



La Crosse Area Planning Committee

Metropolitan Planning Organization

Serving the La Crosse/La Crescent Urbanized Area

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Minutes of LAPC Meeting, November 18, 2009

Minutes of the meeting of the La Crosse Area Planning Committee held on Wednesday, November 18, 2009 at 4:30 p.m. at the La Crosse County Administrative Center, Room 3220, 400 4th St N, La Crosse.

Members Present: Lynnetta Kopp, Town of Shelby; Nancy Proctor, Village of Holmen; Linda Seidel, Town of Medary; Dave Paudler, Town of Onalaska; Mike Giese, City of Onalaska; Mike Poellinger, City of La Crescent; Dennis Manthei, Village of West Salem; Matt Harter, City of La Crosse; Scott Johnson, Town of Campbell; Steve Doyle, La Crosse County.
Members Absent: None. **Members Excused:** None. **Others Present:** John Boland, Paul Wydeven, Jerry Miller, Judy Bodway, Dick Mial, Mark Westerveld, Michael Hoelker, Bev Mach, Steve Flottmeyer, Jeff Bluske, Tim Keneipp, Michael Barreyro, Larry Kirch, Steve O'Malley, Greg Flogstad, Rick Diermeier, Scott Hoffmann, Jeremy Gragert, Jeff Brudos, Tom Faella, and Jackie Eastwood.

Call to Order: Lynnetta Kopp called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

1) Approval of Minutes of the September 16 and October 14 LAPC Meetings:

Nancy Proctor motioned to approve the minutes of the September 16 and October 14, 2009 meetings. Mike Poellinger seconded. All were in favor.

2) Public comment relative to agenda items, with a 5-minute time limit per comment:

Larry Kirch and Tim Keneipp spoke in favor of providing bicycle and pedestrian accommodations on the I-90 Dresbach Bridge. Lynnetta Kopp stated she received an e-mail from Chris Kuhn, also in support of the accommodations.

3) Resolution 8-2009 amending the 2010 – 2013 Transportation Improvement Program:

Mike Poellinger motioned to adopt Resolution 8-2009 amending the 2010 – 2013 Transportation Improvement Program to include \$202,500 in federal funds to pay for railroad crossing gates on the Wagon Wheel Trail in La Crescent. Dave Paudler seconded. All were in favor.

4) Resolution 9-2009 adopting the 2010 – 2011 Planning Work Program for the La Crosse Area Planning Committee:

Tom Faella stated that the LAPC is expected to receive \$55,000 from WisDOT toward the cost of the aerial photography in 2010. This would reduce the amount needed from the cash reserves. The photography would be available to all member municipalities at no cost. La Crosse County will maintain the photography, which will be taken in the spring of 2010 and be available to the LAPC by the end of 2010.

Mike Poellinger motioned to adopt Resolution 9-2009 adopting the 2010 – 2011 Planning Work Program. Nancy Proctor seconded. All were in favor.

5) Discussion of the Coulee Connections Transportation Study:

Michael Hoelker presented on the Coulee Connections Transportation Study. Mr. Hoelker began with some background, identifying 8 studies that span 40 years. He discussed the results of a local perceptions survey of public transit, navigation and WisDOT improvements in the La Crosse area. Mr. Hoelker then proceeded to discuss the purpose and need for the Coulee Connections Study including higher than average crash history and poor level of service on the major north-south roadways (STH 16 and 35, USH 53). He provided an update on the status of the study, including the high level of public involvement planned and consultation with FHWA about the independent utility of the USH 53/12th Avenue Extended section north of Gillette St (can the facility operate without negatively impacting other segments of the network?). The next step is to refine the study scope in coordination with FHWA, followed by continued public involvement.

6) Minnesota High Speed Rail Commission:

Jerry Miller and Judy Bodway presented on the Minnesota High Speed Rail Commission. Mr. Miller provided the history of the formation of the commission, stating its purpose is to be an advocate for an integrated rail system along the "River Route" corridor from La Crosse to the Twin Cities. This corridor rated highly in the Minnesota State Rail Plan because of its readiness to support the Midwest Regional Rail Initiative in its existing state. The corridor will need some track improvements, but the right-of-way is already there. Mr. Miller stated that Amtrak is already looking at adding another train to the Empire Builder service due to high demand. The Commission is aware of the competition for high speed rail funds and feels that endorsing the River Route will improve our chances for funding.

Tom Faella stated that the LAPC was asked to join the Minnesota High Speed Rail Commission as an ex-officio member.

Steve Doyle motioned to join the Minnesota High Speed Rail Commission as an ex-officio member with Mr. Faella as LAPC representative. Mike Giese seconded. All were in favor.

7) Update on BPAC discussion of bicycle and pedestrian accommodations on I-90:

Tom Faella referred to the letter he drafted for Mn/DOT and WisDOT reflecting the BPAC's decision to include the section of I-90 between USH 14/61 and USH 53/STH 35 as a long-term future bicycle and pedestrian corridor in the current bicycle plan update and recommending that the designs for all projects within this corridor consider bicycle and pedestrian accommodations.

Steve Doyle motioned to endorse the letter recommending plans for bicycle and pedestrian accommodations on I-90 to Mn/DOT and WisDOT as written. Dave Paudler seconded. All were in favor.

8) Other business; Director's report; Adjourn; Next meeting to be announced:

Nancy Proctor motioned to adjourn at 5:35 p.m. Mike Poellinger seconded. All were in favor.