Minutes of the Madison Area Transportation Planning Board
Technical Coordinating Committee

August 26, 2015     Fitchburg Community Center, Prairie View Room            2:00 p.m.

1. Roll Call

   Members Present:  Kugler, Paoni, Beck, U. Martin (for Trowbridge), Coville, Dryer, Dunphy, Stauske, Koprowski, Phillips, Horton (arrived during item #3), P. Andros (for Violante)

   Members Absent:   Baker, Bertch, Scheel, Even, Hessling, Stephany, Kennedy, McComb, Sayre

   Others Present:   W. Schaefer, D. Kanning, S. Cyra

2. Approval of July 29, 2015 Meeting Minutes

   Dunphy moved, Koprowski seconded, to approve the July 29, 2015 meeting minutes. Motion carried.

3. Presentation on Regional ITS Strategic Plan for the Madison Metro Area and Draft Recommended Strategies and Projects

   Schaefer said that work on the ITS Strategic Plan has been ongoing for the last 12 months. HNTB, the consultant hired to develop the plan, is currently working on the Implementation section, which includes the ITS strategy and specific project recommendations. Schaefer introduced Steve Cyra from HNTB. Cyra provided a PowerPoint presentation on the plan scope, process, and draft project recommendations. He explained how the ITS Strategic Plan will support traffic management, real-time information, traffic incident management, management & operations, and performance measurement. He described the purpose of the plan, and explained the process by which the plan has been developed. Cyra summarized why an ITS plan is needed and described its vision, goals & objectives. He then explained how the final project recommendations will be generated and provided examples of key representative projects.

   Phillips asked if the plan will recommend transferring State Traffic Operations Center (STOC) responsibilities from Milwaukee to Madison for the Madison area. Cyra said the plan will support the STOC’s role in monitoring freeways throughout the state, but will recommend that an operations center in Madison to monitor the local arterial roadway system in Dane County. Schaefer said that Madison Traffic Engineering doesn’t consistently receive timely freeway incident information from the STOC, which results in lost opportunities for coordinating incident management actions that could reduce congestion delays. Schaefer said providing alternate route information to drivers is controversial and Cyra added that WisDOT’s policy is to allow highway system users to determine their own alternate routes. Koprowski asked for more information about the Texas A&M Transportation Institute’s (TTI) 2015 Urban Mobility Scorecard, which Cyra mentioned and includes data for the Madison area. Cyra said the report is available on the Texas A&M Transportation Institute’s website.

4. Election of Committee Chair and Vice Chair

   Kugler nominated Phillips to continue to serve as Chair. Beck seconded the nomination. Motion carried. Phillips nominated Stauske to serve as Vice Chair. Horton seconded the nomination. Motion carried.

5. Review of Draft 2016-2020 Transportation Improvement Program

   Schaefer reviewed changes to the STP-Urban priority project listings that have occurred since the last meeting. He said that Fitchburg now intends to build a grade-separated crossing for the Badger State Trail as part of the proposed McKee Road reconstruction project, which is scheduled for construction in 2019. In addition, the City of Madison will phase the Atwood Avenue reconstruction project.
Phase 1 (Fair Oaks Avenue to Walter Street) is scheduled for construction in 2020, and Phase 2 (Walter Street to Cottage Grove Road), which requires additional time for right of way acquisition, will be scheduled for construction in 2021. Schaefer noted that WisDOT still needs to provide the MPO with its allocation of funding for this program cycle. Schaefer said he was hoping that it would be around $14 million based on previous conversations with WisDOT.

Schaefer reviewed some of the more significant other roadway projects that are in the draft 2016-2020 TIP. Phillips noted that the construction timing for some locally funded city of Madison projects, including Monroe Street, may change. He said the Mayor’s Executive Budget will be released on September 1. Schaefer reviewed the major pedestrian/bicycle projects, noting that the next federal Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) funding application cycle won’t occur until next year. Phillips asked if WisDOT intends to administer the TAP program in the same way it now administers the STP-Urban program. Schaefer said WisDOT has not provided any written documentation of any forthcoming changes to the administration of the TAP program, but he expects it will be similar where approved, but not yet completed projects are deducted from each MPO’s funding allocation.

Phillips asked if the MPO will conditionally approve funding for the Pleasant View Road capacity expansion project (USH 14 to Greenway Boulevard) in 2021. Schaefer said that the priority projects table includes a note to that effect. Adequate progress must be made over the next two years on environmental review and design. Schaefer mentioned that MPO Policy Board members did not object to the conditional approval of the project when he mentioned it, but there was not discussion of the issue.

