

Kane County Regional Planning Commission

Glenn Morgenroth, Chair
Sue Harney, Vice Chair
Steve Arnold
Joseph Slawek
Ian Lamp
Steve Persinger
Tom Armstrong
Joe White
Esther Steel



Chris Lauzen, Ex-Officio
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County Government Center
Geneva, Illinois 60134

REGULAR MEETING

Wednesday, January 10, 2018 – 7:00 p.m.

Government Center, Building A
4th Floor Conference Room
719 S. Batavia Ave.
Geneva, IL

AGENDA

1. Call Meeting to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of Minutes: October 11, 2017 (attached)
4. Regional Update – Fox Valley Sustainability Network (Karen Miller, Executive Planner)
5. Kane County Planning Cooperative Updates
 - a. Land Use
 - i. Prescription Produce Pilot Program (Matt Tansley, Land Use Planner)
 - ii. Food Hub Promotional Video (Matt Tansley, Land Use Planner)
 - iii. Fox River Water Trail Initiative (Karen Miller, Executive Planner)
 - iv. Transfer of Development Rights Project Preview (Janice Hill, Executive Planner)
 - b. Health
 - i. Healthiest Cities & Counties Challenge Updates (Stacy Zeng, Community Health Planner)
 - ii. Community Health Improvement Plan Accomplishments (Stacy Zeng, Community Health Planner)
6. Other Business (as needed)
7. Planning Division Monthly Report (attached)
8. Public Comment
9. Adjournment

**Minutes of the
Kane County Regional Planning Commission Meeting**

**Kane County Government Center
719 S. Batavia Avenue, Building A
Fourth Floor Conference Room, 7:00 p.m.
Geneva, Illinois 60134**

October 11, 2017

The Kane County Regional Planning Commission held a meeting on Wednesday, October 11, 2017, at 7:00 p.m., in the Kane County Government Center, Building A, Fourth Floor Conference Room.

Regional Planning Commissioners in attendance:

Chairman Glenn Morgenroth, Vice Chairman Sue Harney, Commissioners Steve Arnold, Tom Armstrong, Joe White, Esther Steel

Commissioners absent:

Commissioners Joseph Slawek, Steve Persinger, Ian Lamp

Development and Community Services Staff Attendees:

Dir. Mark VanKerkhoff; Planners Janice Hill, Karen Miller, Matt Tansley

Health Department staff attendees:

Michael Isaacson, Assistant Director of Community Health; Stacy Zeng, Community Health Planner

Transportation Division staff attendees:

Jennifer Becker, Chief of Planning & Programming

Guest Attendees:

N/A

1. Call Meeting to Order

Chairman Morgenroth called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

2. Roll Call

The roll was called and a quorum was established with six (6) voting members.

3. Approval of Minutes: June 14, 2017

Minutes were approved on motion by Arnold, seconded by White. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Mark VanKerkhoff asked the attending staff and commissioners to briefly introduce themselves.

4. Regional Update – CMAP ON TO 2050

a. Plan Development Update

Matt Tansley proceeded to brief the commissioners on activities and publications completed by CMAP as part of the process for developing the region's next comprehensive plan, ON TO 2050. The final version of the plan is anticipated to be released to the public in the fall of 2018. Many of the reports and publications developed by CMAP through the plan development process will help to focus the eventual content of the ON TO 2050 Plan. The Emerging Priorities Report was one of the first publications released as part of the plan development process, which provided an abbreviated overview of 11 topics to be addressed in the final plan. The Snapshot Reports include data summaries of existing conditions throughout the region. These reports are particularly useful when performing comparisons of Kane County to other counties in the region on any number of measurable conditions. Tansley directed the commissioners' attention to a map from one Snapshot Report which illustrated the mobility patterns and volumes of commuters traveling through Kane County. The ON TO 2050 Preview Report is a condensed version of the eventual final report and is organized into broad sections: Resilience, Inclusive Growth, and Prioritized Investment. The Strategy Papers were the last major document category and go into much more thorough detail on a range of planning topics. These reports include planning best practice examples from communities around the region. Tansley noted that Kane County advised CMAP in drafting the Lands in Transition Strategy Paper, which made reference to Kane County's Farmland Protection Program and Green Infrastructure Plan.

