



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 16, 2011

Minutes of the meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee held on Wednesday, November 16, 2011 at 2:30 p.m. in Room 3220 of the La Crosse County Administrative Center, 400 4th St N, La Crosse, WI.

Members Present: Scott Halbrucker, Jack Zabrowski, Dave Jolicoeur, Matt Gallager, John Boland, Paul Wydeven, Mike Weibel, Dale Hexom, Matt Feuerhelm for Jarrod Holter, Greg Pates, Karen Kalvelage.

Members Excused: Dick Granchalek. **Others Present:** Lynne Bly, Terry Ward, Michael Hoelker, Jai Kalsy, Joe Olson, Sue Howe, John Von Ruden, Greg Paulson, Jackie Eastwood, Tom Faella.

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

1) Approval of Minutes of the September 21, 2011 TAC Meeting:

Scott Halbrucker motioned to approve the minutes of the September 21, 2011 meeting; Greg Pates seconded. All were in favor.

2) Approval of the 2012 – 2015 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP):

Tom Faella stated that three projects were added to the TIP. Paul Wydeven commented that the USH 53 project is a safety project meant to address slide-offs from the paved road onto the unpaved shoulder and the park-and-ride study will encompass 16 counties in southwest Wisconsin and will provide input into the WisDOT's long-range plan. Mr. Faella explained that because medical transportation is now administered by Western Wisconsin Cares, the medical and non-medical transportation for WWC needs to be included in the TIP.

Paul Wydeven motioned to approve the 2012-2015 TIP as presented; Scott Halbrucker seconded; Jack Zabrowski opposed. All others were in favor.

3) Approval of the 2012 - 2013 Planning Work Program (PWP):

Mike Weibel motioned to approve the 2012-2013 PWP as presented; Greg Pates seconded. All were in favor.

4) 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. Ms. Bly passed out a summary of the principles and asked that they be reviewed and the comments sent to Tom Faella. Discussion ensued over how to ensure principles are followed in future planning.

5) MnDOT Feasibility Study on Bike/Ped Accommodations 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. As Jai presented, comments arose about the contents of the report. Sue Howe commented that the report mainly represented why accommodations were infeasible. Consideration for changes in design in, for example, trail width were not considered.

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 work would begin. A handful of 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 road, not expand it. WisDOT anticipates evaluation of purpose and need when they look at projects within the corridor 25 to 30 years out. WisDOT would fund 100% of accommodations on the bridges, with a local share required on the roadway. 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. Mr. Kalsy asked that the LAPC comment on the alternatives and send the comments to Tom Faella within the next two weeks so they can include a recommendation in the EA.

6) Local Studies Program for 2012:

Tom Faella stated that he expects up to \$50,000 will be available in 2012 for the local studies program because all funds were not used in 2011. He asked that the municipalities think about eligible projects for next year. John Boland suggested that we have a plan done for emergency demand management.

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

Matt Gallager motioned to adjourn at 4:00 p.m.; Scott Halbrucker seconded. All were in favor.