

**Minutes of the Madison Area Transportation Planning Board
Citizen Advisory Committee**

September 18, 2007

Madison Municipal Bldg., Rm. LL-110

5:00 p.m.

1. Roll Call

Members Present: R. Ferrell, C. Gjerde, D. Phillips, J. Rider, R. Williams, C. Wittke

Members Absent: G. Banks, J. Guo

Staff Present: B. McDonald, B. Schaefer

Others Present: P. McDonnell

2. Status Report on MPO Board, County, and City of Madison Actions Related to Transport 2020 Project and Potential State Enabling Legislation for Regional Transportation Authorities (RTAs)

McDonald said that Dane County, the City of Madison, and the MPO had all passed resolutions of support for the “locally preferred alternative” (LPA) starter rail system and for state enabling legislation allowing creation of RTAs. The city and county resolutions were almost identical, except the city resolution added a reference to use of the potential new sales tax to reduce the property tax and eliminated the reference to commuter rail. McDonald said the MPO resolutions are longer and meant to be stand-alone documents, providing some of the history. The resolutions also indicate that the RTA should have strong coordination with the MPO, WisDOT, and Metro Transit, which could be stipulated in a cooperative agreement. The need for an amendment to the regional transportation plan is also mentioned. The rail project is only in the plan as a study at this time. Williams commented that the bus advocates group discussed a BRT alternative at their meeting the previous night. He said there was still much work to be done on the finance/governance issues. McDonald agreed, and said the study committee would need to be reconstituted with expanded representation to address those issues. Williams said he hoped the RTA legislation would provide flexibility on the RTA boundaries.

3. Review of Proposed Additions to the Draft 2008-2012 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Schaefer reviewed the major changes and additions to the draft TIP. The two changes to the STP Urban Priority Project listings are a new revised cost estimate for the first segment of Monona Drive and the deletion of the CTH CV project. The county decided to postpone that project. New WisDOT projects include additional ramp improvements on the Beltline and resurfacing of the Beltline from Old Sauk Road to Gammon Road. These and other programmed ramp improvement projects have come out of the first phase of the Beltline TSM/Interchanges Study. Also, intersection improvements are being constructed at the Hoepker Road and CTH CV intersections with USH 51, which have high crash rates. In response to a question, McDonald said WisDOT is looking at roundabouts at those intersections. A number of bridge projects were approved for Federal funding. Another new project is a WisDOT access study for USH 18/151 from Verona south.

4. Review of Draft Supplement to the Regional Transportation 2030 to Make Plan Fully Compliant with SAFETEA-LU

Schaefer distributed and reviewed the draft supplement, highlighting the most significant additions. He said the main component was a new environmental analysis section for the plan addressing the SAFETEA-LU requirements related to environmental consultation and identification of mitigation strategies and activities. For the environmental analysis, MPO staff developed a comprehensive resource inventory and created maps overlaying the major transportation projects and studies on maps

of the different agricultural, natural, and historic/cultural resources. Schaefer reviewed these maps. An environmental screening of all the capacity expansion projects was also done using the MPO GIS database. For the screening a buffer of 125 feet on either side of the roadway centerline was used, making for a 250-foot buffer. A table in the draft supplement shows those projects that have one or more of the selected resource features within this buffer area. The screening provides an early warning of projects for which impacts may need to be assessed further and mitigated. Generally, the two transportation corridors that traverse the most environmentally sensitive parts of the county are USH 14 and the North Mendota Parkway. No capacity expansion is planned for USH 14, while an environmental study is being conducted for the parkway. In addition, the intergovernmental agreement signed by all communities in the parkway corridor commits them to a number of actions that address potential land use impacts. None of the local arterial roadway projects are of a scale or nature that would result in major regional indirect and cumulative land use impacts. The USH 51 and I-39/90 projects could have some indirect impacts and WisDOT is or will be addressing the issue as part of the environmental studies. McDonald said the plan supplement would be sent out for review and comment and a public hearing. The MPO Board will probably act on it at its November meeting. Committee members were asked to review the document and provide comments to staff in the next few weeks. Ferrell and Phillips asked for color copies of the maps and staff said they would send the maps to them.

5. Brief Review of Draft 2008 MPO Unified Planning Work Program

McDonald explained the purpose of the work program and that the Federal funding the MPO receives is tied to the work activities outlined in the program. Federal and state funding covers about 82% of the MPO budget. The City of Madison is responsible for providing the 18% local share, but some other communities contribute as well. Williams commented that this is one of the things that should be covered by state legislation regarding MPOs. McDonald highlighted some of the major activities, including travel modeling work, assistance with area/corridor studies, updating of the Transit Development Program, assistance to Metro with an on-board survey, and ITS implementation.

6. Committee Member Reports

Williams mentioned the Madison Area Bus Advocates meeting at which a presentation on BRT was provided. The group is monitoring the RTA legislation. He also reported that the Amtrak budget has made it through the budget process intact so far.

7. Staff Reports

McDonald mentioned the future agenda items, including the Beltline TSM/Interchanges Study and the USH 51 EISs. Regarding the expansion of the committee, Williams suggested that advocacy groups such as 1,000 Friends of Wisconsin and the Madison Area Bus Advocates be represented on the committee.

8. Next Meeting Date

Schaefer said the usual 3rd Tuesday of the month was the week of Thanksgiving and suggested the 2nd Tuesday in November. It was agreed to meet then, so the next meeting will be November 13, 2007.

9. Adjournment

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

Minutes recorded by Bill Schaefer