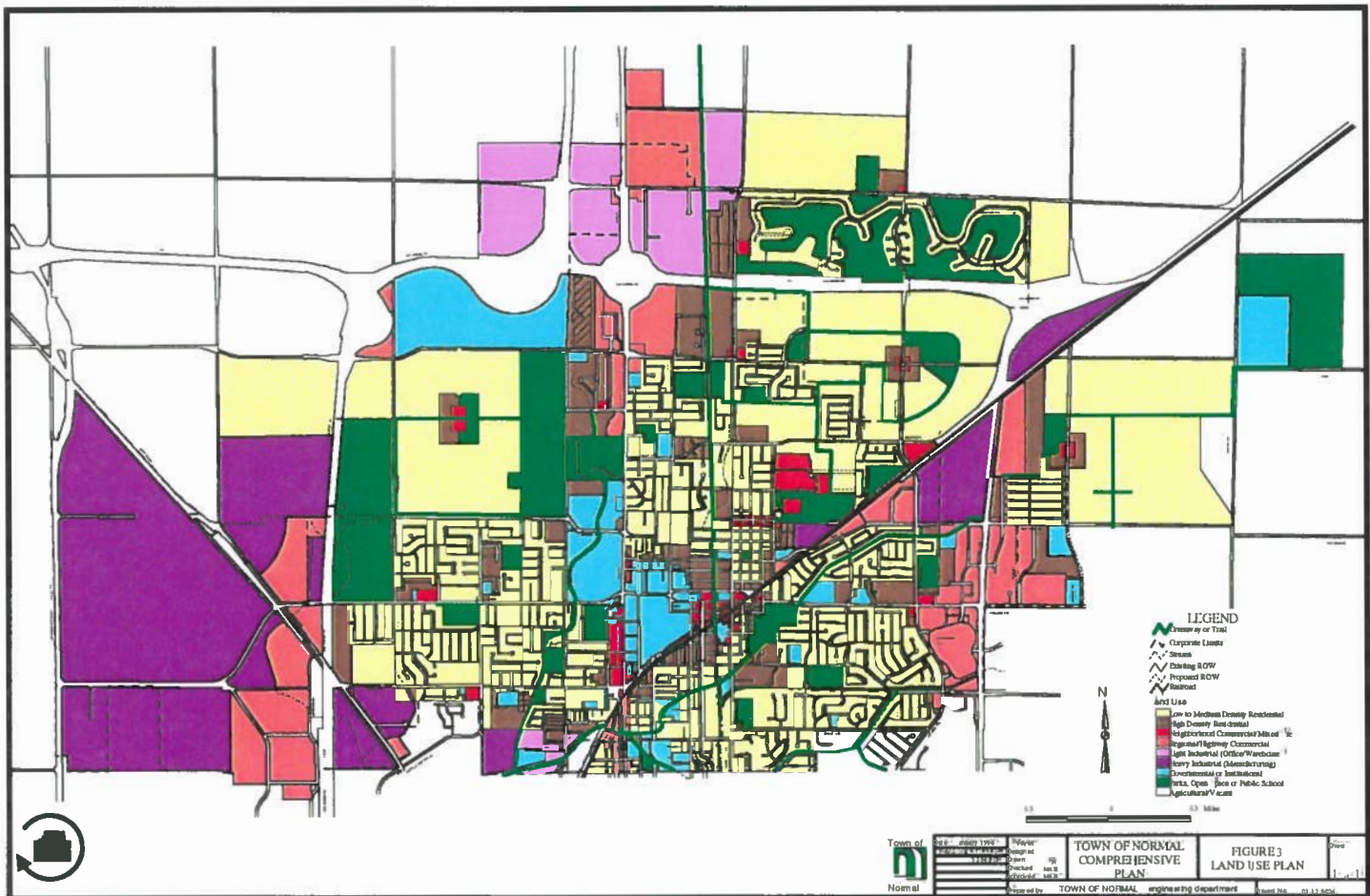
Commission staff assisted the Village of Gridley in up-

