1. Roll Call

Members present: David Ahrens, Mark Clear, Ken Golden, Tim Gruber, Steve King, Al Matano, Mark Opitz, Steve Stocker

Members absent: Steve Flottmeyer, Chuck Kamp, Jerry Mandli, Ed Minihan, Robin Schmidt, Patrick Stern

MPO Staff present: Mike Cechvala, Bill Schaefer

2. Approval of July 6, 2016 Meeting Minutes

Moved by Stocker, seconded by King, to approve the July 6, 2016 meeting minutes. Motion carried.

3. Communications

- Letter from WisDOT, also signed by the FHWA, approving the Work Program amendment related to carryover funding from 2015
- Letters from WisDOT and FTA approving TIP Amendment 3.

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

None

5. Public Hearing on the Draft 2017-2021 Transportation Improvement Program for the Madison Metropolitan Area & Dane County

Matano welcomed members of the public in attendance. There were no registrants to speak.

Schaefer reviewed the STBG (formerly STP) – Urban projects. He noted the schedule changes to three projects: CTH M was delayed with the start of construction now in late 2017 (SFY 2018) and mostly 2018-'19. That pushed back the schedules for the Buckeye Road and Cottage Grove Road projects a year to 2019 and 2020 respectively due to the unavailability of STBG funding statewide in SFY 2018. Schaefer mentioned that the MPO last year conditionally approved funding for the next application cycle two projects: first phase of Pleasant View Road in the City of Middleton and second phase of Atwood Avenue from Walter Street to Cottage Grove Road.

In response to a question from Stocker, Schaefer clarified that the Metro buses being funded were replacement buses. Regarding the CTH M project, Golden commented that he would prefer to see the MPO funding projects within communities versus those connecting communities. He said if the project scoring criteria award higher points for projects with high traffic volumes due to traffic from rural areas or outer area communities, then something is wrong with the criteria. He noted that Monroe Street would have been a good project, but the city of Madison did not apply for funding for it. Schaefer responded that the criteria do award more points for projects serving existing development and redevelopment areas rather than planned development. More points are also awarded for projects serving regional and mixed-use centers. He noted that the MPO has funded many projects serving developed areas, including Johnson Street and University Avenue. He said that when the CTH M project was first approved it was anticipated development of the new UW Research Park and Pioneer neighborhood would start sooner. Clear noted that close to 10,000 people work at Epic in west Verona and many more jobs will eventually be in University Research Park Phase II.

Schaefer reviewed other major projects in the draft TIP, including state and locally roadway and bicycle projects. Opitz said that as part of the locally funded University Avenue pavement replacement project in Middleton bike lanes are planned to be added from Allen Blvd. to Branch Street by narrowing the median, but
there has been some opposition to that. He said there is not sufficient room to add bike lanes west of Branch Street. In response to a question, Schaefer said that the Capital City and Glacial Drumlin Trail connector will be outside the railroad right-of-way. He said the primary Metro projects are new large and small buses; Metro did not receive the TIGER grant for the satellite bus garage. The plan is to incorporate that as part of a potential Small Starts BRT project if TIGER application is unsuccessful again next year.

Matano closed the public hearing.

6. Election of Officers

Matano asked Schaefer to temporarily chair the board during this item. Clear commented that it might be appropriate to defer election of officers until the next meeting when there is a fuller slate of members. Matano agreed. Schaefer said that officers serve until they are replaced or reappointed.

Golden moved, Clear seconded, to defer the election of officers to the next meeting with Matano remaining chair. Motion carried.

7. Resolution TPB No. 119 Approving Amendment #4 to the 2016-2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the Madison Metropolitan Area & Dane County

Moved by Golden, seconded by Clear, to approve the amendment. Motion carried.

8. Appointment to the MPO Advisory Committee for the Regional Transportation Plan 2050 for the Madison Metropolitan Area and Dane County

Moved by Golden, seconded by Opitz, to approve replacing Andrew Disch with Chad Lawler on the committee. Motion carried.


