Madison Area Transportation Planning Board
Citizen Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes

September 17, 2014 Madison Municipal Building, Room LL-130 5:00 p.m.

1. Roll Call/Introductions

Members Absent: J. Canela, R. Ferrell, C. Gjerde, G. Hull
Staff Present: B. Schaefer, D. Kanning

2. Approval of March 26, 2014 Meeting Minutes

Rider moved, Rylander seconded, to approve the March 26, 2014 meeting minutes. Motion carried.

3. Staff Reports

Schaefer reported that the Lower Yahara River Trail and Capital City Trail extension projects were awarded Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) funding. The Lower Yahara River Trail project will be constructed in 2015-'16 and the Capital City Trail project will be constructed in 2017. Schaefer explained that Dane County must purchase a parcel of land needed for the Lower Yahara Trail by October in order to keep previously awarded Transportation Enhancement funds from expiring. Arnold asked what the usual lag time is from time of funding to time of construction for projects. Schaefer said that construction timing depends on several factors, and that the TIP has a five-year window for project programming. Stoebig asked if construction of the rest of the Capital City Trail to Cottage Grove was dependent on cooperation from the railroad company. Schaefer said WisDNR purchased property or right of way adjacent to the rail right of way for the project because the railroad company was not cooperative. After purchasing the property, the FHWA informed WisDNR that they should have completed the environmental document first before purchasing the property. That has delayed design on the project for two years now even though federal funding is available for the design.

Schaefer provided an update on the regional bicycle transportation plan, which is being overseen by two committees. MPO staff had reviewed some data with the committees at their last meeting. An interesting note from the Census data on bicycling to work was that rates of bicycling were highest amongst very low income people and higher income people. Also, males ride twice as much as females, and whites ride at higher rates than minorities. Springman noted the numbers are probably affected by UW students and Schaefer agree. Schaefer said staff will be managing a consultant project to prepare a bicycle wayfinding plan. The purpose of the plan is to provide a consistent set of wayfinding guidelines throughout the county. The plan will provide guidelines on things such as destination information, graphics, etc. and examine whether it would be beneficial to have a colored or numbered bike route signage system, among other issues. Arnold said that Dane County has $175,000 in its 2015 budget for the plan. Springman asked if there are any GPS bike maps. Arnold said that municipalities can now send their maps to Google for publication on the Google Maps website. Williams mentioned that the plan will need to be in compliance with the national standards.

Schaefer reported that a Regional ITS Plan is being developed by a hired consultant. He provided an overview of what the Plan will address and noted that Rylander, who has 25 years of experience working in this area, is on the plan advisory committee. Rylander said that overcoming institutional barriers is the biggest obstacle to plan implementation. Schaefer said federal law requires us to adopt performance measures, and that the ITS Plan will help the MPO measure the performance of the transportation system.
Schaefer said the MPO has issued an RFP to do an on board Metro passenger survey, working closely with Metro Transit staff. These surveys, typically done every five years, collect origin-destination and demographic data. The survey will provide useful information for general service planning and ridership forecasts. It is being done as a follow-up to the BRT Study completed last year. The survey will be administered in late winter or early spring, and will focus on mainline routes rather than UW campus routes. Funding from former Transport 2020 study will be used. The MPO intends to issue another RFP to improve the transit component of the travel demand model, also in preparation for further study of BRT.

Arnold asked if a municipality in Dane County received a TIGER grant. Schaefer said the City of Madison Planning Department recently received a TIGER grant to implement Urban Footprint, a tool that will help develop transit-oriented development plans for three station areas to be served by the proposed BRT system. Arnold asked about the level of detail for the station area plans. Schaefer said they would focus more on land use development in the area around the stations, but also look at how the stations would be integrated into the development. Williams asked if the TIGER grant would be included in the TIP. Schaefer confirmed. Williams commented that a new intercity bus terminal location should be identified before further BRT planning. Springman asked Schaefer to explain the MPO’s role in deciding the location of the terminal. Schaefer said the MPO would only be involved in a secondary role, but would need to approve the project if federal funding was awarded.