Joe White inquired how large of an area CMAP represents in the region. Tansley and VanKerkhoff said that it represents a seven county region including the counties of Lake, McHenry, Cook, DuPage, Kane, Will and Kendall.

Steve Arnold asked if Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) was addressed in any of THE summarized reports released by CMAP. Tansley and Janice Hill were not aware of TDR being addressed as a subject in the Lands in Transition Report in any specific terms.

Tansley proceeded to address one of the Snapshot Reports in additional detail, the Infill and Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Report. This report could be a useful tool for Kane and other counties to identify where there are viable opportunities to pursue infill development. Tansley described infill as a term referring to underutilized buildings suitable for restoration or increasing density in areas with infrastructure that can handle increased capacity. He referenced a slide including two maps of Kane County – one displaying CMAP identified infill opportunities and the other showing Kane County's Conceptual Land Use Strategy Map. The CMAP infill map could be an important reference for Kane County as it revisits and updates the Conceptual Land Use Strategy Map to reflect projected changes in land use and development trends.

Tansley discussed CMAP's Alternative Futures public engagement effort through the use of mobile electronic survey kiosks deployed to locations throughout the region. Kane County coordinated with CMAP to ensure that one of their kiosks was moved to receive public input at multiple locations around the county. Tansley shared some of the user interaction totals for the kiosk at locations in Kane County. He went on to give commissioners a tour of the Alternative Futures page on CMAP's website including a series of interactive pages illustrating demographic and other trends out to the year 2050. Tansley reviewed a list of activities along a timeline leading to the completion of the ON TO 2050 Plan.

Jennifer Becker shared some of her involvement in the ON TO 2050 Plan development process. She noted that the ON TO 2050 Plan's anticipated focus on infill and TOD developments will influence Kane County's planning policies going forward. It is anticipated that resources will be focused toward areas with an infill or TOD designation. Kane County should be mindful of this to make sure that resources are coming back to our region. Morgenroth asked if there were currently any plans for rail expansions in Kane County. Becker noted that there have been discussions of rail expansion of the Metra BNSF from Aurora to Oswego and Sugar Grove. Some funding has been earmarked for a phase one engineering report detailing existing conditions and route alternatives. The project is currently stalled due to inadequate funding. There are also issues with extending RTA services into Kendall County which is not currently an RTA service area. There have also been discussions of extending a Metra line out to Hampshire and extending Amtrak lines. Sue Harney inquired about the status of a proposed Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) line along Randall Road. Becker said that the BRT line was envisioned for long term implementation and wasn't sure if it would be prioritized within the next long range transportation plan. The focus for new bus services has been bus-on-shoulder routes and park-and-ride services for commuters to access the city. In the near term there will be a focus on filling current service gaps along Randall Road to make it a more viable transit spine. Ridership on the 550 line is expanding, which goes from Big Timber up to the Crystal Lake Metra stop, and then to the I-90 Pace station. Pace ridership on I-90 has been going up every year.

Janice Hill commented on Kane County's process for utilizing CMAP's data for planning purposes. Kane County doesn't just take CMAP's data at face value. Kane County considers CMAP's data as part of a customized planning process. And given Kane County's location within the region, it must be attentive to the issues that come with being located at the edge of a development pattern. VanKerkhoff directed the commissioners' attention to the slide depicting infill development opportunities across the region. With the exception of Joliet in Will County, Kane County retains large areas identified as being highly and partially supportive of infill development, mostly within the urban corridor. This is also a reflection of the county's Conceptual Land Use Strategy Map, which has channeled development towards the urban core since its first iteration.

b. Conservation Data Layer Review

Karen Miller proceeded to discuss CMAP's efforts to develop a conservation map layer for the region as part of the ON TO 2050 Plan development process. Miller shared a draft version of the regional map alongside Kane County's Green Infrastructure Map. The purpose of CMAP's conservation map is to help regional stakeholders advance policies and goals for conserving

natural resources and the ecosystem services that they provide. The layers include those from the Chicago Wilderness Green Infrastructure Vision, county green infrastructure plans – including Kane, McHenry and Lake – as well as wetlands, prairies and Oak ecosystems. The green areas of the CMAP map are designated as Regional Conservation Priorities. The orange areas are designated as Local Conservation Priorities and the yellow areas are Conservation Opportunities, which include less significant natural resources. In October Kane County attended a meeting with the planning representatives of other counties and forest preserve districts to provide input on CMAP’s draft map. The Green Infrastructure Map will drive conservation planning in the county, and the regional conservation map enhances the credibility of Kane County’s efforts. Morgenroth inquired when the Green Infrastructure Map was completed. Karen noted the map was finalized in 2013. This regional conservation work has also driven efforts such as the Oak Ecosystem Recovery Plan, developed by Chicago Wilderness and supported by the Morton Arboretum as part of their Chicago Region Trees Initiative.

