



La Crosse Area Planning Committee

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

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Minutes of LAPC Meeting, August 10, 2011

Minutes of the meeting of the La Crosse Area Planning Committee held on Wednesday, August 10, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 3220 of the La Crosse County Administrative Center, 400 4th St N, La Crosse.

Members Present: Nancy Proctor, Village of Holmen; Timothy Candahl, Town of Shelby; Roland Bogert, Town of Onalaska; Mike Giese, City of Onalaska; Tara Johnson, La Crosse County; Dennis Manthei, Village of West Salem; Mike Poellinger, City of La Crescent. **Members Absent:** Scott Johnson, Town of Campbell; Matt Harter, City of La Crosse; Linda Seidel, Town of Medary. **Others Present:** Ron Chamberlain, Paul Wydeven, Karl Green, Steve O'Malley, Larry Kirch, Jack Zabrowski, Jim Nissen, Tim Yager, Kendra Niemec, John Boland, Tom Faella, and Jackie Eastwood.

Call to Order: Nancy Proctor called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

1) Approval of Minutes of the July 20, 2011 LAPC Meeting:

Dennis Manthei motioned to approve the minutes of the July 20, 2011 meeting; Mike Poellinger seconded. All were in favor.

2) Public Comment:

None.

3) Correspondence Received:

Tom Faella stated that two of the four letters in the packet were letters of support for bicycle and pedestrian accommodations on the I-90 Dresbach Bridge. A third letter was a status update by Don Smith. The fourth letter was a request for funding and will be discussed in agenda item 6.

4) Update on Dresbach Bridge Replacement Project:

Tom Faella updated the committee on the status of the project and the environmental document since the last meeting on July 20. The FHWA in Minnesota suggested that Mn/DOT complete additional study and feasibility assessment of bicycle/pedestrian accommodations before the environmental assessment (EA) is published for public comment. The study will include a discussion of alternatives and costs, and a discussion of the environmental and refuge impacts. The EA is scheduled for completion in September. Mr. Faella is not sure what the public process for review of the EA will be—if it includes reconvening the TAC and PAC or will be an internal review.

5) Options Available to the LAPC Relative to the Dresbach Bridge Project:

Tom Faella continued the discussion by outlining some actions that the LAPC could take to support the adopted resolution requesting Mn/DOT follow the recommendations of the regional bike plan to design the capacity for bicycle and pedestrian accommodations into the Dresbach Bridge. Discussion turned to the status of the Wagon Wheel Trail, a study of accommodations between I-90 and La Crescent, the La Crescent TH 14/61 Intersection, and the West Channel Bridge.

Jim Nissen of the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) stated that Refuge land borders both sides of the Dresbach Bridge. He has been part of the project discussion through PAC and TAC meetings since 2004. The FWS has two environmental considerations: 1) Refuge land given for right-of-way (ROW) needs to be replaced and 2) wetland mitigation. The FWS has memorandums of understanding with Mn/DOT and WisDOT for ROW permits and mitigation. As far as bicycle and pedestrian accommodations, the PAC and TAC had little discussion and he has seen no plans or studies. Mr. Nissen will be meeting with Jai Kelsey in 2-3 weeks to talk about alternatives.

6) Request for Funds from Active Living La Crescent:

Tom Faella referred to the letter in the packet from Active Living La Crescent requesting up to \$10,000 to fund services related to advocating for bicycle and pedestrian accommodations on the new I-90 Dresbach Bridge.

Mike Poellinger motioned that, with the prior approval of the Executive Director, the LAPC will fund half of the total cost of eligible expenses for services, as matching funds not to exceed \$7,000; Timothy Candahl seconded. All were in favor.

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

John Boland informed everyone that the BPAC would be conducting a one-day count of bicyclists on the Cameron Ave. and Cass St. Bridges on September 8 to gather user data for the Dresbach Bridge effort.

Tom Faella stated that Amtrak is leading a study to determine the feasibility of providing a second Amtrak train. The study is expected to take 6 to 8 months and will cost about \$60,000, which is being split between Minnesota and Wisconsin.

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, September 21, 2011.

Dennis Manthei motioned to adjourn at 6:00 p.m.; Tara Johnson seconded. All were in favor.