



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 January 15, 2020
Administrative Center – Room 1107**

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Mike Poellinger (Chair), Patrick Barlow, Tara Johnson, Martin Gaul, Tim Candahl, Rolly Bogert, Kim Smith
MEMBERS EXCUSED:	Dennis Manthei, Linda Seidel, Terry Schaller
OTHERS PRESENT:	Steve O'Malley, Peter Fletcher, Jackie Eastwood, Dave Bonifas, Adam Lorentz, Joe Chilsen, Jordan Vian (La Crosse Tribune), Terri Pavlic

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Mike Poellinger called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT: There was no public comment.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 20, 2019 LAPC MEETING

MOTION by Gaul/Barlow to approve the minutes of the November 20, 2019 La Crosse Area Planning Committee meeting. **Motion carried unanimously with 3 excused: Seidel, Schaller, Manthei; Smith abstained.**

RECOGNITION OF JOE CHILSEN FOR YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE LAPC

Joe Chilsen was recognized and presented with a plaque for his many years of service (2012-2019) to the LAPC.

APPROVE AMENDING THE 2020-2023 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (RESOLUTION 1-2020)

An amendment is being made to the 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program (Resolution 1-2020) due to two projects being added and a modification to funding for the CSAH 6 road project (Minnesota).

- STH 16 La Crosse – Sparta (STH 16/IH 90 Interchange EB/WB Ramps). Monotube Installation. Construction in 2021
- CSAH 6, from Winona County Line to Town Hall Road, Bituminous Reclamation/Bituminous Pavement
- La Crescent Apple Express: Install three bus shelters.

There were also some changes in allocations, per the Wisconsin DOT, which were outlined in the attachment to the resolution included in the agenda packets. **MOTION** to approve by Gaul/Bogert. **Motion carried unanimously with 3 excused: Seidel, Schaller, Manthei.**

REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF LAPC BYLAWS

At the last few meetings the LAPC bylaws have been discussed. Included in the packets was a draft of the amended bylaws. Peter Fletcher noted that in order for the bylaws to be approved, they have to be submitted as written, then approved at the following meeting. The last bylaws were updated in 2009. Peter went through all of the proposed changes. The draft bylaws were also reviewed by Corporation Counsel.

One of the main items of discussion was Article X – Weighted Voting. Peter noted that the LAPC has never used the weighted vote. The weighted vote that took place at the 2018 LAPC meeting was a LASC (La Crosse Area Sewer Committee) vote. Historically, the LASC conducted independent meetings (2003-2017). In 2018 two meetings of the LASC met



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under an agenda item of the LAPC. This has caused some confusion and it is recommended by staff and legal counsel that future LASC meetings be conducted separately as they were done in the past.

Legal Counsel researched and provided some insights and additional information regarding the weighted vote provision.

In 2017 a comprehensive study was conducted by the Federal Highway Administration on MPO Staffing and Organizational Structure. Nearly all MPO's nationwide were surveyed (276 responded to the survey):

- 13% (36 MPOs) have a weighted vote provision in their bylaws
- 5% of MPO's similar in size to the LAPC (4 MPOs) have a weighted vote provision in their bylaws
- Those that have the provision indicated that they rarely if ever have used it.
- Within the State of Wisconsin, the Eau Claire/Chippewa MPO eliminated the weighted vote provision in 2017

Other weighted voting options:

- Allowing larger communities more than one voting member (increasing the voting member size of the LAPC)
- Weighted vote not tied directly to population – the largest city gets 6 votes, 2 or 1 vote for others based on size – aides in eliminating large discrepancies in weighted votes.

Provided weighted voting is included in the bylaws – options for calling for the weighted vote include:

- Keep the call for the weighted vote as is – any member can call for the weighted vote on an item (a second to the request is not required).
- Require two members to call for the weighted vote in order for it to take place.

This item will be put on next month's LAPC agenda. No action taken at this time.

STATUS OF METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN – INTERIM UPDATE

Peter Fletcher and Jackie Eastwood have been working on an interim update to Coulee Vision 2040. The Metropolitan Transportation Plan is required to be updated every 5 years; the last one was adopted on September 16, 2015, so we have until September 16, 2020 to complete the updates. Peter Fletcher reviewed the Work Program Metropolitan Transportation Plan Schedule. This plan is considered an "interim" plan because we will not be conducting an update to the travel model nor will new census data be available. A full update is done (every 10 years) and will utilize 2020 Census data, DOA projections out to 2045, 2020 employment data, and 2020 aerial photography.

The interim plan update is incorporating new elements that have been required by federal law. Peter discussed the 8 chapters that will be included in the plan and stated draft chapters will be made available for review as they are completed (Spring and Summer).

FIRE/EMS STUDY UPDATE

Steve O'Malley noted that we are moving forward with the Fire/EMS Study. We have compiled a list of agencies who wish to be included in the study and sent them on to Rob



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Henken with the Wisconsin Policy Forum. We have also completed the Letter of Agreement on behalf of the LAPC. This will require releasing half of the money up front and half paid out once the study has been completed. Mr. Henken has retained a part-time staff person, Chris Paul, who is a recent grad of UW-LaCrosse to assist in the study. An e-mail will go out next week to all participants identified by each agency to set up the first meeting.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Peter Fletcher gave his report of activities being worked on:

1. Helped prepare two TAP (Transportation Alternative Programs) applications – funding for Highway 16 La Crosse River Bridge and for the trail connector that will extend the trail from Dicks Sporting Goods to Landfill Road. These were given to the Highway Commissioner for submission by January 24th.
2. Peter has been meeting with the City of Onalaska, La Crescent Planning Commission, the Town of Shelby, the Village of Holmen, the Town of Campbell and Town of Onalaska. He is giving them information about the LAPC and MPO. He plans on attending the Towns Association meeting in February. The next step will be to reach out to some of the communities in the planning area that are not members of the LAPC.
3. Last month the LAPC approved the Planning Grant Program for towns. He received a call from the Town of Campbell and met with the Town Planning Commission. They are interested in updating their plan via the LAPC Planning Grant Program. He also mentioned the program to the Town of Onalaska while attending their January Town Board meeting. The program has been very well received from the communities he has talked to.
4. Jackie Eastwood has been attending the City of La Crosse BPAC meetings; SRTS Steering Committee, the Thriving Livable Communities Committee.

OTHER BUSINESS – none noted.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

- March TAP application; it is anticipated the MPO will receive 5 TAP applications for review.
- Bylaws
- Tip Amendment

NEXT MEETING DATE: March 18, 2020 at 4:30 p.m.

ADJOURN

MOTION by Gaul/Barlow to adjourn the meeting at 5:13 p.m. **Motion carried unanimously with 3 excused: Seidel, Schaller, Manthei.**

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

Recorded by Terri Pavlic