5. Kane County Planning Cooperative Updates

a. Health Updates: Give Kane a Voice Project

Michael Isaacson discussed Kane County’s selection as a participant in the Healthiest Cities and Counties Challenge, which was granted with a \$10,000 award. As a participant Kane County remains in competition for a \$500,000 award, which will be made to one of 50 finalists. The competition is administered by an organization called CEOs for Cities. The national goal of the challenge is to build economically inclusive and vibrant communities through health-in-all-policy multi-sector approaches. This is the approach taken in Kane County for many years. Kane County’s focus for the competition has been to explore ways to enhance public engagement, with particular attention on the topics of nutrition and physical activity. Isaacson reviewed a tool that can be used to assess a community’s level of public engagement. Through the Health Department’s partnerships with organizations like Kane County Fit for Kids and the Kane County Planning Cooperative, as well as various community coalitions, the project team was able to recruit residents for the formation of a series of Community Councils. Since the project’s launch, Community Councils have been formed in Aurora, Elgin and Carpentersville. The Health Department has provided staff support for Community Council meetings held monthly since November 2016. Each meeting begins with an anonymous survey to determine who is in the room. This helps the project team to see if the attendees of the council meetings are representative of the communities where the meetings are held. The team also conducts additional outreach after the meetings to ensure that the right people are being engaged. One of the challenges associated with outreach is that the council meetings do not have planned discussion topics as they are intended to be driven by the community members. In later meetings the Health Department has been inviting representatives of community organizations to attend meetings and speak on topics of interest to the council. One favorable outcome of the project is that there are now resident groups in select areas of the county that are comfortable sharing input for public health or planning related activities. By developing a community engagement model that works for different kinds of communities, Kane County should be well positioned in appealing for additional funding. All meetings include interpreters to facilitate bilingual dialogue.

Morgenroth asked what the attendance levels at the meetings have been. Isaacson said that the Aurora group averages 16 or 17 with an original target of 20. There needs to be a balance between having enough people attending to represent the community with the goal of having each group function similar to how a board operates. There are new attendees each month, but there is also a consistent core of residents who attend.

Hill asked if the Health Department would expand the number of community councils across the county if it was awarded additional funding for the project. Isaacson said that no determinations had been made yet, but acknowledged that the current scope of engagement activities was labor intensive and does draw heavily on staff resources. VanKerkhoff noted similar engagement activities that were coordinated through working groups as an outgrowth of the Kane County Fit for Kids initiative. Information collected through these outreach efforts were instrumental to informing the development of the county's most recent Long Range Transportation Plan and Kane County 2040 Plan.

b. Transportation Updates: Long Range Plan Outreach and Data Gathering

Jennifer Becker proceeded to discuss the Kane County Division of Transportation's update to the Long Range Transportation Plan. The current plan meets statutory requirements for allocating funds for roadway projects, which is highway and car-centric. In completing the update for the next Long Range Transportation Plan KDOT will be placing greater emphasis on public input and multimodal transportation options, including bike, pedestrian and transit improvements. Public input was gathered through a MetroQuest online survey, which asked respondents to consider challenges and opportunities as users of the transportation system. The public was asked to rank 7 priorities through the survey including: safety, travel time reliability, walking, biking, economic vitality, natural resources, public transportation, and investment and funding. Respondents can also make location-specific comments about Kane County's transportation infrastructure. KDOT is able to use a dedicated page for the transportation plan update and Constant Contact to communicate with the public about the status of the plan. With the support of their project consultant, KDOT was able obtain survey results from several public locations in Kane County using iPads. KDOT marketed the survey through weekly Facebook posts and the social media platforms of partner organizations, Kane County Connects and posters and handouts distributed across the county. There were 3,600 visits and responses to the survey, although not everyone completed the full survey. There were 4,000 comments submitted through the survey's transportation mapping feature. Comments covered a range of topics including safety, congestion, bike mobility, and areas underserved by transit. This information will support the formation of an advisory group tasked with prioritizing transportation investments. KDOT will share finding with the Kane-Kendall Council of Mayors, including the Transportation Policy Committee, which makes decisions about the use of transportation funds. KDOT will continue gathering input from local leaders and agency stakeholders over the next few months. Becker expects that the process will be wrapping up by summer, which is when KDOT's contract with the stakeholder engagement consultant expires.