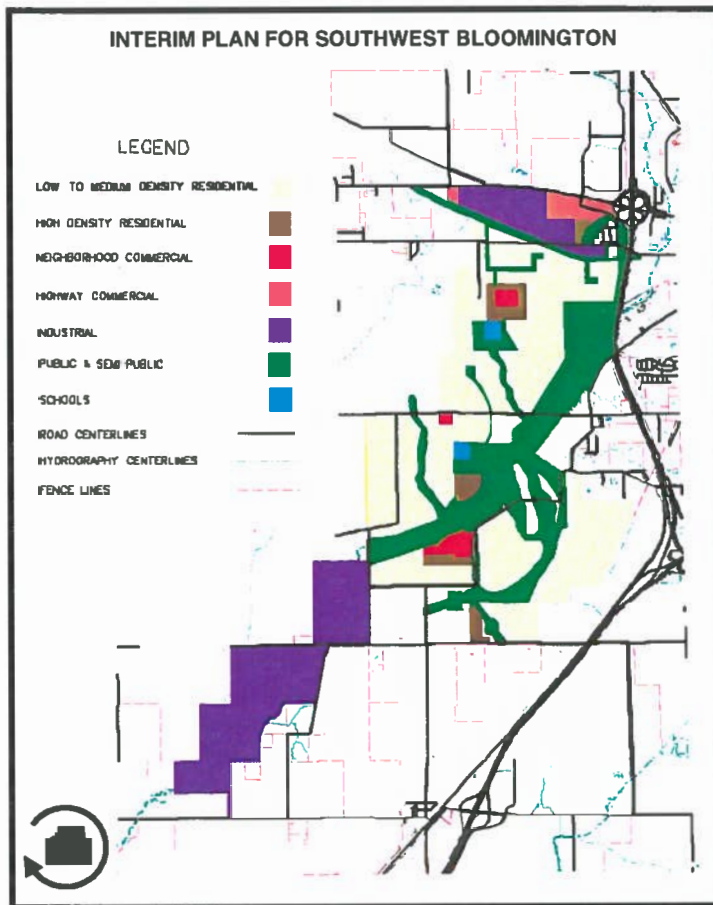
dating its code of ordinances. This project will be finalized upon completion of review by the Village.

Grant Application Reviews

The Commission is a sub-state clearinghouse for the review and coordination of development projects in McLean County that receive federal and state funding assistance. Relevant projects are reviewed to determine that no conflict exists with local and regional plans.

In the second half of the fiscal year alone, seventeen projects were approved for a total of nearly \$16 million in federal and state grant assistance. Projects reviewed include both social service programs and capital development projects, such as parks and roadways.





Development Monitoring

To gauge the effectiveness of planning and implementation efforts, the Commission reviews major development proposals for consistency with adopted plans. The monitoring program was initiated following the adoptions of the McLean County Comprehensive Plan by Bloomington, Normal and the County. The degree of success at using the plan to guide future development is illustrated as follows:

All Major Projects	23
Consistent Projects	16
Inconsistent Projects:	
Total	7
Modified or Withdrawn	6
Approved	1

Transportation Planning

The Commission is the IDOT designated Metropoli-

tan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Bloomington-Normal urban area. As such, the Commission coordinates transportation planning and development projects through its transportation policy and technical committees. Although transportation planning is involved in virtually all areas of Commission work activities, the following is a summary of distinct transportation projects carried out during FY 96.

Transportation Modeling

This ongoing program supports long-range transportation planning through computer simulation of traffic volumes on existing and future roadways. Future traffic flows are based on projections of economic, population and land use conditions. The modeling program is coordinated very closely with the activities carried out for the

comprehensive plans in the metro area.

Transit Planning

Commission staff assisted the Bloomington-Normal Public Transit System in a number of activities including a ridership count and a rider opinion survey. The Commission also coordinates the activities of the Transportation Advisory Committee. These activities have included providing transit rider training. The provision of transit service is also considered in the development of comprehensive plans for the urban area.