Schaefer provided an update on the MPO’s Title VI program. The program focuses on addressing language barriers and the needs of minority and low-income populations. Maldonado said that he attended visioning sessions in the Darbo/Truax neighborhood that focused on the design of BRT stops, and could provide additional information to Schaefer.

Schaefer reported that as with STP Urban and TAP funding the MPO receives an allocation of funding under the Section 5310 program that funds projects to improve mobility for the elderly and persons with disabilities. Projects proposed to be funded in 2015 include continued funding for the Dane County Mobility Management Program, including Call Center and Bus Buddy Program, and Metro Transit’s In Person Paratransit Eligibility Assessment and Mobility Training Program as well as funding for Community Living Connections for a minibus that will provide no-cost transportation to individuals with disabilities in the Stoughton area and to the City of Sun Prairie for an accessible minivan for its shared ride taxi service.

Schaefer said the 2015 MPO work program is currently being developed. This is a federal requirement for receiving federal planning funds. Staff will review that at the next meeting.

Schaefer briefly reported on the status of the Madison Sustainable Transportation Plan. The City of Madison has held a series of Sustainable Transportation Master Plan workshops. Additional public participation opportunities will follow.

Schaefer provided brief updates on WisDOT’s Stoughton Road Corridor Study, Beltline Corridor Study and I-39/90 Corridor Study. Springman said that WisDOT has a good PowerPoint presentation on the Beltline Study, and suggested showing that presentation at a future meeting. The Committee discussed the Beltline Study and current operations. Wallace said the data showed Beltline traffic was mostly local. Springman mentioned that the City of Madison designed the Beltline to facilitate local traffic. Rylander added that forcing people to use the Beltline was short-sided since there is no surface street system to support it. The Committee discussed the I-39-90 capacity expansion project. Rylander said that increasing the number of lanes from the State line to Madison will be helpful to the seasonal weekend congestion and commute period congestion in the Janesville area.


Schaefer reviewed the STP-Urban projects with the Committee. He noted that there are two new projects: Metro Transit bus purchase (21 over 3 years); and van (6 over 2 years) purchase for the YW Transit JobRide program. Arnold asked about the timing of the Lacy Road project, noting that he
thought there was flexibility in the scheduling of construction. Schaefer suggested that he speak with Ahnaray Bizjak, Interim City of Fitchburg Engineer, since the project is currently scheduled for construction in 2017. Stoebig asked about the timing of the Buckeye Road project. He noted that the planned curb and gutter improvements will address current stormwater drainage issues. Stoebig said the City will fund design of the project next year. Schaefer said the project was scheduled for 2019 now, but that the design was being done in case there was an opportunity to advance the project under the new system that WisDOT is implementing to administer the funding program statewide. Arnold said that the Military Ridge Bike Bridge over McKee Road was advanced from 2019 to 2014 since its design was completed early, and because State money was available.

5. Review of Major Projects in the 2015-2019 Draft TIP

Schaefer described the MPO’s role and how it must review and approve all federally funded projects. He reviewed the major roadway projects in the 2015-2019 TIP, and noted that several projects are intended to improve safety. Arnold asked if safety projects are determined by crash rates. Rylander confirmed. Schaefer reviewed the bicycle projects. He noted that the planned West Towne path might not be built without federal funding. He also mentioned the problems the City of Madison was experiencing with the Goodman path project. The railroad was not being cooperative. Rider said that biking to the West Towne Mall is a challenge. Maldonado asked about a good bike route between Madison and Sun Prairie, and Schaefer showed him the preferred routing.

Schaefer offered to give a one-hour presentation to new committee members who are interested in learning more about the role and duties of the MPO prior to the next meeting.

6. Presentation on WisDOT Southwest Region Park-And-Ride (PNR) System Study

The Committee deferred this presentation until the November meeting.

7. Committee Member Reports

None.

8. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting date is scheduled for Wednesday, November 19, 2014

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm.

Minutes were recorded by W. Schaefer and D. Kanning