

**Minutes of the
Madison Area Metropolitan Planning Organization
Technical Coordinating Committee**

July 21, 2006

Fitchburg City Hall

2:00 p.m.

1. Roll Call

Members Present: Beaupre, Dryer, Debo, Kennedy, Hickman (for McComb), Trowbridge (for Murphy), Nelson, Mandli, Clayton (for Hoelker), Bizjak (for Woodard), Jensen (for Kirchner)

Members Absent: Coville, K. Clark, R. Clark, Ginder, Ettinger, Violante

Others Present: McDonald, Schaefer, Pike, B. Sylvester, A. Switzer, P. Dunphy, D. Paoni

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes of June 16, 2006

Moved by Mandli, seconded by Debo, to approve the June meeting minutes. Motion carried.

3. Continued Discussion of Preliminary Draft Priority Listing and Scoring and Ranking of Candidate Projects for STP Urban Funding for 2007-2011

Schaefer said this item was on the agenda at the request of Larry Nelson. There was no change in the draft priority listings since the last TCC meeting. There is over \$4 million in carryover funds in 2011. The highest ranked projects shown as not funded at this point are all City of Madison projects, and thus it is up to the City to indicate their priority among them. Nelson has indicated the City is interested in pursuing the Mineral Point Road (CTH S)/Junction Road and CTH M intersection reconstruction project in 2011 even though there would not be sufficient Federal funding to cover the eligible 80% share of the project cost. Nelson said he doesn't think there will ever be sufficient funding to cover 80% of the project cost, but the City is nonetheless interested in putting together a schedule and financing package for the project. The project has a significant impact on the Beltline and there may be other funding sources available.

Debo commented that the City of Madison needed to complete the replacement of its radio system to meet Federal requirements. The project is primarily for emergency response purposes, but has other benefits as well. It is part of a larger county project, which is very expensive and she thought this should be considered for use of STP-Urban funds. Dryer said the City share of the project cost was estimated at \$15 million. The county's share was much larger because of the need for new towers and other infrastructure. McDonald said he thought Federal Homeland Security funds would be available for the project. Mandli said a committee had been set up to discuss this project.

4. Review of Draft Regional Travel Demand Model Results for the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Update

McDonald noted that staff had reviewed the results of previous roadway improvement scenarios, including one with arterial capacity expansions in the current adopted plan and the North Mendota Parkway. Another alternative modeled was the Verona Road/West Beltline project. McDonald reviewed the results from that scenario. He said that the capacity improvement reduced traffic on many parallel roadways on the West side, but the impacts were spread throughout the network and none of the roadways had a reduction of more than 3,000 ADT. Interestingly, there was little impact on traffic volumes on the Beltline east of Verona Road because the congestion on this segment of the Beltline is already so severe. This finding will need to be further analyzed with operations modeling as part of the planned Beltline study.

5. Review of Draft RTP Maps of Planned Arterial Roadway Capacity Projects/Major Studies and Planned Future Collector Roadways

McDonald reviewed the maps. The first shows the already programmed and planned roadway capacity expansion projects as well as the ongoing and planned corridor studies such as Beltline and USH 51 and the two transit studies (Transport 2020, Streetcar). The map also identifies corridors where official mapping is recommended for potential capacity expansion in the future. He highlighted some of the projects and studies. He then reviewed the second map showing the planned future roadway functional classification system, including planned future collectors based on local plans. The map highlights those collectors that are important from a regional standpoint in completing the grid network and efficiently distributing traffic. McDonald then distributed and reviewed a table that lists the potential capacity expansion projects and studies and the system preservation projects with the estimated timetable, preliminary cost estimate, and assumed funding source. The list of system preservation projects includes only those over \$1 million and still needs to be completed identifying the longer term projects in the last time period.

6. Review of Draft Streets/Roadways Section of the RTP Report

Schaefer reviewed the draft section of the report. He highlighted the information that was in it, including an extensive discussion of transportation system management/operations strategies and activities for arterials and the freeway system, roadway pavement and bridge conditions, the congestion management system (CMS), and ITS projects. He showed a map of the pavement rating for all state and local arterial and collector roadways and said that staff was still in the process of figuring out how to utilize the information for the financial analysis required for the plan update. Dryer mentioned that the ITS funding category was dropped in SAFETEA-LU. Nelson mentioned the work that was beginning on development of an evacuation plan for the region in case of an emergency or disaster.

7. Committee Member Reports

Debo reported that fixed-route system ridership was up 7.4% so far this year. Cameras have been installed at two transfer points and on some buses. Use of full bus wrap ads was approved, and the issue of advertising on bus shelters will be taken up soon. She also said staff had begun discussions with state representatives about an unlimited ride pass agreement for state employees. Discussions were also underway about a pass agreement for a consortium of small employers in the downtown area.

Bizjak reported that a preliminary plat had been received for the area of the planned Green Tech Village, and that the City of Fitchburg had finalized plans for the USH 14 interchange at relocated Lacy Road. The proposed design and right of way was being sent to WisDOT for their approval. McDonald commented that the city needed to show the roadway connection to CTH MM, otherwise the access permit would likely be denied. Bizjak responded that a neighborhood plan is being done for this area and the location of the roadway extension is being determined. She also reported that the proposed Target development southwest of the CTH PD/Verona Road intersection was moving forward. An environmental hearing is scheduled for next week. Discussion following regarding traffic issues associated with the proposed development.

Jensen noted that the airport had finished the terminal expansion project. They were in the second year of the runway safety project, which involved moving CTH CV. Expansion of the parking ramp was planned for next year. The expansion will be phased, but ultimately double the capacity of the ramp.

Mandli said there had been a double fatality crash at the CTH J/CTH P intersection and possible safety improvements would be considered. Work on the CTH M resurfacing project was completed and work is now beginning on the CTH K project.

Clayton mentioned there was a serious crash recently at the USH 51/Hoepker Road intersection.

Kennedy reported that Linden Drive was now open. Work on Observatory Drive will be done by the first day of classes. The west campus utility project is underway, which will result in the closing of some streets. Observatory Drive will be extended to Highland Avenue. He also said that work on the Campus Drive bicycle path project would begin next spring.

Nelson reported that the final piece of the Southwest path extension would be completed by the end of August. He also mentioned that the city was negotiating a boundary agreement with DeForest, Sun Prairie, and the Town of Burke.

8. Staff Reports

McDonald said the draft 2007-2011 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) would be sent out following the next MPO Board meeting on August 2. The Board approved a new structure for the Board increasing the size to 14 members with most of them required to be local elected officials. A revised agreement has been drafted for signature by local units of government, but it hasn't been sent out yet because the Board is considering changing the MPO's name. Some board members would like the name to include "transportation planning" to indicate to the public what the MPO does. The name change must be included in the agreement. Action is expected on this issue at the next board meeting.

9. Next Meeting Dates

The next meeting dates are August 18 and September 15.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Bill Schaefer