



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, July 20, 2011

Minutes of the meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee held on Wednesday, July 20, 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, Ben Spanel, John Boland, Dick Granchalek, Paul Wydeven, Mike Weibel, Matt Gallager, Jarrod Holter, Jason Gilman, Keith Carlson. **Members Excused:** Arun Rao.
Others Present: Jack Zabrowski, Charlie Handy, Michael Erickson, Jackie Eastwood, Tom Faella.

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

1) Approval of Minutes of the May 18, 2011 TAC Meeting:

Jason Gilman motioned to approve the minutes of the May 18, 2011 meeting; Mike Weibel seconded. All were in favor.

2) STP-Urban Policies:

Michael Erickson from WisDOT explained the pros and cons of having a policy that funds project design at the local level. Mr. Erickson said that design is eligible for STP-U funding at 80% federal/state and 20% local. Receiving federal funds for design begins the clock within a 10-year window to get the construction portion of a project programmed in the TIP. If a project is delayed beyond the 10-year window, the funds received for design will have to be paid back.

Jarrod Holter expressed his concern that a municipality would lose a "leg-up" with the MPO during project prioritization if the design of a project were entirely funded at the local level. Jason Gilman stated that he didn't think the TAC needed a policy, but the municipalities ought to be aware of the 10-year rule and the TAC should use it as a ranking criterion. Tom Faella said that we do have a criterion for timeliness.

John Boland suggested that WisDOT give credit for locally-funded design to the local share for project construction. Michael Erickson said he would take that suggestion back to WisDOT.

3) Review of Committee Membership and Bylaws:

Tom Faella stated that the membership was updated to reflect changes in personnel, for example, Ben Spanel taking over for Bob Haines at the Village of Holmen. Dick Granchalek questioned whether seats were vacated as per the bylaws when members didn't attend regularly. Tom Faella stated that the bylaws say, "may be vacated." Because the members that don't show up regularly have interests that aren't regularly addressed at meetings and they have expressed an interest in remaining on the board and receiving materials, the LAPC opts to retain them on the board.

Paul Wydeven motioned to approve the bylaws and membership as presented; Jason Gilman seconded. All were in favor.

4) Amendment of the 2011-2014 TIP:

Tom Faella provided a summary of the changes to the TIP to include minor changes to timing and funding for Safe Routes to School, adding several maintenance projects for STH 16, and adding a new higher level project on La Crosse St. Michelle Ellias from WisDOT stated that because the pavement on STH 16 between S Kinney Coulee Rd and La Crosse St is coming to the end of its

useful life and WisDOT chose to program some interim maintenance projects on STH 16 to extend the life of the facility. Because the project segment on La Crosse St is connecting highway (STH 16), the City would have no local share. Higher level reconditioning projects along STH 16 would be planned in future years to address the congestion issue.

Tom Faella also noted that the Wagon Wheel Trail is moved out to 2013 because further research and discussion about historic impacts must take place with Mn/DOT.

Matt Gallagher motioned to approve the TIP as presented; Dick Granchalek seconded. All were in favor.

5) HUD's FY2011 Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Program:

Tom Faella informed everyone of a grant opportunity from HUD that promotes sustainability in communities. The grant requires applicants to be a consortium of agencies and entities. A consortium here would be able to apply for funds between \$400,000 and \$1.5M. Brian Fukuda has been researching the process and reaching out to agencies.

6) State and Federal Project Selection Process:

Paul Wydeven and Michelle Ellias presented on the transportation programs WisDOT manages and on how they determine projects to program. Criteria for identifying projects include safety (5-year crash study), pavement condition, structure, and mobility. Municipalities can request a higher level project (non-maintenance) on connecting highway by writing a letter to Karen Olson at WisDOT

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

Scott Halbrucker motioned to adjourn at 4:15 p.m.; John Boland seconded. All were in favor.