



La Crosse Area Planning Committee

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

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Minutes of Committee on Transit and Active Transportation Meeting, March 14, 2019

Minutes of the meeting of the CTAT held on Thursday, March 14, 2019 at 3:00 pm in room 1107 of the La Crosse County Administrative Center, 212 6th St N, La Crosse, WI.

Members Present: Francis Schelfhout, Sandy Sechrest, Cathy Van Maren, Krista Heinz, Carolyn Dvorak, Jim Longhurst, Adam Lorentz, Bob Fisher, Ginny Loehr, Linda Larson, Jack Zabrowski, Leroy Brown (3:40), Jackie Eastwood. **Excused:** Kurt Wayne, Susan Lundsten, Rick Diermeier, Steve Johnson. **Others Present:** None.

Jackie Eastwood called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm.

1) Approval of minutes of the January 10, 2019 CTAT Meeting:

Carolyn Dvorak motioned to approve the minutes of the January 10, 2019 meeting; Jack Zabrowski seconded. All were in favor.

2) Update on MRT activities & 3) Endorsement by City of La Crosse BPAC of Regional Route 1 options through South La Crosse:

Francis Schelfhout stated that the City BPAC had approved the Route 1 extension options through South La Crosse provided by LAPC staff. A turn-by-turn route description by Jim Longhurst explained the routing options and provided a justification for re-routing the MRT along the Route 1. The City BPAC approved a preference for using Rivercrest Dr through the mobile home park and pursuing an easement to align closer to the river, with use of Pammel Creek Trail as the alternative if an easement is not feasible. Comment from other states with MRTs suggest a preference for comfort and security, so if the City can't obtain an easement, then routing the Route 1 along Pammel Creek Trail would be preferred over 33rd St. Francis stated that he will report to the Mississippi River Parkway Commission (MRPC) at its next meeting that the City BPAC has endorsed the Route 1 extension through South La Crosse and that the City is already working toward obtaining an easement.

3) Endorsement by City of La Crosse BPAC of Regional Route 1 options through South La Crosse:

See agenda item 2.

4) WIS 16 public input meeting and alternatives:

Jackie Eastwood stated WisDOT held a public meeting at North Woods Elementary for reconstruction of the WIS 16 bridges. The meeting presented four alternatives—all of which included a bike path across the bridge where we now have a goat path. They also included a cul-de-sac at the end of Frontage Rd, which is used as a demand response bus route for MTU. Francis Schelfhout proceeded to describe each of the alternatives. Adam Lorentz stated that the Board of Public Works will be addressing this at its meeting on the 25th. For MTU, Frontage Rd needs to be kept open to accommodate riders, especially paratransit riders where a pullout on 16 would be infeasible. He also commented that Sunset Ln is inadequate for accommodating heavy vehicles like buses and emergency vehicles and that Frontage Rd really needs to stay open.

5) Resolution prohibiting bike lanes on Gillette St:

Jackie Eastwood stated that she, Cathy, and Jim had commented at the City of La Crosse Judiciary Committee meeting in opposition to the resolution. The committee voted 4 to 3 to recommend to the City Council to vote against the resolution, but Ms. Eastwood drafted a letter to the full council because they weren't taking public comment at the Council meeting that was occurring that night.

Carolyn Dvorak emphasized a need for education as she recounted some of the comments she heard that inaccurately claimed that bicyclists are safer on the sidewalk and that bike lanes are unsafe.

Cathy Van Maren asked if there was a way to have a city plan that accommodated all modes at once. Ms. Eastwood replied that the best option would be in the transportation element of the City's comprehensive plan, *Confluence*. Jack Zabrowski stated that the plan was completed 16 years ago.

6) Local Studies proposals and ranking results from TAC:

Jackie Eastwood stated that because only one of the four proposals was deemed eligible for planning funds in their submitted forms, the FHWA is still considering the eligibility of the other three proposals that have aspects that appear beyond planning and into engineering. The TAC will take up the local studies at a special meeting in April by which time we will have more guidance.

7) LAPC Public Participation Plan:

Jackie Eastwood stated that the public participation plan is a policy document that outlines how we engage the public. This update is a minor update to reflect changes in data analysis and contacts. Ms. Eastwood received no substantive comments on the plan, but updated the TIP amendment process for transit projects based on a comment on the TIP so that the LAPC TIP amendment process is consistent with FTA regulations. Ms. Eastwood noted that the TAC recommended at its March 13 meeting that the Policy Board approve the plan.

8) Other updates and information items:

Jim Longhurst announced two events: 1) The Conference on the Ethical City will be held at Viterbo from April 4-6. Charles Montgomery, author of *The Happy City*, will be speaking on Thursday, April 4 at 7:00 pm in the Fine Arts Center Main Theater. 2) Ride with the Mayor on June 4. Carolyn Dvorak added that the Ride occurs during Bike Week, which begins on the 3rd with Open Streets.

Carolyn Dvorak announced that she would be teaching safe bicycling in La Crosse—the date to be determined. She needs 10 people to take the course that will teach how to teach kids how to bike. She also announced that she will be participating in a bike/walk summit in Wausau

Adam Lorentz had several updates: 1) the Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL) system would go live in April. It's installed on all of the vehicles, but it's being tested right now. 2) MTU has been approved for an 11th bus, which means 11 of 21 will have been replaced. 3) In April, Protera, Xcel Energy, and Engineering will be installing the infrastructure needed for the electric buses.

Leroy Brown asked if anyone knows of a facility in Onalaska that could be used to store the shared ride vehicles. The current location is the old Onalaska Public Works shop, which is being torn down for an apartment complex.

9) Future agenda items:

- District 6 Bicycle Plan

10) Adjourn; Next meeting TBA:

Jack Zabrowski motioned to adjourn at 3:52 pm; Cathy Van Maren seconded. All were in favor.