



La Crosse Area Planning Committee

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

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Minutes of LAPC Meeting, September 19, 2018

Minutes of the meeting of the La Crosse Area Planning Committee held on Wednesday, September 19, 2018 at 4:30 pm in room 1107 of the La Crosse County Administrative Center, 212 6th St N, La Crosse, WI.

Members Present: Joe Chilsen, City of Onalaska; Mike Weibel, alternate for Linda Seidel, Town of Medary; Tim Candahl, Town of Shelby; Nancy Proctor, Village of Holmen; Tara Johnson, La Crosse County; Tim Kabat, City of La Crosse; Dennis Manthei, Village of West Salem. **Members Excused:** Terry Schaller, Town of Campbell. **Others Present:** Karl Green; Francis Schelfhout; Jason Gilman; Jack Zabrowski; Adam Lorentz; Steve O'Malley; Frank Loetterle; Captain Ron Tischer; John Kovari; Tom Faella; Jackie Eastwood.

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

1) Approval of Minutes of the July 18, 2018 LAPC Meeting:

Nancy Proctor motioned to approve the minutes of the July 18, 2018 meeting; Tim Kabat seconded. All were in favor.

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

None.

3) 2019 - 2022 Surface Transportation-Urban Program:

Tom Faella summarized the projects submitted for STP-U funding, stating that there were two rounds of submittals vying for about \$2.4M. The TAC met on August 22 and recommended that the two projects submitted in 2017 and two of the three projects submitted this year be approved: six vans for Onalaska Shared Ride; pavement replacement for Green Bay St; three buses for MTU; and reconstruction of Gillette St.

Tim Kabat motioned to approve the TAC recommendation to fund the four projects as presented; Mike Weibel seconded. All were in favor.

4) Resolution 6 – 2018 Approving the LAPC 2019 Planning Work Program:

Tim Kabat motioned to approve Resolution 6 – 2018 Approving the LAPC 2019 Planning Work Program; Nancy Proctor seconded. All were in favor.

5) Resolution 7 – 2018 Approving the LAPC 2019 – 2022 Transportation Improvement Program Project List:

Tom Faella stated that the TIP list would be approved ahead of the TIP document in order to meet MnDOT deadlines. The full TIP document will be made available on the LAPC website well ahead of its consideration at the November meeting.

Tim Candahl motioned to approve Resolution 7 – 2018 Approving the LAPC 2019 – 2022 Transportation Improvement Program Project List; Dennis Manthei seconded. All were in favor.

6) LAPC 2018 Transportation Performance Report:

Jackie Eastwood stated that we've been doing this report for several years now, allowing us to do better comparisons over time. Some measures improved, while others did not. They are developed to address the Federal planning factors. Jason Gilman asked about the increase in VMT and why that would be so with all of the infill taking place. Ms. Eastwood responded that the reasons listed in the report were based on literature and are applicable to the area and added that infill development does not necessarily equate to less driving, especially when gas prices are low. Joe Chilsen asked if a comparison was done with like areas to which Ms. Eastwood responded, no, but in the future she will include a comparison to the states.

7) Resolution 8 - 2018 Adopting Highway Safety Improvement Program Performance Measure Targets:

Tom Faella stated that Federal regulations require all states and MPOs to adopt targets for specific performance measures to include five safety measures. The LAPC opted to plan projects in support of the Minnesota and Wisconsin state targets. Resolution 8 addresses the safety measures and targets.

Nancy Proctor motioned to approve Resolution 8 - 2018 Adopting Highway Safety Improvement Program Performance Measure Targets; Tim Kabat seconded.

Tara Johnson asked that the Federal measures be presented in the same format as the local measures. Tim Kabat asked if there was the ability to exceed these targets to which Jackie Eastwood responded, yes, but the deadline for adoption is coming up and that process will take a while. We should consider setting targets right away next year for adoption next fall. Ms. Eastwood also stated that we'd have trouble setting targets for the rate measures because we cannot get VMT data for the planning area. We could, however, set targets for some and adopt state targets for others. Ms. Johnson spoke to Tim Kabat's point that the targets should have meaning and that the LAPC should have a separate resolution next year for LAPC targets.

After discussion concluded with the motion on the table, all voted in favor.

8) Resolution 9 - 2018 Adopting the MnDOT Performance Measure Targets for the National Highway Performance Program:

Tim Candahl motioned to approve Resolution 9 - 2018 Adopting the MnDOT Performance Measure Targets for the National Highway Performance Program; Tim Kabat seconded. All were in favor.

9) Resolution 10 - 2018 Adopting the WisDOT Performance Measure Targets for the National Highway Performance Program:

Nancy Proctor motioned to approve Resolution 10 - 2018 Adopting the WisDOT Performance Measure Targets for the National Highway Performance Program; Dennis Manthei seconded. All were in favor.

10) Resolution 11 - 2018 Adopting the WisDOT Performance Measure Targets for Transit Asset Management:

Dennis Manthei motioned to approve Resolution 11 - 2018 Adopting the WisDOT Performance Measure Targets for Transit Asset Management; Tim Candahl seconded. All were in favor.

11) Twin Cities – Milwaukee – Chicago Passenger Rail Project (TCMC):

Frank Loetterle of the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) presented on the history, results, and status of the TCMC study. Two alternatives will be advanced into the next phase. The goal of the second train service is to provide better reliability in service, especially in the eastbound direction where delays are common. Mr. Loetterle voiced concern that the modeling done for the section between Rondout, IL and Milwaukee, WI doesn't accurately represent conditions because Canadian Pacific (CP) was not included in that modeling. The local studies funds awarded to MnDOT for the TCMC study will go to fill that gap in the analysis.

In response to a question by Tara Johnson regarding Eau Claire, Mr. Loetterle stated that the High Speed Rail Study, which looked at Eau Claire as an alternative, has been suspended. When the study is reinitiated, it can go forward with the current recommendation to use the existing Empire Builder route or it can change. Whether or not the study gets going again depends on the ability of Wisconsin and Minnesota to cooperate. Eau Claire has commenced on its own study for a train between Eau Claire and the Twin Cities. MnDOT's official position is to use the existing Empire Builder route. Rochester has taken itself out of the discussion.

12) Regional Coordination of Public Safety Facilities:

Karl Green presented on his research findings to date. Mr. Green stated that he has been trying to connect with the various fire departments and was able to reach out to West Salem and sees a potential benefit in coordination to the public because a good ISO [Insurance Services Office] rating, which includes not only services, but also training, sharing of equipment, etc., will reduce a home owner's annual insurance.

Discussion revolved around satellite stations, losing volunteer fire departments, mutual aid versus automatic aid, and paying for services provided by other fire departments. Tara Johnson asked to have this agenda item placed with regularity on future agendas.

13) LAPC 2019 Staff Transition Plan:

Tom Faella announced that he'll be retiring in December and recommended moving Jackie Eastwood into his position. Several board members present stated that they were uncomfortable with that process. Steve O'Malley stated that the County process has always been to advertise the filling of positions, but because the MPO is different, he would defer to the Board. After much discussion, the Board decided to create a sub-committee to work with Steve O'Malley and the Personnel Department on a hiring process. Mr. O'Malley suggested creating a new job description with expanded duties to reflect the Board's desire to address other issues besides transportation. Ms. Eastwood cautioned that Federal regulations dictate that MPOs are transportation planning agencies and that doing work outside of those functions could jeopardize planning funds. Francis Schelfhout asked that the job description be sent to WisDOT for review.

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

Mike Weibel motioned to adjourn at 6:10 pm; Dennis Manthei seconded. All were in favor.