

**Minutes of the Madison Area Transportation Planning Board
Citizen Advisory Committee**

July 21, 2010

Madison Municipal Building, Room LL-130

5:00 p.m.

1. Roll Call

Members Present: F. Bartol, R. Ferrell, G. Hull (left at item #4), J. Rider, T. Stoebig, R. Williams, E. Sundquist, J. Guo,

Members Absent: C. Gjerde, D. Phillips, S. Hiniker

Staff Present: B. Schaefer

2. Approval of May 19, 2010 Meeting Minutes

Sundquist moved, Bartol seconded, to approve the May 19 meeting minutes. Motion carried.

3. Review of Preliminary Draft Listing and Ranking of Candidate Projects for STP Urban Funding for 2011-2015

Schaefer reviewed the preliminary draft priority listings. He said the listings reflected discussion at an interagency meeting and by the MPO Board at its last meeting. He said that the cost estimates for the University Avenue (Segoe to Allen Blvd.) reconstruction project in 2011 and the CTH M (Cross Country to CTH PD) reconstruction and expansion project in 2013 had increased substantially. This has created a funding shortfall. As a result, there is interest in delaying some projects in order to get closer to full 50% funding of these two projects. The current proposal is to delay the Fish Hatchery Road (Emil to Wingra Dr.) pavement replacement project from 2012 to 2014 and delay the E. Johnson Street (N. Butler to First St.) reconstruction project from 2014 to 2015. The Cottage Grove Road (Interstate to Sprecher Rd.) project would need to be pushed back from 2015 to 2016. There would be sufficient funding for the McKee Road/CTH PD (Maple Grove to CTH M) reconstruction and expansion and the Allen Boulevard/CTH Q (University to Lake St.) resurfacing projects in 2015. The Allen Blvd. project could actually be done in 2014. He reviewed the listings for each year and noted that the MPO's allocation for 2013-2015 is uncertain at this time. For now, it is assumed that the allocation will stay the same, but it could decrease some.

Williams asked if reconstruction of the Spring Harbor ped/bike underpass was part of the University Avenue project, and Schaefer said no. He noted there is a traffic signal at the intersection. Williams commented that the underpass was important for pedestrian safety due to the grade of the roadway. Sundquist commented that all of the major projects were roadway construction projects even though they all include pedestrian and bicycle accommodations. Schaefer noted that the CTH M project included multiple grade-separated ped/bike crossings and a parallel path in the corridor. The cost of the ped/bike accommodations for all of the projects was quite substantial. Sundquist commented that most of the projects involved a capacity expansion and were on the west side, while the two being delayed were reconstruction projects in the central area. Ferrell commented on the congestion and safety issues in the CTH M corridor and said the improvements were badly needed and overdue. Sundquist suggested that the MPO could allocate some of its STP Urban funding for multi-modal transportation needs related to the Madison intercity rail station. He said the MPO had the authority to do this just as it allocates some funding for the MPO's ridesharing activities and the ped/bike safety education program. Bartol asked who was taking the lead on the rail station issue, and Williams said the Madison Long-Range Transportation Planning Committee was taking the lead and a city staff team had been created.

Moved by Sundquist, seconded by Stoebig, to recommend to the MPO Board that the draft listings be revised to allocate a portion of the available funding in 2012 for multi-modal transportation needs related to the planned downtown Madison inter-city rail station. Motion carried.

4. Review of Major Projects in the Draft 2011-2015 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Schaefer reviewed the draft map of all of major street/roadway projects in the draft TIP. He said an interagency staff TIP project coordination meeting was scheduled for the following week to work out issues with joint projects and those involving federal and state funding. Williams commented on the poor pavement condition on Interstate 39/90 south of Madison.

5. Presentation on Transit Survey Administered by UW-Madison Engineering Students

Guo provided a presentation on the results of a survey a group of her students did for one of her graduate courses where students take on a “real world” project. She said there is a need to better understand people’s travel patterns and needs to allow developing solutions to meet them. The survey aims to help do that. Caveats are that it was a student project and she would have done things differently in some cases and that the analysis was preliminary. She said it was a web-based survey and was administered over a short period of time in April. Some surveys were dropped off at various public locations (libraries, senior centers, etc.), but there weren’t many hard copies returned. Over 80% of the surveys returned were from UW-Madison students and employees. This creates a bias in the results and they have yet to be adjusted accordingly. She reviewed some demographic information on the survey participants and then reviewed some of the information on their travel patterns. She noted the large number of bus users who only take the bus some of the time. When they don’t, bicycling is an important alternative mode of transportation. She then reviewed results regarding the participant’s opinions on the effectiveness of transportation improvement strategies. About 60% supported a sales tax to fund regional public transit improvements.

Schaefer distributed a statement from Thrive and a list of RTA Transit Plan Criteria that the organization and the Greater Madison Chamber of Commerce put together. He said the groups were conducting a survey of transit services in comparably sized communities, and that Guo had been provided some consulting assistance to them.

6. Brief Update on the Dane County Regional Transit Authority (RTA)

Schaefer said the RTA Board had created three committees. One was charged with development of the plan for improved transit services. A second was developing bylaws and addressing other related organizational issues. Both of these committees were meeting regularly. A third citizen advisory committee was created, but the members haven’t been appointed. The RTA Board is still in the process of gathering information with presentations being given to the Board and Plan for Transit Committee on various topics.

7. Brief Update and Discussion on the Milwaukee-Madison Intercity Passenger Rail Service Project and the Madison Station Location

Schaefer noted that the Dept. of Administration Building had been selected by WisDOT for the Madison station site following some initial public workshops. Another public workshop was planned for July 29 to get additional feedback on details related to the station design.

8. Committee Member Reports

None

9. Staff Reports

Schaefer noted the list of future agenda items, including the 2011-2015 TIP and the Congestion Management Process.

10. Next Meeting Dates

Schaefer said the next scheduled meeting was Wednesday, September 15, 2010. He said a short meeting could perhaps be scheduled in August to review the MPO staff's scoring and ranking of the Statewide Multi-Modal Improvement Program projects and make a committee recommendation to the Board. The MPO Board will need to take action at its September 1 meeting. Alternatively, Schaefer said he could send the materials out and get comments by individual members, which he would relay to the Board. It was determined that the only date that might work for a meeting was August 24. Schaefer said he'd send a note out to determine the level of interest in having a special meeting.

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Bill Schaefer