



# 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, July 20, 2016

**Minutes of the meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee** held on Wednesday, July 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:** Lewis Kuhlman for Jason Gilman, Ron Chamberlain, Dean Olson, Bobbi Retzlaff, Katie Aspenson, Francis Schelfhout, Rolly Bogert, Scott Halbrucker, Keith Lee, Charlie Handy. **Members Excused:** Matt Schreiber, Ginny Loehr, Jeff Brudos, Jerod Holter, Jason Gilman; Bob Fisher. **Others Present:** Steve Flottmeyer, Alicia DeShasier, Jackie Eastwood.

### 1) **Approval of Minutes of the May 18, 2016 TAC Meeting:**

*Ron Chamberlain motioned to approve the minutes of the May 18, 2016 meeting; Dean Olson seconded. All were in favor.*

### 2) **Updated bylaws for Technical Advisory Committee:**

*Katie Aspenson motioned to approve the updated bylaws as presented; Ron Chamberlain seconded. All were in favor.*

### 3) **Proposed Planning Work Program activities for 2017:**

Jackie Eastwood referred to a handout of 2017 work program activities that include new and ongoing tasks. She provided a brief description of each of the new activities.

*Ron Chamberlain motioned to recommend to the Policy Board approval of the work program activities as presented; Katie Aspenson seconded. All were in favor.*

### 4) **Final *The Blufflands* plan document:**

Jackie Eastwood stated that the steering committee had a meeting on Thursday of last week and the City of La Crosse had some issues. Jason Valerius made some modifications and sent out an updated version of the plan on Friday. Charlie Handy stated that the steering committee gave some significant comments on the funding scheme, which was subsequently modified in the draft document. Mr. Handy stated that the idea was to get a roughly equal proportion among the participating municipalities. The fiscal agent and the ½-time staff position would be at La Crosse County.

Mr. Handy then stated that steering committee members with their own parks departments did not want the bluffland coalition telling them how to run their parks department. The coalition is meant to have a plan and to coordinate efforts so everyone is moving in the same direction. It's not meant to tell each parks department how it should be run.

Mr. Handy stated that the funding scheme is envisioned to be fluid so that one member might contribute more when it can while another might contribute less. The goal is to get at least \$50,000 for a half-time staff person, with a little left over for grant matches.

Lewis Kuhlman added that approving the plan does not bind anyone to what's in the plan. The funding scheme is a sample; the MOU that comes later will establish the funding commitment.

Mr. Handy stated that the steering committee will stay together with the next task to be drafting the MOU. He added that the Village of West Salem has already adopted a resolution recommending the plan without funding from the Village, and that he presented to the Town of Onalaska two weeks ago and will continue presenting at municipal board meetings.

**5) Potential TIGER / FAST Act Grant:**

Charlie Handy gave a brief description of the TIGER and FAST Lane grants. He stated that they have been working on the idea of applying for a TIGER grant for a couple of years and now there's an opportunity with an additional federal grant. The goal is to have an application for one or both of the grants ready by April of 2017, which means they need to get going now. The first meeting outside of staff occurred at the Town of Campbell board meeting at the end of June. The project would be multimodal, but its focus is freight transportation. Safety and bringing economic opportunities to a diverse population is a big deal in these applications. Mr. Handy is anticipating a grant application requesting \$100 million in federal funds. He then proceeded to describe the concept project, which included a freight terminal at the airport, roadway and intersection improvements on Bainbridge St, roadway improvements in the industrial park, potential harbor improvements, and the CP swing bridge in Houston County. A good grant application will require some design work upfront, which will have some risk, working with the various agencies, and public input meetings. There is typically only one application this size per state, so we'd be competing with some fairly good applications. The risk is there; we have to see if the political will is there to take the risk.

**6) Update on *Coulee Region Transportation Study*:**

Francis Schelfhout stated that the draft report has gone through DOT central office review and was forwarded to FHWA for their review. A final draft may be made available to the public in August for a 30-day public comment period.

**7) Update on Boundary Agreements project:**

Jackie Eastwood relayed a summary she received from Jason Valerius stating that the Shelby/La Crosse agreement is on track for public introduction this fall and adoption by the end of the year. Based on a July 18 meeting, the La Crescent (T)/La Crescent (C) agreement is on track for adoption this year. And, finally, the Onalaska/Medary group continues to work independently, with an agreement adoption anticipated this fall.

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

*Ron Chamberlain motioned to adjourn at 3:10 p.m.; Scott Halbrucker seconded. All were in favor.*