



# La Crosse Area Planning Committee

## Metropolitan Planning Organization

### Serving the La Crosse/La Crescent Urbanized Area

Peter Fletcher, Director     Jackie Eastwood, Transportation Planner  
 La Crosse County Administrative Center  
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**LA CROSSE AREA PLANNING COMMITTEE**  
**Minutes of August 21, 2019**  
**Administrative Center – Room 1107**

<b>MEMBERS PRESENT:</b>	Mike Poellinger (Chair), Tara Johnson, Martin Gaul, Dennis Manthei, Tim Candahl, Joe Chilsen, Patrick Barlow
<b>MEMBERS EXCUSED:</b>	Linda Seidel, Roland Bogert, Mitch Brohmer, Jerry Monti
<b>OTHERS PRESENT:</b>	Steve O'Malley, Peter Fletcher, Jackie Eastwood, Francis Schelfhout, Adam Lorentz, Jason Schmitz, Sam Bachmeier, Ron Chamberlain, Alice Sorenson

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Mike Poellinger called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** There was no public comment.

**INTRODUCTION OF PETER FLETCHER**

Peter Fletcher, the new Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Director, was introduced. Peter shared information on his background and thanked everyone who helped in the interview process. Welcome Peter!

**APPROVAL OF MAY 15, 2019 MEETING MINUTES**

**MOTION** by Manthei/Barlow to approve the May 15, 2019 minutes of the La Crosse Area Planning Committee. **Motion carried unanimously with four excused – Seidel/Bogert/Brohmer/Monti.**

**APPROVE AMENDING THE 2019-2020 PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (RESOLUTION 7-2019)**

The U.S. Department of Transportation regulations require the development and annual approval of a Planning Work Program (PWP) for the metropolitan planning area by the MPO. The LAPC approved its 2019 Planning Work Program on September 1, 2018 with a budget of \$309,612.17. The loss of the Director required remaining staff to take over budget reporting, TIP amendments, and other critical administrative tasks, resulting in the inability to complete/engage in certain work program activities. It is recommended that the LAPC approve amending the 2019 Planning Work Program to reflect its change in staffing, program expense, work activities, and amended budget of \$263,155.06

**MOTION** by Manthei/Chilsen to approve. **Motion carried unanimously with four excused – Seidel/Bogert/Brohmer/Monti.**

**APPROVE THE GREAT RIVER RAIL COMMISSION JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT AMENDMENT (RESOLUTION 8-2019)**

The Minnesota High Speed Rail Commission (Commission) was established in 2009 as a joint powers board under the provisions of Minnesota Statutes Section 471.59 and Chapter 398A. The Commission is working to establish the Twin Cities-Milwaukee-Chicago second daily round-trip passenger train along the current Amtrak Empire Builder route (TCMC Corridor) serving the current station stops and advocates for faster and more frequent passenger rail service between Chicago and St. Paul along the TCMC Corridor. The Commission desires to amend the Joint Powers

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Agreement to change its legal name and to conduct business as the Great River Rail Commission and to add Washington County, Minnesota as a Financial Party member. It is recommended that the LAPC approve the Third Amended and Restated Great River Rail Commission Joint Powers Agreement and authorize the Executive Director to execute the Agreement. **MOTION** by Gaul/Chilsen to approve. **Motion carried unanimously with four excused – Seidel/Bogert/Brohmer/Monti.**

**APPROVE AMENDING THE 2019-2022 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (RESOLUTION 9-2019)**

The U.S. Department of Transportation regulations require the development and approval of Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the metropolitan planning area by the MPO. The LAPC approved the 2019-2022 Transportation Improvement Program on November 14, 2018. Since the adoption of the TIP, several amendments have been approved to add new projects and to modify listed projects. Several projects have since experienced minor changes in funding amounts, allocations, and/or shifts in obligation year. Construction funds have been obligated toward two existing projects as well and an addition of three projects to complete emergency repairs. It is recommended that the LAPC approve an amendment to the 2019-2022 TIP. **MOTION** by Gaul/Barlow to approve. **Motion carried unanimously with four excused – Seidel/Bogert/Brohmer/Monti.**

**APPROVE THE INTERMUNICIPAL AGREEMENT**

Steve O'Malley, County Administrator, indicated that upon the direction of the LAPC, this Agreement was circulated to federal highways, both DOT's, the Village Attorney from West Salem, City Attorney from Onalaska, and City Attorney from La Crosse for comments. No issues were raised. **MOTION** by Chilsen/Manthei to approve. **Motion carried unanimously with four excused – Seidel/Bogert/Brohmer/Monti.**

**POTENTIAL EXPANSION OF LAPC MEMBERSHIP**

Steve O'Malley, County Administrator, highlighted previous committee discussion about the idea of the possible expansion of membership. With the new MPO Director onboard, it was recommended to add this to the 2020/2021 Work Plan. Committee discussion ensued about who potential new members could be and how to proceed with the process.

**REVIEW/DISCUSS BYLAWS**

A copy of the Bylaws were distributed with the agenda packet for committee review. They were last approved in 2009 and one of the primary changes at that time was that the Chairman shall not serve successive terms in that office. Article X – Weighted Voting was highlighted because the Bylaws state that the weighted vote shall be reviewed and amended following the release of population data for municipalities after each Decennial Census. The weighted vote for each municipality was last based upon the 2000 Decennial Census. Discussion ensued about how the weighted vote was initiated and what the percentages would look like with the 2010 census numbers. **MOTION** by Barlow/Chilsen to approve the use of the most current census.

**MOTION** by Johnson/Gaul to take no action and refer the discussion of the Bylaws to the next meeting. **Motion carried unanimously with four excused – Seidel/Bogert/Brohmer/Monti.**

**FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS**

Historically the meetings were held every other month so that schedule will begin in September with the next meeting after that being held in November. Exceptions to the schedule for special meetings will be at the call of the Chair.

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Steve O'Malley shared with the committee that the Wisconsin Policy Forum has done a number of studies on fire/EMS sharing/consolidation across the state. A special informational meeting was held concerning this study on August 14, 2019. A follow-up meeting is tentatively scheduled for September 25, 2019 to discuss more details about the proposed study, the makeup of an Advisory Committee, and next steps. This proposal update will be placed on the next LAPC agenda.

**OTHER BUSINESS:** None noted.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:**

- Work Program
- Budget
- Approval of the 2020-23 TIP
- Approval of the List of Prioritized Transportation Projects

**NEXT MEETING DATE: September 18, 2019, 4:30**

**ADJOURN**

**MOTION** by Candahl/Gaul to adjourn the meeting at 5:13 p.m. **Motion carried unanimously with four excused – Seidel/Bogert/Brohmer/Monti.**

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

Recorded by Alice Sorenson