



# 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 6<sup>th</sup> Street North ☎ Room 1200 ☎ La Crosse, WI 54601-1200  
PH: 608.785.5977     Website: [www.lacrossecounty.org/mpo](http://www.lacrossecounty.org/mpo)

## LA CROSSE AREA PLANNING COMMITTEE

Minutes of March 17, 2021

Held via Microsoft Teams

<b>MEMBERS PRESENT:</b>	Mike Poellinger, Dennis Manthei, Monica Kruse, Tim Candahl, Patrick Barlow, Linda Seidel, Kim Smith
<b>MEMBERS EXCUSED:</b>	Terry Schaller, Stan Hauser, Tim Kabat, Steve Michaels
<b>OTHERS PRESENT:</b>	Peter Fletcher, Jackie Eastwood, Steve O'Malley, Angel Much (Recorder), Olivia Herken, Francis Shelfout (WisDOT), Rob Henken, Tom Tornstrom, Jim Krueger Jr, Benjamin O'Connell

### CALL TO ORDER

Chair Mike Poellinger called the meeting to order via Microsoft Teams. Roll call was taken and a quorum was called.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** There was no public comment.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 18, 2020 LAPC MEETING

**MOTION** by Manthei/Candahl to approve the minutes of the January 20, 2021 La Crosse Area Planning Committee meeting. **Motion carried unanimously with 4 excused: Schaller, Hauser, Michaels, Kabat.**

### WELCOME TOWN OF HOLLAND AS MEMBER OF THE LAPC

Fletcher advised the Town of Holland was approved as a member and is now paying LAPC dues. The bylaws and agreements will have to be updated to include another community.

### RECOGNITION OF MAYOR KABAT FOR YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE LAPC

Poellinger advised they have a plaque and will present it to Mayor Kabat.

### APPROVE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION AGENCY SAFETY PLAN TARGETS FOR LA CROSSE MUNICIPAL TRANSIT UTILITY & ONALASKA SHARED RIDE (RESOLUTION 2-2021)

Fletcher referred to the resolution shared on the screen while briefly explaining the following:

- MTU and Onalaska ShareRide required by Federal Transit Administration to prepare Public Transportation Agency Safety Plans that include safety targets (completed in 2020)
- The MPO has 180 days to agree to the plan & program projects that contribute to meeting the targets. The resolution represents the LAPC agreeing to planning and programming projects that contribute to meeting the targets.
- Once approved, targets are incorporated into the TIP

**MOTION** by Barlow/Manthei to approve Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan Targets for La Crosse Municipal Transit Utility & Onalaska Shared Ride (Resolution 2-2021). **Motion carried unanimously with 4 excused: Schaller, Hauser, Michaels, Kabat.**



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## **APPROVE**

### **AMENDING THE 2021-2024 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (RESOLUTION 3-2021)**

Fletcher advised this is for an MTU La Crescent bus replacement which was amended from a Class 400 to a Class 400 low floor. The funding was modified from \$91,000 to \$164,000 with the MN DOT providing the additional \$70,000 in funding. The public comment period of 15 days was completed and TAC recommended approval.

**MOTION** by Manthei/Candahl to approve amending the 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (Resolution 3-2021). **Motion carried unanimously with 4 excused: Schaller, Hauser, Michaels, Kabat.**

### **FIRE/EMS SERVICE SHARING STUDY – ROB HENKEN, PRESIDENT WISCONSIN POLICY FORUM**

Rob Henken followed with a presentation which contained some of the following:

- Report was released in December; provided recap of study process
  - Studied broad range of service sharing options & whether acting collaboratively would eliminate challenges (funding by planning committee & county)
  - Participant Overview; mix of volunteer & career/PT fire & EMT depts in the area
  - Breakdown of EMS Level & Shift Staffing
  - Factors: population growth (specifically senior population growth), growing call volumes
  - Response times & Tri-State Response Times
  - Per Capita Responding expenditures
- Summary of Observations
  - Growth in Holmen area, recruitment & retention of PT staff is challenging,
  - Potential Barriers; wide variation in staffing models from dept to another,
- Tier 1: Enhanced Functional Service Sharing
  - Joint training & recruitment/improvement of PT staff
  - EMS Case Management
  - Build on the existing La Crosse-Holmen area vehicle maintenance
- Tier 2: Enhanced Coordination of Operations
  - Improved mutual aid, share apparatus, Work w/Tri-State to improve EMS Response
- Tier 3: Advanced Options
  - **Station sharing**, Consolidation through contracting, consolidated dept
- Existing & Possible new stations in La Crosse Region
- Approximate Travel Times
- Consolidated Model: Northern division w/5 stations & continue w/hybrid model with full and PT, New station staff (command & administrative staff)
- Cost Summary compared to "Future State" costs
- Conclusion: all depts will have start spending more,

Questions from the committee regarding funding/spending in other areas and clarification on response times were answered by Henken.



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## **APPROVE 2022 LAPC MEMBER DUES**

Fletcher advised notices for 2021 dues will be sent out in the next couple of weeks but an estimate for 2022 dues was provided. This year due to the pandemic and revenue challenges local units of governments face, member dues were reduced by 25% to match what is needed for transportation planning grants and meeting “our” obligations (Town Planning Assistance Program). The recommendation is to maintain the same dues for 2022 to meet the MPO transportation planning grant match requirements and local obligations (Town Planning Assistance Program) with the expectation that local units of government will still be facing revenue challenges.

**MOTION** by Seidel/Smith to approve 2022 LAPC Member Dues. **Motion carried unanimously with 4 excused: Schaller, Hauser, Michaels, Kabat.**

## **DIRECTORS REPORT**

- **Regional Transit Development Plan** - SRF Consulting just started collecting data and information and will be presenting at the next meeting with a status update
  - In April/May public outreach and public input will begin (from various communities)
- **TCMC and Empire Builder** –
  - Empire Builder – daily (7 days a week) service resumes May 24
  - TCMC – local officials meeting can be viewed by google search “WISDOT TCMC”
    - MN Governors bonding bill includes \$10 million for TCMC and if funded, TCMC could start service in 2024
    - \$32 million in track & infrastructure improvements in the MPO Planning area are part of the TCMC project
- **Finding out more on COVID stimulus recently passed (America Rescue Plan)**  
\$2.4 million for transit infrastructure grants through 5307 and 5337 programs

**OTHER BUSINESS** - none noted.

## **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- Nomination of new Chair and Vice Chair
- Intermunicipal Agreements/Bylaws
- Transit Development Plan-Consultant Presentation
- 2021-2024 TIP Amendment
- Fire/EMS Report Update

**NEXT MEETING DATE: May 19, 2021**

## **ADJOURN**

**MOTION** by Seidel/Manthei to adjourn the meeting at 5:23 p.m. **Motion carried unanimously with 4 excused: Schaller, Hauser, Michaels, Kabat.**

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

Recorded by Angel Much