

**Madison Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)**  
**July 5, 2006 Meeting Minutes**

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**1. Roll Call**

Members present: Eileen Bruskwitz, Ken Golden, Al Matano, Chan Stroman, Robbie Webber, Doug Zwank

Members absent: Corey Finkelmeyer, David Kluesner, Lisa MacKinnon, John Vesperman

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

**2. Approval of the June 7, 2006 Meeting Minutes**

Moved by Matano, seconded by Webber, to approve June 7, 2006 meeting minutes. Motion carried.

**3. Communications**

*None*

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

*None*

**5. Review of Preliminary Draft Listing and Scoring and Ranking of Candidate Projects for STP Urban Funding for 2007-2011**

Schaefer reviewed the Priority Project Listings. He said there wasn't much difference from last year's listings. Major 2007 projects are the third segment of East Washington Avenue and the last phase of the CTH M (North) project. A Federal earmark of funds was obtained for the East Washington Avenue project to pay for a ped/bike overpass and streetscape enhancements. There is sufficient funding for the Lien/N. Thompson/Zeier intersection project, but this would create a funding shortfall in 2008 and require bumping of a committed project. There has been no previous commitment to the Lien Road intersection project. It would also create an even greater shortfall in 2009 for the final segment of the East Washington Avenue project. So for now it is shown as unfunded. For 2008 and 2009, our allocation drops from \$6.2 million to \$5.2 million, which we become aware of last summer. The main reason for this is our allocation was based on assumed increase in Federal funding that has not materialized. Our funding level for 2010 and 2011 is uncertain at this point, but will probably be between \$5.2 and \$6.2 million. We are showing \$5.2 million for now to be conservative. The major 2008 projects are the first segment of Monona Drive from Broadway to Pflaum, reconstruction of the CTH M (West)/Valley View/Pleasant View Road extended intersection, and the long delayed CTH CV pavement reconditioning project. For the Monona Drive project, which includes installation of a median and consolidating driveways, we're assuming that the City of Monona will receive some Safety funds to supplement the budget. We are told that is likely. Golden asked if the project includes ped/bike amenities, and Schaefer said bike lanes and sidewalks are included. Schaefer said the project cost estimate increased by over \$1 million. MPO staff had a discussion with WisDOT, county, and City of Madison staff regarding the issue of what costs should be eligible for STP Urban funding. For example, we need to clarify when landscaping or streetscape improvements become excessive, because the costs keep going up. McDonald added that we also discussed the possibility of increasing the required match from the current 20% to stretch the limited dollars further. Golden said the streetscape improvements can be a critical part of the project, such as for East Washington Avenue. Golden suggested putting the issue on the Board's agenda at a future meeting. Schaefer noted that an agreement was still needed on the local funding match for the CTH M intersection project at Valley View. The only project in 2009 is the final East Washington Avenue segment, which includes reconstruction of the STH 30/Aberg Avenue interchange. There isn't enough funding to cover the 50% non-state share, so the City of Madison will need to provide additional funding. The only 2010 project is the second segment of the

Monona Drive project. The only 2011 project is the University Avenue (Allen to Segoe) reconstruction project. An agreement on the local funding match is also needed for that project, which has been submitted by the county. There is still \$4.4 million available. The highest ranked project below the funding cutoff is a new project submitted by the City of Madison for the reconstruction of the Mineral Point Road/Junction/CTH M intersection into a tight, urban-style interchange. The next few projects are also City of Madison projects, so it will be up to the city to decide which is their highest priority.

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

Golden introduced the item before taking public comments. He said he suggested the name change in order to better communicate to people what we do, because people don't know what an MPO is or does. He said he thinks "Metropolitan" and "Planning" are fine, but doesn't like "Organization." and thinks the word "Transportation" must be included. He also doesn't feel the word "Madison" is necessary. Golden then took public comment.

**Royce Williams, 2437 Fox Ave, Madison** registered wishing to speak in opposition to the name change. Williams said that while he understands Golden's concern that MPO doesn't register with people, he sees this as an education process. He said MPO is a term with significant meaning at the Federal level. He added he would like to see state legislation adopted for MPOs, including establishing a funding mechanism for them.

