

**Madison Area Transportation Planning Board (an MPO)  
August 3, 2011 Meeting Minutes**

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**1. Roll Call**

*Members present:* Eileen Bruskewitz, Mark Clear, Ken Dahl, Ken Golden, Jeff Gust, Chuck Kamp, Steve King, Jerry Mandli, Al Matano (Chair), Mark Opitz, Steve Ritt, Chris Schmidt, Paul Skidmore

*Members absent:* None

*Staff present:* Bill Schaefer, Nick Vanderzwan

**2. Approval of July 6, 2011 Meeting Minutes**

Moved by Kamp, seconded by Skidmore, to approve the July 6, 2011 meeting minutes. Motion carried.

**3. Communications**

Schaefer said there were three communications in the packet: letters from WisDOT and the Federal Transit Administration approving TIP Amendment #4 to the 2011 – 2015 TIP, and a newsletter regarding the release of the Final Draft EIS for the Verona Road/West Beltline interchange project.

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

None

**5. Presentation on City of Middleton Land Use and Transportation Plans and Projects**

Mark Opitz provided a power point presentation on land use and transportation issues in the City of Middleton. He provided an overview of existing conditions, noting the city's large employment base. He also reviewed the city's land use plans and intergovernmental agreements. He highlighted some downtown redevelopment and TIF projects, and plans for additional development in the Greenway Center area. He mentioned the plans developed for the intermodal transportation center and the city's unsuccessful attempt to secure federal TIGER grant funding for the project. He said the city was still pursuing the project. Opitz also discussed planned projects, including the Bishops Bay development, improvements to the Pleasant View Road corridor, Deming Way, and routes for the planned North Mendota Parkway and Belle Fontaine Boulevard. He highlighted the city's bicycle plan and the planned bike lanes on Park Street and Century Avenue. He mentioned the existing transit service. He also mentioned the interest in a longer runway at the Middleton Municipal Airport, but said there are environmental and neighborhood concerns.

**6. Resolution TPB No. 53 Regarding Amendment #5 to the 2011-2015 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the Madison Metropolitan Area & Dane County**

- **W. Beltline (USH 12 Bypass) (Airport Road to Parmenter St.), Add Auxiliary Lanes [New project, const. in 2018]**

Schaefer said the TIP amendment would add a WisDOT project to construct auxiliary lanes on the W. Beltline (USH 12 Bypass) from Airport Road to Parmenter Street. The amendment was being sought to permit design work to start this year. Construction isn't scheduled until 2018. Schaefer said WisDOT has been adding auxiliary lanes between a number of interchanges on the Beltline. Gust added that auxiliary lanes are particularly beneficial where the interchanges are close together as they allow motorists more room to get on and off the freeway. They have significantly reduced crashes as well as improving traffic operation.

Moved by Bruskewitz, seconded by Skidmore, to approve Resolution TPB No. 53 regarding amendment #5 to the 2011-2015 TIP. Motion carried.

## **7. Review of Draft Listing and Ranking of Candidate Projects for STP Urban Funding for 2012-2016**

Schaefer said there was only one major change to the preliminary draft being proposed, which was to move the funding for Phase 2 of the Mineral Point Road/CTH M/Junction intersection project to 2013. Construction is scheduled for 2013, but the project was included in 2012 because it was thought the funding would be obligated next year. The letting schedule has changed so the project is now in 2013. He said the change doesn't affect the funding for any of the other projects. Schaefer said there has been discussion between City of Madison and Dane County staff about delaying one or more projects to free up some additional funding for projects that are funded at less than 50%. Increases in the cost estimates for several projects and the reduced STP-Urban funding starting in 2013 has caused a shortfall of funding totaling \$2.5 million. However, in order to free up enough funding either CTH M (Cross to CTH PD) or Johnson Street would need to be pushed back from 2014 to 2015 and other projects would also need to be delayed. The City of Madison does not want to further delay those projects. The City of Verona is also participating in the CTH M project and would need to agree to change the schedule. Schaefer said one project that might be delayed is Cottage Grove Road. That is programmed now for 2015, but WisDOT has moved the project to expand the Cottage Grove Road bridge over the Interstate back to 2016. It is on WisDOT's advanceable list if funding becomes available. The city and WisDOT projects should be done at the same time so that might necessitate moving the Cottage Grove Road project back to 2016. That would allow the project to be fully funded and free up a little funding for the other projects. Schaefer said the other change to the listings compared to the preliminary draft related to how the shortfall of funding was allocated among the projects. He said staff was proposing to allocate the funding based on the difference between the amount that the MPO had previously approved and the new required amount due to the increased cost estimate for the project. Schaefer said staff felt that was more equitable. Previously, the shortfall was allocated based on the total cost of the project. This resulted in relatively small changes in the funding amounts for the projects that are short of funding. Schaefer said the MPO technical committee didn't meet in July, but he would review with them the changes at their next meeting. He added he hadn't received any further comments on the draft listings.

