



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, September 21, 2011

Minutes of the meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee held on Wednesday, September 21, 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, Ben Spanel, John Boland, Dick Granchalek, Paul Wydeven, Mike Weibel, Bob Crooks, Dale Hexom, Matt Feuerhelm for Jarrod Holter, Bob Fisher, Greg Pates, Ron Chamberlain, Arun Rao. **Members Excused:** Dave Jolicoeur, Matt Gallagher, Jeff Brudos. **Others Present:** Michael Hoelker, Jeff Gust, Katie Caskey, Bobbie Retzlaff, Bob Haines, Jackie Eastwood, Tom Faella.

Tom Faella called the meeting to order at 2:35 p.m.

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

Mike Weibel motioned to approve the minutes of the July 20, 2011 meeting; Ron Chamberlain seconded. All were in favor.

2) Amendment of the 2011-2014 TIP:

Tom Faella pointed out a significant project added to the TIP. WisDOT is studying the area of STH 16 between Gillette St and CTH OS. This project will be amended into the 2011-2014 TIP and will be included in 2012 and 2013 of the 2012-2015 TIP.

Dick Granchalek motioned to approve amending the 2011-2014 TIP to include the study of STH 16 between Gillette St and CTH OS; Mike Weibel seconded. All were in favor.

3) Draft Project List for 2012-2015 Transportation Project List:

Tom Faella stated that most of the changes to projects were minor and reflected changes in dollar amounts or a shift in year. The significant change to the TIP is the addition of three new projects: bridge repairs on I-90 between Onalaska and West Salem; a study of STH 16 between Gillette St and CTH OS (as discussed in agenda item 2); and, the purchase of 14 new hybrid buses over the span of 2012 – 2014. The final TIP will be presented in November.

Ron Chamberlain motioned to approve the draft project list for the 2012-2015 TIP as discussed; Mike Weibel seconded. All were in favor.

4) HUD's FY 2011 Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Program:

Tom Faella updated the committee on the activities of a working group planning to submit an application for a \$2.3M Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant. The area of interest for the grant will be the planning area for the Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission (MRRPC), which covers nine counties. The Policy Board voted to join the consortium at its August meeting.

5) Main Work Activities of the 2012 LAPC Planning Work Program:

Tom Faella provided an overview of the main work activities for LAPC staff in 2012: Continue the land use inventory; begin the visioning process for the 2015 MTP update; update the traffic model; investigate social media as a component of the public participation plan; and, continue with ongoing plans and projects.

6) I-90 Bridge Structures Discussion at LAPC Meeting:

Jeff Gust from WisDOT discussed the Wisconsin I-90 projects, how they tie into the Dresbach Bridge project, and the consideration of bicyclists and pedestrians. He stated that WisDOT is not considering bicycle and pedestrian accommodations at this time because the projects are only resurfacing and deck overlays and replacement. This is being done to extend the useful life of the roadway. In 20-30 years when they would reconstruct, WisDOT would then consider building in accommodations if the local transportation plan recommends doing so. He stated that Mn/DOT is conducting a feasibility study and is close to having diagrams drawn for the entire segment from the bridge to exit 3 (USH 53/STH 35). WisDOT looked at anticipated use and cost. The estimated cost ranges between \$15M and \$28M on the Wisconsin side, but does not include engineering, mitigation, right-of-way, etc. The feasibility report will be coming out in the next couple of weeks and will become part of the environmental assessment.

Discussion turned to the design of the trail and the use of a barrier and fence. WisDOT has concerns with the fence for safety and maintenance issues. Mr. Gust said that there would be a significant cost share, but he's not sure of the percentage. A municipality or the County would have to maintain the trail. Michael Hoelker added that WisDOT would need a maintenance agreement before they could do final design.

Discussion then turned to the design of the I-90 / STH 35 / USH 53 interchange. Michael Hoelker stated that WisDOT is committed to accommodating bicyclists and pedestrians on STH 35 through the interchange.

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

Mike Weibel motioned to adjourn at 3:30 p.m.; Scott Halbrucker seconded. All were in favor.