

**Madison Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
February 7, 2007 Meeting Minutes**

1. Roll Call

Members present: Ken Golden, Al Matano, Chan Stroman, John Vesperman, Robbie Webber, Doug Zwank

Members absent: Eileen Bruskewitz, Corey Finkelmeyer, David Kluesner, Lisa MacKinnon

Staff present: Bill Schaefer, Bob Pike

2. Approval of the November 1, 2006 Meeting Minutes

Moved by Webber, seconded by Matano, to approve November 1, 2006 meeting minutes. Motion carried.

3. Communications

- Letter from Sandra Beaupre, WisDOT Planning Bureau Director, approving the 2007 MPO work program and indicating that FHWA funding had been approved.
- Letter from WisDOT Secretary to U.S. DOT approving the 2007-2011 Transportation Improvement Program.

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

None

5. Consideration of Resolution MPO No. 55, Regarding Agreement for Specialized Transportation Coordination Services with Dane County

Schaefer said that this was the annual agreement that the MPO has with the County to provide specialized transportation planning and coordination services. The funding amount is the same and hasn't changed for many years. The same agreement provides some funding to Metro for transit information and promotion efforts.

Moved by Webber, seconded by Matano, to approve Resolution MPO No. 55. Motion carried.

6. Consideration of Resolution MPO No. 56, Regarding Amendment #1 of the 2007-2011 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the Dane County Area

Schaefer said the TIP amendment adds a small project to purchase an accessible van for the City of Stoughton for its shared-ride taxi service. It was part of a larger grant that WisDOT received on behalf of all transit systems in the state. WisDOT's Transit Bureau didn't notify us of the project until after the TIP had been adopted.

Moved by Webber, seconded by Matano, to approve Resolution MPO No. 56. Motion carried.

7. Consideration of Language Assistance Plan/Program for the Madison Area MPO.

Schaefer noted that completion and adoption of a Language Assistance Plan was one of the requirements of the MPO's recent Federal re-certification. The plan outlines the policies and procedures that the MPO will use to address the needs of individuals with limited English proficiency (LEP). The MPO's plan is part of the City of Madison's program and closely follows the plan that the City Planning Department adopted. According to Census data, around 4.5% of the MPO planning area population speaks English less than "very well". Close to half of those speak Spanish, and that is the focus of translation efforts now. Hmong is a spoken, not written language, and individuals who speak

only Hmong rarely read Hmong. The MPO Profile is the primary document that has been translated thus far. Another possibility is the regional transportation plan summary, but document translation is expensive. We are proposing to use Spanish as well as English for the notice about the availability of translation services and other special accommodations on MPO Board meeting agendas. The City of Madison posts the notice in three additional languages besides English, but we plan to just use Spanish at this time. The plan also includes procedures for in-person visits. The MPO can make use of the City's language service, if ever necessary. Golden commented that the issue of how best to address the needs of the large Hmong population should be kept in mind, although he wasn't proposing any specific actions at this time.

Moved by Webber, seconded by Matano, to approve the Language Assistance Plan. Motion carried.

8. Status Report on the Signatures Received from Units of Government on the new Intergovernmental Agreement Restructuring and Redesignating the Madison Area MPO

Schaefer reported that the MPO had received signed resolutions from the Cities of Middleton and Stoughton, Village of McFarland, and the Towns of Blooming Grove, Burke, Pleasant Springs, and Rutland. Madison and Fitchburg are in the process of being approved and signed. He said McDonald recently sent additional copies of everything to Monona and Sun Prairie, which had lost the original copies. A couple of towns forgot to send in their signature sheets, and McDonald has corresponded with them about that. Golden and Webber said that they thought Madison had passed theirs already. [Ed. note: The City of Madison resolution and signature page was received the day of the meeting.]

