



# La Crosse Area Planning Committee

*Metropolitan Planning Organization*

*Serving the La Crosse/La Crescent Urbanized Area*

Tom Faella, Director    Jackie Eastwood, Transportation Planner  
La Crosse County Administrative Center  
212 6<sup>th</sup> Street North ☎ Room 1200 ☎ La Crosse, WI 54601-1200  
Telephone: 608.785.5977 or 608.785.6141    FAX: 608.793.6525

---

## Minutes of LAPC Meeting, November 15, 2017

**Minutes of the meeting of the La Crosse Area Planning Committee** held on Wednesday, November 15, 2017 at 4:30 pm in Room 1107 of the La Crosse County Administrative Center, 212 6<sup>th</sup> St S, La Crosse, WI.

**Members Present:** Joe Chilsen, City of Onalaska; Rolly Bogert, Town of Onalaska; Terry Schaller, Town of Campbell; Mike Weibel for Linda Seidel, Town of Medary; Mike Giese for Tara Johnson, La Crosse County; David Marshall for Tim Kabat, City of La Crosse. **Members Excused:** Tara Johnson, La Crosse County; Tim Kabat, City of La Crosse; Dennis Manthei, Village of West Salem. **Others Present:** Jerry Monti, alternate for Rolly Bogert; Stephanie Averbeck; Charlie Handy; Chuck Lee; Francis Schelfhout; Jackie Eastwood.

**Call to Order:** Joe Chilsen called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm.

**1) Approval of Minutes of the September 20, 2017 LAPC Meeting:**

*Mike Weibel motioned to approve the minutes of the September 20, 2017 meeting; Terry Schaller seconded. All were in favor.*

**2) Public comment relative to agenda items, with 5 minute time limit per comment:**

Chuck Lee introduced himself as a member of the Friends of the Marsh and spoke on the USH 53/12<sup>th</sup> Ave extended project. Mr. Lee stated that this project constitutes the northern portion of the original 5B-1 North-South Corridor plan, which was voted down by referendum in 1998. Mr. Lee questioned if it should even be in the TIP and stated that the project would go through a narrow section of the marsh in an area identified for wetland restoration.

**3) 2017 Surface Transportation-Urban Program update:**

Jackie Eastwood stated that she had contacted Michael Erickson at WisDOT for a final allocation number, but his department is still waiting on a decision. In other words, the amount is the same as what was presented at the September meeting: \$379,819.

**4) Resolution 8-2017 Approving the LAPC 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program:**

Jackie Eastwood noted a few minor changes in the TIP project listing. Questions arose regarding the USH 53/12<sup>th</sup> Ave extended project. Joe Chilsen asked Chuck Lee if the DNR has a plan for the silting of the marsh. David Marshall and Mike Giese asked why it's in the TIP if construction has been moved out after 2030. Francis Schelfhout responded that preliminary engineering and right-of-way activities will be occurring prior to construction.

With regards to the La Crosse St project, David Marshall asked Mr. Schelfhout if there was a process for reimbursement if the City of La Crosse were to fix La Crosse St now because it's in such bad shape. Mr. Schelfhout responded that he was not aware of such a process, but that La Crosse St is a connecting highway and the City has maintenance authority. Mr. Marshall stated that it would be nice to have a mechanism in place for reimbursement if the City went ahead and did the work.

*Mike Giese motioned to approve Resolution 8-2017 Approving the LAPC 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program; Terry Schaller seconded. All were in favor.*

**5) Resolution 9-2017 Adopting WisDOT Highway Safety Improvement Program Performance Measure Targets:**

Jackie Eastwood stated that the LAPC had agreed at a previous meeting that the MPO would support state safety performance targets. This resolution lists the targets for 2018, but as safety targets will change every year, we will have to approve a new resolution each year.

Mike Giese asked why, for example, fatalities are not a whole number to which Joe Chilsen responded that the number is probably an average. Ms. Eastwood confirmed that stating that the targets are based on a five-year rolling average.

*Mike Weibel motioned to approve Resolution 9-2017 Adopting WisDOT Highway Safety Improvement Program Performance Measure Targets; Terry Schaller seconded. All were in favor.*

**6) Resolution 10-2017 Adopting MnDOT Highway Safety Improvement Program Performance Measure Targets:**

Jackie Eastwood stated that this resolution is the same as the WisDOT resolution only with Minnesota targets. Mike Giese noted the significant difference in the targets between Wisconsin and Minnesota.

*Mike Giese motioned to approve Resolution 10-2017 Adopting MnDOT Highway Safety Improvement Program Performance Measure Targets; David Marshall seconded. All were in favor.*

**7) Resolution 11-2017 Approving MnDOT, LAPC, MTU Memorandum of Understanding on Performance-Based Planning:**

Jackie Eastwood stated that this resolution supplements the current MOU to include performance-based planning for transit.

*Mike Giese motioned to approve Resolution 11-2017 Approving MnDOT, LAPC, MTU Memorandum of Understanding on Performance-based Planning; Mike Weibel seconded; Terry Schaller abstained. All others were in favor.*

**8) Expanded SMRT Transit Service:**

Charlie Handy provided some background on the SMRT service stating that SMRT has been operating successfully between Prairie du Chien, Viroqua, and La Crosse, showing a 12% increase in ridership since 2012. Last year LAPC staff helped with a study to determine the feasibility of expanding service to Tomah and Arcadia.

On October 1, 2017, a pilot route with two round trips (an am and a pm) was extended to Tomah, with stops at the VA in Tomah, Northern Engraving in Sparta, and the park-and-ride in West Salem (the "Green" or "Tomah Route"). They have an MOU with the VA for bus parking, electricity, and snow removal. Mr. Handy stated that it's hard to expand a service without buses, so the City of Prairie du Chien, which is the administrator for the SMRT service, arranged a bus lease from the Opportunity Center for \$1 per year. The City of Prairie Du Chien is also in the process of purchasing two new buses so the SMRT can offer bidirectional service between Tomah and La Crosse. Currently the service is 100% locally funded by La Crosse County, Monroe County, the Cities of La Crosse, Sparta, and Tomah, and Western Technical College. In 2018, Peter Fletcher and Charlie Handy will look for long-term, sustainable funding. They will likely ask the City of Onalaska and the Village of West Salem for support.

Mr. Handy went on to say that the SMRT service was recently awarded the Economic Development Initiative Award and the Rural Development Initiative Award. In response to a question regarding trip time, Mr. Handy stated that the route is about 1.5 hours from end to end, but most riders' trips are about 1 hour. The buses are equipped with WiFi and bike racks and riders can flag a bus down along its route. The Tomah service is too young, however, to have meaningful statistics. David Marshall suggested offering residents of the VA incentives (i.e. coupons) to encourage them to make the trip to La Crosse.

**9) 2018 LAPC Annual Meeting**

Jackie Eastwood stated that the annual meeting will be held at the Two Beagles Brew Pub in Onalaska, Wednesday, January 17, 2018, at 4:30 pm.

**10) Other business; Adjourn; Next meeting to be announced:**

*Mike Weibel motioned to adjourn at 5:05 pm; David Marshall seconded. All were in favor.*