

**Madison Area Transportation Planning Board (an MPO)
October 7, 2009 Meeting Minutes**

1. Roll Call

Members present: Ken Harwood, Joe Chase, Paul Skidmore, Chris Schmidt, Chuck Kamp, Robin Schmidt, Al Matano, John Vesperman, Eileen Bruskevitz, Duane Hinz, Mark Opitz

Members absent: Joe Clausius, Jerry Mandli, Steve King

Staff present: Bob McDonald, Bill Schaefer, Bob Pike

2. Approval of September 2, 2009 Meeting Minutes

McDonald noted that the minutes were emailed out because they weren't finished in time for the mailing. He said he had extra copies if anyone needed one. R. Schmidt moved, Harwood seconded, to approve the September 2, 2009 meeting minutes. Motion carried.

3. Communications

McDonald said the following communications were included in the packet:

- Letter dated September 22, 2009 from WisDOT Planning Director Sandra Beaupre listing planning activities and priorities to be considered by MPOs in developing their 2010 work programs.

McDonald said WisDOT sends out this letter every year to identify activities the state wants MPOs to focus on in addition to local issues and activities. He said the letter also includes two tables. The first lists the PL and FTA funding budgeted for each MPO and the second lists important dates related to the work program. McDonald said the MPO receives other funding, but he would discuss that under agenda item #7. R. Schmidt asked if the PL and FTA funding was reduced from last year. McDonald said there was about a 10% cut in the state match for the federal funds that needed to be made up with local funding. In response to another question, he said MPO staff was not required to take any furlough days.

- Letter dated September 18, 2009 to all elected officials in Dane County inviting them to an informational briefing on the new state law allowing the county to establish a Regional Transit Authority

McDonald said the meeting was well attended. Matano thanked McDonald for his assistance in getting the invitation out. The meeting was put together quickly, but it ended up being successful. For those that couldn't make it, Matano said the meeting was videotaped. McDonald said there is a link to the video of the meeting on the MPO's website.

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

None.

5. Consideration of Resolution TPB No. 31 Regarding the 2010-2014 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the Madison Metropolitan Area & Dane County

Schaefer said there were no proposed changes to the STP Urban projects from the draft. He said there was a revised addition/correction sheet at Board members' places that includes one small additional federally funded transit project and a few additional locally funded City of Madison projects for information purposes. Schaefer highlighted a few of the more significant federally funded project additions or changes. First, Badger State Trail surfacing project is being moved up from 2011 to 2010. Second, Madison Metro's large formula funding grant under the economic stimulus bill (ARRA) is being revised to use \$950,000 for operating expenses next year. Recent guidance came out from FTA

indicating up to 10% of the funding could be used for operating expenses and so it was decided to do that. There are also some other minor cost changes to other projects funded by the grant. A small new Metro grant project was added. FTA has approved \$150,000 for new energy efficient lighting in Metro's bus garage. The funding is being awarded under a program in the economic stimulus bill called TIGGER, which stands for Transportation Investments for Greenhouse Gas and Energy Reduction. Finally, Schaefer said additional federal stimulus funding was allocated to the City of Verona's Nine Mound Road reconstruction project, which will cover 100% of the estimated cost of the project. He said WisDOT allocated an additional \$68,000 in STP-Urban ARRA funding to the Madison area. The Nine Mound Road project was one of five approved for funding by the MPO. Schaefer said the other changes are relatively minor cost or timing changes or locally funded project additions or changes that are listed for informational purposes.

Matano asked about the sequence for demolition of the Government East parking ramp and construction of the new underground parking garage. Schaefer said the part of the garage under the Municipal Building site would be constructed in 2011 and then the Government East ramp demolished in 2012 and the garage built at that site. Both parts of the garage would be built to support development above them. It was noted that Pinckney Street would need to be closed temporarily during construction. In response to a question by Matano about the STH 113 reconstruction project, Schaefer explained that the change in the TIP listing simply combines the different segments of the project into one listing with some revised costs, but doesn't change the construction schedule. The construction would all be completed in 2013. R. Schmidt commented that it would be nice to see a map showing the projects funded with economic stimulus dollars. Schaefer said staff could add such a map to the MPO's website, which has a section on the economic stimulus bill and already includes a table listing the projects.

Moved by R. Schmidt, seconded by Skidmore, to approve Resolution TPB No. 31 Regarding the 2010-2014 TIP with the changes in the addition/correction sheet, dated 10/07/09. Motion carried.

6. Review of Draft 2010 Unified Planning Work Program and the 2010-2012 Overall Program Design Report

McDonald indicated that a copy of the draft work program was included in the packet. He said the draft document has been distributed to local units of government in the MPO planning area and to the MPO advisory committees for review. MPO staff met with FHWA and WisDOT staff to review it and they had some minor suggested changes. He said staff would review the document with the Board tonight and would be seeking action on it at the next meeting. McDonald provided a brief review of the document. He went over the information in the summary, which shows the number of staff person months devoted to the major work program areas and highlights the major activities under each area. A major effort under system-wide transportation planning will be the completion of the 5-year interim update to the regional transportation plan. This work program area also includes data collection, assistance with corridor studies, the travel modeling work, and the TIP. The modeling work includes preparation of traffic forecasts for large neighborhood development plans such as the City of Madison's Northeast Neighborhood and the City of Fitchburg's McGaw Neighborhood. This work is done for the local communities, but is also helpful for updating the land use assumptions and socioeconomic data for the model. In terms of data, McDonald mentioned the transportation trends report that MPO staff prepares for the regional planning commission (RPC) which is included in the Trends Report the RPC publishes. The primary activities under transportation system management include further development of the congestion management process and a report on the process as well as completion of the transit development plan update. Other work program areas include specialized transportation coordination, corridor and area studies, and other transportation special studies. The other studies area includes the MPO's ridesharing program and the TDM assistance to the City of Madison's Parking Utility, which has an incentive program that has been very popular. The city's program has been funded by advertising in the parking ramps. The budget for 2010 was reduced significantly because the contractor paying for the advertising did not renew the contract. The other studies category also includes the

planning assistance to the RPC, including conducting the transportation analyses for proposed urban service area amendments. The next several pages discuss planning issues and priorities and provide a historical context. A summary of activities by work element is provided. The rest of the document covers each individual program element, discussing previous work and then activities for the year. He highlighted some of the major activities under the different work elements.

