



# La Crosse Area Planning Committee

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

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## Minutes of Technical Advisory Committee Meeting, January 20, 2016

**Minutes of the meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee** held on Wednesday, January 20, 2016 at 2:30 p.m. in Room 3220 of the La Crosse County Administration Center, 400 Fourth Street North, La Crosse, WI.

**Members Present:** Jason Gilman, Scott Halbrucker, Ron Chamberlain, Matt Schreiber, Keith Lee, Jarrod Holter, Don Smith. **Members Excused:** Dean Olson, Ginny Loehr. **Others Present:** Jackie Eastwood, Tom Faella.

Tom Faella called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. He invited everyone to attend the Policy Board's annual meeting to follow at The Waterfront.

### 1) **Approval of Minutes of the November 11, 2015 TAC Meeting:**

*Scott Halbrucker motioned to approve the minutes of the November 11, 2015 meeting; Ron Chamberlain seconded. All were in favor.*

### 2) **Update on the FAST Act:**

Tom Faella began his presentation on the FAST Act by stating that this is the first long-term bill in a long time. Previous bills were only extensions of existing legislation. Mr. Faella commenced with the presentation, highlighting the new and modified aspects of the bill, which focuses on freight that might affect our area. The traditional Surface Transportation Program (STP) has been converted into a block grant program that now includes the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP). Two new grant programs are available for freight and passenger rail. The Minnesota DOT anticipates being able to tap into one or both of these for proposed Amtrak and high-speed rail improvements.

Ron Chamberlain stated that a bill is going through the Wisconsin legislature proposing to replace federal funds with state funds so as to avoid certain federal requirements. There will be no change in dollars allocated to programs.

Jason Gilman asked how Safe Routes to School (SRTS) and Context Sensitive Design will be handled to which Jackie Eastwood responded that the SRTS program is an eligible activity for STP Set-aside under the STP block grant program.

### 3) **Amendment to the 2016 – 2019 Transportation Improvement Program:**

Tom Faella stated that the TIP is being amended to include two new projects and a minor amendment to one existing project.

Ron Chamberlain stated that the rest area will be reconstructed this year with a new building. The State reached out to the County to remove trees, with consideration of the long-eared bat. Mr. Chamberlain continued on to discuss the CTH GI, stating that the funds were eligible only for roads with access to federal lands. They will be redoing all of GI, some of the boat landings, and some of the internal park roads. The project should be done in 2018.

*Jarrod Holter motioned to approve the amendment to the 2016-2019 TIP; Ron Chamberlain seconded. All were in favor.*

Jason Gilman asked if the USH 53/12<sup>th</sup> Ave extended project is a placeholder for the *Coulee Region Transportation Study*. Tom Faella responded that this is an independent project in the TIP with construction anticipated in 2020 – 2024, dependent on the results of the study and further consideration of the strategies anticipated to proceed to further study.

**4) Review of 2040 demographic projections data:**

Jackie Eastwood stated that 45 TAZs were affected by changes in household and/or employment projections. Twenty TAZs experienced increases and 8 experienced decreases in employment, while 27 TAZs experienced increases and 7 experienced decreases in households. The maps illustrated increases in red and orange and decreases in green and blue. The darker the color, the greater the change. The most significant changes occurred in the TAZs associated with Gundersen Health System (GHS) and in TAZ 234 where a new Mayo campus is planned. Ms. Eastwood was able to obtain new employment numbers from GHS that significantly affected TAZ 246 where the GHS Onalaska Clinic resides. Ms. Eastwood went on to address the off-campus student housing by stating that those units would be treated as households instead of special generators.

Tom Faella stated that they had met with nearly all of the communities and that Charlie Handy helped with the rural areas. The updated data will significantly improve the travel model.

**5) Existing projects update:**

Tom Faella updated everyone on the *Blufflands Plan* process and its schedule of meetings. A public meeting will occur in April, with adoption occurring in May or June. Don Smith added that Jason Valerius will be addressing the Minnesota side.

Tom Faella continued with an update on the boundary agreements. He stated that Onalaska and Medary are working out the details to which Jarrod Holter added that the process is going well and that they are looking for mutual benefits.

Jason Gilman elaborated on the La Crosse – Shelby boundary agreement discussion by describing a series of story boards developed to illustrate three area types: boundaries; town islands; and common recreation and park amenities.

Tom Faella stated that the consultants are to complete the two initiatives by the end of this year, while continuing to reach out to other communities.

**6) Other Business, Adjourn, Next meeting to be announced:**

*Jason Gilman motioned to adjourn at 3:27 p.m.; Ron Chamberlain seconded. All were in favor.*