



La Crosse Area Planning Committee

Metropolitan Planning Organization
Serving the La Crosse/La Crescent Urbanized Area

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Minutes of Committee on Transit and Active Transportation Meeting, July 14, 2016

Minutes of the meeting of the CTAT held on Thursday, July 14, 2016 at 4:30 p.m. in room 3220 of the La Crosse County Administrative Center, 400 4th St N, La Crosse, WI.

Members Present: Stephanie Averbeck, Leroy Brown, Rick Diermeier, Terry Dwyer, Jackie Eastwood, Steve Johnson, Audrey Kader, Lewis Kuhlman, Jim Longhurst, Don Smith, Cathy Van Maren, Chuck Welch. **Members Excused:** Krista Heinz, Carolyn Dvorak, Tim Kabat, Ginny Loehr. **Others Present:** None.

Call to Order: Jackie Eastwood called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. Introductions were done.

1) Overview of the structure and membership of the committee.

Jackie Eastwood provided some background as to why the CTAT is replacing the BPAC and TCC. She stated that the meeting will be run similar to the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) with LAPC staff facilitating rather than electing a chair and co-chair.

2) Approval of minutes of the May 13, 2016 TCC Meeting:

Audrey Kader motioned to approve the minutes of the May 13, 2016 TCC meeting; Steve Johnson seconded. All were in favor.

3) Approval of minutes of the June 20, 2016 BPAC Meeting:

Rick Diermeier motioned to approved the minutes of the June 20, 2016 BPAC meeting; Don Smith seconded. All were in favor.

4) Bylaws, duties, and membership:

Jackie Eastwood stated that staff was updating the bylaws for all LAPC committees. The CTAT bylaws were drafted to be in line with the TAC bylaws where LAPC staff facilitates the meetings and has the discretion to add and remove members as needed. The committee will have a quorum of five and will not operate under Robert's Rules of Order. A quorum of five allows action to take place even with a small turnout and a less rigid meeting structure allows for more conversation and participation. The members of the committee are listed in the footer of the agenda. In response to a question by Terry Dwyer regarding the time of the meeting, Ms. Eastwood stated that she will try to get a phone arrangement so that members from outside the immediate area can call in.

Don Smith motioned to approve the bylaws as presented; Chuck Welch seconded. All were in favor.

5) Introduction to LAPC performance measures:

Jackie Eastwood introduced the 2016 LAPC Transportation Performance Report. She stated that the CTAT will be working to establish targets for the LAPC measures (pages 1-8) at its September meeting. The federal measures on pages 9-11 will be completed in coordination with our DOTs.

6) Updates and information items:

a) Regional transit study

Jackie Eastwood stated that there was nothing new to add since the last meeting. She was still working on the ridership projections, but Peter Fletcher unfortunately was unavailable to provide an update on other aspects of the study. Audrey Kader voiced her concern with too much discussion over bike and pedestrian issues. Cathy Van Maren responded that like herself bicyclists are often also transit users. Terry Dwyer added that pedestrians and transit are integrated. Lewis Kuhlman directed the conversation back to the study to say that the Amtrak station in Tomah would be a good stop for the SMRT service. Mr. Dwyer added that the SMRT service could connect to the Greyhound link in Tomah and the MTU bus station in La Crosse.

Don Smith commented that we should be looking at who wasn't at the meeting to which Ms. Eastwood responded that most were excused. Mr. Smith then asked about bus service to Rochester, Winona, etc. Ms. Eastwood stated that bus service between the Amtrak station in La Crosse and Winona/Rochester/St Paul has been available for quite awhile now. Leroy Brown stated it is the GO Carefree Shuttle.

b) Regional bicycle route proposal

Jackie Eastwood stated that the BPAC had approved a pilot regional bicycle route between the trailhead in Onalaska and 2nd St/Front St/Riverside Park in La Crosse. The City of La Crosse BPAC will be adopting a resolution supporting establishing and signing the route at its next meeting. Lewis Kuhlman added that the project would likely have to go to the Board of Public Works. Ms. Eastwood said that Onalaska is onboard, but is waiting for La Crosse. Rick Diermeier will be working with OnaBike and the City of Onalaska to move the project forward in Onalaska. Ms. Eastwood said that volunteers will be needed to determine the precise locations of the signs, what they will say, and what the distances to be. Chuck Welch said that he will have lots of volunteers for that effort.

Jim Longhurst added that this will work into a UWL GIS project to map bicycle routes in the area. He has discussed this with the Convention and Visitors Bureau and their obtaining sponsorship for the map.

c) Other updates

Terry Dwyer stated that the SMRT service is unique to rural areas and would be happy to share in publicizing the service when it gets up and running. He also wants to make bus schedules available in the VA.

Cathy Van Maren stated that UWL has a car share program for students and staff with Enterprise and that Enterprise is looking to expand the service in the fall to the general public. The vehicles will likely be stored at the university until such time demand makes it feasible to have vehicles at other locations in the city. Lewis Kuhlman added that having a car share location at the Enterprise location downtown would be beneficial as it is across from the La Crosse Center.

Jim Longhurst stated that volunteers are needed for the Labor Day Bike Festival. He also announced the Wisconsin Bicycle Federation Ride with the Mayor on July 27. The goal of the ride is to take a look at the progress that has been made with new infrastructure and look at new projects that will be developed as part of the City's commitment to creating a bicycle friendly community.

Cathy Van Maren stated that she is with the Sierra Club's Coalition for More Responsible Transportation in Wisconsin and they are looking for transit riders and advocates to submit personal stories about transit. The Wisconsin Transit Alliance will be holding a public session in September to discuss how Wisconsin's transportation dollars are being spent.

Steve Johnson asked Leroy Brown about the OHWSPT RFP to which Mr. Brown replied that Onalaska, Holmen, and West Salem are still supporting the program, but the towns are not interested at this time because the cost is too high.

7) Future agenda items:

- a) Targets for LAPC bicycle, pedestrian, and transit performance measures.

8) Other business; Adjourn; Next meeting to be announced:

Audrey Kader motioned to adjourn at 5:38 p.m.; Terry Dwyer seconded. All were in favor.