Minutes of the
Madison Area Metropolitan Planning Organization
Technical Coordinating Committee

July 20, 2007  Fitchburg City Hall  2:00 p.m.

1. Roll Call

   Members Present:  Beaupre, Dryer, Ginder, Hoelker, Hickman (for McComb), Kennedy, Mandli (for Dunphy), Murphy, Phillips (for Nelson), Vela, Woodard
   Members Absent:  K. Clark, Coville, R. Clark, Kirchner, Persich, M. Simon, Violante
   Others Present:  McDonald, Schaefer, R. Anderson, D. Paoni, B. Sylvester, D. Trowbridge

2. Approval of June 15, 2007 Meeting Minutes

   Moved by Kennedy, seconded by Woodard, to approve the June meeting minutes. Motion carried.

3. Review and Recommendation on Draft Priority Listing and Ranking of Candidate Projects for STP Urban Funding for 2008-2012 and Cost Sharing Policy for the Program

   McDonald said there was some discussion about changing the cost share policy for major projects at the last committee meeting due to the rising costs for projects. The issue was also discussed at the interagency meeting held recently to resolve discrepancies in project submittals for inter-jurisdictional projects. Two versions of the draft priority project listings were mailed out – one using the current 80/20 cost share policy and another using a 50/50 policy starting in 2010. Schaefer said if a change in policy is made, it is proposed to start it in 2010, which is outside the current three-year TIP period of 2007-2009. Even though we prepare a 5-year TIP, only the first three years of funding are actually committed. Starting the new policy in 2010 honors current project funding commitments and allows communities some time to prepare for the policy change. Schaefer then reviewed the two different versions of the listings. There is insufficient funding in 2009 to cover the full federal share for the East Washington Avenue and Monona Drive projects, so the additional funding beyond what had been previously committed in the current TIP was allocated proportionately to the two projects in relation to their cost. Schaefer said the City of Monona is currently working with the project consultant to review costs and identify possible reductions. WisDOT provided us with an estimate of our funding allocation for 2010-2012 and it is expected to go back up to $6.34 million after dropping in 2008-2009. There is a shortfall of funding again in 2011, requiring the City of Madison to contribute an extra $2.9 million for the first phase of the Mineral Point Road/CTH M/Junction Road interchange project. In 2012, there is only enough funding for completion of the interchange project. The last segment of Monona Drive would need to be pushed back to 2013. Under the 50/50 cost share scenario, the last segment of Monona Drive could be done in 2012 and there would be $1.8 million in carryover funding to 2013. There would be enough funding to potentially cover the 50% share of 3-4 projects in 2013, including CTH M (Cross Country Rd. to CTH PD) and E. Johnson Street. This is when the change in the cost share policy would start to significantly affect the number of projects that could be funded.

   Sylvester asked who makes the decision on the cost share policy and what policy other MPOs have. McDonald said staff was looking for this committee to make a recommendation to the MPO Policy Board, which would ultimately decide whether or not to change the policy. That decision would be made at its September or October meeting when the Board approves the new TIP. The cost share policy of MPOs varies, but the smaller Wisconsin MPOs have a 50/50 cost share policy because they have less funding. For the same reason, the Madison MPO policy was 50/50 prior to ISTEA when the MPO had less than $1 million annually. Woodard asked why the CTH CV project in 2010 was funded at 80/20. Schaefer said that project had been scheduled for 2008 and thus had already committed funding. The estimated project cost also dropped. Ginder commented that some high priority projects
might not get constructed under the 50/50 policy if the local community couldn’t come up with the higher local share. Woodard said the 50/50 policy would spread the funding over more projects. This makes it more likely that the smaller communities would receive funding for their projects, which tend to score lower due to the generally lower traffic volumes on suburban roadways. Therefore, he supported the policy change. Kennedy pointed out that the funding situation is unlikely to get better in the future. Hickman asked if the MPO could make an exception for a high priority project and fund it at more than 50/50. McDonald said yes. Sylvester said he supported the policy change as it would move up the timing for Verona’s CTH M project. Mandli said the county was opposed to the change, because they are more limited in their ability to fund projects. The county cannot specially assess private property owners nor create TIF districts. Woodard responded that Fitchburg doesn’t typically assess for roadway projects. McDonald said the 50/50 policy does provide an incentive for communities to carefully examine project costs and perhaps forego some “bells and whistles.” Phillips added it also provides an incentive for the most cost-effective option such as resurfacing versus reconstruction. Beaupre said she favored a policy that would allow funding more projects.