McDonald then reviewed the budget table on page 32, which summarizes costs and anticipated funding by work element. A new copy of the table was distributed because the totals columns on the right were cut off on the one in the draft report. He explained that the typical match for the federal funds is 80/20. WisDOT has historically contributed 10% leaving a local match of 10%. However, WisDOT reduced that matching funding for next year, so an additional column was added for the federal funds requiring a 20% local match. Finally, he reviewed the various attachments, including the cooperative agreement between the MPO, Metro Transit, and WisDOT that spells out the planning responsibilities of each agency. He said this type of agreement would likely be entered into with the RTA if it was created.

Vesperman asked if City employees were getting a raise. McDonald said the Mayor's budget calls for no cost of living raises, but no furlough days. A question was raised about the name of the planned path in the rail corridor paralleling University Avenue, which is referred to as the Wisconsin River Rail Trail. Matano asked about the role of the MPO in planning for a rail station if WisDOT receives funding for intercity rail service between Milwaukee and Madison. McDonald said WisDOT would probably seek MPO support for the initial station to be located most likely at the airport. The MPO would need to approve the federal funding for the project. MPO assistance might also be sought in coordinating the service with local transit service and the planned commuter rail service. The locally preferred alternative for the Transport 2020 study might be revisited and MPO support for a revised alternative might be sought. Asked if there would be further public hearings on the high speed rail project, McDonald said he wasn't sure since the environmental study has been completed. If there was a major change in the scope of the project, there would probably be an additional round of hearings.

7. Review and Recommendation of Draft 2010 MPO Budget

McDonald said he was bringing the budget before the Board more as a matter of courtesy, because the Board's authority is mainly regarding the work program. MPO staff are City of Madison employees and the MPO budget is part of the city planning department's budget. McDonald said the budget was included in the packet. The table compares the itemized 2010 budget with the budget for 2009. He pointed out the items where there was a significant change. The budget for purchased services was down largely because of the drop in the contracted TDM work for the City of Madison Parking Utility. The budget for supplies is also down. A new copy machine has saved money because more printing is able to be done in house. Staff costs are down because there are no cost of living increases and also because the administrative clerk position is being reduced to 50% time. Staff has found that full-time administrative staffing isn't required. Overall, the total budget is down about \$60,000 with a total of about \$781,000. Of that, \$669,000 is covered by FHWA, FTA, and other interagency billings. That leaves a maximum of \$112,000 to be covered with local funding. It is usually less. The City of Madison picks up most of that, but some other local units of government contribute.

8. Status Report by TPB Board Members on Projects Potentially Involving the TPB

- Transport 2020 Implementation Task Force

Matano noted the informational meeting held on the RTA law and said he also wanted to mention under this item the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Seminar that Metro Transit hosted. The seminar was informative and well attended. There was further discussion about the seminar, and it was noted that materials and the video from it are available. Matano also mentioned a brainstorming session on transit that he and Chris Schmidt attended.

- USH 51 (USH 12/18 to I 90/94/39) Corridor Study
Vesperman said this study was on hold and that no additional meetings were scheduled at this time.
- USH 51 (McFarland to Stoughton)
McDonald said that the consultants are currently processing information from the public meetings and there wasn't anything else new to report. Matano commented on the alternative that uses STH 138 and USH 14 rather than expanding capacity on USH 51. He said the four-lane section of USH 14 was recently extended down to STH 138. Vesperman commented that the alternative didn't draw as much traffic as the USH 51 expansion.
- North Mendota Parkway Implementation Oversight Committee
Bruskewitz reported that at the last meeting the committee agreed on a corridor for the roadway on new alignment, but not an exact route. The corridor is north of Dorn Creek and south of CTH K from CTH M westerly to CTH Q. West of CTH Q to USH 12, a wider corridor was identified that extends ¼ mile south of CTH K and ½ mile north of CTH K. The committee is going to send a letter to WisDOT asking that the agency identify its preferred location for connecting the roadway to USH 12. She said they were out of money, but the committee would be meeting again when they heard back from WisDOT. Opitz mentioned the article in the Capital Times, and commented that the reason the committee added the ¼ section north to the corridor was because it provided an option of following property lines and not dividing the farms. He also said it allows WisDOT to identify a connection to USH 12 north of CTH K, which he thought the agency would be interested in. Vesperman asked about officially mapping the corridor once it was identified. Bruskewitz said the individual municipalities would officially map it, not the county. Vesperman explained the freeway conversion study on USH 12 from Middleton to Sauk City.

9. Discussion of Future Work Items

- Approval of 2010 Unified Planning Work Program
- 2009 Federal Certification Review
McDonald said FHWA staff would be providing a presentation on this, probably at either the November or December meeting.
- 2009-2013 Transit Development Plan (TDP)
McDonald said work on this would continue into next year. Kamp thanked Schaefer for expanding the membership on the review committee.

10. Announcements and Schedule of Future Meetings

The next meeting is scheduled for November 4 at the Madison Water Utility.

11. Adjournment

Opitz moved, R. Schmidt seconded, to adjourn. Motion carried.