Morgenroth asked Becker to elaborate on the stakeholder groups that KDOT would like to reach beyond the general public. Becker stated that municipalities, chambers of commerce, school

districts, library districts and other entities directly affected by changes to the transportation system should be solicited for input.

c. Land Use Updates

i. Fox River Water Trail Initiative

Karen Miller shared some additional updates on the Fox River Water Trail Initiative following the presentation that she gave to the commission in June. She has been focused on working with the project's partners to collect data on the Fox River in Wisconsin and Illinois. There was a two or three-week period when the team couldn't collect data on the river due to flooding. Miller has given about 10 different presentations on the trail initiative to various conservation and community groups, many of which expressed support for the project. The team encountered a recent challenge related to canoe portaging or access around the Dayton Dam in Ottawa. The owner of property adjacent to the damn was resistant to the idea of allowing public portaging around the damn. Miller and the project team met with the owners, who by the end of the meeting acknowledged the value in updating the campsites on their land allowing canoers to portage around the damn.

The project is also gaining recognition by some municipalities along the river. Geneva and Algonquin have both passed resolutions in support of the initiative. The project team also hosted an event which invited convention and visitor bureaus represented along the Fox River in Wisconsin and Illinois. The meeting was well attended by CVB representatives who were supportive of helping the project team with branding and marketing efforts to come. There is still a need for data collection in the Elgin, Batavia, and Aurora areas of the river.

Morgenroth asked if the recent flooding incidents along the river changed any of the outcomes or processes of the data collection effort. Miller noted that the issue of flooding will be addressed as a subject within the plan and recognized the fact that multiple entry points along the river were damaged and will need to be repaired. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources is the agency which makes the call as to whether the river should be closed due to flooding. Morgenroth inquired if the DNR would get involved with cleanup efforts. Miller replied that the DNR wouldn't normally get involved with a cleanup effort unless it was on property that they controlled. Tom Armstrong asked if the State of Illinois provides any guidance on the development of a water trail plan, noting that Iowa and Michigan both have excellent guides for the creation of water trail plans/initiatives. Miller noted that the project team will reference these and other guides in the development of the Fox River Plan and has been working closely with the National Park Service, which has provided clear guidelines and criteria for the development of the plan. The team has been in communication with IDNR staff, so they are at least aware of the project.

ii. Food Hub Project

Matt Tansley addressed the current status of the Food Hub Project, which is in a state of transition between being a county-led project to one being managed by a private operator. Kane County staff have recently been working to recruit a group of Farm Advisors who will be

providing technical guidance to the food hub's business planning team. Input from these Kane County farmers will help to ensure that the needs and interests of local farmers are taken into consideration as the food hub's business plan is developed. Hill added that the Farm Advisors would be compensated positions funded by the Food to Market Catalyst grant. Tansley went on to explain that the Food to Market Catalyst Grant was an exclusive funding opportunity available to a select group of project teams that had been finalists in a previous grant competition, the Food to Market Challenge. The Catalyst grant funds will also support the work of the county's partner organization, Seven Generations Ahead, as they seek to expand farm to school programming in northeast Illinois.

Tansley went on to discuss some of the activities undertaken by staff to carry out one of the health equity strategies identified in the Food Hub Feasibility Study – a veggie box prescription produce program. The concept would be for the food hub operator to partner with one or more healthcare organizations to provide their patients with regular boxes of fresh produce. Kane County recently partnered with the Rush Copley Medical Center to submit a grant application that would support a pilot of the prescription veggie box program. Rush Copley has agreed to commit up to 50 patients as program participants. The food hub operator candidate has agreed to aggregate the produce from participating farmers at their commercial space in Elgin and deliver it to an eventual pickup location for the patients.