Moved by Woodard, seconded by Ginder, to recommend changing the cost share policy to 50/50 starting in 2010 and the draft priority listing and ranking of candidate STP Urban projects. A roll call vote was requested (Support – Kennedy, Dryer, Murphy, Phillips, Vela, Ginder, Woodard; Oppose – Mandli; Abstain – Beaupre, Hoelker). Motion carried.

4. Review of Draft 2008-2012 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Projects
Schaefer reviewed maps of all of the major roadway projects in the Madison Metropolitan Planning Area and the Outer County Area and the major pedestrian/bicycle projects. He noted that not all of these were federally funded. Discussion followed on some of the projects. Murphy asked about the crossing of CTH PD for the planned Ice Age Trail. Schaefer said an overpass is planned in the future. Dryer added that the traffic signal at High Point Road would allow for a safe crossing in the meantime.

5. Committee Member Reports
Beaupre said WisDOT was waiting for action on the state budget.

Russ Anderson reported that the comment period for the proposed WisDNR funding of real estate acquisition for the planned Cannonball Trail was set to close soon. He also mentioned that the new WisDNR Secretary starts September 1.

Woodard reported that the new Super Target store opens next week and the Fitchrona Road extension would be completed by September.

Hoelker mentioned that WisDOT Southwest District had received approval and funding for the planned roundabouts on CTH N at the I-94 ramps and CTH TT intersection. These will be constructed as part of the I-94 expansion project. Hoelker mentioned that WisDOT had identified some other improvements on the Beltline and they would be adding these projects to the draft TIP.

Murphy said the City of Madison was preparing neighborhood development plans for two areas on the East side for which there were some transportation issues. The Northeast neighborhood encompasses a large area north of I-94 and east of I-39/90. Important transportation recommendations include the east-west street connections such as the extension of Lien Road. The other area is north of Hoeperk Road and east of I-39/90 and would be primarily residential development. The draft plans are available on the City’s Web site.

Hickman reported that FHWA had completed their move to new offices on Junction Road.
Sylvester reported that the City of Verona adopted an official map for the first time. One of the primary purposes was to identify north-south routes besides CTH M. The three routes the City is planning for are realigned Nine Mound Road, Shady Oak Lane, and a possible Timber Lane connection.

Vela reported that the City of Monona is reviewing the costs for Monona Drive and identifying possible cost reductions. He also said the work on South Towne Drive was continuing, but would be open to through traffic soon.

Trowbridge mentioned the agreement of the Dane County Executive and Madison Mayor regarding the Transport 2020 Study and Regional Transportation Authority (RTA). The county and city have both introduced resolutions. The purposes of the resolutions are to demonstrate to the Federal Transit Administration support for the locally preferred alternative and push the state to adopt the necessary enabling legislation for creation of an RTA to fund it. Some municipalities have expressed opposition to the RTA. He said there are still many issues that need to be worked out, but the agreement was a major step forward.

Phillips mentioned the ongoing road construction work on Mineral Point Road, East Washington Avenue, and other locations. He said efforts were continuing to develop the design for the CTH M interchange. HNTB is doing some modeling of the proposed interchange and how it operates with the Beltline interchange. Work is also continuing on the Pleasant View Road extension project.

Kennedy reported that construction was continuing on a number of west campus streets and Lot 34 for which porous pavement was being used. Bus service changes are being implemented to streamline the campus route and provide 5-minute frequencies.

Mandli said chip sealing was being done on CTH PD between Verona Road and Fish Hatchery Road. The county is also doing pavement repair work on the Beltline for WisDOT. The last phase of the CTH M (North) project just started. He also said he’d like the committee to consider changing the meeting day as several of his staff utilize a compressed work week, making Fridays difficult.

6. **Staff Reports**

McDonald reported that all of the appointments to the new MPO Policy Board have been made and all have been confirmed except one of the City of Madison Mayor’s appointments. A revised MPO profile was distributed that lists the new board members. The first meeting of the board is August 1 at which the board will be acting on resolutions reaffirming the MPO’s current plans, TIP, work program, and committee structure. This includes the expanded technical coordinating committee as recommended by this committee. The new Dane County Bicycle Map was also distributed.

7. **Next Meeting Dates**

The next meeting dates are August 17 and September 21. McDonald said that the August meeting might be cancelled in which case the draft TIP would be mailed out to members for review and comments or changes.

8. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

*Minutes recorded by Bill Schaefer*