Webber said she shares some of Williams' concerns because she works with MPOs in her day job with the Wisconsin Bicycle Federation. She said it would be difficult to find us on the Internet if we took MPO out of the name. Bruskewitz commented that she would like to see the word "transportation" added to the name, and Zwank agreed. He added he would like to keep the word "metropolitan." McDonald pointed out the alternative logos included in the meeting materials. He said he would like to keep the same basic design, because it is part of our identity now. Golden said that given all of the members missing, we shouldn't take action tonight. However, he feels there is a general consensus that we should add the word "transportation", keep "planning" and "Madison", and include "area" and/or "metropolitan." Golden suggested "Madison Metropolitan Transportation Planning Board." Webber said that would describe this body, but wouldn't describe all of the other activities of the agency. Golden suggested adding a sub-title for the letterhead that included "a Federally designated MPO." Golden suggested noting in the minutes that we are seeking comments by other board members before we vote on the issue at the next meeting.

## **7. Continued Review of Preliminary Results from the New Regional Travel Demand Model for the Regional Transportation Plan Update.**

McDonald said that the plan is coming together. He noted that he had reviewed the different modeling scenarios and the resulting congestion at the last meeting. One of the last scenarios being analyzed was the Verona Road/West Beltline improvement project. Since that project is still in the EIS process, we don't know what the long-term recommended improvement is going to be. The depressed freeway alternative for Verona Road was met with some criticism by the Madison Mayor and others. Therefore, WisDOT is looking at possible interim solutions. The funding is not available anyway at the present time for the major improvements being considered. McDonald said MPO staff modeled adding an extra lane on Verona Road and the Beltline to see what the impacts would be. One of the issues that was raised was the impacts "downstream" to the east segment of the Beltline and arterial streets leading from the Beltline to downtown. The modeling is telling us that the Beltline east of Verona Road will be so congested already that there won't be significant additional traffic using that part of the Beltline. Adding the additional lane to the Beltline does reduce traffic on the parallel arterials on the West side. The impacts are spread throughout the system, so no one facility has a large traffic reduction. Most roadways have a reduction of 2,000 or so vehicles a day. McDonald added that he isn't sure what we want to say in the plan about this project at this point in time.

McDonald then reviewed a preliminary draft of a map showing recommended capacity changes to local arterials and major studies that are either underway or planned. The remaining congestions levels will be added and shown on the map as well. Golden commented that he thought the board had endorsed the depressed freeway alternative for Verona Road. He also commented that he would like to see important planned collector roadways added to the map. Schaefer responded that a separate map for the plan was being prepared that showed the planned future roadway classification system, including all of the major planned collectors in current neighborhood and local comprehensive plans. McDonald continued that for those facilities for which a study is underway, we cannot include a specific project in the plan since we don't know what it will be nor how it will be funded. The plan map will indicate that the specific improvement is pending completion of the study and identification of a funding source. Golden asked that a time table for completion of the plan be provided to the board, so members would know when they need to reserve time for reading the draft plan report. McDonald said the draft plan report would be completed in August.

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

- **Transport 2020 Implementation Task Force**

Matano said that he had participated in a walking tour of potential train station sites. He commented that there are problems with many potential sites between Madison and Sun Prairie. The consultants were now looking at a site near Nelson Road as the terminus on the East side. Golden added that Fitchburg has consistently been interested in a rail connection between their city and the City of Madison.

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

McDonald had nothing to report. It appears to be on hold due to staff changes at DOT.

- **North Mendota Parkway Implementation Oversight Committee**

Bruskewitz said the areas of disagreement with County Executive's office appear to have been worked out. They're hoping that the final intergovernmental agreement will be brought to the County Board by July 20.

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

McDonald said the same WisDOT SW District staff person was in charge of this project, and no meetings have been held recently.

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

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

McDonald reported that Ronn Ferrell, a West side Madison resident who was an interim alderperson a few years back, had expressed interest in serving on the citizen advisory committee (CAC). He asked the Board to confirm his appointment, which they did. There was some discussion about the likely changes to the CAC following the change in Policy Board structure. Golden asked that the CAC be included as an agenda item for discussion at a future meeting.

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

*None*

## **11. Adjournment**