

Madison Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
January 7, 2004 Meeting Minutes

1. Roll Call

Members present: Dave Phillips, Robbie Webber, Bob Dye, Rose Phetteplace, Al Matano,
John Volker, Ken Golden
Members absent: Kris Euclide, Eileen Bruskewitz, Lisa MacKinnon, David Hart
Staff present: Bob McDonald, Bill Schaefer, Deb DeDecker, Bob Pike, Dan Seidensticker

2. Approval of December 3, 2003 Meeting Minutes

Moved by Webber, seconded by Phillips, to approve December 3, 2003 meeting minutes. Motion carried.

3. Communications

- Letter from Bill Lane, Dane County RPC, to Kathleen Falk, Dave Cieslewicz, and Ken Golden, regarding the future of areawide comprehensive planning in Dane County.
- Memo from the City of Madison Pedestrian-Bicycle-Motor Vehicle Commission to the City Plan Commission requesting that the MPO assist in updating the bicycle transportation plan for selected corridors on the East side of Madison.

McDonald indicated that MPO staff would put together a staff team that also included representatives from bicycle advocacy groups, and start the planning process in the spring. Webber noted that the impetus for the study was a need to map bicycle corridors to provide inter-neighborhood connections and overcome barriers such as the interstate system. Matano expressed interest in participating in the plan process in some fashion.

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

None

5. Public Hearing

- **Proposed Public Participation Procedures in the Regional Transportation Plan Process and the Transportation Improvement Program Process for the Madison Metropolitan Planning Area**

McDonald said two comments had been received on the draft report thus far. The first was an editorial comment that the TCC member list needed to be changed to reflect the retirement of a TCC member. The second was from Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) staff, requesting that the MPO delay action on the item to allow them more time to review the procedures, particularly in regards to efforts to reach out to minority and low-income persons. McDonald highlighted some of the goals and the specific program components. He mentioned the need to form a citizen advisory committee for the long-range plan update. Golden questioned the definition of “under-represented” and asked for FHWA’s interpretation of the term. He suggested including as a specific strategy holding “outreach” MPO Board meetings in surrounding communities with an agenda item to discuss local land use/transportation issues and concerns, as has been discussed. McDonald said that FHWA had asked for more specific language regarding what would constitute a “major” amendment to the TIP, necessitating notice and a public hearing. McDonald outlined the three phases of the regional transportation plan update process. The first includes preparation of background materials identifying problems and deficiencies, and developing goals and objectives. The second consists of developing and evaluating two or three different land-use scenarios and transportation improvements for them. The third phase consists of preparation of the draft plan based on comments received on the land-use and transportation alternatives. McDonald said one of the alternatives would be “adopted local plans.” MPO staff has almost finished preparing a composite land use plan map with all the local plans.

Golden asked how consistency issues would be dealt with between the land-use plans. McDonald said that was an important issue to be discussed at the joint MPO/RPC meeting.

Royce Williams, 2437 Fox Ave., commended the MPO's Web site and added that he'd like to have more up-to-date meeting minutes posted. He said he'd like to see more information included about the communities in the MPO planning area. He also suggested that only persons residing in the MPO planning area be appointed to the citizen advisory committee. McDonald said only approved minutes were posted. Discussion followed, and it was decided that unapproved minutes would be posted and shown as "subject to MPO Board approval." MPO staff will send the Board members the draft minutes when they are posted. If there are any concerns, members will contact McDonald and that portion of the draft minutes will be removed.

6. **Consideration of Resolution MPO No. 38 Approving the Public Participation Procedures in the Regional Transportation Plan Process and the Transportation Improvement Program Process**
Motion by Webber, seconded by Dye, to refer Resolution MPO No. 38 Approving the Public Participation Procedures in the Regional Transportation Plan Process and the Transportation Improvement Program Process to the next meeting. Motion carried.

