



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.lacrossecounty.org/mpo

LA CROSSE AREA PLANNING COMMITTEE

Minutes of May 19, 2021

Held via Microsoft Teams & in Person

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Mike Poellinger, Patrick Barlow, Mitch Reynolds, Linda Seidel, Kim Smith, Stan Hauser, Monica Kruse, Bob Stupi (4:34)
MEMBERS EXCUSED:	Scott Schumacher, Tim Candahl, Joshua Johnson
OTHERS PRESENT:	Peter Fletcher, Jackie Eastwood, Steve O'Malley, Angel Much (Recorder), Olivia Herken (Tribune), Dennis Manthei, Francis Shelfhout (DOT), Joseph Kapper, Menno Schukking

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 MARCH 17, 2021 LAPC MEETING

MOTION by Smith/Seidel to approve the minutes of the March 17, 2021 La Crosse Area Planning Committee meeting. **Motion carried unanimously with 5 excused: Schumacher, Kruse, Candahl, Johnson, Stupi.**

WELCOME TWO NEWLY ELECTED OFFICIALS TO THE LAPC

Poellinger welcomed the newly elected officials to the LAPC board; Town of Holland Chair Bob Stupi, Village of West Salem President Scott Schumacher, City of La Crosse Mayor Mitch Reynolds, and Town of Campbell Chair Joshua Johnson.

RECOGNITION OF TERRY SCHALLER, TOWN OF CAMPBELL, AND DENNIS MANTHEI, VILLAGE OF WEST SALEM, FOR YEARS OF SERVICE ON THE LAPC

Poellinger and Fletcher thanked Schaller and Manthei for their time.

NOMINATION OF LAPC CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR

Fletcher advised it's a requirement to elect a new chair every two years.

MOTION by Barlow/Hauser to nominate Linda Seidel as the new LAPC Chair.

MOTION by Seidel/Smith to nominate Barlow for Vice-Chair.

MOTION by Smith/Hauser to close the nominations.

Motions carried unanimously with 3 excused: Schumacher, Candahl, Johnson.

APPROVE AMENDING THE 2021-2024 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (RESOLUTION 4-2021)

Fletcher advised this is for projects receiving federal funding which are identified in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

- 5 projects added; 3 transit projects, 1 La Crosse SRTS, a Bridge Rehab US 53
- Added Table 11 to the TIP addressing Public Transit Safety Plan Targets for OSR and MTU and modified the narrative
- A public comment period of 15 days was conducted
- TAC Committee recommended approval at their meeting

MOTION by Smith/Poellinger to approve amending the 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (Resolution 4-2021). **Motion carried unanimously with 3 excused: Schumacher, Candahl, Johnson.**



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REGIONAL TRANSIT DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR LA CROSSE MTU, SMRT, ONALASKA SHARED RIDE – PRESENTATION BY SRF CONSULTING GROUP

Fletcher gave a brief introduction before the presentation commenced.

SRF Consulting Group gave a presentation which covered some of the following:

- In 2021 the MPO is utilizing local studies funding to hire SRF Consulting group to prepare a Regional Transit Development Plan
- The Plan addresses the public transit services of MTU, SMRT and Onalaska Shared Ride
- The project started in March and will be completed by December
- Project plan: develop 10 yr. transit plan
- An overview of the project and what information/public input has been gathered to date
- Tentative goals/deliverables; Virtual Open House; May 27th
- Public Engagement 2021: small discussions/interviews with stakeholders, conducting online survey & virtual mapping tool for people to show on maps where they'd like to see transit services, virtual open houses and pop up events.

Some Board members provided comments. After discussion, Board member Smith will email Kapper areas of growth in Onalaska that could use public transportation. Fletcher encouraged feedback in regard to others that should be contacted in regards to this.