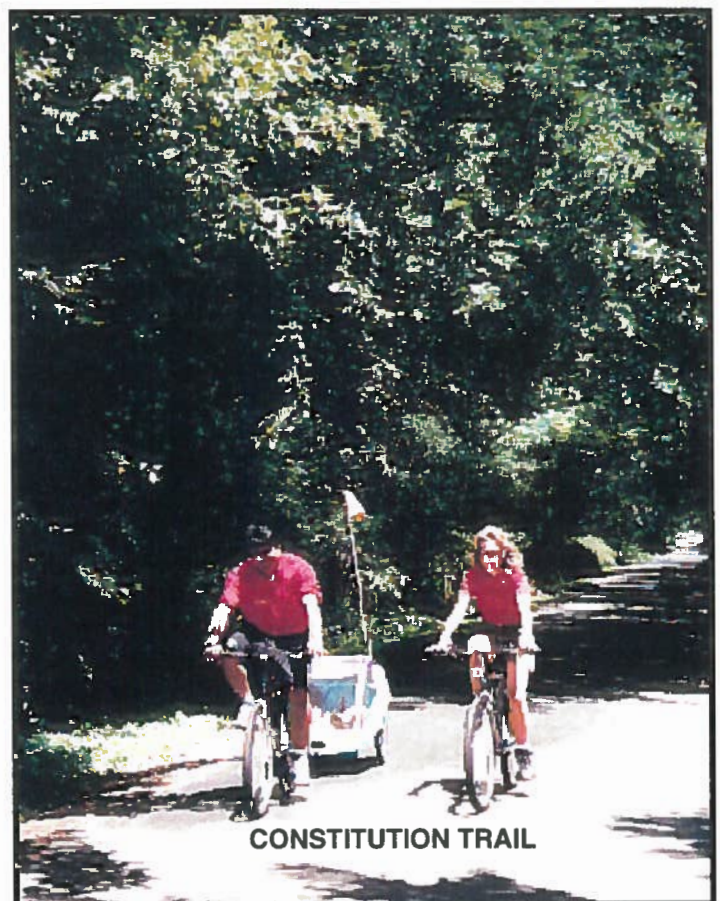
Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

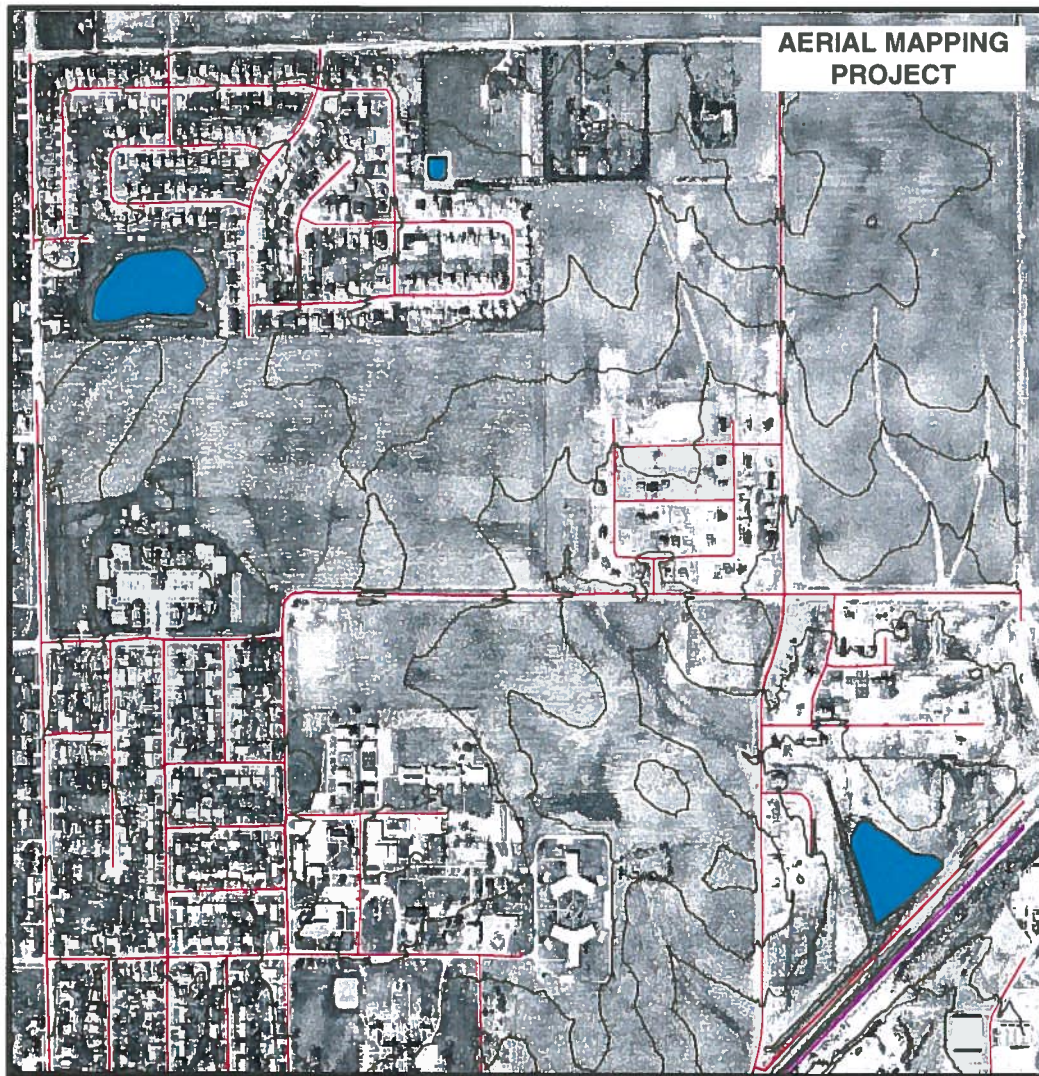
The TIP is a three-year summary of proposed road improvement and transit projects. Each year Commission staff coordinate with local officials and staff, IDOT and