Matano noted that he sent an email out to members regarding the City of Madison study to evaluate converting Johnson and Gorham Streets to two-way operation east of Blair Street. Schaefer apologized for not mentioning the study before, but said it was certainly something for the MPO to monitor and perhaps comment on. Depending upon the outcome of that study, he said the MPO might want to review the score for the project under the MPO's criteria. Schaefer said he would provide updates to the Board on the study, which was expected to last 4-6 months. Golden said the idea originally came out of a neighborhood planning process many years ago. At that time, a connector street was proposed for consideration that would connect Fordem with East Washington Avenue via the rail corridor. He thought that would be of interest to the MPO if it became part of the study. King said there discussion about this and the decision was made to keep the scope of the study narrow. There was recognition, however, of the need for a study of a much broader area.

Mandli asked about the reduction of STP Urban funding by \$477,000 starting in 2013. Schaefer said MPO staff received that funding level information from WisDOT staff, which administers the program for the MPO. It is formula based. The reduced STP Urban funding is the result of reduced overall STP funding coming to the state. The reduction applies to 2013-'14. Funding for 2015-'16 is unknown but assumed to remain at the lower level for now.

## **8. Consideration of Release of Draft 2012-2016 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the Madison Metropolitan Area & Dane County for Public Review and Comment**

Matano noted that this was on the agenda so the Board could authorize staff to release the draft TIP for public review. Matano asked about the public information meeting, and Schaefer said it was scheduled

for August 17 at 4:30 at the Dane County Highway Transportation Office. The public hearing would be held at the Board's September meeting.

Moved by Bruskewitz, seconded by Ritt, to approve release of the draft 2012-2015 TIP for public review and comment. Motion carried.

#### **9. Consideration of Letter Seeking Financial Support of the MPO in 2012**

Schaefer said he had raised this issue last year, but then decided to wait until this year when the 2010 Census population numbers had been released. The MPO redesignation agreement calls for the City of Madison to provide staff and for the City of Madison to provide the local share of funding to support the MPO activities. However, the agreement also says that other communities are "strongly encouraged to participate in proportion to their population" in financially supporting the MPO. A formal request for a financial contribution has not been made since the MPO was originally split off from the RPC back in 2000. There have been some informal requests made through staff, but nothing formal. Schaefer said three communities have been financially supporting the MPO: Fitchburg, Monona, and McFarland. He said it would be more equitable if others contributed as well. He said it could also provide a little more sense of ownership of the MPO by those communities. Schaefer said it was entirely up to the Board whether it wanted to send out the request. He added that if a letter was sent, he'd send a slightly different letter to the three communities that are currently providing support thanking them and asking for continued support.

Skidmore asked if each letter would specify the amount of funding being requested based on the community's population. Schaefer answered yes. Skidmore asked if a letter would be sent to the three communities currently contributing to notify them that the MPO was requesting participation from the other communities as well. Schaefer answered yes. Golden added that the funds that are allocated and used by the MPO to *benefit* these communities, whether they're spent in the community or not. It could be a corridor that's important to a community. He suggested adding some language to the letter indicating how the communities benefit from the MPO. He also suggested mentioning that each community is represented on the MPO Policy Board, which is important. Golden recommended that the Board approve sending the letter with the suggested editorial changes.

Moved by Ritt, seconded by Opitz, to approve sending a letter seeking financial support of the MPO in 2012 with the changes suggested by the Board. Motion carried.

#### **10. Update on the Madison Area Congestion Management Process (CMP) Project and Schedule**

Schaefer said the draft report was still not ready. Another Congestion Management Committee meeting has been scheduled for August 10 to discuss some unresolved issues. These mostly relate to the transportation system performance targets for acceptable levels of congestion, the data collection and analysis plan, including the schedule and responsible agency, and how will the CMP be incorporated into the planning and TIP development process. A presentation to the MPO technical committee was tentatively scheduled for August 17 with the presentation to the Board tentatively scheduled for the next Board meeting in September. The draft report will be sent out to the Board in advance for review.

#### **11. Status Report on the Regional Transportation Plan Update**

Schaefer said staff didn't have anything yet to present to the Board. He said staff has had to put quite a bit of work in on the CMP, much more so than had been anticipated. That has slowed progress on the RTP.

#### **12. Status Report by Madison Area TPB Members on Projects Potentially Involving the TPB:**

- USH 51 (USH 12/18 to I 90/94/39) Corridor Study
- USH 51 (McFarland to Stoughton) Corridor Study

Schaefer said a presentation had recently been made to the Board on the McFarland to Stoughton study, and there was not anything new to report. Jeff Gust said he might be able to provide some additional information on the USH 12/18 to I-39/90/94 corridor study at the next meeting.

**13. Discussion of Future Work Items:**

- **2012-2016 Transportation Improvement Program**
- **Congestion Management Process (CMP)**
- **Regional Transportation Plan Update**
- **Transit Development Plan (TDP)**

Schaefer said he had nothing additional to add on these work items.

**14. Announcements and Schedule of Future Meetings**

Schaefer reported that the interviews had been completed for the vacant planner position, and they had a very strong pool of candidates. Staff hoped to make a decision soon and get the person on board within a couple of months.

The next meeting is scheduled for September 7, 2011 at the Water Utility Building.

**15. Adjournment**

Moved by King, seconded by Schmidt, to adjourn. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:05 p.m.