

**Madison Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)**  
**September 6, 2006 Meeting Minutes**

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**1. Roll Call**

Members present: Eileen Bruskewitz, Corey Finkelmeyer, Ken Golden, David Kluesner, Al Matano, Chan Stroman, John Vesperman, Robbie Webber, Doug Zwank

Members absent: Lisa MacKinnon

Staff present: Bob McDonald, Bill Schaefer, Bob Pike

**2. Approval of the August 2, 2006 Meeting Minutes**

Moved by Webber, seconded by Kluesner, to approve August 2, 2006 meeting minutes. Motion carried.

**3. Communications**

- **Letter to Ken Golden, Chair of the MPO Board, from Federal Highway Administration regarding the 2005 Metropolitan Transportation Planning Certification Review of the Madison Area Metropolitan Planning Organization.**

McDonald said the final report was provided for informational purposes only at this time. FHWA staff could return at a future meeting to respond any questions or comments. Golden commented that he'd like to bring back the report on a future meeting agenda for the Board to discuss some of the issues raised, particularly the recommendation for the MPO to become more visible.

- **Letter to Todd Violante, Director, Dane County Department of Planning and Development, from Brad Murphy regarding comments on the Draft Intergovernmental Agreement for the North Mendota Parkway.**

- **Article from the Wisconsin State Journal regarding bicycle commuting.**

This item was included because MPO staff provided the information for the article and the MPO was referenced.

- **Email to Bob McDonald from Leslie Luttig, League of Women Voters, supporting the draft 2007-2011 TIP and the draft "Goals, Policy Objectives and Recommendations/ Implementation Strategies for the Regional Transportation Plan 2030.**

Presented for informational purposes. McDonald said the letter would be entered into the record for the plan.

- **Letter to MPO Directors and Transportation Planners from Sandy Beaupre, Bureau of Planning & Economic Development, regarding work program development.**

McDonald said the letter outlines items for MPOs to consider in preparing their 2007 work programs.

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

*None*

## **5. Public Hearing on Draft 2007-2011 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the Dane County Area**

McDonald said that tonight is the public hearing. The MPO will take public comments through September 15. Normally the board would review the comments and the proposed changes included in a correction/addition sheet and adopt the final TIP at the next meeting in October. However, the MPO cannot adopt the new TIP until the new regional transportation plan (RTP) is adopted. So action on the TIP will be delayed to the until the November meeting when it is expected that the RTP will be adopted as well. The public hearing on the RTP will be held at the board's October meeting.

Golden opened the public hearing. As there were no registrants to speak, Golden then closed the public hearing.

## **6. Review of Draft Summary of the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Update**

McDonald said a copy of the draft RTP 2030 summary was included in the mailing for the meeting. He said staff incorporated the comments that the Board made on the outline of the summary at the August meeting. Staff reviewed the summary with the Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) and the Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC), and a correction sheet has been prepared that incorporates the comments from TCC and CAC members. McDonald reviewed the proposed changes to the initial draft. A footnote would be added to the discussion of roadway level of service where it says somewhat higher congestion levels would be accepted during peak hours. The footnote says, "It is recognized that different standards of deficiency are used on certain arterial roadways like the Interstate and WisDOT's backbone system." WisDOT looks at more than just level of service. They look at pavement conditions, crash data, and other information. It also recognizes the desire to maintain a higher level of mobility, if possible, on routes serving inter-regional travel and freight needs. Also, WisDOT staff asked that the discussion of the traffic redirection concept be clarified to differentiate between the local arterial road system and the Beltline and Interstate systems. The plan concept is to seek to draw auto traffic to major travel corridors as a way to reduce the amount of through traffic penetrating central Madison neighborhoods and other neighborhoods in the region. WisDOT suggested clarifying the statement to say the plan seeks to "draw local through traffic to local arterial major travel corridors. . .", pointing out that maintaining mobility on key regional routes like the Interstate and Beltline system important to maintain inter-regional mobility and reduce the potential of inter-regional travel on the local arterial system. So we're differentiating between the different types of through traffic. Golden commented that a problem with that concept is that most local arterials are at or above capacity during peak periods. On the other hand, it is a useful strategy for off-peak periods. McDonald responded that directing traffic to the Beltline during peak periods isn't a good strategy either, since it is at capacity. The ramp metering and other TSM strategies will help some to smooth the traffic flow, but there isn't much else that can be done. McDonald said one more change on the correction sheet is to remove the fourth sentence on page 2 that says "When roadway improvements become necessary the plan recommends that they be designed to first meet existing and short-range traffic needs." He said this is redundant because the second sentence in that bullet says we will use traffic management solutions before we consider adding roadway capacity.

