Minutes of the Madison Area Transportation Planning Board
Technical Coordinating Committee

April 22, 2015 Fitchburg Community Center, Prairie View Room 2:00 p.m.

1. Roll Call

Members Present: Baker (arrived during #3), J. Nordbo (for Paoni), Beck, U. Martin (for Trowbridge), Dunphy, Even, Huth (for Stauske), Koprowski, C. Petykowski (for Phillips), P. Andros (for Violante)

Members Absent: Kugler, Bertch, Coville, Scheel, Dryer, Hessling, Stephany, Kennedy, McComb, Sayre, Horton

Others Present: W. Schaefer, D. Kanning

2. Approval of March 25, 2015 Meeting Minutes

Baker moved, Beck seconded, to approve the January 28, 2015 meeting minutes. Motion carried.


Schaefer briefed the committee on the status of the update to the STP Urban program policies and project scoring criteria. He described the reasons for updating the existing criteria and the work that has been completed by the workgroup. Schaefer explained how the new scoring system will function. The MPO will only rank projects within the same category, rather than across different project categories. The individual scores assigned to projects within each category will still indicate the strength of each project. Huth asked how projects will be selected if they are not ranked across project types. Schaefer said that the decision on the mix of projects will be based on the program policies.

Schaefer reviewed several elements of the draft policy document with the committee, including eligible project types, screening criteria, minimum and maximum funding amounts, cost share, and actions that can be taken by the MPO if a project faces delay. Such actions include the possibility of rescinding project funding so the MPO can substitute a different project in its place. Huth asked if the MPO would consider granting an extension rather than rescinding project funding should a project face a delay. Schaefer said that extensions will be considered if projects can be kept in the same program cycle and the new schedule is reasonable. Schaefer informed the committee that the MPO will only select projects biannually now in conjunction with each new local program cycle.

Schaefer reviewed several elements of the draft project criteria document, including the new weighting system. Criteria have been developed for each project type using the same project categories. Bicycle projects will be scored using criteria that were developed for the recent Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) applications, modified to fit within the STP Urban project categories. Huth asked why the changes were made to the environmental justice category. Schaefer said revisions were made so projects which adversely affect environmental justice groups are no longer eligible for funding. Schaefer informed the committee that the workgroup may meet early next year to evaluate the new criteria. Schaefer said staff would be seeking action by the MPO board on the document at its next meeting and was looking for a recommendation from the committee.

Even moved, Dunphy seconded, to recommend approval of the final draft of STP Urban program policies and project scoring criteria, as outlined in the STP Urban project selection process document. Motion carried.

Schaefer briefly reviewed the WisDOT local program policy changes, including the collaborative project scheduling process and the allowance for only two project changes/substitutions. He distributed a table showing the available STP Urban program funds for the Madison area. He explained that the MPO’s annual allocation is $6.86 million dollars, which equates to about $34.3 million over five years. Because projects currently on the books equal about $32 million, the MPO would only have $2.33 million to spend on additional projects in 2019 and 2020 as part of this program cycle. This is problematic because if projects aren’t approved for those years, project sponsors can’t get started with environmental review and design. The MPO might never “catch up” in terms of spending available funds. WisDOT agreed that this is not desirable, and agreed to allow the MPO to program projects in 2019 and 2020 that exceed the amount of funding. The MPO will essentially borrow funds from the next program cycle in order to fund the out-year projects.

5. **Presentation on the Regional Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Strategic Plan**

Schaefer provided a presentation on the Regional ITS Strategic Plan Update. He described the purpose of the plan and the kinds of technology that would be employed, if the plan is implemented. Schaefer summarized the plan’s development process, project progress, project goals and associated performance measures, and next steps. Huth asked Schaefer about the lead agency for the plan. Schaefer said the MPO was the lead on this project, but was working closely with City of Madison Traffic Engineering and Metro. Huth asked if local communities should provide input about the plan through this committee, and Schaefer confirmed. Huth asked if HNTB will provide a presentation on the ITS Strategic Plan, and Schaefer confirmed. Huth asked Schaefer to elaborate on how the plan will be sustainable. Schaefer said the goal is to have a sustainable plan from both a funding and technological standpoint. It is important that the technology employed not become prematurely obsolete. The implemented plan will also deliver environmental benefits.

6. **Committee Member Reports**

Petykowski said a number of STP Urban funded projects are moving forward. The City is continuing to work on design for the CTH M and CTH PD projects. The City is just starting design work on the East Johnson Street and Buckeye Road projects. An Environmental Assessment for the CTH M project should be completed this summer.

Baker reported that the remaining work on the USH 51 expansion project will be completed this summer.

Even said that construction on the STH 19/113 roundabout has been completed, and it was working well. He noted the Village of Waunakee is currently working with the county to plan for reconstruction of CTH Q from STH 19 south to Woodland Drive.

Dunphy reported that the County would be starting this year’s county road projects soon.

Koprowski reported on a public information meeting taking place the following week pertaining to the USH 12 freeway conversion project. He said the reconstruction of USH 14 between CTH KP and Westview Court in Cross Plains is well underway. A detour will utilize County KP, Bourbon Street, and County P. An alternate route will also be posted using WIS 78 and US 12.

Huth described some utility work problems that have caused a delay to the Allen Blvd. project in Middleton.

Martin said that the Madison in Motion Plan is ongoing. City planning staff is just starting to work on the Urban Footprint analysis tool and recently met with the project consultant.
Beck reported that Metro Transit staff is putting together a TIGER grant application to request funding for a satellite bus storage facility that would relieve the overcrowding of buses in the main facility.

7. **Staff Reports**

Schaefer provided an update on the status of the Bicycle Transportation Plan. An updated website on the plan includes a public comment form and an interactive mapping tool to help foster public input. Huth asked if detailed facility recommendations for Middleton were included, and Schaefer said yes. He noted Mark Opitz was on one of the advisory committees. Schaefer noted that he recently sent an email message requesting TIP projects and STP-Urban applications. The deadline for the submittals has been extended from early June to late June. Applicants will need to submit both the WisDOT application form and the MPO’s supplemental form. Both forms are available on the MPO’s website. An RFP to provide assistance with the mode choice and transit components of the travel demand model was recently issued. The Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) oversight committee, a successor to the Transport 2020 oversight committee, will be formed in the coming months. Staff is developing an e-newsletter that will feature an article about current MPO projects.

8. **Next Meeting Dates**

The next meeting dates are May 27 and June 24. Schaefer said the May 27 meeting, which falls the Wednesday after Memorial Day, will likely be canceled.

9. **Adjournment**

Even moved, Dunphy seconded, to adjourn. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

*Minutes recorded by Bill Schaefer and David Kanning*