



La Crosse Area Planning Committee

Metropolitan Planning Organization

Serving the La Crosse/La Crescent Urbanized Area

Peter Fletcher, Director Jackie Eastwood, Transportation Planner
La Crosse County Administrative Center

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Minutes of Committee on Transit and Active Transportation, May 12, 2022 Meeting

Minutes of the meeting of the CTAT held in-person and as a virtual meeting on Teams on Thursday, May 12, 2022 at 3:00 pm.

Members Present: Sandy Sechrest, Kurt Wayne, Cathy Van Maren, Rick Diermeier, Jim Longhurst, Krista Heinz, Bob Fisher. **Members Excused:** Jim Krueger, Carolyn Dvorak. **Staff and Others Present:** Peter Fletcher, Jackie Eastwood.

Peter Fletcher called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm.

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

Sandy Sechrest motioned to approve the minutes of the March 10, 2022 meeting; Rick Diermeier seconded. All were in favor.

2) Second round of Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) funding:

Peter Fletcher stated that the CTAT ranked the TAP projects at its March meeting. The ranked list was submitted to WisDOT, which is still going through the State ranking process. WisDOT has added another solicitation for TAP in response to the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). Because this solicitation has a short turnaround, WisDOT is only accepting applications for SRTS and other plans—no construction. The applications for this round are due June 3, 2022. If we receive more than one application, we'll need a June meeting to rank the projects. WisDOT will have an annual solicitation, with 2023's coming in August.

Cathy Van Maren and Jim Longhurst questioned about other non-infrastructure activities to which Peter replied that the TAP webinar scheduled for Wednesday, May 18, will provide more detail. WisDOT has the ultimate say.

3) Other funding opportunities for bicycle, pedestrian, and transit infrastructure:

Peter Fletcher provided highlights of the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A), TAP (which was previously discussed), Carbon Reduction Program (CRP), and Reconnecting Communities Pilot (RCP). The CRP is underway, but little is known of the SS4A and the RCP until their respective Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) is published.

4) Update of the LAPC Public Participation Plan:

Jackie Eastwood summarized the changes to the Public Participation Plan (PPP), which was last updated in 2019. In response to comments by Cathy Van Maren, Jackie explained that the LAPC is a small government agency where La Crosse County serves as our third-party fiscal agent. With less than 50 employees and having no ownership of facilities, we are only required to ensure our information, policies, plans, and programs are accessible to persons with disabilities. Jim Longhurst commented on our lack of use of social media to which Jackie responded that LAPC staff developed a social media plan last year, but because we are administered by La Crosse County and the County has policies against the independent use of social media, we have only been able to post content through the County's social media.

Other concerns had to do with our reliance on distribution lists and how we invite new people into the process. Rick Diermeier suggested we develop an FAQ and seek out specialty groups. Cathy Van Maren asked that we use simple language and avoid jargon if possible.

5) Other updates and information items:

Peter Fletcher announced that the TCMC second train project is moving ahead. The second train could be operational as soon as this fall because the project is running ahead of schedule. If not this fall, the project will be implemented in 2023.

Jim Longhurst announced a 1,000 Friends of Wisconsin webinar. Cathy Van Maren announced the annual WTRA meeting at which Peter Fletcher will present. She also announced that MTU will be holding an event at the La Crosse Center to roll out its first—and the first in Wisconsin—electric bus.

6) Future agenda items:

Peter Fletcher stated we may have a June meeting to rank TAP projects if more than one is submitted.

7) Adjourn; Next meeting TBA:

Rick Diermeier motioned to adjourn at 4:01 pm; Sandy Sechrest seconded. All were in favor.