special transportation providers (Section 16) to update the TIP consistent with the adopted Long-Range Transportation Plan. This is necessary in order to provide a clear picture of upcoming projects and expenditures and also to maintain the area's eligibility for federal transportation funding for local projects.

Mitsubishi Motorway Study

This comprehensive roadway alignment study is the first such study to be locally initiated for the Bloomington-Normal area. The study will identify an alignment for the southward extension of Mitsubishi Motorway (formerly Diamond Star Parkway) from Illinois Route 9 to I-55 at or near the Village of Shirley. Commission staff are coordinating the project with the City of Bloomington, IDOT and the engineering consultant.





AERIAL MAPPING PROJECT

Commission staff worked jointly with City of Bloomington engineering staff in providing traffic study components, which include data on future traffic volumes and turning movements. The project is scheduled to be complete by April, 1997.

Bicycle-Pedestrian Plan

The focus of this study is on bicycle and pedestrian transportation facilities as possible alternatives to the automobile. Initial activities have included identifying study parameters and establishing a framework for community participation. This project is scheduled for completion in FY 97.

Information Services

This division of Commission responsibility provides vital data and mapping support for virtually all Commission programs. It also coordinates the exchange of geographic information among local governments and provides information services to the public.

Database Management

The Commission is a designated substate depository for Census data. Great strides have been made in recent months in the Commission's ability to electronically access and distribute Census data through use of CD ROM and the Internet. The Commission also maintains a library of publications

pertaining to planning and McLean County. These resources are available to local government and the public.

Census Mapping

Commission staff update Census maps and address files as a service to local governments in preparation for the 2000 Census. This work includes improving the accuracy of mapped streets, roads and addresses and adding new subdivisions county-wide.

Aerial Mapping Project

Commission staff coordinated and administered a digital orthophotography and mapping project for the urban area. The 182 square mile project area included participation by Bloomington, Nor-

mal, the County, the Water Reclamation District, IDOT and the Commission. The project has produced planimetric and topographic maps with half meter contour intervals and an engineering accuracy level of plus or minus six feet.

The photograph (left) depicts a one square mile area with several features highlighted in color, including road centerlines, index contours and water bodies. A number of other features can be highlighted and virtually any scale can be produced as needs dictate. The digital maps and orthophotographs are exceptional tools for planning and engineering purposes and provide an excellent basis for developing a geographic information system (GIS).

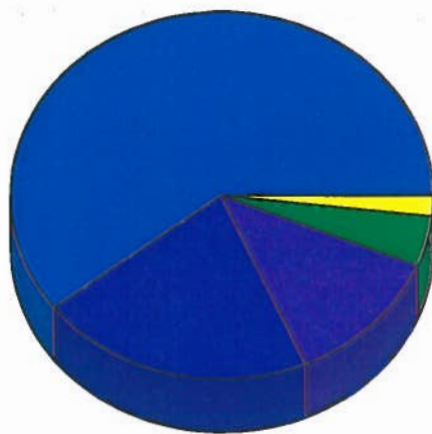
GIS Coordination

Commission staff are coordinating the joint development and administration of a mutually compatible GIS to serve participating local governments in McLean County. Bloomington, Normal, the County and the Commission are implementing GIS to provide expanded analytical and production capabilities. The Commission's GIS and support facilities now allow for the in-house production of maps and color graphics. This is not only more cost effective, but it also allows for the production of improved graphic illustrations.