Zwank asked if we were close yet to getting the required number of signatures. Schaefer said we still need at least one of the larger cities—Fitchburg or Sun Prairie. He added that it would be nice to have as many municipalities as possible, including all of the cities. Golden suggested sending a letter out reminding the communities about the resolution and listing those that haven't taken action. He said it would be good for the Governor to see a high level of unanimity on this based on the process that we went through. Schaefer said we still have some time with the April election coming up. Mayor Cieslewicz has said that he's not going to appoint new members until after the elections due to the large turnover on the City Council. Members serve until they are replaced, but citizen members who don't meet the new requirement to be a member of a local transportation related board cannot serve past April 30. Zwank said the April meeting would be his last. Golden and Webber said it will be important for the County Executive and other communities to get their appointments made quickly.

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

• **Transport 2020 Implementation Task Force**

Schaefer said the consultants have developed some preliminary cost estimates for the different alternatives, but there are questions regarding the assumptions. A subcommittee meeting is scheduled for February 21 to review the details of the costs. The modeling consultants presented some preliminary rail ridership forecasts for the alternatives at the recent task force meeting, however there is still work left to do on calibration of the model. Also, the bus system needs to be integrated with the rail alternatives.

Golden reported that the Madison Common Council had voted down 16-1 a resolution calling for a binding referendum on streetcars in April. The Mayor introduced as an addendum to the agenda another resolution that would provide for eventually holding a binding referendum on streetcars in the future, but he also included Transport 2020 in the language of the resolution submitted. It has been referred to four different city committees.

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

Schaefer said that there was a recent technical committee meeting at which the final three alternatives were presented that will be evaluated as part of the EIS. Vesperman added that the alternatives for both USH 51 studies have been identified based on the needs study. The next step would be starting to prepare the draft EISs, which is expected to happen this spring. WisDOT would then be looking to hold the first public meetings for this phase of both projects later this year. The EISs won't be completed until 2008.

- **North Mendota Parkway Implementation Oversight Committee**

Schaefer said a subcommittee had been set up to oversee the RFP process and selection of a consultant. The subcommittee will be meeting on the 12th (Monday) to discuss the proposals and recommend a consultant.

- **USH 51 (McFarland to Stoughton)**

See note under the other USH 51 study above.

10. Discussion of Future Work Items:

- **Finalize Regional Transportation Plan 2030 and Print for Distribution**

The Plan is currently at the printers and is expected back for distribution the week of the 12th. In the interim, the final version is available on our website and in CD format. Schaefer handed out CDs for those board members who wanted one.

- **Begin efforts to make the new Regional Transportation Plan 2030 SAFETEA-LU Compliant**

Schaefer said there are two main tasks. The first is revising the public participation plan, and work has started on that. As part of the revision, we need to take the plan out to interested parties and hold a meeting to get input on it. The second task is addressing the requirement for consultation with environmental agencies and developing "environmental mitigation strategies" for the plan. We are supposed to be done by July of this year.

- **Restructure of the Technical Coordinating Committee and Citizen Advisory Committee**

We'll be looking at adding new members to both committees. For the TCC, we need to add representatives from the suburban communities that were added to the MPO urban area. We have invited these representatives to attend the meetings as non-voting members and some have been attending regularly.

11. Announcements and Schedule of Future Meetings

- **CTH M Public Officials Meeting (February 19, Verona Library, 500 Silent Street)**

Schaefer said that there's a public officials meeting scheduled on the CTH M corridor. The two primary purposes of the meeting are: (1) to confirm support for transportation improvements in the corridor; and (2) lay out a design concept for the roadway, including bicycle, pedestrian, and transit improvements as well as expansion of the roadway. One of the concepts is use of an extra-wide median for potential rail transit use in the long-term future. Agreement on the design will ensure that improvements done on each end will be consistent and tie together. McDonald is serving as the meeting moderator and will provide background information. City of Madison and Verona planning staff will provide presentations on land use plans and City engineering staff will present the proposed design concept. Schaefer said it would be nice if someone from the MPO Board was in attendance. Golden suggested sending out an email to all Board members announcing the meeting and asking for a volunteer.

12. Adjournment