



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 September 16, 2020 Held via Microsoft Teams

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Mike Poellinger, Monica Kruse (exc. 4:58 p.m.), Patrick Barlow, Martin Gaul, Tim Candahl, Linda Seidel, Terry Schaller, Dennis Manthei (arr. 4:35 p.m.), Kim Smith (arr. 4:40 p.m.)
MEMBERS EXCUSED:	Rolly Bogert
OTHERS PRESENT:	Peter Fletcher, Jackie Eastwood, Francis Schelfhout, Steve O'Malley, 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 JULY 15, 2020 LAPC MEETING

MOTION by Barlow/Candahl to approve the minutes of the July 15, 2020 La Crosse Area Planning Committee meeting. **Motion carried unanimously with 3 excused: Manthei, Bogert and Smith.**

APPROVE AMENDING THE 2020-2023 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (RESOLUTION 8-2020)

The amendment to the 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) adds two new projects and several modifications to listed projects. One National Highway Performance Program (NHPP) project: USH 14 Marion Road to Garner Place, Mill & Overlay; and one Surface Transportation Block Grant project (numerous pavement marking improvements in 2021) were added. Also, in the TIP project table, minor modifications have been made to descriptions and funding and construction obligation for about 40 other projects. This amendment went through the required public comment period and the TAC is recommending approval. Tim Candahl, Town of Shelby, had concerns on the Marion Road/Garner Place (Hwy 14/61) project. The Town of Shelby, City of La Crosse, and the DOT will meet separately to discuss. **MOTION** by Candahl/Gaul to approve Resolution 8-2020 amending the 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program. **Motion carried unanimously with 1 excused: Bogert.**

APPROVE THE 2021-2024 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM MINNESOTA PROJECT LIST – RESOLUTION 9-2020

The Minnesota Department of Transportation requires that the LAPC TIP be consistent with the MnDOT District 6 Area Transportation Improvement Program (ATIP). The schedule for the adoption of the ATIP requires the Minnesota projects list be adopted before the development of the final Wisconsin project list. There are 4 Minnesota projects: two transit projects, Wagon Wheel Trail Phase 3 project, and a system preservation project County Highway 6. TAC recommended approval at their meeting last week. **MOTION** by Kruse/Seidel to approve. **Motion carried unanimously with 1 excused: Bogert.**



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APPROVE THE UPDATE OF THE LAPC METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN, BEYOND COULEE VISION 2040 – RESOLUTION 10-2020

The U.S. Department of Transportation regulations require the development and approval of a long-range transportation plan by the La Crosse Area Planning Committee (LAPC), acting as the Metropolitan Planning Organization. The plan must identify how the metropolitan area will manage and operate a multi-modal transportation system for a 20+ year planning period and must be updated every 5 years. The LAPC Metropolitan Area Transportation Plan, *Beyond Coulee Vision 2040*, supports the development of an integrated intermodal transportation system that facilitates the efficient movement of people and goods and meets the requirements of the metropolitan transportation plan. This is an interim update and needs to be approved prior to September 17, 2020. Goals/vision were carried forward and not revised. Various plan information and chapters have been posted and available for comment since May 2020. Official public notice and opportunity for public input opened on August 17, 2020. During the public comment period numerous comments were received from 8 different agencies and addressed. The TAC had a public meeting last week and was another opportunity for comments. **MOTION** by Barlow/Gaul to approve. **Motion carried unanimously with 1 excused: Bogert.**

DISCUSSION OF NEW MEMBERSHIP (DUES PAYING) TO THE LAPC

Peter Fletcher has been meeting with “dues paying members” of the LAPC, as well as non-paying members. There are currently 10 dues paying members of the LAPC, out of a total of 16 municipalities. Peter met with the Town of Holland in August and they are considering becoming a dues paying member and joining the LAPC in 2021. The process for adding new members requires modifying intermunicipal agreements and bylaws. We would also need Federal Highways determination if a re-designation would be required. Re-designation of an MPO is required whenever the existing MPO proposes to make a substantial change in the proportion of voting members. Re-designation of an MPO serving a multistate metropolitan planning area requires agreement between the Governors of each state. If the Town of Holland decides to join, we would follow up with DOTS and Federal Highways. Peter indicated that it would be helpful in seeking FWHA approval for the LAPC to be on record supporting adding new dues paying members to the LAPC. **MOTION** by Gaul/Seidel to reflect that the La Crosse Area Planning Commission supports adding new dues paying members. **Motion carried unanimously with 1 excused: Bogert.**

DIRECTORS REPORT

1. Three projects were awarded Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) funding through WisDOT: La Crosse Safe Routes to School Plan and both the STH 16 Trail connection and the La Crosse River Bridge ped/bike bridge along Hwy 16 near West Salem. This is a very competitive grant process. There is \$14.5m available statewide and 28 projects awarded statewide. La Crosse County received \$1.5m or just over 10% of the TAP grant funding. Peter noted that if local municipalities are pursuing TAP grant funding, his department will help with the applications.
2. Budget: this will be discussed at next month’s meeting. State and federal funding for the MPO planning program for the most part stayed the same as last year. Due to COVID, we will reduce member dues by approximately 25% for each community. Local studies will remain the same but any overruns or extra costs, the LAPC will not cover as in the past.



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3. Empire Builder: Amtrak daily service and TCMC, which is an effort to bring a second daily train to the route and to the La Crosse Station that would connect out of Chicago, Milwaukee and the Twin Cities. This was moving ahead pre-pandemic, but a key point moving forward is MN state funding support in the amount of \$10m. Due to the pandemic and unrest in the Twin Cities, this has resulted in no bonding bill in MN so far this year and could result in delay. Also due to the pandemic, the Empire Builder is cutting back to 3 days/week (instead of daily) in October. There is an effort underway by All Aboard WI, All Aboard MN and the Wisconsin Association of Rail Passengers to maintain daily Empire Builder service to maintain the service 7 days a week. Peter will provide each municipality with information via email in the next few days if your municipality would like to support the effort to maintain service.

OTHER BUSINESS

- It was stated that the Town of Onalaska may have appointed a different Town Chair. Peter will reach out to the Town of Onalaska to confirm any changes.
- Updates on Regional Fire/EMS study; Steve O'Malley will be sending an update.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS – none noted.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Wednesday, October 21, 2020

ADJOURN

MOTION by Candahl/Seidel to adjourn the meeting at 5:00 p.m. **Motion carried unanimously with 2 excused: Bogert and Kruse.**

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

Recorded by Terri Pavlic