

# KEVIN MUHS, PE, AICP

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414.721.8638

June 13, 2022

The Honorable Cavalier Johnson  
Mayor, City of Milwaukee  
City Hall, Room 201  
200 E. Wells Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Dear Mayor Johnson, Ms. Urban, and Members of the Hiring Committee,

It is an honor to submit my cover letter and resume for your consideration for the role of Commissioner of Public Works. I appreciate the opportunity to apply for such a significant role with the City of Milwaukee.

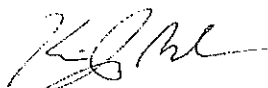
I want to start by acknowledging that I could be considered an unusual choice to lead the Department of Public Works. I do not have any significant operations experience, I have not previously worked in a public works department, and I currently lead the staff of a much smaller entity. However, I believe in the opportunity that your new administration offers for the City and want to be more directly involved in helping to build a stronger, more equitable Milwaukee. These motivations, coupled with my unique experience, would bring new perspective to the Department.

I have strong planning and engineering technical expertise and demonstrated success working effectively with elected officials and staff across southeastern Wisconsin. I would bring a passion for safe streets and using public right-of-way for more than moving and storing cars. I believe in public service, responsive government, and making Milwaukee a healthy and safe place for all. I've been able to work cooperatively with Federal and State agencies, local governments, and community groups for several years, and have existing relationships with these entities that would allow me to be an effective representative of the City's interests.

Although I am not as familiar as an internal candidate would be with all of the current initiatives of the Department, I am aware of and excited for the growing approach to Complete Streets, new strategies to reduce reckless driving, planned expansions of and improvements to the Hop, investments in lighting, and continued removal of lead laterals. If I am fortunate enough to be selected for the position, I would also bring a strong familiarity with the challenges and obstacles associated with changing how the City allocates its public right-of-way, a change that is needed given the public safety, health, and climate-related difficulties that the City (and the world) is facing.

Thank you again for your consideration of my application. I hope to have the opportunity to meet with you to discuss the position further.

Sincerely,



Kevin Muhs

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## EXPERIENCE

- Executive Director** January 2019 – Present  
*Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission – Milwaukee, WI*
- Direct and lead the Commission's 65 staff in the areas of transportation, land use, and environmental planning. This includes working with numerous Federal, State, and local government officials and staff members, guiding public involvement efforts, meeting with citizen groups, and reviewing and revising all work materials and reports produced by the agency.
  - Responsible to a board of 21 Commissioners, the seven counties, and the 147 local general units of government in the Region.
  - Provide and coordinate the provision of expert technical advice to public agencies across the Region, including assistance in navigating regulations and funding opportunities at the State and Federal levels.
  - Build consensus around challenging topics within the Commission's areas of expertise while moving the Region in a positive direction on housing, development, transportation, and the environment.
  - Developed and led the implementation of multiple strategic initiatives, including initiatives to break down silos between agency Divisions, partnering with the Department of Urban Planning at UW-Milwaukee on research and student growth opportunities, implementing a more public-friendly approach to Commission plans and documents, and substantially expanding the Commission's social media presence.
- Adjunct Instructor** August 2018 – December 2021  
*Marquette University – Milwaukee, WI*
- Taught Urban Planning for Civil Engineers to senior and graduate-level students.
  - Reformulated the existing course to integrate current issues in urban planning such as the housing crisis, equitable transportation access, and the legacy of racism within modern planning practice.
- Deputy and Assistant Director** September 2016 – December 2018  
*Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission – Milwaukee, WI*
- Led the Commission's land use and transportation planning efforts, including working with department heads and elected officials at the State and in local units of government, briefing citizen and neighborhood groups on regional transportation and land use challenges, and managing Commission staff members.
- Principal Engineer/Planner, Transportation Division** July 2014 – August 2016  
*Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission – Milwaukee, WI*
- Managed, along with two other staff members, the development and completion of VISION 2050, Southeastern Wisconsin's long-range land use and transportation plan. This included leading public and advisory committee meetings, writing report chapters, and performing detailed analyses and long-range financial estimates for all parts of the regional transportation system.
  - Assisted transit operators in Southeastern Wisconsin with designing and analyzing changes to public transit services.
- Senior Engineer/Planner, Transportation Division** July 2013 – June 2014  
*Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission – Milwaukee, WI*
- Worked with a small team to design and implement public involvement and develop varying public transit investment packages for the public's consideration for inclusion in VISION 2050.
  - Led the development of five-year transit plan for Washington County and assisted transit operators in the Region as requested.
- Engineer/Planner, Transportation Division** June 2012 – June 2013  
*Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission – Milwaukee, WI*
- Responded to requests from transit operators in Southeastern Wisconsin for data and analyses, assisted with the development of short-range transit plans for transit operators, and assisted with determining the distribution of Federal funding among transit operators in the Milwaukee area following the adoption of a new Federal transportation law.
- Research Assistant, Transit Research Group** August 2010 – June 2012  
*Massachusetts Institute of Technology – Cambridge, MA*
- Student Researcher, London Rail's Strategy Division** June 2011 – August 2011  
*Transport for London – London, UK*

## LICENSING

- Registered Professional Engineer, State of Wisconsin
- Certified Planner, American Institute of Certified Planners

## EDUCATION

- Massachusetts Institute of Technology – Cambridge, MA** June 2012  
*Utilizing Automatically Collected Data to Infer Travel Behavior: A Case Study of the East London Line Extension*  
Master of Science in Transportation
- Marquette University – Milwaukee, WI** May 2010  
Honors Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil Engineering, Cum Laude