Madison Area Transportation Planning Board
Citizen Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes

January 18, 2017 MATPB, 121 S. Pinckney St., Ste. 400, Conference Room 5:00 p.m.

1. Roll Call

Members Present: M. Jones, J. Rider, G. Rylander, T. Stoebig, R. Williams
Members Absent: K. Canto, I. Rothe
Staff Present: W. Schaefer, P. Gritzmacher

2. Approval of September 21, 2016 Meeting Minutes

Rylander pointed out an error in draft minutes showing him as both present and absent. He was absent. Stoebig moved, Rider seconded, to approve the September 21, 2016 meeting minutes with that correction. Motion carried.

3. Staff Reports

Schaefer reported that the household travel mail survey that was being conducted for the MPO and City of Madison by the UW Survey Center was going well with a 37% survey response rate thus far for the fall wave. A second wave of surveys will be sent out in the spring. Surveys from over 1,000 households will likely be collected, adding to the 900 surveys that will be completed through the national survey. For the local survey, the survey instrument was converted to a mail survey with a few additional questions added. He also reported that staff was in the process of reviewing origin/destination data purchased from a company called AirSage. Staff has already found some issues with the data, which is collected from cell phones. Rylander asked how the data was broken down by time period, and Schaefer said weekday Tues.-Thurs. AM and PM peak and weekend.

Schaefer also reported on the federal certification review report that was just provided to the MPO. The report is from the review done back in 2013 and so is very late. Such reviews by U.S. DOT are required every four years to ensure MPOs are meeting federal requirements, but the goal is really to improve the process. The most significant recommendation related to improvements to the Congestion Management Process. Rylander commented that this related to the new performance measurement requirements. He said all DOTs and MPOs are working on this and the MATPB is not behind on this. Schaefer agreed and said it was difficult to measure the impacts of projects. Schaefer said performance measure rules for pavement and bridge condition and national highway system performance were just published. He mentioned some of the significant changes from the draft, including the elimination of the peak period motor vehicle speed condition, which was replaced with a measure that factored in vehicle occupancy. Rylander commented that he was surprised the measure was dropped as it is still important.

Schaefer said that Mike Cechvala had taken a position with Metro Transit and the MPO was in the process of hiring two new planners to fill the vacancies with some modifications to responsibilities of the different staff. Gritzmacher would be taking over the transit planning responsibilities.

4. Review Preliminary Draft Recommendations for the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) 2050

Schaefer reviewed the draft recommendations, focusing on the facility plan maps, in particular the major roadway and transit projects and studies map since the others had been previously reviewed with the committee. He noted that most of the major state projects are shown only as studies due to uncertainty regarding the scope of improvements and the availability of funding. Schaefer mentioned the recommended future study of the STH 19/STH 113/CTH M corridor. Schaefer said the BRT corridors were highlighted for now. Following the study in 2017 to identify the initial corridor and project for which federal funding will be sought the plan will be amended to include that project. Schaefer also
reviewed the other facility plan maps, including future roadway functional classification, transit system, PNR, and major bicycle facilities. Schaefer then reviewed the list of recommendations and supporting actions.

Stoebig asked if the complete streets recommendation related to all streets. Schaefer said yes, but that it was a general policy and that in some cases competing priorities might result in exceptions, mostly in cases of retrofitting those facilities into existing streets. An example is if adding a sidewalk on both sides would result in the loss of mature street trees. Stoebig questioned the timeframe for the intercity bus terminal, and Schaefer said it would be corrected to 5-15 years rather than 15+ years.

5. Review Financial Analysis for RTP 2050

Gritzmacher explained the financial analysis for the plan. This is a federal requirement to ensure plans don’t just include a wish list of projects. He said it is obviously difficult to forecast future revenue and expenses, particularly roadway preservation needs and costs. A list of local arterial streets expected to need reconstruction was put together based on current condition and initial year of construction where that information was available. Stoebig asked if there was a table of roadway aid programs. Schaefer said the analysis lists the major federal and state funding programs. He also said that a summary of the analysis would be added with major conclusions. Rylander said it was important for region to be ready if federal funding becomes available. Schaefer said the City of Madison and Metro were ready.

6. Review Draft Scope of Work Outline for Next Phase of Study of Bus Rapid Transit

Schaefer reviewed the draft scope of the next phase of the BRT study, the main purpose of which is to identify the corridor and limits of the first segment of the system. He said criteria would be developed for this and there would be extensive public involvement. Once selected, other project details such as stations would be identified. A traffic analysis would also be done. After completion, the next step would be to apply to the FTA to enter into project development for detailed engineering/design work.

7. Committee Member Reports

None

8. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday March 29, 2017 at 5:00 pm in the conference room of the MATPB.

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Minutes were recorded by W. Schaefer and P. Gritzmacher