Schaefer said that staff is making progress on the long range plan. Work is mostly focused now on existing and future needs analysis, but for the transit and bicycle components work is further along due to previous studies and planning work. Cechvala provided a presentation showing the draft transit recommendations, including the bus rapid transit (BRT) system, new transit service, frequency improvements in central Madison, and a regional express commuter network.

Golden commented that it may be worth looking into where employees of Mendota Mental Health and the Central Wisconsin Center are living. A fast route could attract some use. Matano asked if Cross Plains was considered for the regional express network. Cechvala responded it is probably a bit too small, but worth thinking about. Opitz said that the USH 14 corridor is heavily traveled and there might be a park-and-ride possibility in Cross Plains. Gruber asked about the time frame for BRT. Cechvala said that the City of Madison is interested in moving forward on a first segment soon through a Small Starts grant. For expansion beyond the initial segment, it may depend on additional funding such as through a regional transit authority. Certainly the full system could be in place by 2050, if not before, if a dedicated transit funding source were in place and there was support for it.

Golden said he read an article recently about Uber replacing transit systems. Cechvala said that some agencies are looking to replace low-use routes with alternative transit concepts like point-deviation or shared-ride systems like Uber. It's a little bit unclear what kind of changes autonomous vehicles will bring. The transit experts in the industry today do not think that Uber and similar companies are really a threat to traditional transit with higher productivity because the cost per ride is too high. Golden said the paratransit vehicles could also be potentially used for public service when space is available.

Stocker said that Sun Prairie recently held a transportation summit and there is support for adding bus transit service in the near future. Cechvala said that he and Schaefer were at the summit and we will be keeping tabs on recommendations that come out of that planning effort. The barrier is mainly funding. Schaefer said that
Sun Prairie could seek expanded state operating funding, which is now used for the shared-ride system to cover bus service. At MPO staff’s urging, the city notified WisDOT of its intent to possibly apply for additional funding next year. Matano commented that the point-deviation route concept shown from the South Transfer Point to West Towne would be a good candidate for a small bus, and the concept could serve some of the communities that couldn’t support fixed route bus service. He commented that the support for transit in Sun Prairie was refreshing and in contrast to years ago during the Transport 2020 commuter rail planning process.

Golden said that he would like to see all-day bus service extended into McFarland. Opitz said he would like to see new bus service on the north side of Middleton and would send provide more detailed comments to staff.

10. Review Bicycle and Pedestrian Facility Needs Analysis for the Regional Transportation Plan 2050

Cechvala reviewed the pedestrian and bicycle facility needs analysis and recommendations for the long range plan.

Golden asked if a neighborhood sidewalks project would qualify for STP-Urban funding. Schaefer said yes, but it would need to cover a large area. In most cases, sidewalk improvements are completed as part of a street reconstruction project. Golden said the MPO should make this known to communities. Schaefer said that Madison and many other communities special assess adjacent properties for sidewalks, which makes such projects controversial, but some such as Sun Prairie do not.

11. Brief Update on Other Regional Transportation Plan 2050 Work Activities

Schaefer said staff is scheduling a second round of public meetings in mid-October with these maps and others materials to get more input from folks. Dates will be finalized this week but it looks like the Madison meeting will be on Thursday, October 13th and the other two meetings will be in Middleton and Fitchburg on Wednesday October 19th and Thursday October 20th.

[Note: At this point in the meeting, Stocker had to leave resulting in quorum being lost.]

12. Update on Project to Conduct Household Travel Mail Survey to Supplement the National Household Travel Survey

Deferred due to lack of quorum.

13. Status Report on Studies and Plans Involving the TPB

Deferred due to lack of quorum.

14. Discussion of Future Work Items

Deferred due to lack of quorum.

15. Announcements and Schedule of Future Meetings

The next meeting will be held Wednesday, October 5, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. at the Madison Water Utility Building, 119 E. Olin Ave., Room A-B.

16. Adjournment

Moved by King, seconded by Opitz, to adjourn. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.