



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 13, 2017

Minutes of the meeting of the CTAT held on Thursday, July 13, 2017 at 3:00 pm in room 1107 of the La Crosse County Administrative Center, 212 6th St N, La Crosse, WI.

Members Present: Stephanie Averbeck, Lewis Kuhlman, Susan Lundsten, Rick Diermeier, Carolyn Dvorak, Sandy Sechrest, Cathy Van Maren, Peter Fletcher, Steve Johnson, Leroy Brown, Jim Longhurst, Jackie Eastwood. **Excused:** Ginny Loehr, Krista Heinz, Francis Schelfhout. **Others Present:** Melinda Rauch.

1) Approval of minutes of the May 11, 2017 CTAT Meeting:

Sandy Sechrest motioned to approve the minutes of the May 11, 2017 meeting; Peter Fletcher seconded. All were in favor.

2) Draft Title VI Non-Discrimination Program and Limited-English Proficiency Plan:

Jackie Eastwood stated that we as a metropolitan planning organization (MPO) is required to have a Title VI Plan to make sure that we don't discriminate in our planning and hiring processes. This plan updates the data and format of the previous plan completed in 2014. A public comment period was initiated through e-mail and on our website at www.lapc.org where the document can be found. The public comment period will end on September 15, 2017.

3) Draft LAPC Public Participation Plan:

Jackie Eastwood stated that the Public Participation Plan is also updated and available on the website for public comment until September 15. This Plan has been updated to include an evaluation of the LAPC's public outreach activities, an assessment of LAPC compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and a public participation improvement plan.

4) Results of MTU bus surveys:

Jackie Eastwood stated that she had conducted boarding/alighting counts and an onboard survey of riders of MTU Route 7/8 and Route 9 because Mayor Kabat was interested in knowing how well the contracted routes served City of La Crosse residents. Ms. Eastwood stated that she received good participation, with only a few people refusing to take the survey. Riders were only asked to take it once, so they didn't have to take it again if they had a return trip. She then summarized the number of boardings, passengers per hour, type of trips, and place of residence. More than half of the Route 7 French Island and Route 9 Onalaska boardings were by City of La Crosse residents. Discussion involved first/last mile to transit, one-hour service, and the gap in Route 9 service.

5) Discuss next bike route to establish and sign:

Jackie Eastwood stated that with work to sign the Route 1 commencing, we should think about establishing another route or extending the Route 1 to the County line. We will discuss this in more detail at a future meeting. Ms. Eastwood then updated everyone on the status of the Route 1. She stated that Jarrod Holter has sent the sign designs to two companies for quotes and that the Onalaska portion could be signed within six weeks. The La Crosse portion may not be signed until next year. There was some confusion over approval of the project that ended up delaying obtaining quotes. The confusion has been cleared up and Matt Gallagher will contact the sign companies to get quotes. He and Mr. Holter could coordinate. Ms. Eastwood stated that she told Matt Gallagher that she could round up volunteers to help install signs to reduce costs and city staff time.

6) Updates and information items:

Rick Diermeier related a conversation he had with Jarrod Holter regarding scheduling and responsibility for trail maintenance and whether or not citizen volunteers could help. Mr. Holter was unsure of Onalaska's official policy for trail maintenance, but he okayed citizen involvement. Mr. Diermeier asked what the City of La Crosse's policy was to which Lewis Kuhlman responded that he would think it was the responsibility of the Parks and Rec Department.

Jackie Eastwood informed the group that Senator Vinehout and others submitted a senate bill to re-establish the Chippewa Valley Regional Transit Authority (RTA). Enabling legislation for four RTAs, including the Chippewa Valley, had been repealed by the current administration back in 2010. LAPC staff had tried to develop interest among its policy board members, but the Policy Board opted for the wait-and-see approach. Ms. Eastwood suggested that if the Chippewa Valley legislation is approved that the LAPC be more proactive in pursuing legislation in the La Crosse area. Peter Fletcher stated that results from the WISE Project at the 7 Rivers Alliance support RTAs. Steve Johnson added that only the Sierra Club has officially come out in support of RTAs.

Cathy Van Maren suggested that we develop a list of citizen volunteers for bicycle/pedestrian counting programs. Rick Diermeier suggested RSVP might also be a resource.

Jim Longhurst offered the assistance of students in a UWL environmental studies class equipped with wearable monitors to test air quality at projects.

Carolyn Dvorak announced an Open Streets event that will occur on Sunday, September 3 along 5th Ave and Main St between Cameron Park and Burns Park. Volunteers are needed. A protected bike lane demo will occur on Main St. The event is part of the Labor Day Bicycle Festival. Lewis Kuhlman added that a pedicab for retirees would also be available to take seniors on bicycle trips. Mr. Kuhlman went on to say that there will also be a workshop on how to use the new roundabout at 7th and Cass. Leroy Brown commented that there is uncertainty among disabled pedestrians on how to navigate a roundabout. Steve Johnson concurred saying that he'd like some help learning how to travel through it. Carolyn Dvorak offered to help.

7) Future agenda items:

None suggested.

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

Steve Johnson motioned to adjourn at 3:50 pm; Jim Longhurst seconded. All were in favor.