REVIEW DRAFT BYLAWS (POSSIBLE ACTION)

Seidel advised the bylaws would be reviewed; Fletcher explained that if the bylaws introduced at the meeting require any modifications, the bylaws (revised) would have to be presented at the next meeting and could not be approved until the following meeting. The LAPC bylaws have not been updated since 2009. Prior to the pandemic the LAPC began updating bylaws and were ready to adopt last March until Covid caused delays. The Town of Holland joined which would have necessitated an update regardless.

Fletcher briefly went over the changes:

- Added Town of Holland & clarified communities - **Article 2**
- Chairman changed to Chair throughout
- Better defined use of designated alternates - **Article 3**
- Modified meetings notices to be consistent with the MPO Public Participation Plan – and committee names - **Articles 5 & 6**
- Component to **Article 10** which is weighted voting:
 - The weighted voting provision has never been used by the LAPC
 - The original weighted voting table was not clearly defined, and Cities and Villages had more votes just based on being incorporated communities
 - The revised weighted voting now correlates to population ranges – it requires three municipalities voting together to pass something under the weighted vote provision

Discussion ensued. Questions from the board were answered by Fletcher. Fletcher advised if the new census numbers come out, it wouldn't impact the current weighted voting. Poellinger advised these changes can be made at any time since this is a working document.



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MOTION by Poellinger/Smith to approve the draft of bylaws and call for a vote at the next (July) meeting. **Motion carried unanimously with 3 excused: Schumacher, Candahl, Johnson.**

BLUFFLAND COALITION – MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (POSSIBLE ACTION)

Fletcher advised the Bluffland Coalition has revised its organizational structure/membership and its Memorandum of Understanding for communities/organizations to consider. The LAPC assisted in funding the Bluffland Coalition Plan in 2016-2017 and has been a member since the Bluffland Coalition was first organized.

The revised MOU eliminates membership dues in an effort to get more involvement of local units of government and organizations.

As the MOU states, the document is not legally binding and funding for coalition activities (if requested) will be handled by separate funding agreements.

Fletcher advised this is a step in the right direction. The Coalition met yesterday where a few minor changes were made in verbiage. The request to sign the MOU is going out to all the communities.

Poellinger advised this worked really well in the City of La Crescent and ultimately led to trails that are now linked and have two easements to finalize which was worked on for several years before this point. Some Board members provided comments. Fletcher advised he could reach out to the Coalition Chair and a Representative of the Bluffland Coalition could further explain what is happening with the new changes to a community or their board/councils.

MOTION by Poellinger/Smith to approve the Bluffland Coalition's Memorandum of Understanding. **Motion carried unanimously with 3 excused: Schumacher, Candahl, Johnson.**

FIRE/EMS STUDY – FOLLOW UP DISCUSSION

Fletcher advised at the last meeting there was a presentation from the public policy forum. O'Malley suggested that with the new members on the LAPC Board, the public policy forum could come back for a follow-up meeting. Seidel agreed this should be put as a future agenda item. Some discussion followed. Fletcher agreed this could be put on the agenda for an upcoming meeting (tentatively September meeting).

12. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- **TCMC and Empire Builder** -waiting for MN legislature decision of funding
- **Virtual Bi-State Fall MPO Conference/workshop** to be held in September and is being organized by Staff
- **STP-U urban update**
 - last week sent out information regarding the STP-U urban program which provides cyclical funding (certain amount allocated for the MPO) for road improvements and transit – current cycle is for 2022-2027. Applications are due in mid-October and final MPO funding allocations will be provided in August



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OTHER BUSINESS - none noted.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Intermunicipal Agreements/Bylaws
- 2021-2024 TIP Amendment
- Minnesota TIP Project List
- Work Program 2022 activities

NEXT MEETING DATE: Wednesday, July 21, 2021

ADJOURN

MOTION by Poellinger/Stupi to adjourn the meeting at 5:38 p.m. **Motion carried unanimously with 3 excused: Schumacher, Candahl, Johnson**

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

Recorded by Angel Much