



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, September 21, 2016

Minutes of the meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee held on Wednesday, September 21, 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, Ron Chamberlain, Dean Olson, Bobbi Retzlaff, Francis Schelfhout, Rolly Bogert, Scott Halbrucker, Keith Lee, Becky Lakowske for Ginny Loehr, Jarrod Holter, Dwight McComb, Mitch Batuzich, Matt Schreiber, Jeff Brudos. **Members Excused:** Ginny Loehr. **Others Present:** Steve Flottmeyer, Michael Erickson, Maureen Freedland, Tom Faella, Jackie Eastwood.

Introductions were done.

1) Approval of the Minutes of the July 20, 2016 TAC Meeting:

Ron Chamberlain motioned to approve the minutes of the July 20, 2016 meeting; Scott Halbrucker seconded. All were in favor.

2) Planning Work Program for 2017:

Tom Faella stated that the TAC has seen the work program activities for next year and the local studies program will again be part of it. The studies will require a 20% local match.

Dean Olson motioned to recommend approval of the 2017 Planning Work Program; Jarrod Holter seconded. All were in favor.

3) 2017-2020 TIP Project List:

Jarrod Holter motioned to recommend approval of the 2017-2020 TIP project list; Ron Chamberlain seconded. All were in favor.

4) New WisDOT Partial Release of Mortgage Policy:

Ron Chamberlain stated that he received an e-mail from KL Engineering regarding real estate acquisitions that changes the process from being able to put owners of record on the check to requiring a partial release. With enforcement of the requirement, everyone will see increased delivery costs and increased project timelines. One way around the issue of the partial release with regards to the timeline is to condemn the property and give the property owner a jurisdictional offer. Additional costs will still be accrued with the appraisal.

Michael Erickson responded that there have been some drastic issues with how real estate has been purchased in Wisconsin. As a result, there has been a process review by the State of Wisconsin and FHWA who are determining what should be done. Jarrod Holter provided an example of how the City of Onalaska is addressing real estate acquisition under the requirement so that they maintain control and keep to the timeline. Mr. Holter stated that it's hard at the local level to fund for the consultant, engineering, right-of-way etc. upfront when there's no guarantee that they're going to get any funding.

Michael Erickson announced that the solicitation will start in January/February 2017. MPOs should receive their allocations by July/August. Projects should be prioritized by late September and approved for programming by December or 2017 so they can be incorporated into the TIP. Tom Faella stated that the TAC will look at this issue in the spring and determine whether to update criteria

and how to proceed as we look at projects in the summer. Mr. Erickson added that the policy should be solidified by then and will have gained input from the Towns Association and others.

5) Status of STP-Urban Projects and 2017 Solicitation:

Michael Erickson reported that he has been looking into some of the new requirements as to the timing of STP-Urban programming and the LAPC allocation. He explained the six-year cycle and its five years of programming and one year of approval. Because of the way the projects are currently scheduled, the LAPC may be allocated \$363,731 in the next cycle of STP-Urban. Discussion then revolved around what the LAPC can do to address this in the future. Responses included resolving the real estate issue, holding consultants accountable, encumbering projects in the first two years of the cycle, and funding projects entirely with local funds.

6) Performance Measures Report and Targets:

Jackie Eastwood presented the 2016 LAPC Performance Measures Report. She stated that this report currently only included LAPC measures, but will include additional measures required by the FAST Act. We will be working with the Wisconsin and Minnesota DOTs to establish targets for their respective systems in the planning area. In order to have all measures in the same time frame, the CTAT agreed to wait to develop targets for the LAPC bicycle, pedestrian, and transit measures until we have gone through the process with the DOTs and have target dates set.

7) Letter of Response from WisDOT for Coulee Region Transportation Study:

Steve Flottmeyer summarized the WisDOT response to the LAPC's resolution which included the position that Strategy H did not satisfy the goals of the Study and would not be going forward as a standalone strategy as requested. Strategy H however, is included in all of the strategies, but it depends on the folks at the table to implement. Mr. Flottmeyer then provided an update on the Study itself stating that the final draft is still awaiting review by FHWA. Meanwhile, WisDOT is looking to continue the Study's PEL process instead of moving directly into the NEPA process by providing additional details on cost, impacts, etc. on each strategy. This would allow WisDOT to reduce further the number of strategies going forward into NEPA.

Mr. Flottmeyer's final discussion point involved a request for a special LAPC Policy Board meeting to discuss activities that would move Strategy H forward in the region. He stated that WisDOT can be involved in such areas as bicycle, pedestrian, transit, and park-and-ride facilities and transportation systems management and operations (TSMO); but, other areas such as transit service, policies, and traffic demand management are the responsibilities of the local businesses and municipalities.

Jason Gilman and Maureen Freedland both questioned the scope of extending the PEL study and knowing when the study has gone too far into the NEPA process. Mr. Flottmeyer responded that that question still needs to be answered.

8) Update on Boundary Agreements Project:

Tom Faella stated that the City of La Crosse and the Town of Shelby have a draft agreement. Meetings will continue in October and November, with public information meetings to occur in November and December and a public hearing in December. The agreement is expected to be adopted in January 2017. The agreement between Onalaska and Medary is progressing well and they will be holding meetings in November. The Town and City of La Crescent have no draft agreement yet, but they expect to have an Orderly Annexation Agreement in November/December. Next year we will work with La Crosse/Medary and Holmen/Holland.

9) Other Business, Adjourn, Next meeting to be announced:

Jarrod Holter motioned to adjourn at 4:05 p.m.; Ron Chamberlain seconded. All were in favor.