Tansley noted that staff has also been working with a video production company to develop a promotional video for the Food Hub Project. The video is intended as a marketing tool to help potential farmers and wholesale food buyers to see the benefits of doing business with the food hub.

Tansley referenced a slide displaying a timeline of Food Hub Project activities. Staff is currently in negotiations with the food hub operator candidate to finalized the terms of a memorandum of understanding with the county. Staff intends to have a final version of the agreement ironed out in time for approval at the November County Board meeting. The project team will be having a planning meeting on October 25th to ensure that the next steps for the project are clearly defined and executed once the County Board gives its approval.

Janice added that the food hub promotional video was developed to expand the audience that the project team will be able to reach. It included a profile of one of the top vegetable producers in Kane County, the Klein Farm, with Matt Klein. The video also featured the new food hub operator, Kevin, as well as the physician who would be advising on the pilot prescription produce program if it is awarded grant funding. Planning between the project's growing partners and Rush Copley's dietetic staff would begin over the winter to coordinate crop selection with nutrition instruction to be delivered for participating patients.

Janice provided an overview of the gardening project launched over the summer at the Juvenile Justice Center, focused on introducing youth to container vegetable gardening. There is potential for this project to cross over and connect with the food hub project.

Joe White asked if staff could share where the food hub would be located. Tansley noted that the food hub operator candidate currently operates a shared commercial kitchen space in Elgin, and

is also looking to expand into a second commercial space in downtown Elgin, which includes an additional 1,000 square feet of commercial kitchen space.

iii. LTA Update: Transfer of Development Rights Research

Janice provided an overview of Kane County's planned involvement in a new Local Technical Assistance (LTA) project to research the Transfer of Development Rights as a new farmland protection funding mechanism. This project will be a partnership between Kane County, CMAP and Openlands – Openlands will be largely focusing on legal research of TDR. The project, which was just approved will be to conduct a regional assessment of TDR as a planning technique for achieving farmland protection goals. Janice emphasized this project as one supporting reinvestment in land protection, which also aligns with CMAP's long range planning goals. TDR is similar to the existing Farmland Protection Program, in that it is voluntary, but differs in that it relies upon market-based incentives. This is a concept that includes land areas in need of protection with those were it is desirable to incentivize development. These conditions are present in Kane County as well as the broader region. Protection need not necessarily stop with farmland, but may also include wetlands, other natural areas, and sites in need of historic preservation. But it is also dependent upon having an area that is trending with heightened development pressure. Kane County made the original proposal for this to be an LTA project and will continue moving it forward taking the lead role. CMAP will provide technical guidance and partner oversight, bringing the various partners together. Concerns about funding availability are driving this project. There remains uncertainty about the availability of federal funds for farmland protection through the next Farm Bill, and Riverboat funds continue to dwindle as a local source. Janice mentioned that philanthropy and social media are two potential avenues of funding for farmland protection. Kane County is engaging banks, developers and investors, which will distinguish the county from other TDR programs. This will be key to determining what incentives will motivate their participation in a TDR program. Staff is open to considering the results of the research findings, which may or may not recommend pursuing TDR in its conventional form.

Mark added that much of CMAP's work has reinforced the need for sustainable agriculture. Communities in the region have already begun to think creatively about how they can continue to develop and provide services more sustainably. Mark noted that Janice and he will be meeting with a banker to continue a discussion about TDR and how it could finance farmland protection. He also emphasized the importance of having multiple revenue streams in the future.

Joe White asked if the receiving area of a TDR transaction would be outside of Kane County. Janice and Mark said that this is a possibility, but they would consider areas in Kane County, such as Elgin and Aurora, as potential receiving areas. But the project should be willing to look regionally for partnering jurisdictions outside of the county if they are ready and willing to participate.

Joe asked if the program would require intergovernmental agreements with jurisdictions outside of the county. Mark noted that intergovernmental agreements may be required with other jurisdictions in the region or with jurisdictions in Kane County. However, some benefits or incentives of a TDR program might not require an intergovernmental agreement.

Steve Arnold asked if there are examples of TDR models that use incentive transactions other than increased density. Janice replied that transportation-focused incentives are commonly seen, and this was utilized by a TDR program in Washington state. Janice continued that building awareness among urban and suburban residents for the protection of agricultural and natural resources through this type of program will be an important challenge to address.

