DANE COUNTY

Joe Parisi
County Executive

January 30, 2014

To: Larry Palm, Chair Capital Area Regional Planning Commission

From: County Executive Joe Parisi

Re: Urban Service Area Amendment Fees

Shortly before Thanksgiving, members of the Budget and Personnel Panel (BPP) of the Capital Area Regional Planning Commission (CARPC) received a memo from you indicating the Commission adopted a budget projecting $50,000 in new revenue for the 2014 calendar year resulting from the creation of user fees for urban service area amendment applications. I was pleased to learn of CARPC's decision to incorporate user fees into its funding model.

Over the past three years, I have consistently championed implementation of user fees as a critical tool to reduce CARPC's reliance on county property taxpayers for its budgetary expenses. User fees for CARPC are long overdue and are a more equitable way to fund an agency with an interest in how this county grows in the coming decades.

Given the importance of capitalizing on the revenue potential from the user fees, I asked my staff to immediately begin efforts to schedule a meeting of the panel after receiving your memo. To date, those efforts have been unsuccessful. I regret to inform you that despite several dates and times being proposed, Mayor Hochkammer's numerous scheduling conflicts have prevented the BPP from meeting in order to consider this issue. As you know, the Dane County City and Villages Association's representative on the BPP must be present in order to establish a quorum.

I am increasingly concerned that the longer this proposal languishes, the more likely it will be that CARPC will expect to make up any budget shortfalls by seeking additional funding from county property taxpayers in 2015 and beyond. In a time of strict property tax restrictions and increased service demands, such an expectation would not be realistic. Accordingly, I respectfully request that Commission staff join our efforts to get a meeting of the BPP scheduled as soon as practically possible.

If Mayor Hochkammer and the BPP remain unable to meet in the very near future, I would strongly suggest CARPC convene to reduce projected expenses in its 2014 budget by $50,000 before CARPC's deficit grows much larger. Obviously, reducing its budget in this amount may cause CARPC to tackle personnel reductions and other difficult decisions which may constrain effective regional planning. However, taking responsible action now rather than waiting until it's

City-County Building, Room 421, 210 Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard, Madison, Wisconsin 53703
PH 608/266-4114 FAX 608/266-2643 TDD 608/266-9138

too late will give CARPC the opportunity to spare county property taxpayers from shouldering another burden because of CARPC's latest budget woes.

If there is anything my staff can do to assist the Commission with facilitating a BPP meeting with Mayor Hochkammer, please let me know.

Thank you.

Cc: CARPC Commission
Jon Hochkammer, City of Verona Mayor
Paul Soglin, City of Madison Mayor
Jerry Derr, Town of Bristol Chair
Dane County Board of Supervisors