



La Crosse Area Planning Committee

Metropolitan Planning Organization

Serving the La Crosse/La Crescent Urbanized Area

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Minutes of the Committee on Transit and Active Transportation, May 11, 2023, Meeting

Minutes of the meeting of the CTAT held in-person and as a virtual meeting on Teams on Wednesday, May 11, 2023, at 3:00 pm.

Members Present: Bridget Brown, Cathy Van Maren, Jim Longhurst, Sandy Sechrest, Jim Krueger, Kurt Wayne, Jackie Eastwood, and Jenna Dinkel. **Staff and Others Present:** Voni Vegar, Klara Grochulska, Peter Fletcher, and Erin Duffer.

Peter Fletcher called the meeting to order at 3:02 pm.

1) Approval of minutes of the November 10, 2022, CTAT Meeting:

Jenna Dinkel motioned to approve the minutes of the November 10, 2022, meeting; Bridget Brown seconded. All were in favor.

2) Introduction of new LAPC Transportation Planner:

Peter Fletcher introduced Erin Duffer as the new MPO Transportation Planner. She will be replacing Jackie Eastwood upon her retirement at the end of the year.

3) Honoring Bob Fisher for his service to the LAPC:

Peter Fletcher presented a dedicatory plaque that will be given to Bob Fisher's wife, commemorating his passion, hard work and dedication to LAPC over the years. Bob Fisher passed away in February of this year.

4) Update on TAP solicitation:

Peter Fletcher shared Wisconsin Transportation Alternatives Program solicitation is tentatively scheduled to be announced beginning of June. Funding is proposed for sidewalks, trails, etc. Peter explained that applications within the Metropolitan Planning Area will have to be prioritized. Funding for this new program will be on a two (2)-year cycle with the next opportunity in 2025.

5) Update on Carbon Reduction Program:

Peter Fletcher provided a background of the Carbon Reduction Program. Peter stated that the MPO was allocated certain funding on both the Minnesota and Wisconsin sides, however criteria differed between the states. On the Minnesota side, LAPC, the City of La Crescent, and state and federal agencies are currently in coordination processes for the City of La Crescent to receive \$12,000 a year for the next five (5) years to replace their current police cruiser with a leased, fully electric powered vehicle. On the Wisconsin side, the MPO was allocated \$260,000, however the funding is limited to three (3) criteria areas – and no applications were submitted from MPO communities. Peter said his understanding is that the funding then goes back to the State of Wisconsin.

Cathy Van Maren asked if the three (3) criteria areas will be the same next year, is it possible to get a project prepared for the next cycle. Peter stated that the criteria areas for funding next year may increase to allow for opportunities for projects, but the MPO can share with communities the current criteria so they can be prepared for the next solicitation.

6) Update on Census Urban Area (UA) delineations:

Peter Fletcher shared a map of the UA with comparisons of the 2010 Census designation, the 2020 Census designation, and the LAPC Metropolitan Planning Area. Peter explained how the MPO is currently in the process of looking at adjustments to the UA. The adjustment could be larger than the current designation but cannot be smaller. Prior to the 2020 designation, the Census updated their definitions and criteria of the UA. Previously the Village of West Salem was part of the UA, now in the 2020 designation they are not included UA but are still part of the

Metropolitan Planning Area. Furthermore, the UA was decreased approximately nine (9) square miles and a population loss of approximately 2,000. Peter expressed it is a potential that future public transit funding may be impacted, but since this is in the beginning phases it is hard to predict and there is no immediate impact to transit funding for existing services.

7) Other updates and information items:

Cathy Van Maren provided an update on the City of La Crosse's [Climate Action Plan](#), which was approved in 2022 and now in the implementation phases. Cathy said that one of the major goals is to reduce carbon emissions by 50% by 2030 and be net zero by 2050. Since a large portion of the plan is based on transportation and mobility, Cathy expressed that she hopes the City of La Crosse and LAPC will work together to achieve those goals.

Jackie Eastwood shared information about next week's [webinar all about the Community Transportation Academy](#), hosted by [1,000 Friends of Wisconsin](#). The webinar will be May 17, 2023, from 12pm to 1pm. The course instructor Susan Gaeddert will share an overview of the Academy, how it works, and some students will present their final project.

Jenna Dinkel encouraged the Committee to review and provide comments on the draft chapters for the City of La Crosse's Comprehensive Plan update – [Forward La Crosse](#), especially the transportation section.

8) Future agenda items:

No future agenda items were provided at this time.

9) Adjourn; Next meeting TBA:

Sandy Sechrest motioned to adjourn at 3:33 pm; Cathy Van Maren seconded. All were in favor.