



La Crosse Area Planning Committee

*Metropolitan Planning Organization
Serving the La Crosse/La Crescent Urbanized Area*

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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 July 15, 2020

Held via Skype

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Mike Poellinger, Monica Kruse, Patrick Barlow, Martin Gaul, Kim Smith, Rolly Bogert, Tim Candahl, Linda Seidel
MEMBERS EXCUSED:	Dennis Manthei, Terry Schaller
OTHERS PRESENT:	Peter Fletcher, Jackie Eastwood, Francis Schelfhout, Adam Lorentz, Bob Gollnik, Anna Pierce, Jane Klekamp, Terri Pavlic

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 MAY 20, 2020 LAPC MEETING

MOTION by Barlow/Gaul to approve the minutes of the May 20, 2020 La Crosse Area Planning Committee meeting. The minutes were corrected to state Patrick Barlow instead of Patrick Scheller in the first paragraph. **Motion carried unanimously with 4 excused: Manthei, Seidel, Candahl and Schaller.**

APPROVE AMENDING THE 2020-2023 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (RESOLUTION 7-2020)

Peter Fletcher discussed the amendment to the 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program (Resolution 7-2020). The TIP includes 4 new system preservation projects and several modifications to funding:

- Interstate -90 – concrete overlays on three bridges - construction 2027
- City of La Crosse 4th Street pavement replacement (Cass St. to 2nd St.) 2027/2028
- STH Hwy 16 at County RD M (monotubes and Left Turn Lanes) 2024
- STH 33 Resurfacing 2026/2027 (Forest Ridge Drive – CTY M)
- Amendment went through the required public comment period
- TAC recommended approval of the amendment

MOTION by Gaul/Kruse to approve amending the 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program. **Motion carried unanimously with 2 excused: Manthei and Schaller.**

“BEYOND COULEE VISION 2040” MPO LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN (MTP) – UPDATE AND INFORMATION

Peter Fletcher gave a slide presentation regarding “Beyond Coulee Visions 2040”, Interim MTP Update.

- A Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) must prepare and maintain Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP).
- The plan must identify how the metropolitan area will manage and operate a multi-modal transportation system (including transit, highway, bicycle, pedestrian, and accessible transportation) to meet the region’s economic, transportation, development and sustainability goals for a 20+ year planning horizon.



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- MTP must be updated every 5 years.
- “Beyond Coulee Visions 2040” is required to be approved at our next LAPC Meeting in September.
- A required 30 day public comment/notice period begins August 17, 2020.
- Draft plan chapters can be viewed at the LAPC website: lapc.org

Chapter 1 – Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update

- Chapter 1 provides the background, scope, and purpose for the plan update
- The plan is an update to “Coulee Visions 2040”.
- Interim MTP plan updates are completed in U.S. Census years.
- Full MTP plan updates (revisions) completed in 2005, 2015, 2025, etc.
 - Incorporates updated census data
 - Employment data is updated
 - Land use inventory is updated

Chapter 2 – Plan Process and Development

- The chapter describes the public process which includes activities that have taken place since the approval of *Coulee Vision 2040* as well as the vision and goals carried forward.
- Discusses the status of local comprehensive plans and how their land use and transportation goals and objectives align with those of the metropolitan transportation plan.

Chapter 3 – Population and Economic Trends

- The chapter highlights population and economic trends in the planning area.
- The estimated planning area population is 115,535 and the chapter provides population growth projections for planning area communities.
- Details median household income, poverty rates, etc.
- Includes employment projections by employment sector.

Chapter 4 – Transportation Systems and Services

- Describes the public road network
 - 1,128 centerline miles of public road in the MPO planning area.
 - The chapter illustrates traffic counts and forecasts, level of service, etc.
- Freight, rail, air, and water transportation systems are detailed in the chapter.
- Discusses public transit options: MTU, SMRT, Shared-ride Taxi

Chapter 5 – System Safety and Performance Report

- This is a new chapter included in the plan update – The MPO has been preparing a performance report annually and information is included in the plan (federally mandated).
- Discusses the performance of the transportation systems as related to 24 federal performance measures and additional local tracking measures.
- The chapter also addresses the impact of the transportation improvement program (TIP) and metropolitan transportation plan on meeting adopted state targets.



