Madison Area Transportation Planning Board
Citizen Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes

March 18, 2015 Madison Municipal Building, Room LL-130 5:00 p.m.

1. Roll Call/Introductions

   Staff Present: W. Schaefer, M. Cechvala

2. Approval of January 21, 2015 Meeting Minutes

   Stoebig moved, Rylander seconded, to approve the January 21, 2015 meeting minutes. Rylander stated that some of his opinions might be misinterpreted as facts, but did not suggest any edits. Motion carried.

3. Staff Reports

   Schaefer updated the committee on the status of the Metro Transit on board survey. Surveying is in progress, and the consultants should be finished shortly after spring break in April. Hoffert asked about the surveying plan, and Schaefer responded that personal interview surveyors target every third person while paper survey crews distribute surveys to everyone on the bus.

   Schaefer reported that the roadway functional class map with associated adjustments to the Madison urban area boundary was approved by the MPO with one additional minor change. The map was sent to WisDOT and FHWA for approval. The final map is available on the MPO’s website. In response to a question from Williams, Schaefer said he thought the urban area had a 2000 population of around 430,000 out of a total Dane County population of a little less than 490,000. He said the functional class map was normally updated every 10 years following the decennial census.

   Schaefer gave a brief update on the Regional ITS Strategic Plan. He said a presentation would be provided at the next meeting.

   Schaefer stated that the MPO would be starting to distribute an E-newsletter as an additional outreach method. The subscription service will be hosted by the City of Madison, since they host similar email services through the My Accounts service, however registration will be primarily through the MPO webpage. Other communities will be asked to include a link to the registration page on their websites. It was noted that MPO staff email addresses end in @cityofmadison.com. Rylander suggested staff look at alternatives. Cechvala mentioned that the MPO holds the domain name madisonareampo.org for its website.

   Schaefer said that one half of the MPO board members are up for reappointment. That process had been started, but always takes awhile partly due to April also being election time. Schaefer noted that board members continue to serve until replaced or they resign or become ineligible.

4. Presentation on the Bicycle Transportation Plan for the Madison Metropolitan Area & Dane County

   Schaefer said that MPO staff has been working on the bike plan which was last completed in 2000. Cechvala gave a presentation on the bike plan. He said draft policy and facility recommendations had been put together and that staff would start a more extensive public outreach process in April. Cechvala reviewed the planning process, including the plan vision, goals, strategies, and recommendations. The strategies are categorized under seven “Es”: education, encouragement,
enforcement, engineering, envisioning/planning, evaluation, and end of trip / multi-modal facilities. The recommendations are more detailed tasks that carry out the strategies.

On-street bike facility recommendations identify needs for new or improved facilities. An “engineering toolbox” is also provided. However, the plan doesn’t recommend specific facility types on corridors for two reasons. First, detailed analysis and neighborhood input is need for each corridor, which is beyond the scope of the bike plan. Second, these corridors will be looked at in detail when they are reconstructed, incorporating new and better information than what is available for the bike plan. Off-street paths were prioritized from a regional perspective. Cechvala reviewed the bike network plan, showing these facilities recommendations.

Rylander suggested that longevity goal be elaborated on in the plan report to indicate it addresses cost effectiveness and the need for a commitment to ongoing maintenance. Cechvala said the longevity goal was intended to address cost effectiveness, maintainability, and the general goal to build lasting and useful infrastructure, but that some further explanation could be added in the report. Regarding the enforcement recommendations, Rylander asked why wrong-way riding and night riding without a light were highlighted, but obeying stop signs was not. Cechvala and Rider said that the data indicated that these practices were more likely to result in crashes. Rider noted that Idaho has had a law for some time that allows bicyclists to treat stop signs as yield signs. Cechvala mentioned that the MPO was coordinating the plan with the City of Madison’s transportation plan. Rylander suggested that the plan be coordinated with the regional ITS plan as well.

Wallace said that Cottage Grove was very interested in the recommended bike path connection between Cottage Grove and Madison. He asked if the bike plan presentation could be presented to the Village board, which meets the first and third Mondays of the month. Cechvala said that could be done but suggested a May or June meeting.


Schaefer stated that a small work group of MPO technical committee members and a policy board member was set up to guide staff in development of the revised STP Urban program policies and project scoring criteria. The group has met twice, resulting in a final draft of the roadway project criteria. The latest draft roadway project criteria, along with a revised policy options document, were distributed at the meeting.

Schaefer reviewed the three main policy issues. The first is whether to maintain the 50/50 cost share policy or perhaps change it to 60/40 to address the reduced flexibility to increase funding for projects when costs increase. The second is whether to create a set aside of some funding for smaller projects to provide some equity in terms of allowing small communities to compete for project funding. The criteria are geared towards the larger projects with more regional benefits. The third issue relates to how far projects need to be in development before communities can apply for funding. This is important for ensuring projects proceed on schedule and the MPO doesn’t lose some of its funding.

Regarding the small project set aside, Arnold said that equity is not necessarily the same as equality and takes into account historical inequities and needs. Rylander commented that equity was a very difficult thing to assess.

Schaefer reviewed the changes made to the roadway project criteria based on the last workgroup meeting. Arnold commented that points should perhaps be given for projects on streets with planned bus service as bus stops etc might be included. Schaefer responded that points would be given if bus stops or transit priority treatments like dedicated bus lanes and transit signal priority were included.

Schaefer said the MPO policy board will need to approve the new policies and criteria at its June or perhaps May meeting. He asked for any comments on the criteria and/or policies since the MPO will be far along in the process of adopting the new criteria at the time of the next committee meeting in
May. He said he would update committee members on progress with the effort before the next meeting. There were no further comments.

6. **Presentation on “Active Living Places” Index Project**
   Schaefer gave a brief overview of the Active Living Places project. He said further work will be done to refine the methodology, in particular the destination density index and possibly the weighting of the different categories. He mentioned that staff had met with Citilabs and will be trying out a new tool to measure transit, walking, and bicycling accessibility that may add to how scoring is done. The presentation was deferred to the May meeting.

7. **Committee Member Reports**
   None.

8. **Next Meeting Date**
   Schaefer said he would be out of town on the regularly scheduled May 20 meeting. Committee members said that Wednesday, May 13, 2015 worked best as the rescheduled date.

9. **Adjournment**
   The meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm.

*Minutes were recorded by W. Schaefer and M. Cechvala*