

Madison Area Transportation Planning Board (an MPO)
May 21, 2009 Special Meeting Minutes

1. Roll Call

Members present: Al Matano, Chris Schmidt, Steve King, Robin Schmidt, Joe Clausius, Mark Opitz, Joe Chase, Jerry Mandli, Paul Skidmore, Ken Harwood, John Vesperman

Members absent: Eileen Bruskevitz, Duane Hinz, Chuck Kamp

Staff present: Bob McDonald, Bill Schaefer, Bob Pike

2. Approval of May 6, 2009 Meeting Minutes

Moved by Clausius, seconded by R. Schmidt, to approve the May 6 meeting minutes. Motion carried.

3. Consideration of Scoring and Ranking of Candidate Madison Area Projects Submitted for American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Funding Under the STP-Urban Program

McDonald noted that staff reviewed the projects with the Board at their last meeting. Staff had scored, but not ranked the projects. Since then, staff scored the projects and reviewed the scoring and ranking and priority listing of the projects with the Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC). The TCC recommended approval by a unanimous vote. Staff also reviewed the scoring and ranking and priority listing of projects with the Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC). One CAC member moved to not fund the two top ranked projects that involve extension of Pleasant View Road, but that motion failed. The CAC then voted to recommend approval. The CAC also requested that staff provide the Board with a list of the eligible projects under the STP program, and that list is at member's places. Some CAC members felt that many local officials do not understand that the STP program can fund transit, bike/ped, and many other types of projects. He said some would like to see independent bike projects funded through the STP-Urban program. McDonald noted that Metro Transit received \$9.7 million in ARRA funding, most of which was used to purchase hybrid buses. Also, almost all of the roadway projects funded with STP-Urban funding involve ped/bike facilities. In response to a question from R. Schmidt, Matano said the concern of the CAC member who moved to drop funding for the two projects is that they involve a capacity expansion, construction of a new roadway versus reconstruction of an existing roadway. McDonald said the draft minutes of the CAC meeting reflecting the discussion was at member's places. He said the CAC also asked that staff share with the Board a letter by some organizations to the WisDOT Secretary asking that the remaining STP funding be spent on transit projects. That letter is also at member's places. C. Schmidt asked why the projects involving Pleasant View Road were scored so high. McDonald said the projects also involve reconstruction of the Mineral Point Road/Pleasant View Road and CTH M/Valley View Road intersections. They are on principal arterial roadways and address major congestion and safety issues and also include ped/bike facilities. He pointed out the criteria that are used listed on the scoring and ranking table.

Moved by Opitz, seconded by Skidmore, to approve the scoring and ranking and priority listing of candidate projects for ARRA funding under the STP-Urban program. Motion carried.

4. Consideration of Resolution TPB No. 27 Regarding Amendment #5 to the 2009-2013 Transportation Improvement Program for the Madison Metropolitan & Dane County Area

McDonald said the TIP amendment resolution implements the action that the Board just took under item #2, providing ARRA funding for the five top ranked projects.

Moved by Skidmore, seconded by C. Schmidt, to approve Resolution TPB No. 27, Amendment #5 to the 2009-2013 TIP. Motion carried.

5. Consideration of Scoring and Ranking of Candidate Madison Area Projects Submitted for American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Funding Under the Transportation Enhancements (TE) Program

McDonald noted that staff had reviewed the projects with the Board at their last meeting. He said that both the TCC and CAC recommended approval of the draft scoring and priority ranking of projects. The MPO will send its priority listing of projects to WisDOT for consideration by the committee charged with deciding which projects will get funded. Matano said that typically there is a cutoff in terms of how many projects from the Madison area might be expected to receive funding, and asked where that was. McDonald pointed out that the Aberg Avenue ped/bike overpass for the Starkweather Creek path was already funded as part of the Stage 1 solicitation process. Therefore, it is possible that the Madison area might not receive funding for another project or only a small, low cost project. Opitz asked why the Village of Shorewood project received such a low score. Schaefer explained that the project is for streetscape improvements to Marshall Court, which will be reconstructed with parallel parking, sidewalk, and other amenities such as bike racks. Bicyclists now use Marshall Court since it indirectly connects the Campus Drive bike path with the village path to the west. However, the village plans to construct a path along the rail corridor in the future, making that the bike route. The proposed project doesn't improve the conditions for bicyclists much, which is the main reason it doesn't score better. Matano mentioned the redevelopment plan for that area.

Moved by R. Schmidt, seconded by Harwood, to approve the scoring and priority ranking of candidate projects for ARRA funding under the TE program. Motion carried.

6. Adjournment

Before adjourning, McDonald asked if the Board wanted to still have the regular June 3 meeting. He said the items planned for that meeting could be taken up at the July 1 meeting. It was decided to cancel the June 3 meeting.

Harwood moved, Opitz seconded, to adjourn at 5:30 p.m. Motion carried.