6. **Review of Draft MPO Public Participation Plan and Schedule for Regional Transportation Plan 2050**

Schaefer said that MPOs are required to maintain and update a documented Public Participation Plan outlining public engagement strategies to be used for the RTP, TIP, and other planning efforts. A link to the draft plan was provided to all TCC members. He said the revised plan reflects some things the MPO initiated, including the quarterly email newsletter, Facebook page, and Spanish page. A 45-day public comment period and a public hearing are required prior to adoption of the plan.

Schaefer briefly reviewed the work plan and schedule for the Regional Transportation Plan, summarizing some of the current activities staff is engaged in. Staff is working with CARPC to hire a consultant to develop a “values-based” survey. The survey will include questions pertaining to growth, economic development, and transportation, among other topics. The questions will be developed based on input from a group of stakeholders and residents. Staff has already completed significant modeling work and will continue to seek input from local communities prior to finalizing the growth forecasts. The MPO recently purchased software from Citilabs that will allow the calculation and mapping of travel times for transit, bicycling and walking. Schaefer added that the Regional Transportation Plan will need to be fiscally constrained; as such, staff will need to calculate an estimated cost for street maintenance. A series of kickoff meeting will be scheduled for mid-November.

7. **Committee Member Reports**

Beck reported that Metro Transit will lease space in a building fronting Century Avenue in Middleton in order to store up to 14 school dodger buses. Schaefer asked if any maintenance work will be done at the facility. Beck said that maintenance work will only be done at the current facility.

Koprowski provided an update on the USH 14 (CTH KP to Westview Court) reconstruction project in Cross Plains. He added that the USH 14 (Stagecoach Road to Twin Valley Road) project will be completed once rumble strips are added.

Paoni said that WisDOT will soon announce a new Director of Planning, Donna Brown.
Stauske said that the Parmenter Street resurfacing project north of University Avenue has been completed. Allen Boulevard (University Ave. to Lake St.) will be resurfaced by the end of next week.

Kugler said that the multi-use path south of Hoepker Road recently opened. The path links Hoepker Road with Terra Court via a crossing under USH 151 on the City’s west side. The project was funded through Transportation Enhancement funds, and had faced a long construction delay. A public information meeting for the CTH C reconstruction project (STH 19 to Egre Road) is scheduled for September. Schaefer asked if the project will add any lanes. Kugler said that two lanes will be added between STH 19 and Stonehaven Drive. He noted Town of Burke residents along with road will lose some landscaped areas because of the capacity expansion.

Phillips said the City of Madison is making progress on design work for the Buckeye Road and Cottage Grove Road projects.

8. **Staff Reports**

Schaefer provided an update on the Bicycle Transportation Plan. He said an updated addition/revision sheet with proposed changes to the draft plan had been sent out with the meeting notice. He said CARPC staff provided written comments pertaining to some planned paths potentially impacting environmentally sensitive areas. As a result, language will be added noting that efforts were made to locate paths to avoid such areas, but planning was only conceptual at this point. Some “best management practices” language will be added identifying ways to avoid or minimize impacts to these resources. Schaefer said two additional paths identified as part of the Beltline study will be added. Schaefer said the MPO Policy Board will review and possibly adopt the plan at the board’s meeting next week. Schaefer noted that staff has developed a detailed bicycle facility geodatabase and a comprehensive inventory of all sidewalk facilities in Dane County. Staff will share these databases with any community that wishes to have them for planning purposes. Kugler asked how up-to-date the sidewalk database was, and Schaefer said staff completed the inventory about six months ago. Martin asked if staff intends to update the database on a regular basis. Schaefer said yes for the bicycle facility database, but perhaps not as regularly for the sidewalk database.

Schaefer said that staff is continuing to work with City of Madison planning staff on the Active Living place index tool, which will be used for CARPC’s planning for healthy communities project. Dryer asked if the intent is to make improvements to areas that don’t score well. Schaefer said that the tool will be used for education and planning purposes.

Schaefer mentioned that the Dane County Transit Subcommittee organized five transit listening sessions to determine whether the county should play a role in supporting public transit. The MPO and Metro Transit have provided staff support. Meeting attendees have been asked to identify the community benefits of transit, service needs, and potential funding sources. Schaefer noted that it was mentioned at one of the meetings the county may save money on roadway maintenance in the future since counties, in accordance with state statutes, can transfer jurisdiction of county highways in incorporated areas to local governments once the county’s decennial census population exceeds 500,000. Dane County could use some of the saved money to support transit services.

Schaefer said that staff is currently in the process of hiring a new transportation planner. The new planner will assist with the Regional Transportation Plan and help implement the Congestion Management Process and ITS plan.

9. **Next Meeting Dates**

The next meeting date is September 30. Agenda items will include approval of the 2016-2020 TIP and a presentation on the Metro Transit on-board survey results.

10. **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

*Minutes recorded by Bill Schaefer and David Kanning*