Golden asked if the City of Madison population projection in Table 5 included the towns that will be incorporated into the city. He suggested a note to clarify whether the population of these towns was included in the forecast or not. McDonald said the projection does not include those jurisdictions. He said that a footnote could be added to clarify that. Golden suggested referring to "structured parking facilities" in the last bullet on page 3. Golden also suggested separate bullets for specialized transportation services and ADA paratransit services, which address two different needs. This would bring additional attention to the need for services outside Metro's service area where paratransit service is not provided. That is where there is discretion in how much service to provide. Within Metro's service area, paratransit service is required, though it could be recommended that efforts continue to

provide service that goes beyond ADA requirements. Bruskevitz agreed that separating the two would be better. Webber commented that in many MPO documents we talk about providing mode choice, but she thinks we need to be a little more explicit sometimes. Specifically, she thinks we should say that communities should follow SAFETEA-LU, FHWA, and WisDOT guidelines to accommodate pedestrians and bicyclists across and along all new and reconstructed transportation corridors. The Federal and State guidelines are just that, guidelines, but she'd like to see the MPO adopt a policy that bicyclists and pedestrians will be accommodated. She said there isn't a roadway where you cannot accommodate bicyclists and pedestrians either along or across it. In the case of rural highways, it would be a paved shoulder. McDonald said the MPO's scoring criteria does provide higher points for roadways that incorporate those facilities. Webber said the reference to "across" the roadway is also important. Golden suggested eliminating some of the acronyms where possible. Discussion then ensued about the projections for increased commuting from adjacent counties. It was decided to add some language that increased telecommuting, higher fuel prices, changes in local housing cost and availability, and other factors could affect this forecast.

#### **7. Review of Draft Recommendations/Implementation Strategies of the Regional Transportation Plan Update**

McDonald said that at the last meeting a partial list of recommendations and implementation strategies was provided. We now we have a full list. Staff reviewed these with the TCC and CAC and their suggestions and comments have been incorporated into the draft distributed to the board. Staff would like the board's approval to send out the draft recommendations along with the plan summary. Webber commented that she would like the same statement about accommodating bicyclists and pedestrians as part of new and reconstructed roadways added as a new Policy Objective #9 under Streets/Roadways. Golden suggested adding a reference to regional funding in #12 Intergovernmental Coordination of the Policy Objectives on page 2. He also suggested adding "higher density" to "mixed-use, pedestrian-friendly employment/activity centers" in #3 on page 3 under Policy Objectives for Land Use and Transportation System Coordination. Lastly, he recommended clarifying the meaning of "sensitive areas in #6 under the Policy Objectives for Streets/Roadways on page 4.

Moved by Matano, seconded by Webber, to approve the draft Goals, Policy Objectives, and Recommendations/Implementation Strategies for release to the public with the changes suggested. Motion carried.

#### **8. Report on the Public Information Meeting Schedule and Public Hearing on the Draft Regional Transportation Plan Update**

McDonald said he included with the board's packets a schedule of the next round of public meetings, along with a flyer announcing those meetings. He said two public information meetings had been set up, one at Warner Park on 9/19 and the other at the Middleton library on 9/27. The public hearing will be at the next MPO Board meeting on 10/4, at Monona Terrace. Golden said he thought it would be nice if we had some board members at the informational meetings. McDonald said he would send out a note asking for volunteers.

#### **9. Review and Recommendation of Proposed Draft 2007 MPO Budget**

McDonald said the budget looks almost identical to last year's budget. About the only costs going up are those for salaries and benefits. Software expenses went up a little bit because of the new Ride Pro Program for providing Web-based rideshare matching. Property rental actually went down with the signing of a new three-year lease. Also, "Other services general" is somewhat higher because of the work we will be doing for the City of Madison in the review of TDM plans. There is an offsetting revenue for that cost as the City Parking Utility will be providing funding for our services.

Moved by Bruskevitz, seconded by Finkelmeyer, to endorse the budget. Motion carried.

**10. Status Report by MPO Board Members on Projects Potentially Involving the MPO:**

- **Transport 2020 Implementation Task Force**  
(Meeting that evening.)
- **USH 51 (USH 12/18 to I 90/94/39) Corridor Study**  
(Meeting on 8/17, Environmental issues. Finkelmeyer will attend October meeting.)
- **North Mendota Parkway Implementation Oversight Committee**  
Bruskevitz said that the resolution for the intergovernmental agreement passed the County Board. They have appointed a committee to put together the RFP for the environmental study, which is the next step.
- **USH 51 (McFarland to Stoughton)**  
Matano said there was nothing to report.

**11. Discussion of Future Work Items**

- **Development of Final Recommendations for the Regional Transportation Plan 2030 Update**  
McDonald said these would be based on public comments received in the next month.
- **Public Hearing on the Draft 2007-2011 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**  
McDonald commented that the plan needed to be approved in order to approve TIP.
- **Preparation of the Draft Unified Planning Work Program**  
McDonald said he would be bringing a draft of the work program to the November meeting.

**12. Announcements and Schedule of Future Meetings**

*None*

**13. Adjournment**