

**Madison Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)**  
**August 2, 2006 Meeting Minutes**

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**1. Roll Call**

Members present: Eileen Bruskewitz, Corey Finkelmeyer, Ken Golden, David Kluesner, Lisa MacKinnon, Al Matano, Chan Stroman, John Vesperman, Robbie Webber, Doug Zwank

Members absent: None

Staff present: Bob McDonald, Bob Pike, & Bill Schaefer

**2. Approval of the July 5, 2006 Meeting Minutes**

Moved by Matano, seconded by Webber, to approve July 5, 2006 meeting minutes. Motion carried.

**3. Communications**

- Letter from the City of Verona Planner Bruce Sylvester requesting that the MPO include in its future work program a study of a possible north-south arterial on the west side of the city.

McDonald said the topography and other environmental constraints might preclude construction of such a roadway, but it could be studied. He said the MPO would not take the lead in such a study, but would assist the City (e.g., by modeling the traffic impacts). Schaefer added that the study could be included as a recommendation in the regional transportation plan update.

**4. Public Comment (for items not on MPO Agenda)**

**Royce Williams, 2437 Fox Ave, Madison** registered wishing to speak regarding the Citizen Advisory Committee. He said at their last meeting the committee discussed the impact on the committee of the changes to the MPO Policy Board, which everyone agreed would increase the importance of the committee and its input to the Board. He understood the Board planned to discuss the issue at a future meeting.

Golden commented that this was a very important issue, given that the Policy Board will consist of mostly elected officials. He said the Board should look not only at possible changes to the composition of the committee, but also possible changes to the charge of the committee as well. Golden said he was interested in the input of the committee members on these issues. He was also interested in discussing possible ways that the Board could better connect with the transportation committees of the county and local units of government.

**5. Consideration of Release of Draft 2007-2011 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the Dane County Area for Public Review and Comment**

McDonald said this is the first time staff has been able to mail a copy of the draft TIP to the Board prior to the Board taking action to release it. It is also the first time that a summary and maps of the projects have been included in the draft TIP. This makes public review of the draft TIP easier. He mentioned that a public information meeting on the TIP is scheduled for August 23 at the County Highway offices. The public hearing is scheduled for the September Board meeting.

Moved by MacKinnon, seconded by Webber, to authorize the release of the Draft TIP. Motion carried.

**6. Consideration of Changing the Name of the Madison Area MPO**

Golden said the Board had discussed the issue at the July meeting, but there was a consensus that we should have more board members present before making a decision. He then took public comment.

**Royce Williams, 2437 Fox Ave., Madison** registered to speak in opposition to the name change. He provided a handout from the WisDOT Web site showing the MPOs and RPCs in Wisconsin. He said

the point he wanted to make was that MPO is an official name from the Federal government. He thinks that we need to move to an urban, metropolitan area government and the MPO represents a good step in that direction. If we change the name, he feels we're not moving forward. In the longer term, he thinks the RPCs that are shown on the map will eventually become part of an MPO.

Golden explained his reasons for initiating this effort. He said too often in government we use all this jargon and speak in a way the public cannot understand. The name MPO doesn't indicate what we do. If we are going to try to become more visible to the general public, then we need to have a name that indicates what we do. He said the word "transportation" must appear in the name. He said he also wants to change the word "organization" to "committee" or "board." "Organization" is too ambivalent. When the MPO was part of the independent RPC, one could say it was an organization. However, now our staffing comes from a government under contract, and we are really a committee or a board. We don't function outside of these meetings, there's no office, etc.

Bruskewitz said there was agreement at the last meeting to keep "Madison Area" in the name. McDonald added that the word "Planning" needed to be in the name to clarify that we are a transportation planning agency as opposed to a provider of transportation. McDonald also suggested that the word "agency" was another option rather than "board." Vesperman said that WisDOT staff had discussed the issue and felt that MPO should still be part of the name because people rely on that acronym for doing searches. He said he'd prefer to keep the name as Madison Area MPO and possibly add "Transportation Board" after it as a subtitle. Golden suggested use of a semi-colon and the words "an MPO" as a subtitle after the new name to assist in Web searches.

Moved by MacKinnon, seconded by Webber, to change the name to "Madison Area Transportation Planning Board: A Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)", using the first new logo provided. Motion carried.

## **7. Review of Partial Draft of the Street/Roadway Section of the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Update**

Schaefer gave a brief overview of the topics addressed in this section of the plan update. First, there is some information on travel trends and congestion, most of which the Board has already seen. There is information on transportation system management (TSM), which explains the strategies involved for both the arterial roadway and freeway system and what is being done now. Some information is then provided on safety and crashes. MPO staff is in the process of getting the crash data in a GIS format so we can prepare our own maps for the plan report. Next is some data on roadway pavement and bridge conditions. He referred to a map of pavement conditions on the regional roadways, which wasn't included in the handout. He said staff was still trying to figure out how to use this data in preparing the financial analysis for the plan, which is supposed to address system preservation as well as capacity expansion projects. The last two sections cover the Congestion Management System (CMS), which is the planning process used for identifying corridors with problems and addressing them in a systematic way, and Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS). He said many of the issues discussed are referenced or addressed in the draft recommendations.

