

**Minutes of the Madison Area Metropolitan Planning Organization
Citizen Advisory Committee**

April 18, 2006

Madison Municipal Bldg., Rm. LL-110

5:00 p.m.

1. Roll Call

Members Present: L. Luttig, K. Jamison (for B. Jamison), J. Rider, J. Guo, R. Williams

Members Absent: G. Banks, D. Phillips, T. Wilson, C. Wittke

Others Present: B. Schaefer

2. Review of Draft Bicycle Section of the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Update

Schaefer explained that this was a draft of the background section on bicycle transportation for RTP update, which provides information on current bicycling conditions and bicycle travel, existing bicycle policies, and identifies key issues. He said the Madison Area MPO prepared a comprehensive bicycle transportation plan in 2000 and handed out summaries of the plan. Much of the information in this draft section of the RTP is taken from that plan. The information on bicycle travel and bicycle facilities has been updated to reflect data available from the 2000 Census, 2001 Dane County add-on to the National Household Transportation Survey (NHTS), 2005 UW-Madison Transportation Survey, and bicycle path count and bicycle crash data collected by the City of Madison. He noted that a limiting factor in analyzing the crash data is the lack of data on bicycle travel, making it impossible to determine crash rates. Rider said this is a major issue that has been discussed on the national bicycle listservs that he subscribes to. Schaefer said WisDOT is completing a statewide safety study, which attempts to estimate bicycle use and calculate crash rates. It found that the bicyclist/ motorist crash rate in Dane County is much lower than other areas of the state. Schaefer noted that the MPO's criteria for selecting projects to be funded with Federal STP-Urban funds favors multi-modal projects and has resulted in bike lanes being included as part of virtually all roadway projects funded since the mid-1990s. The MPO also has criteria for scoring and ranking project applications for Federal Transportation Enhancement Program funds. The criteria favor bicycle projects that improve mobility for transportation purposes. He said he would get into a bit more as part of agenda item #4.

3. Review of Draft Regional Bikeway System Map and West Side Bicycle Plan Map

Schaefer first reviewed the draft regional bikeway system map. As part of RTP update, the MPO is updating the countywide bikeway system plan prepared in 2000. The "bikeway" system is essentially a bike route system along with existing/proposed off-street paths that may or may not be on the route system. The map identifies more "routes" than would probably actually be signed as part of a designated route system, but we wanted to highlight important connections. Schaefer said a complete updated bicycle facilities plan with recommendations for on-street bicycle lanes would not be done, but rather would be done later when the bicycle plan is updated. This part of the bicycle plan isn't as crucial; since bike lanes are added generally only as part of roadway reconstruction (or resurfacing, for roads with rural cross-section) and the decision can be made at the time of project development based on policies in the current bike plan. The updated plan incorporates detailed planning done in the last five years. It also identifies a "regional" bikeway system providing important connections through the Madison urban area and between communities, providing access to major destinations such as employment centers, shopping areas, schools, and parks. Schaefer then highlighted some of the important planned projects on the regional system. Williams and Rider recommended that important landmarks such as parks and PnR lots be added to the map.

Schaefer then reviewed the draft West Side Bicycle Plan, which MPO and City of Madison staff prepared. The plan pieces together the bicycle recommendations of the neighborhood plans on the West side, plans of surrounding communities, and identifies other important connections to improve bicycle circulation. He

said the plan identifies important issues and problem areas that need to be addressed as developments are reviewed. He also showed a map with slopes overlaid on the bikeway plan. Steep slopes in some areas limit the locations where street or path connections can be made.

4. Review Federal Transportation Enhancement (TE) Program Applications for Projects in the Madison Urban Area

Schaefer said the Local TE program was the major source of funding for large bicycle path projects. Applications were just submitted for the Fiscal Years (FYs) 2008-2009 funding cycle. WisDOT creates a statewide committee to review the applications and approve projects for funding. However, within MPO planning areas, MPOs are asked to prioritize project applications. The state committee considers the MPO rankings in making its decisions on which projects are funded. Schaefer said MPO staff is in the process of getting copies and reviewing the applications. He distributed the criteria the MPO uses to score and rank the projects and reviewed the project applications MPO staff had received. He said he would send out to committee members the draft scoring and ranking and priority listing of projects so that persons could comment on the project rankings if they wished. MPO staff would then forward those comments on to the MPO Board, which will be taking action on the project rankings at its May 3 meeting.

5. Staff Reports

Item deferred.

6. Next Meeting Dates

- May 16
- June 20

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Bill Schaefer