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Chapter 6 – Projects, Planning, and Policies

- The chapter discusses challenges facing performance, mobility, safety, and access as identified in the metropolitan transportation plan and other LAPC and local plans.
- Recommends strategies to address identified mobility and access issues and potential environmental and social impacts.

Chapter 7 – Environmental and Social Impacts

- Identifies potential impacts of the transportation improvement program and metropolitan transportation plan on environmental resources and protected groups.
- The chapter includes maps that illustrate future projects and potential impacts.
- An Environmental Consultation is in the process of being completed as the document has been forwarded to over a dozen federal, state, and local agencies for review.

Chapter 8 – Financial Plan

- The financial plan details estimated costs and the estimated funds anticipated to be available to support implementing the MTP.
- It is required that Metropolitan Transportation Plans must be fiscally constrained.
- The chapter provides a financial analysis of the street and highway system, public transit, and bicycle and pedestrian facilities.
- Over the 20 year planning period the data indicates a deficit (needs versus revenues).

Chapter 9 – Next Steps and Future Considerations

- Includes next steps and future considerations for the 2025 metropolitan transportation plan.
- After MTP is adopted – meet with member communities to provide information on the plan and gather input regarding goals and objectives moving forward.

There are plan appendices online at lapc.org including Coulee Region Transportation Study, Summary of Member Reporting, Local Comprehensive Plan Reviews, Environmental Justice Analysis, as well as a Natural and Cultural Resource Inventory which is a stand-alone document.

LAPC MINORITY REPRESENTATION FORM (TITLE VI) - SELF REPORTING

The LAPC is the sub recipient of federal funds and is required to update the MPO Title VI Plan by October 15, 2020. This is a requirement to comply with DOT Title VI regulations.

The purpose of the plan is to assure that no person shall, on the grounds of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity administered by the LAPC.

Some Plan general requirements:

- Preparing and submit a Title VI Program;
- Notifying beneficiaries of protection under Title VI;
- Developing Title VI complaint procedures and complaint form;
- Promoting inclusive public participation;
- Providing meaningful access to limited-English proficient (LEP) persons;
- Minority representation on planning and advisory bodies;



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- In the plan we must provide a discussion regarding the representation of our board and committee
- Will be seeking approval at our September meeting

Peter sent out the Minority Representation Data Collection Form a few weeks ago. You are not obligated to fill out the form; it is voluntary, but he would appreciate it if you return it. You can also just send an email to Peter if you wish. He will have a draft for review at the next meeting.

FIRE/EMS STUDY UPDATE

The LAPC provided local funding for a portion of this study which is anticipated to be completed in September. They do continue to meet remotely due to the pandemic.

DIRECTORS REPORT

- Jackie Eastwood continues to work from home; Peter works from home some days and from the office 3-4 days a week, following guidance from the La Crosse County and trying to limit number of people in building; Thanks to La Crosse County IT we are able to work seamlessly whether in the office or working from home.
- Preliminary Budget for County – looking at reducing local dues (25%); plan on keeping local studies program (LAPC no financial assistance).
- Community Outreach – reaching out to non-paying dues members of MPO area. Peter is on the agenda for the Town of Holland in August to discuss the LAPC.

OTHER BUSINESS – none noted.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Discuss the House approved infrastructure bill that may include funding for transportation/transit, but was stalled at the U.S. Senate
- Approval of MTP – required to adopt in 5-year window by September 17, 2020.
- Approval of 2021-2024 TIP Amendment
- Title VI plan for approval
- TIP 2020-2023 amendment

NEXT MEETING DATE: Wednesday, September 16, 2020

ADJOURN

MOTION by Smith/Gaul to adjourn the meeting at 4:56 p.m. **Motion carried unanimously with 2 excused: Manthei and Schaller.**

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

Recorded by Terri Pavlic