



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

Vacant, Director Jackie Eastwood, Transportation Planner
 La Crosse County Administrative Center
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LA CROSSE AREA PLANNING COMMITTEE
Minutes of April 17, 2019
Administrative Center – Room 1107

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Joe Chilsen, Patrick Barlow, Tara Johnson, Tim Kabat, Dennis Manthei, Linda Seidel, Tim Candahl, Rolly Bogert, Mike Poellinger
MEMBERS EXCUSED:	Terry Schaller
OTHERS PRESENT:	Steve O'Malley, Charlie Handy, Karl Green, Jackie Eastwood, Adam Lorentz, Cameron Handy, Nancy Proctor, Jim Kuehn (via phone), Caroline Gregerson, Terri Pavlic

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Joe Chilsen called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT: There was no public comment.

APPROVAL OF MARCH 20, 2019 MEETING MINUTES

MOTION by Kabat/Manthei to approve the March 20, 2019 minutes of the La Crosse Area Planning Committee. **Motion carried unanimously with 1 excused – Schaller.**

LOCAL STUDIES RECOMMENDATION

Jackie Eastwood noted that three of the four projects that were submitted were ineligible. The one eligible project was the Safe Routes to School Plan that will be funded at \$58,200; this plan is approximately 10 years old so does need to be updated.

There was a Feasibility Study submitted that was ineligible because it was deemed that it was a project beyond planning. (2-way left turn lanes on West Avenue and Losey Blvd; crossing for the Wagon Wheel Trail to connect to the southside of 14/61, and a corridor study being done in Onalaska).

MOTION by Kabat/Johnson to approve the Safe Routes to School Plan in the amount of \$58,200. **Motion carried unanimously with 1 excused - Schaller.**

QUARTERLY REPORT NARRATIVE

Include in the packets was an informational item entitled 2019 Planning Work Program, First Quarter Project Narrative from January – March 2019. Because the LAPC Director position is yet unfilled, Jackie Eastwood thought it would be helpful to describe to the LAPC the program activities that the MPO is engaged in. No action taken.

PRESENTATION OF REPORT ON FAIR HOUSING ANALYSIS (CAROLINE GREGERSON)

Caroline Gregerson presented the La Crosse Regional Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice. This study was prepared by the City of La Crosse, La Crosse County, Monroe County, City of La Crosse Public Housing Authority, La Crosse County Housing Authority, Tomah Housing Authority, and Monroe County Housing Authority.

The study included: Analysis of the Local Fair Housing Landscape, Four Specific Fair Housing Issues (integration and segregation; areas of poverty; access to opportunity; housing needs), Fair Housing Priorities and Goals. The survey considered public input and considered:

- Racial and Ethnic Composition
- Segregation Levels
- Access to Opportunity under a variety of factors including education, jobs & labor market engagement, transit trips & transportation cost, poverty, and environmental health.
- Job Proximity to City of La Crosse
- Access to Opportunity – Labor Engagement County
- Access to Opportunity – Jobs Proximity County
- Transit Usage Relatively Consistent Throughout La Crosse
- Transit Trips Index in La Crosse
- Housing and Transportation as a Percentage of Income
- Housing Need
- Housing Affordability

Impediment #1: Affordable Housing Needs Disproportionately Affect Protected Classes - Continue efforts to work collaboratively between the City of La Crosse, La Crosse County to improve housing affordability, encourage new development, and reduce barriers to accessing housing. Consider working together along with other jurisdictions including Holmen, Onalaska, West Salem, Sparta, and Tomah to develop a Regional Affordable Housing Plan that prioritizes housing needs and outlines strategies the entities plan to take to address them.

Impediment #2: Limited Access to Some Areas of Opportunity - public transportation options connecting La Crosse with suburbs in La Crosse County are limited. Research alternative transportation programs that may provide direct transportation linkages between existing housing and employment centers and potential funding sources. As City and County comprehensive plans and other local or regional transportation plans are developed or updated, the City's Community Development and Housing staff should review the proposed plan elements for consistency with planned strategies to expand public transportation in a way that would open up housing choices within the region.

Impediment #3: Poor Rental Housing Conditions Limit Access to Quality Housing

- Poor rental housing conditions limit access to quality housing.
- Accessible housing for people with disabilities is in short supply.
- The City of La Crosse Housing Authority is Rebuilding Public Trust.
- Racial disparities exist in homeownership.
- The Human Rights Commission continues to clarify its fair housing role.
- Need for coordinated Fair Housing Education and Enforcement

Terri will send out a link to the entire presentation. **MOTION** by Poellinger/Barlow to consider the recommendation of a regional more in-depth affordable housing study at a future LAPC meeting. **Motion carried unanimously with 1 excused - Schaller.**

RECOGNITION OF NANCY PROCTOR FOR 10 YEARS OF SERVICE ON LAPC POLICY BOARD

Nancy Proctor was recognized for 10 years of distinguished service to the La Crosse Area Planning Committee, as President of the Village of Holmen.

Mike Weibel was also recognized for his years of service on the La Crosse Area Planning Committee. Patrick Barlow was welcomed as the new member as Village of Holmen President.

UPDATE ON EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RECRUITMENT AND NEXT STEPS

Steve O'Malley updated the committee on the Executive Director recruitment. We have had 13 applications for the Executive Director, and after initial screening from the Human Resources Department, three of these are not qualified. Of the remaining 10, three have local Wisconsin DOT and/or experience directly with the LAPC. Staff have developed a questionnaire (due April 24nd) for the 7 candidates outside of the area asking for more detail of their experience. Staff and LAPC members Mike Poellinger, Tim Candahl, Tara Johnson and Joe Chilsen will then do phone/Skype interviews to narrow down the list of candidates. The last step will be to interview the finalists with the LAPC to make the final decision.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Mississippi River Cities and Towns Initiative - Tim Kabat attended their annual meeting in Washington DC. He will send a link to their website.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

- Elect new officers in May
- Finalize Intermunicipal Agreement
- Updates and set date for interviews for Executive Director recruitment
- Work program amendment

FUTURE MEETING DATE: May 15, 2019

ADJOURN

MOTION by Kabat/Poellinger to adjourn the meeting at 5:12 p.m. **Motion carried unanimously with 1 excused – Schaller.**

Disclaimer: The above minutes may be approved, amended or corrected at the next committee meeting.

Recorded by Terri Pavlic