Minutes of the Madison Area Transportation Planning Board
Citizen Advisory Committee

September 16, 2008  Madison Municipal Building, Room LL-110  5:00 p.m.

1. Roll Call

Members Present:  G. Hull, J. Rider, T. Stoebig, R. Williams
Staff Present:  B. Schaefer, R. McDonald

A quorum of the committee was not present, so those present met as a subcommittee.

2. Review and Recommendation on Draft 2009-2013 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Schaefer reviewed the more significant projects included in the Addition/Correction sheet for the draft TIP. He said most of the changes were minor and many involved locally funded City of Madison projects. The listings for the Badger State Trail resurfacing and West Branch Starkweather Creek Path Phase II projects will be revised to reflect that the Federal funding is now programmed. He said the official announcement for the SMIP/TE projects is expected soon. Construction of the Pheasant Branch (Main) Creek Trail enhancements project was delayed, and therefore needs to be added back to the TIP. The City of Madison has added a locally funded project to reconstruct S. Point Road (Valley View to Mineral Point Rd.) in 2013. It will be an important future north-south collector street on the west side. Schaefer said a few additional additions/changes are expected to be received from WisDOT.

Stoebig moved, Williams seconded, to recommend approval of the draft TIP with the changes. Motion carried.

3. Presentation on the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy (RTC) 2010 Active Transportation Campaign and the Madison Area Case Statement

Schaefer provided some background information on the campaign. He said the Rails-To-Trails Conservancy (RTC) is a national organization promoting trail projects and bicycling and walking in general. RTC helped get the Local Transportation Enhancements Program created as part of the landmark ISTEA legislation adopted in 1991. In the most recent federal surface transportation reauthorization bill, SAFETEA-LU, RTC was able to get included a Non-Motorized Pilot Program that has provided four areas, including Sheboygan, with $25 million for pedestrian/bicycle projects. RTC is interested in expanding this program in the next reauthorization bill in 2010 to include funding for up to fifty metropolitan areas. Their goal is to get $50 million for each area. The purpose of the program is to demonstrate the impact of such a targeted, major investment in bicycle/pedestrian projects and programs on mode share for walking and bicycling. RTC has approached these fifty areas and asked each to put together a “case statement” that shows how the $50 million would be spent and the expected benefits of such an investment. RTC is compiling these case statements into a national case statement that will be used to advocate for the program. That national case statement is being released on October 20. Schaefer said it was probably a long shot that the program would be included in the next reauthorization bill, at least at the funding level RTC is hoping for. However, staff felt like this was an opportunity we couldn’t pass on. The Policy Board agreed and endorsed the MPO’s participation in the campaign. Even if the RTC campaign does not go anywhere, the case statement is a useful document for planning purposes and for making the case for increased investment in bicycle/pedestrian projects and programs. Some committee members had asked
whether there was a prioritized list of bicycle projects following the process of scoring and ranking the Transportation Enhancement (TE)/SMIP applications. The case statement answers that question.

Schaefer reviewed the bikeway plan map in the case statement, which highlights key missing segments. He said the case statement includes a table that lists, prioritizes (1,2,3), and has a cost estimate for the higher priority projects. He reviewed the eight projects that are highlighted as candidates for funding in the first two years. These are projects for which some initial engineering analysis has been done and which could be ready for construction right away if we received the funding. He emphasized that should the Madison area receive funding, the MPO would go through a process similar to the one now for TE/SMIP projects where they are scored and ranked. Schaefer said the case statement would need to be revised to reflect the fact that the Badger State Trail and Starkweather Creek Path/Aberg Ave.Overpass projects will receive TE funding. Also, staff plan to make some editing changes to make the case statement a little less City of Madison focused and emphasize the need for more school- and business-based education programs. Williams suggested mentioning Pacific Cycle as another local bicycle business. Rider said he strongly supported adding educational programs to the list of projects and emphasizing the need for such programs in the document. He also commented on the number and importance of park-and-bike trips in the downtown area.


McDonald said that staff had upgraded the graphics and layout of the 2009 work plan to make it more interesting and readable. This included, for example, aerial photos of roadway corridors being studied. He reviewed the summary of activities on pages 1-2. Much of the planned work is a continuation of current projects such as providing assistance on ongoing corridor studies, which he mentioned. Activities related to the long-range plan include tracking implementation, monitoring certain performance measures, and further developing the MPO’s Congestion Management process. Staff will be working to update its traffic analysis zone boundaries in anticipation of the next decennial Census. ITS related work includes providing assistance on WisDOT’s update of the Southwest Region ITS Plan and serving a coordination function for the different agencies involved in implementing ITS projects. The updated transit development plan would be completed next year. U.S. DOT would be conducting its certification review of the MPO next year. Staff will continue to provide assistance in implementing the bicycle transportation plan. Staff will also continue to provide assistance to CARPC, including conducting transportation analyses for urban service area amendment applications. Williams asked if the issue of adopting legislation providing state statutory authority and funding for MPOs had been raised. McDonald said no.

5. **Review of Charge of the MPO Citizen Advisory Committee and Interaction with the MPO Board**

McDonald said a copy of the current charge of the committee and an outline of suggested changes by Williams was at members’ places. However, he suggested deferring discussion of this item until the next meeting. It was agreed to do so. Williams did mention a couple of his ideas, including providing contact information for the committee and Board on the MPO’s website and having committee members document their transportation interests.

6. **Committee Member Reports**

Williams announced an upcoming meeting of the Madison Area Bus Advocates.
7. **Staff Reports and Announcements**
   Schaefer mentioned that staff were in the process of completing a coordinated public transit – human services transportation plan for Dane County, and would make a presentation on the plan at the next meeting. He also noted the list of future agenda items, including the Verona Road/West Beltline Study.

8. **Next Meeting Dates**
   November 18, 2008
   January 20, 2009

9. **Adjournment**
   The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

*Minutes recorded by Bill Schaefer*