



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
212 6th Street North ☐ Room 1200 ☐ La Crosse, WI 54601-1200
PH: 608.785.5977 Website: www.lapc.org

LA CROSSE AREA PLANNING COMMITTEE

Minutes of May 20, 2020

Held via Skype

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Patrick Barlow, Martin Gaul, Dennis Manthei, Tim Candahl, Kim Smith
MEMBERS EXCUSED:	Mike Poellinger, Monica Kruse, Linda Seidel, Rolly Bogert, Terry Schaller
OTHERS PRESENT:	Steve O'Malley, Peter Fletcher, Jackie Eastwood, Francis Schelfhout, Jack Zabrowski, Tim Acklin, Megan Neeck, Terri Pavlic

CALL TO ORDER

Patrick Barlow chaired the meeting in Mike Poellinger's absence. The meeting was called to order at 4:38 p.m. and roll call was taken. Five members were present via Skype and a quorum was called.

PUBLIC COMMENT: There was no public comment.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE APRIL 15, 2020 LAPC MEETING

MOTION by Gaul/Smith to approve the minutes of the April 15, 2020 La Crosse Area Planning Committee meeting. **Motion carried unanimously with 5 excused: Poellinger, Kruse, Seidel, Bogert, Schaller.**

APPROVE AMENDING THE 2020-2023 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (RESOLUTION 5-2020)

This amendment to the 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program includes eight new projects that were added and several modifications to funding. There are two signalization projects on Highway 16, three bridge replacements, and three transit projects (4 transit vans for Onalaska, one MTU diesel bus and one SMRT bus). Construction funding was added to projects that were previously unfunded to STP-Urban (CTH SN) and STP-Rural (CTH-M) projects. The resolution for the TIP also includes language supporting the Wisconsin 2020 Transit Asset Management targets (Table 10 included in the amended agenda packet). This amendment did go through the required public comment period. The Technical Advisory Committee met last week and recommended approval of the amendment. **MOTION** by Manthei/Smith to approve. **Motion carried unanimously with 5 excused: Poellinger, Kruse, Seidel, Bogert, Schaller.**

CITY OF LA CROSSE SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PLAN (2019 LOCAL STUDIES PROJECT) REQUEST FOR EXTENSION

The City of La Crosse Safe Routes to School Plan is a "Local Studies Program" project that was funded in 2019 and was originally scheduled to be completed in 2019. The project received an extension last August to be completed by May 31, 2020. Due to the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic, the ability to gather public input and review has been impacted. An extension would allow time for extending the online survey through the summer and into the fall giving the public ample time to react and comment on the proposed recommendations. The City of La Crosse is requesting an extension to the end of this year. The request requires approval by the LAPC and an approval of the amendment to the 2019 workplan. If approved by the LAPC it will be forwarded to WISDOT and Federal Highways whom have final approval authority. **MOTION** by Gaul/Manthei to approve.



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Motion carried unanimously with 5 excused: Poellinger, Kruse, Seidel, Bogert, Schaller.

APPROVE AMENDING 2019 WORK PROGRAM (RESOLUTION 6-2020)

The previous agenda item was approved and this amendment to the 2019 Work Program is a requirement of the extension request. **MOTION** by Gaul/Candahl to approve. **Motion carried unanimously with 5 excused: Poellinger, Kruse, Seidel, Bogert, Schaller.**

2021 WORK PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

Staff have started to work on the 2021 Work Program, which is ultimately submitted to the Wisconsin DOT, Minnesota DOT, and Federal Highways, to receive funding for the following year. Staff anticipate local unit of government, state, and federal budgets for 2021 to be impacted by COVID-19 loss of revenue. Staff is considering activities in the work program that include only required planning work elements/activities and suspending the Local Studies Program for a year due to potential budget constraints. The Work Plan will allow staff to focus on some ongoing and required activities:

- Utilize the redesigned website to improve public outreach and promotion of the LAPC
- Continue to verify and correct employment data obtained in 2020
- Work with WisDOT and consultant on travel model – benefit future planning work
- Conduct meetings with LAPC community member boards, councils, planning committees to establish a process to incorporate MTP goals in local planning documents
- Update land use inventory including field verification

2021 BUDGET DISCUSSION

Due to COVID-19 and anticipated budget impacts to local government, leaders are looking at different options. The LAPC is funded approximately 80% from the Federal transportation funds with the remaining 20% coming from MN and WI Departments of Transportation and local community dues. Recognizing potential impacts to local units of government budgets in 2021, staff is considering reducing local dues by approximately 25%-30% in 2021 leaving enough local funding to match the MPO required planning work activities. As discussed previously, the Local Studies Program would be suspended for 2021. LAPC budget reserves are in good shape, but there are many uncertainties in the coming months.

2021 MPO CONFERENCE

The MPO annual conference is held here once every 10 years. When the LAPC hosts the conference, a joint Wisconsin and Minnesota conference is held. We are due to hold the conference in the fall of 2021. Conference planning is an eligible expense, but not the venue rental, etc. We are looking to scale down conference costs given the situation we are in, but there will be some local funding needed from reserves.

DIRECTORS REPORT

Peter Fletcher updated the committee on his department's activities. He and Jackie Eastwood continue to work from home, following the guidance from the County and their reopening timeline. The LASC met and approved the La Crescent Sewer Service Area Amendment request. A 2006 letter from the WIDNR states that City of La Crescent Sewer Service Area Amendments do not have to be submitted for review and approval.



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Staff continue working on the Interim Update to the MTP-Long Range Transportation Plan. Four or five chapters have been posted on the MPO website and the plan needs to be approved in September. There are two or three other chapters still being developed and will be put on the website as soon as they are complete.

OTHER BUSINESS – none noted.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- TIP amendment
- Budget
- Bylaws

NEXT MEETING DATE: Wednesday, July 15, 2020

ADJOURN

MOTION by Manthei/Candahl to adjourn the meeting at 5:12 p.m. **Motion carried unanimously with 5 excused: Poellinger, Kruse, Seidel, Bogert, Schaller.**

Disclaimer: The above minutes may be approved, amended or corrected at the next committee meeting.

Recorded by Terri Pavlic