

**Minutes of the
Madison Area Transportation Planning Board
Technical Coordinating Committee**

September 23, 2009

Fitchburg City Hall Conference Room

2:00 p.m.

1. Roll Call

Members Present: Beaupre, Coville, Ginder, Hoelker, Pena (for McComb), Murphy, Phillips, Sylvester, Vela, Woodard

Members Absent: Beck, K. Clark, R. Clark, Dryer, Dunphy, Even, Kennedy, Kirchner, Kugler, Scheel, Wheeler, Violante

Others Present: McDonald, Schaefer, D. Paoni, R. Anderson

2. Approval of July 22, 2009 Meeting Minutes

Sylvester moved, Ginder seconded, to approve the July 22 meeting minutes. Motion carried.

3. Election of Committee Chair

Ginder moved, Vela seconded, to nominate Woodard as Chair. There were no other nominations. Motion carried.

4. Review and Recommendation on Draft 2010-2014 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Schaefer said that an addition/correction sheet was included in the meeting packet. He said the changes are almost all minor involving small changes in the cost or timing of projects. Many of the project changes or additions are for locally funded City of Madison projects. He reviewed three changes involving federally funded projects. Construction of the Badger State Trail surfacing project is being moved up a year to 2010. Metro is amending their Section 5307 ARRA grant to include close to \$1 million for operating assistance next year. FTA recently issued guidance indicating that transit agencies could use up to 10% of their ARRA grants for operating assistance. Schaefer said that WisDOT approved an additional \$60,000+ in STP-Urban ARRA funding for the Madison area, so there is enough funding to cover 100% of the estimated cost of the City of Verona's Nine Mound Road reconstruction project. Schaefer said there were no proposed changes to the draft STP-Urban priority project listings.

Moved by Sylvester, seconded by Vela, to recommend approval of the draft 2010-2014 TIP with the changes listed in the addition/correction sheet. Motion carried.

5. Update on Status of Discussions Regarding Creation of a Regional Transit Authority (RTA) in Dane County

McDonald handed out a letter sent out to all elected local officials in the county. It is an invitation to an informational meeting on the RTA law scheduled for Saturday, September 26. The letter was on MPO letterhead, but was sent out by the county because they had the mailing labels. The guest speakers include Paul Larrousse from the National Transit Institute and Scott Grosz, an attorney with the Legislative Council who helped draft the RTA legislation. McDonald said the MPO Policy Board had expressed a desire to become involved in the discussions regarding creation of an RTA. Board Chair Al Matano had met with County Executive Falk and it was decided to have the MPO assist in organizing this informational meeting. Paoni commented that there might be quorum issues with the MPO Board or other local city councils. McDonald said he would post the meeting and note that a quorum of the Board might be present. McDonald said discussions regarding other issues are going on behind the scenes. One issue is whether to create the RTA now or wait until after the referendum is held. If the

RTA is created now, it would have no funding or staff. One argument for creating the RTA now is that the RTA could then hold the referendum and have it apply only within the MPO planning area, which is the RTA service area. If the county held the referendum, it would have to apply countywide.

Sylvester commented that the MPO should be involved with the RTA if it is created. McDonald agreed and said the MPO would likely enter into an interagency agreement similar to the one it now has with Metro Transit and WisDOT spelling out each agency's planning responsibilities. Murphy asked if the RTA boundary would change if the MPO planning area boundary changed after the next census, and McDonald indicated that he did not think it would change.

6. Review of Transit Development Plan Update Materials

Schaefer said a staff review group has been set up to guide development of the plan. The group has been expanded to include additional staff from some of the suburban communities. This was done after it was decided to add to the scope of the planning effort development of service and financial scenarios should an RTA be created with additional funding. Schaefer then reviewed the materials that had been sent out in the packet. He said the review group hadn't yet reviewed all of the documents. The first document was draft transit goals and service design guidelines and performance standards. He said the document expands upon the existing design guidelines and performance standards Metro uses. The second document was draft criteria for evaluating potential bus service improvements. Schaefer said the review group had reviewed the criteria and approved them as a draft. Schaefer said he compared existing Metro transit service to the draft design guidelines. The third document outlines areas where the existing service doesn't fully meet the guidelines in terms of service coverage, frequency and/or span or travel time. Schaefer also reviewed some Census data he put together on commuting to the central Madison area and estimates of potential bus ridership for express bus service from suburban communities to the central Madison area. Schaefer asked committee members to send him any comments they might have on the materials.

7. Committee Member Reports

Woodard reported that the bid for the Badger State Trail surfacing project would go out later this year and construction is expected to start in early 2010.

Phillips said staff was working with WisDOT staff on the ARRA (economic stimulus) projects, trying to get the environmental documents completed and letting done within the required time frame.

Vela reported that the state contract work for Monona Drive would be completed in October with some utility work likely after that. The road would then be converted back to four lanes for the winter. Work would then be resumed in the spring.

Ginder said his staff was also working on its stimulus project. He said there weren't many other projects for next year due to the budget situation.

Sylvester said Verona staff was also working on its stimulus project.

8. Staff Reports

McDonald said the MPO resolution approving the amendment to the regional transportation plan for the interim Verona Road/West Beltline improvements was at member's places. A financial table was attached along with exhibits illustrating the roadway and pedestrian/bicycle improvements. A 30-day notice was issued prior to the public hearing and the Board approved the amendment the same night. He noted that it was the first time a plan amendment for a project had been done and the process used would serve as a template for any future such amendments. He pointed out that the draft work program was at member's places for review. Schaefer mentioned that staff was working on enhancements to its congestion management process. FHWA staff said the MPO was not fully meeting all of the federal

requirements during the MPO's certification review. MPO staff had just met with City of Madison Traffic Engineering staff on the subject. He said MPO staff would also be setting up a sub-committee of the TCC to oversee the process and also deal with ITS issues.

9. Next Meeting Dates

The next meeting dates are October 28 and November 18.

10. Adjournment

Moved by Ginder, seconded by Vela, to adjourn. Motion carried.

Minutes recorded by Bill Schaefer