



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 6th 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, March 15, 2017

Minutes of the meeting of the La Crosse Area Planning Committee held on Wednesday, March 15, 2017 at 4:30 pm in room 1107 of the La Crosse County Administrative Center, 212 6th St S, La Crosse, WI.

Members Present: Tim Candahl, Town of Shelby; Tim Kabat, City of La Crosse; Joe Chilsen, City of Onalaska; Jerry Monti for Rolly Bogert, Town of Onalaska; Mike Giese for Tara Johnson, La Crosse County; Nancy Proctor, Village of Holmen; Mike Weibel for Linda Seidel, Town of Medary. **Members Excused:** Rolly Bogert, Town of Onalaska; Terry Schaller, Town of Campbell; Tara Johnson, La Crosse County; Dennis Manthei, Village of West Salem; **Others Present:** Gary Moore, Bill Waller, Andrew Andrusko, Jarrod Holter, Will Kratt, Susan Lundsten, Victor Hill, Jay McHenry, Robin Moses, Francis Schelfhout, Stephanie Averbek, Chuck Lee, Carolyn Dvorak, Chris Hubbuch, Jim Krueger, Jim Flottmeyer, Jason Valerius, Jason Gilman, Tom Faella, Jackie Eastwood.

Call to Order: Tim Candahl called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm.

1) Approval of Minutes of the January 18 and February 15, 2017 LAPC Meetings:

Joe Chilsen motioned to approve the minutes of the January 18 and February 15 meetings; Nancy Proctor seconded. All were in favor.

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

None.

3) Resolution 1-2017 to Amend the 2017-2020 TIP:

Francis Schelfhout followed up on a question from the TAC reporting that the limits of the project included only the ramps. None of the mainline of STH 157 would be affected.

Nancy Proctor motioned to approve Resolution 1-2017 to amend the 2017-2020 TIP to include the I-90/STH 157 resurfacing project; Mike Weibel seconded. All were in favor.

4) Continued Discussion of Land Use and Development Policies TDM Measures:

Jason Valerius facilitated another opportunity for municipalities not in attendance at the February meeting to present on their land use and developments policies. Mike Weibel provided an overview for Medary and outlined the housing goals and activities. Many of the questions did not apply to them as they are a rural town under County zoning. Medary's most pressing issue is some of the residents along CTH FA are concerned with the safety of bikers and walkers accessing the trails and recreation lands along there. They'd like to see the speed limit reduced.

Tim Candahl stated that Shelby's biggest issue is the boundary agreement with La Crosse, which they've been working on for a couple of years now. Also they are waiting on the DOT's plan for STH 35 to integrate a trail connection to USH 14/61. Jason Valerius added that in the boundary agreement there is some consensus to have some areas that are sewered and dense enough to support transit.

Tim Kabat stated that the City of La Crosse is ready to act and construct a separate multiuse path along STH 35. Francis Schelfhout agreed that a separated path is the best solution for that corridor. A DNR Recreational Trails grant would be the more likely source of funding over a TAP grant because WisDOT would likely consider the trail more recreational than utilitarian.

Nancy Proctor added to the information provided at the February meeting by highlighting the reconstruction of Holmen Dr and the development activities occurring in the Village. Ms. Proctor stated that they will be signing a boundary agreement with the Town of Holland, which will be the third boundary agreement along with those with the City of

Onalaska and the Town of Onalaska. Jason Valerius prompted for specifics related to infill development over outward growth to which Ms. Proctor responded that most of the development is outward growth.

In response to a question by Tim Kabat, Nancy Proctor stated that they are planning for some affordable housing and Mike Weibel stated that Medary is not.

In response to a question from Tim Candahl asking how the County feels about all of the development, Nancy Proctor responded that she has received no negative feedback. Mike Giese, however, voiced frustration in that the comprehensive plans all call for infill development, but the individual actions of the municipalities are not consistent with those goals.

5) Facilitate Discussion of Parking-related TDM Measures:

Jason Valerius initiated the presentation portion of the discussion on parking. Jerry Monti started off by saying that the Town of Onalaska really has no parking problems. They have short-term parking with relatively low demand at businesses. Kwik Trip has the most activity. Tim Candahl, Mike Weibel, and Nancy Proctor echoed the same regarding their respective communities.