Matano said he remembered reading a newspaper article about the City of Madison's pavement condition report for city streets. It showed that it would take something like 66 years to resurface or reconstruct the entire system. McDonald said that all communities and the county are behind schedule in terms of maintenance work and the condition of local streets is likely to get worse in the future. Golden added that if you look at the ring districts around the city, our peripheral development is paying for our ring district streets. The concern is that in another forty years when we need to reconstruct the outer ring area streets such as the West Towne area, we're going to have to grow further out to pay for it. Golden said the budget for maintenance has been increased, but with State aids being what they are, it's difficult to keep up with needs. McDonald noted that there was a high correspondence between the

roadway segments shown as needing reconstruction and projects in the TIP and other longer term planned projects. This gives us some confidence in the pavement condition data.

Zwank commented on the map showing commuters coming into Dane County. He said it looks like we are maintaining and improving roads for many people who don't even live in the County. Transit is not a viable option for these trips, so somehow we've got to make it so expensive for them that they have to explore other alternatives or move the jobs closer to them. Golden commented that the map demonstrates the need for multi-county planning. He suggested including on the map the percentage of the workforce that the number of commuters coming into Dane County represented. He also suggested adding the maps that show the percentage of workers in Dane County communities commuting to the City of Madison, which also supports the need for more regional transportation discussions. Two trends he remembers from seeing the maps is that more residents of outer communities are working in these outer communities and the increase in reverse commuting. Webber clarified that the map shows trips, not the number of vehicles. Golden said that while the percentage of trips that are work trips is only around 16%, these trips occur during the peak period when the roadways are most congested.

## **8. Review of Preliminary Draft of Recommendations and Implementation Strategies of the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Update**

McDonald stated that there were three components of the regional transportation plan update that staff wanted to review with the Board tonight. The first is the goals and policy objectives. They have already been presented to the Board, but we want to revisit and confirm them. The second is the recommendations/implementation strategies for achieving the goals and objectives. The third is an outline of the components for inclusion in the draft plan summary. The summary is important, as it is the most read document and we want to think about what to include in it without making it too long. The maps that will be included in the summary are attached. The first shows major transportation improvements and studies and was reviewed with the Board at the last meeting. The second shows the planned future arterial and collector roadway system. It addresses the comment Golden made about wanting to show the entire interconnected roadway network and not just the arterials. The third map to be included in the summary is the regional bikeway system plan. He reviewed the maps and said he wanted to make sure the Board was comfortable with them. The first map shows roadway corridors being recommended for capacity expansion and recommended for major studies. There will be short-term TSM projects coming out of these studies (e.g., lane extensions and tapers, extra turn lanes) as well as some longer-term improvements which could be anything from a ramp, interchange or intersection improvement, to addition of a general travel lane in the entire corridor. The type of improvement is pending an accepted EIS and funding. The specific projects, if major in scope, will need to be added to the plan later as part of an amendment. Vesperman added that the two USH 51 projects were enumerated for study and they cannot use any money for construction until WisDOT gets the projects enumerated for funding by the State Transportation Projects Commission. McDonald said the recommended projects have been put into three time periods, although the timing could change. Golden asked how the Board could express a preference for a project that wasn't currently programmed. McDonald said that it could be referenced in the text of the recommendations. Golden mentioned that he'd like to see a recommendation for extending Raymond Road access to the Allied Drive neighborhood. The delay in making this connection is negatively impacting revitalization efforts.

McDonald said the map also shows the two major ongoing transit studies. In the summary, we've generalized the transit recommendation. It says we're continuing a Madison Metropolitan Area transit expansion emphasis with ridership expected to increase 30-40% by 2030 by establishing high-capacity fixed guideway transit service with complimentary express bus, connecting and local service in the East/West transit corridor, and other corridors with sufficient ridership potential and opportunities to help shape community development and redevelopment patterns. The expansion also assumes commuter transit service to selected villages and cities outside of the Madison Urban Area. The

summary includes a map of the hybrid rail system as an example of the concept of linking growth areas and activity centers with transit as well as roadways. We're also recommending the improvement of downtown/UW campus circulator service, which could be bus or street-running rail. Following a question by MacKinnon, McDonald explained that the commuter routes were intended to travel through the downtown area without the need to transfer. They would be part of a system providing express service between the transfer points. Golden said this seemed contrary to the direction Metro was going with routes and the operations plan for rail service being developed as part of Transport 2020. Golden also commented that he'd like to see a map of specialized transportation services included in the plan.

McDonald continued to review the outline for the plan summary, including the overall goal, key recommendations, and key concepts.

#### **9. Status Report by MPO Board Members on Projects Potentially Involving the MPO:**

- **Transport 2020 Implementation Task Force**  
Golden mentioned preliminary station locations have been identified, and the Finance/Governance Committee has been meeting.
- **USH 51 (USH 12/18 to I 90/94/39) Corridor Study**  
There was nothing new to report.
- **North Mendota Parkway Implementation Oversight Committee**  
Bruskewitz reported that a resolution on the intergovernmental agreement and environmental study was before the County Board. Local units of government were also in the process of passing resolutions.
- **USH 51 (McFarland to Stoughton)**  
There was nothing new to report.

It was also reported by Golden that the City of Madison passed a resolution in support of the new Capital Area RPC, and the agreement was ready to send to the Governor.

#### **9. Discussion of Future Work Items:**

- **Development of Alternatives and Recommendations for the Regional Transportation Plan 2030 Update**
- **Public Hearing on the Draft 2007-2011 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**
- **Preparation of the Draft Unified Planning Work Program**

#### **10. Announcements and Schedule of Future Meetings**

The next meeting is scheduled for September 6 and the agenda will include a public hearing on the draft TIP.

#### **11. Adjournment**