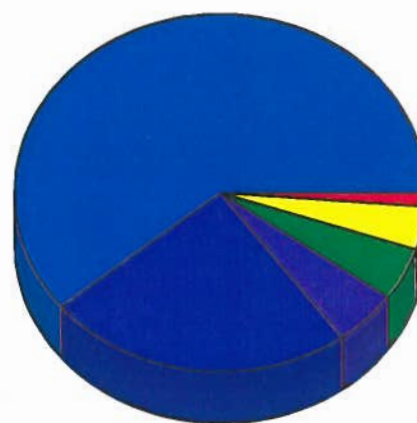
THE YEAR AHEAD

The coming year will bring the start of several new projects as well as the scheduled completion or continuation of a number of FY 96 projects as outlined below:

PROPORTIONATE RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 1996 **McLean County Regional Planning Commission**



RECEIPTS



DISBURSEMENTS

New Projects For FY 97

McLean County Plan Update
 Neighborhood Planning
 Countywide GIS Mapping
 Anti-discrimination Certification (Title VI)

Carry Over Projects

City of Bloomington Comprehensive Plan
 Mitsubishi Motorway Study
 Regional Greenways Plan
 Gridley Codification
 Bicycle-Pedestrian Plan
 Aerial Mapping
 Census Map Updates
 Subdivision Ordinance Standardization

Continuing Projects

Development Monitoring
 Grant Application Reviews
 Transportation Modeling
 Transit Planning
 GIS Coordination
 Database Management
 Information and Technical Assistance

FINANCES

The Commission receives its funding through a variety of sources. Funding is provided by federal and state grants, technical service contracts and regional service agreements. Regional service agreements with Bloomington, Normal and McLean County support Commission activities and provide matching shares for local, state and federal planning funds.

Commission finances for FY 96 were greatly impacted by the aerial mapping program. The charts above illustrate the distribution of Commission revenue sources and disbursements during the year.

Total receipts for the year were \$780,067 with aerial mapping funds from Bloomington and Normal accounting for over \$471,000 of this amount. Federal transportation funds represented the second greatest portion of Commission receipts. Regional service agreements accounted for the third greatest portion, with the fourth being technical service contracts for comprehensive planning services, including greenways.

Disbursements for the year totaled \$766,162, with aerial mapping accounting for over \$467,000. Expenditures for personnel related costs accounted for the second greatest portion of Commission disbursements, followed by equipment, professional services, and office expenses. Professional services included transportation moneys provided by the Commission to the Transit System to conduct a ridership survey.

The difference in receipts and disbursements reflects the amount of FY 96 carry over funds that are committed to completing projects begun prior to the end of FY 96.

STAFF NOTES

Several staff changes occurred during the year. Semi-retired Herman Dirks became fully retired last November and moved with his wife, Mary, to Phoenix, Arizona. We thank Herman for his services and wish him and Mary the best in their new home.

Teresa Casselman was appointed to the position of Executive Secretary in December. Teresa is a lifelong

resident and former employee of McLean County.

Todd Plahmer was appointed to the position of GIS Planner in January of this year. Todd was previously employed in the GIS Department at Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission which serves greater Milwaukee. He is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin at Madison with a major in geography.

Eric Johnson is completing a student internship at the Commission. Eric is a planning student at the University of Illinois. He is from the Chicago area and will return to school in the Fall.

The Commission is very pleased to have the services of Teresa, Todd and Eric to assist in meeting program objectives.

McLean County Regional Planning Commission is a non-profit organization that provides technical and financial assistance to local units of government for professional planning services.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE McLEAN COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Commissioners

Vern McGinnis, Chairman
Town of Normal

Richard Beal, Vice Chairman
City of Bloomington

Richard Buchanan
Airport Authority

Lois Mills
McLean County

Jim Rutherford
McLean County

Richard Johnson
City of Bloomington

Richard Percy
Unit 5 School District

Barry Weer
School District 87

Scott King
Water Reclamation District

Carol Reitan
Town of Normal

Ron Wesbecher
McLean County

Executive Committee

Richard Beal, Vice Chairman

Vern McGinnis, Chairman

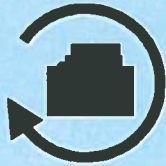
Richard Johnson, Personnel
Committee Chairman

David Anderson, City Manager
Town of Normal

Tom Hamilton, City Manager
City of Bloomington

John Zeunik, County Administrator
County of McLean

Paul Russell, AICP
Director



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