Joe Chilsen and Jarrod Holter spoke of the Gundersen parking ramp, free on- and off-street parking, minimum parking requirements, and under-utilization of parking spaces most of the year. The City of Onalaska has no maximum number of parking spaces. Off-street parking is currently not required in the downtown zoning district. Existing on- and off-street parking seems to be sufficient for now. In the future there will be a discussion of off-street needs.

Tim Kabat supplied a handout that presented some quick facts about City of La Crosse parking ramps (number of spaces, users, cost, and operating expense), on-street parking, and parking studies. Of the parking ramp users, 52% are La Crosse residents, with Onalaska comprising 11% and Holmen 8%. Mayor Kabat commented that the LAPC is set up to look at larger regional issues and that we need to push the status quo. The demand for a new parking ramp was because of the County's Lot C development. We had the chance to do something different, but the County voted to keep the status quo.

Jim Flottmeyer continued the presentation by providing the number of spaces, how many spaces are leased, and the cost of a lease for each of the five ramps and the public surface lots. On-street spaces are free. He discussed enforcement, residential parking permits, development parking requirements, bringing back pay stations, and the use of technology. A three-phase goal involves 1) bringing pay stations back into downtown La Crosse; 2) creating a parking benefit district where a portion of the revenues are reinvested in the district; and 3) creating a true parking utility to close the gap between expenses and revenues. The City parking enforcement will be disbanding the use of chalk for license plate recognition software on-street and in the ramps.

Mike Giese spoke of the overall challenge of allocating subsidies to the various transportation modes, but the greatest subsidy goes to parking and single-occupancy vehicles. Mr. Giese then presented an example of how much the Vine St ramp costs and stated that we're doubling down on subsidizing the private automobile and need to start charging for parking. Tim Kabat took exception, stating that the parking ramp came about because of County actions; the County's actions until now have been to maintain the status quo.

Gary Moore from Gundersen Health Systems spoke of the 3,700 free parking spaces they provide for their employees, patients, and visitors. He said that at peak time, they have counted available parking spaces and found only 30 available. The employees are parking on city streets in the Powell-Poage-Hamilton neighborhood out about five blocks from the edge of the campus. Mr. Moore would like to work with the City to provide additional parking for the Founders and East buildings. GHS does a lot to promote bike to work, including providing covered bike parking. They also provide several parking spots for shared-ride vehicles. The home loan program has also been quite successful. He said that without these additional programs, GHS would probably be short 400 parking spaces.

Victor Hill presented on parking management at UWL, stating that UWL works a bit differently because the parking budget is derived entirely from user fees. They have 2,800 spaces for residents and commuters, with fees falling in the middle of the 13 state campuses. UWL works with the City for general bus service and for Safe Ride service, and is always promoting bike share through bike rentals. They also offer short-term car rental through an Enterprise program. Any student who lives on campus can get a parking space. Currently, the number of parking spaces available is meeting demand. The commuter lots are oversold because they use analytics to estimate the actual number of users at a given time. They are using technology such as parking software and plate-based permitting to

improve operational efficiencies. The UWL public and commuter lots are available to the public during off-times and on weekends.

Jim Flottmeyer and Tim Kabat commented on a question by Jason Valerius regarding UWL commuters parking in the neighborhoods. They stated that the UWL area has the same problem as the GHS area. On-street parking is restricted to two hours and is heavily enforced. The City is looking into installing pay stations to help encourage turnover.

Will Kratt stated that the Economic Vitality Committee of Downtown Main Street and Downtown Main Street are working with the City. Their goal is to get out in front of the changes and educate business owners and residents. Robin Moses added that Downtown Main Street is looking for the Policy Board to support the decisions for downtown La Crosse.

6) LAPC Local Studies Program:

Tom Faella stated that the TAC met last week and recommended for the Policy Board to approve the local studies projects at \$15,000 to La Crosse County for LiDAR, \$21,200 to La Crescent for two studies involving bicycle and pedestrian facilities, \$12,000 to La Crosse for continued boundary discussions, and \$40,000 to MnDOT and WisDOT for Phase 2 of the Amtrak Second Empire Builder study. The total funding would be \$68,000 in federal planning funds and \$20,200 in LAPC funds.

Nancy Proctor motioned to approve the local studies funding at the levels discussed; Joe Chilsen seconded. All were in favor.

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

Tim Kabat motioned to adjourn at 6:25 pm; Joe Chilsen seconded. All were in favor.