



La Crosse Area Planning Committee

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

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Minutes of Technical Advisory Committee Meeting, November 18, 2009

Minutes of the meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee held on Wednesday, November 18, 2009 at 2:30 p.m. at the La Crosse County Administrative Center, Room 3220, 400 4th St N, La Crosse.

Members Present: Scott Halbrucker, Bob Haines, Andrea Finch (conference call), John Boland, Paul Wydeven, Mike Weibel, Travis Parish, Peter Waskiw, Karen Kalvelage, Jeff Brudos, David Jolicoeur, Michael Hoelker, Bob Fisher, Matt Gallagher, Jarrod Holter. **Members Excused:** Marc Schultz, Dale Hexom. **Others Present:** Mark Westerveld, Steve Flottmeyer, Jackie Eastwood, Tom Faella.

Tom Faella called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

1) Approval of Minutes of the September 16, 2009 TAC Meeting:

Jarrod Holter motioned to approve the minutes of the September 16, 2009 meeting. Bob Haines seconded. All were in favor.

2) Amending the 2010 – 2013 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP):

Tom Faella stated that the TIP needed to be amended to include federal funds for gates at an at-grade railroad crossing in La Crescent that will be part of the Wagon Wheel Trail.

Jeff Brudos motioned to amend the 2010 – 2013 TIP to include the \$202,500 in federal funds for railroad gates on the Wagon Wheel Trail. Matt Gallagher seconded. All were in favor.

3) 2010 – 2011 Planning Work Program for the La Crosse Area Planning Committee:

Tom Faella discussed the 2010 aerial photography program and stated that WisDOT hopes to contribute \$55,000 toward the photography. Three resolutions of photography will be flown: 12-in photography will be provided for the rural areas of La Crosse County and the towns of La Crescent and Dresbach at no cost to the municipalities; 6-in photography will be provided for the Cities of Onalaska and La Crescent and the Villages of Holmen and West Salem. The City of La Crosse is considering acquiring 3-in photography would citywide. Since 6-in photography will not be taken for La Crosse, the LAPC will apply the cost for the 6-in toward the city's cost for the 3-in photography. All of the photography will be provided in MrSID format.

Bob Haines motioned to recommend the 2010 – 2011 Planning Work Program to the LAPC. Jarrod Holter seconded. All were in favor.

4) Functional Classification requests August 2008 and June 2009:

Tom Faella discussed the results of the functional re-classification requests sent to WisDOT. The submission from August of 2008 has been approved as requested by the FHWA. Some of the requests from the June 2009 submission, however, were questioned by WisDOT as not meeting functional classification criteria. Mr. Faella will re-submit the approved requests, along with additional justification for West Ave from Brickl Rd to its terminus in the Village of West Salem.

5) Discussion of the Coulee Connection Transportation Study (WisDOT):

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.

Karen Kalvelage from the WI DNR stated that the DNR looks at the project as a whole (I-90 to South Ave) and sees the DOT process as segmentation. She asked what brought this back to the table since the 1998 La Crosse North-South Transportation Corridor Study.

Mr. Hoelker responded that in 2005 the LAPC Metropolitan Transportation Plan recommended proceeding with the northern portion (USH 53 / 12th Avenue Extension from I-90 to Gillette St.). He said that no alternatives for the southern portion have been considered yet. WisDOT is waiting for the results of the independent utility study with the FHWA to determine the environmental process used in the entire study area. If the study shows no viable alternatives for construction of a new roadway south of Gillette St, then none will be included in the selected alternative.

6) Other Business, Adjourn, Next meeting to be announced:

Jarrod Holter motioned to adjourn at 3:35 p.m. Bob Haines seconded. All were in favor.