Minutes of the Madison Area Metropolitan Planning Organization
Citizen Advisory Committee

July 17, 2007  Madison Municipal Bldg., Rm. LL-110  5:00 p.m.

1. Roll Call

Members Present:  J. Rider, R. Williams, R. Ferrell, J. Guo, C. Threinen
Members Absent:  G. Banks, C. Wittke, D. Phillips
Staff Present:  B. McDonald, B. Schaefer
Others Present:  Cristel Gjerde

2. Introductions

Schaefer introduced Cristel Gjerde, who Connie Threinen has recruited to be the new League of Women Voters representative on the committee. Other members introduced themselves to Cristel.


Schaefer reviewed the project listings. He noted that there were insufficient funds in 2009 to fully fund both the last segment of East Washington Avenue and the first segment of Monona Drive for which the estimated cost has risen significantly. The City of Monona is working with the project consultant to trim costs. There is a shortage of funding again in 2011, so the City of Madison will need to contribute an extra $2.9 million for the first phase of the Mineral Point Rd./CTH M/Junction interchange project. An agreement on the local funding share has not yet been reached on the University Avenue (CTH MS) reconstruction, the other funded project in 2011. There is only enough funding to complete the Mineral Point Rd. interchange project in 2012. The last phase of the Monona Drive project would need to be delayed. Due to the increasing cost for projects and limited funding available, a change in the cost sharing policy for major projects from 80/20 to 50/50 is being considered. Schaefer reviewed a separate draft of the project listings that illustrates the impact of a change in the policy starting in 2010. It would allow the last segment of Monona Drive to go forward in 2012 with $1.8 million to carry over to 2013 when 3-4 projects could be funded such as CTH M (Cross Country Rd. to CTH PD, including the CTH PD intersection) and the reconstruction of East Johnson Street. The technical coordinating committee will be taking up this issue at its next meeting and making a recommendation to the new Policy Board on whether to make a change or not.

Rider asked why the CTH CV project in 2010 showed an 80% cost share. Schaefer said the project was supposed to be implemented in 2008, but was delayed again. It was decided to only consider changing the policy for projects outside the current three-year TIP period (2007-'09) without committed funding. Ferrell asked why the funding for the MPO’s planning program doesn’t show an increase. McDonald said he hasn’t pursued that because of the sensitivity of local units of government to reducing the funding available for other projects. Annual inflationary increases are now being made for the MPO rideshare program as well as the City of Madison ped/bike safety education program. Williams asked about the reference to NHS Local funding. McDonald said the program doesn’t exist anymore and the reference should be dropped.

4. Review of Draft 2008-2012 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Projects

Schaefer reviewed maps of all of the major roadway projects in the Madison Metropolitan Planning Area and the Outer County Area and the major pedestrian/bicycle projects. He noted that not all of these were federally funded. Major state and locally funded projects are also included in the TIP for information and coordination purposes. Discussion followed on some of the projects.
5. Presentation on Interim Improvements Being Considered for USH 18/151 (Verona Rd.)

McDonald reviewed with the committee slides from a power point presentation that WisDOT Southwest District staff had put together. He provided background information on the capacity and safety issues in the corridor and the challenge faced by the limited room available for improving the interchange. He then noted the short-term improvements that have already been implemented, and reviewed the different interim solutions that are being considered. These include roundabouts, a free flow design for the predominant north/east and west/south movement (designed to be independent of the interchange), and a single-point interchange with possible expansion of Verona Road south of the Beltline to eight lanes. A new pedestrian overpass of Verona Road is also being considered. An outer ring roadway alternative was dropped from consideration because it only pulled off about 10,000 vehicles per day, which wouldn’t be enough to address the problem. Based upon the traffic impacts and costs, the roundabouts and single-point interchange with an 8-lane Verona Road show the most promise for an interim solution. WisDOT will be holding some public meetings on these interim solutions later this year. A supplemental EIS is being prepared on these interim solutions. Rider asked if right of way was being preserved for transit. McDonald said there would be sufficient right of way for rail or bus rapid transit. However, he said an extra wide median is being planned for the CTH M corridor for potential future transit needs or added travel lanes and this would be a better transit corridor.

6. Committee Member Reports

Item deferred.

7. Staff Reports

McDonald reported that the redesignation of the MPO had occurred and all of the appointments to the Policy Board had been made. One of the City of Madison appointments and the County appointments still need to be confirmed. A revised MPO profile sheet was distributed that lists the new board members. He also reviewed the list of future agenda items.

8. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting will be September 18, 2007.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Bill Schaefer