7. **Consideration of Resolution MPO No. 39 Amendment #2 to the 2004-2008 Transportation Improvement Program for the Dane County Area.**

- **Request by WisDOT District One to delay the pavement replacement project for USH 151 (Main Street to north of Columbus Street) from 2006 to 2015 and to add a project to resurface USH 151 (Main Street to CTH VV) in 2008**

Schaefer said that WisDOT District 1 requested the amendment. There was insufficient funding under the State Backbone Highways program to fund the USH 151 pavement replacement project.

Therefore, WisDOT is proposing to resurface the roadway in order to extend the life of the pavement and postpone the pavement replacement until 2015 or later. The resurfacing project would extend a little further north to CTH VV. Because of the change in the scope of the project, FHWA advised that a TIP amendment should be approved.

Motion by Phillips, seconded by Webber, to approve Resolution MPO No. 39 Amendment #2 to the 2004-2008 Transportation Improvement Program for the Dane County Area. Motion carried.

8. **Presentation on Draft Findings and Transit Service Needs Assessment for the Transit Development Program (TDP) Update**

Schaefer presented the Summary of Findings, which outlines and analyzes important data and trends to be considered in planning for improvements to the transit system. It covers land use, demographic, and travel trends; the Metro Transfer Point System; Metro Fixed-Route Service; Metro Fixed-Route Ridership and Performance; Other Madison Metropolitan Area Transit Services; Metro Fixed-Route Transit Service Operating Cost, Funding and Fares; Metro Paratransit Service; Service Planning and Coordination; and Marketing/Customer Service and Information. He said a theme of the demographic data was that there were transit dependent population groups located throughout the Madison Metropolitan area. He reviewed maps showing employment density and concentrations of college students, low-income households, and persons with a disability. Golden pointed out the likely correlation with locations of rental housing. Schaefer also showed a map of vehicle ownership by small area. The high vehicle ownership levels present a major challenge in attracting bus riders. Schaefer then presented maps showing bus travel times to the Capitol Square, noting that one of the major weaknesses of the current bus system was the lack of express service. It was pointed out that work and school trips continue to account for the vast majority (82%) of weekday transit trips.

Schaefer then presented the Transit Service Needs Assessment, which outlines short- and longer-term improvements needed for the fixed-route transit system by type of service. He pointed out developing residential neighborhoods in need of service, such as the Cross Country and High Point-Raymond

neighborhoods on the Southwest side and the Sprecher and Marsh neighborhoods on the East side. Service to the Marsh neighborhood would only be feasible in the near future if the Village of McFarland was interested in contracting for service. Off-peak service to several South side neighborhoods with concentrations of transit dependent persons, needed to be improved. Service has been cut back in recent years at the request of the Town of Madison and City of Fitchburg. Corridors that need improved service include University Avenue west of Capital Avenue, Mineral Point Road, Regent Street, and Park Street. In terms of downtown/UW campus service, more routes penetrating central campus from the West and South sides and express service are the primary needs. A number of peripheral employment centers have little or no service. The idea of a north-south circulator for all of the employment centers on the West side of the Beltline was something that has been discussed.

Schaefer said draft recommendations are being developed and will be presented to the Board at a future meeting along with a complete draft report.

9. Status Report by MPO Board Members on Projects Potentially Involving the MPO

- **North Mendota Parkway Study:** McDonald said he talked with Todd Violante, who told him the consultant has finished the final report. A resolution will be introduced to the County Board soon to approve the study report and recommendations, and begin the implementation process.
- **USH 51 (McFarland to Stoughton) Needs Study:** Matano said there were three public information meetings. They are near the completion of the problem-identification stage and the issue isn't so much capacity as it is access problems. McDonald added that a draft report was near completion.
- **I-39/90 Study:** McDonald said there was nothing new to report due to the fact that several meetings had been cancelled.

10. Discussion of Future Work Items

- Joint meeting with RPC
- Overview of federal planning regulations
- TDP
- Regional transportation plan update materials, including information and analysis on commuting travel trends

11. Announcements and Schedule of Future Meetings

February 4, at 6 p.m., City-County Building, 210 ML King Jr. Blvd., in Courtroom 2-D.

12. Adjournment

Golden adjourned meeting at 8:05 p.m.