Glen Morgenroth asked if there was a resemblance of TDR to 'land banking.' Janice explained one difference with TDR is that there is no intermediary who owns the land during the transition process. Kane County has a mechanism by which an owner could donate their land's development rights. She also mentioned a growing interest in urban-agriculture limited-development land use policies. So there may be a need for any future TDR program to accommodate this new trend in land development.

6. Other Business (as needed)

7. Planning Division Monthly Report

There were no questions items listed in the monthly staff report.

8. Public Comment

9. Adjournment

Sue Harney issued a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Esther Steel. The motion carried unanimously by a voice vote and the meeting was adjourned at 8:41 PM.

Kane County Development & Community Services Department

Planning & Special Projects Division Monthly Report – December 2017

In addition to regular on-going activities, the following are highlights of regional land, agriculture and other Planning Division activities of the past month.

Food:Land:Opportunity Grantee Discussion

On December 11th Janice Hill and Matt Tansley participated in a facilitated discussion for the recipients of grants awarded through the Food:Land:Opportunity initiative. Attendees discussed mutual goals and the challenges and opportunities for sustaining a local food system.

Food Hub Promotional Video

Janice Hill and Matt Tansley met with Juneteenth Productions to discuss final edits to a promotional video for the Food Hub Project on November 13th. The video features Kane County farmers and community partners discussing the anticipated benefits of a food hub operations serving regional farmers and wholesale buyers.

Chicago Wilderness Executive Council

On Nov. 29th Karen Miller attended the Executive Council meeting to keep up to date on the revitalization of Chicago Wilderness.

Painters District Union Open House

On November 15th, Chris Toth attended the Painters District Union Open House in Aurora. This public event opened the doors to the training facility for members of the community to learn about the apprenticeship opportunities provided by the union, as well as all of the different training facilities for its members.

Wisconsin-Illinois Fox River Water Trail

Karen Miller hosted the monthly Core Development Team meeting on Dec. 4th. The Team reviewed existing conditions data collection of access sites, dams and segments and discussed the increased assistance offered by the Convention & Visitors Bureaus along the Fox River.

Kane County Farm Bureau Board Meetings

- On November 8th Matt Tansley attended a meeting of the Kane County Farm Bureau Board of Directors to give a presentation on recent Food Hub Project activities including the recent signing of

a MOU between the county and operator, a planned prescription veggie box program in partnership with Rush-Copley Medical Center and planned work for a Food Hub Project promotional video.

- On December 7th Janice Hill attended a meeting of the Kane County Farm Bureau Board of Directors to provide updates on the Farmland Protection Program and Growing for Kane initiatives.

Jelke Creek of the Fox River Watershed Coalition

On Dec. 4th Karen Miller attended the Coalition meeting as liaison to Kane County. The members of the Coalition are interested in increasing their public profile.

Seven Generations Ahead

On November 9th and 21st Janice Hill and Matt Tansley held conference call discussions with the Executive Director of Seven Generations Ahead to discuss the final revisions to a letter of interest in response to a grant application offered by the Surdna Foundation.

Oak Ecosystem Recovery Plan Oak Advisors

Karen Miller participated in the meeting held on Dec. 5th to discuss implementation of the Recovery Plan by identifying priority remnant oak woodlands.

Elgin Comprehensive Plan Development

Mark VanKerkhoff, Janice Hill and Matt Tansley met with Elgin's Director of Community Development to preview a draft of the City of Elgin's next comprehensive plan on November 16th.

Chicago Region Trees Initiative

As co-chair of the Trees & Green Infrastructure Working Group, Karen Miller discussed educating the public about the importance of trees and green infrastructure at the meeting on Dec. 7th.

USDA Food and Nutrition Service Panel

Matt Tansley participated in a conference call panel discussion on November 16th to address the challenges and opportunities for engaging farmers in food equity projects, including those funded through the USDA's Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentive (FINI) Grant Program.

2018 Economic Outlook Breakfast

Chris Toth attended this event hosted by the Valley Industrial Association on November 28th. Members of the public and private sector came together to hear about the predictions for the US economy in 2018. The speaker was Bill Strauss, Senior Economist and Economic Advisor from the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago.