



# 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 16, 2011

**Minutes of the meeting of the La Crosse Area Planning Committee** held on Wednesday, November 16, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 3220 of the La Crosse County Administrative Center, 400 4<sup>th</sup> St N, La Crosse.

**Members Present:** Nancy Proctor, Village of Holmen; Timothy Candahl, Town of Shelby; Mike Giese, City of Onalaska; Tara Johnson, La Crosse County; Mike Poellinger, City of La Crescent. **Members Excused:** Dennis Manthei, Village of West Salem. **Others Present:** Rick Staff, Terry Ward, Marvin Wanders, Greg Paulson, Jai Kalsy, John Von Ruden, Dave Jolicoeur, Lynne Bly, Ron Chamberlain, Joe Olson, Jack Zabrowski, Don Smith, Paul Borsheim, Jason Gilman, Brian Fukuda, Steve O'Malley, Sharon Earp, Steve Earp, Steven Nicolai, Sue Howe, Paul Wydeven, John Boland, Greg Pates, Michael Hoelker, 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 September 21, 2011 LAPC Meeting:**

*Mike Poellinger motioned to approve the minutes of the September 21, 2011 meeting; Tara Johnson seconded. All were in favor.*

**2) Public Comment:**

Tom Faella invited everyone to attend a meeting in West Salem that evening regarding frac sand mining. He also informed the board that MnDOT selected the Empire Builder route through La Crosse as the preferred route for high speed rail between Milwaukee and the Twin Cities. A public meeting will be held in Winona on December 14.

Mike Giese asked that agenda items 11 and 12 be moved up in the order. [Note: Although, agenda items 11 and 12 were discussed immediately after agenda item 2, the minutes are in agenda-item order, not chronological order.]

**3) Resolution 10 – 2011 Approving the 2012 – 2013 Planning Work Program:**

*Mike Poellinger motioned to adopt Resolution 10 – 2011 Approving the 2012 – 2013 Planning Work Program; Tim Candahl seconded. All were in favor.*

**4) Resolution 11 – 2011 Approving the 2012 – 2015 Transportation Improvement Program:**

Tom Faella stated that three projects were added to the draft TIP: a pavement project on USH 53, a regional park-and-ride study, and Western Wisconsin Cares transportation.

Mike Giese and Tara Johnson questioned what would happen if the LAPC approves the TIP without the Dresbach Bridge project. Dave Jolicoeur, from the FHWA Wisconsin office, responded that the TIP must also be approved by MnDOT and WisDOT. If the 2012 – 2015 TIP is not approved by the DOTs, the current TIP (2011 – 2014) would remain active, with the inclusion of the Dresbach Bridge project.

*Mike Poellinger motioned to adopt Resolution 11 – 2011 Approving the 2012 – 2015 Transportation Improvement Program without the Dresbach Bridge projects 243-10-011 and 243-10-015; Mike Giese seconded. All were in favor.*

**5) I-90 Exit 3 ( USH 53 / STH 35 Interchange) Reconstruction:**

Paul Borsheim, Rick Staff, and Marvin Wanders presented a summary of their hopes for a study to redevelop the interchange and waterfront area in north La Crosse/south Onalaska. Sharon Earp from the North La Crosse Business Association asked that WisDOT consider delaying the project to study options for economic development. Joe Olson stated that WisDOT is still in the early stages of design and can see opportunity to look into this further. Steve O'Malley stated that La Crosse County would be willing to facilitate meetings with La Crosse, Onalaska, WisDOT, and any other interested parties, but decisions would be made by the cities. He suggested the parties get together within

the next 30-60 days. Steve Earp stated that other interested parties would include the Harbor Commission and the Town of Campbell.

*Mike Poellinger motioned to make a request of the DOT to delay the USH 53 / I-90 / STH 35 interchange project and for the LAPC to work with the County, the Cities of La Crosse and Onalaska, and other interested parties to assess the options for economic development through this corridor; Tara Johnson seconded. All were in favor.*

**6) Resolution 12 – 2011 Approving the Minnesota 2012 State Planning Grant:**

*Mike Poellinger motioned to adopt Resolution 12 – 2011 Approving the Minnesota 2012 State Planning Grant; Mike Giese seconded. All were in favor.*

**7) Technical Committee Bylaws and Membership:**

*Mike Poellinger motioned to adopt the committee bylaws and membership as presented; Tim Candahl seconded. All were in favor.*

**8) Format of Annual Meeting:**

*Mike Poellinger motioned to hold the annual meeting at the La Crosse Center on January 18, 2012 and to allow Tom Faella to make this decision on his own in the future; Tara Johnson seconded. All were in favor.*

**9) Discussion of 2013 Local Dues:**

Tom Faella stated that at the May meeting, the Policy Board made the decision to set the dues for 2013 at the November meeting. The dues have remained the same since 2003 and he recommends keeping them the same for 2013. Member dues are based on assessed value.

*Mike Poellinger motioned to set the annual dues at \$60,420 and to send out notices to the member municipalities; Tara Johnson seconded. All were in favor.*

**10) Visioning Process for Minnesota's Transportation Future:**

Lynne Bly presented an update on MnDOT's activities to complete a 50-year multimodal vision for Minnesota. Guiding principles were developed to provide policy direction for state modal plans. The principles were adopted in October. Lynne passed out a summary of the principles and asked that they be reviewed and the comments sent to Tom Faella.

**11) MnDOT Update on Dresbach Bridge Project:**

Jai Kalsy, MnDOT, presented an interim summary of findings for a study conducted to determine the feasibility of incorporating bicycle and pedestrian accommodations on the Dresbach Bridge and within the I-90 corridor to the USH 53 / STH 35 interchange. The findings do not include any recommendations.

Joe Olson, WisDOT, spoke on what will be occurring within the I-90 corridor on the Wisconsin side and what will be expected as far as maintenance and cost share. A maintenance agreement with a local entity (i.e. La Crosse County) would be required before any bike/ped work would begin. Several I-90 bridge deck preservation projects are scheduled for the 2014-2016 timeframe. These projects are not anticipated to include bicycle and pedestrian accommodations because the projects are only meant to extend the life of the bridges. Mr. Olson anticipates evaluation of purpose and need when WisDOT considers reconstruction projects within the corridor in 25 to 30 years. WisDOT may fund 100% of accommodations on the bridges, but the amount they would fund for the roadway portions could only be between 0% and 50%. Here too, a local entity would have to agree to the local share before any work would begin.

Jai Kalsy expects that the feasibility study will be released with the environmental assessment (EA) in mid-December as a companion report. The EA will have a 60-day comment period and a public hearing in January. Jai asked that the LAPC comment on the alternatives within the next two weeks so they can include a recommendation in the EA.

Tom Faella will write a letter of comment on the alternatives and reiterate the LAPC bike plan recommendations.

In response to a question regarding the cost of maintenance of the accommodations on the Minnesota side, Greg Paulson responded that MnDOT may request local assistance for maintenance of the trail depending on the alternative selected. Any enhancements above the base alternative may require a local share.

**12) Update on Bike/Ped Advocacy by I-90Dresbach Bridge Workgroup:**

Don Smith referenced materials sent out in the meeting packets that summarized the workgroup's analysis of the process for considering bicycle and pedestrian accommodations on the Dresbach Bridge and within the I-90 corridor.

**13) Request for funding by Active Living La Crescent:**

*Mike Giese motioned to authorize payment of the \$6,000 requested by Active Living La Crescent; Mike Poellinger seconded. All were in favor.*

**14) Other business; Adjourn; Next meeting to be announced:**

*Nancy Proctor motioned to adjourn at 6:02 p.m.; Tim Candahl seconded. All were in favor.*