



# La Crosse Area Planning Committee

## Metropolitan Planning Organization

### Serving the La Crosse/La Crescent Urbanized Area

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## Minutes of Technical Advisory Committee Meeting, October 14, 2020

**Minutes of the meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee** held on Wednesday, October 14, 2020 at 2:30 p.m. by Microsoft Teams.

**Members on Call:** Voting: Adam Lorentz, Francis Schelfhout, Anna Pierce, Bob Fisher, Jarrod Holter, Ron Chamberlain, Loren Schwier. Non-voting: Jim Kuehn, WisDOT; Mary Forlenza, FHWA. **Guests and Staff:** Peter Fletcher, Jackie Eastwood.

Peter Fletcher called the meeting at 2:31 p.m.

**1) Approval of the minutes of the September 9, 2020 TAC meeting:**

*Adam Lorentz motioned to approve the minutes as presented; Jarrod Holter seconded. All were in favor.*

**2) Recommendation to approve amending the 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program:**

Peter Fletcher summarized the changes to the TIP project list, stating that the TIP included three new La Crosse MTU transit capital projects.

*Jarrod Holter motioned to recommend to the Policy Board to approve amending the 2020-2023 TIP as discussed; Ron Chamberlain seconded. All were in favor.*

**3) Recommendation to approve the 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program:**

Peter Fletcher provided an outline of the TIP document and stated that the 15-day public comment period is concluded.

*Adam Lorentz motioned to recommend to the Policy Board to approve the 2021-2024 TIP; Jarrod Holter seconded. All were in favor.*

**4) Revised STP-U project ranking criteria:**

Peter Fletcher and Jackie Eastwood provided history on the existing criteria and reasoning for the update. They stated that the criteria were reduced from 17 to 9 to address federal planning factors, award extra points to projects that support state performance targets, and take points away for negative impacts. Subsequent discussion revealed concerns with using negative points and having travel and tourism as a criterion.

Peter Fletcher interpreted the desired changes to include eliminating negative points, emphasizing safety and infrastructure, and de-emphasizing travel and tourism. He stated that no action was expected at this meeting and that staff will update the criteria for a second round of review.

**5) Other updates and information items:**

Peter Fletcher stated that staff are looking to adjust the scheduling of local studies projects so that project sponsors can begin work at the beginning of the calendar year in which the project must be completed instead of after March, which has been the month of project awards in the past. Projects for 2022 will be solicited and awarded in summer of 2021 and awarded projects will be listed in the 2022 work program.

With over \$81,000 available for 2021, staff will be contracting for an update of the MTU transit development plan, which will be more regional in nature and include Onalaska shared ride and SMRT. Staff were planning on updating the TDP in-house in 2022, but the availability of local studies funds has prompted staff to move the plan up to 2021, freeing staff for other activities in 2022.

Adam Lorentz announced that MTU was awarded two buses through the VW grant and that fares will remain free for the rest of the year.

Bob Fisher announced that Amtrak will be reducing service on the Empire Builder from seven days per week to three days per week. Amtrak has not announced when regular service will be reestablished.

**6) November 2020 agenda items:**

No agenda items were announced.

**7) Other Business; Adjourn; Next meeting to be announced:**

*Adam Lorentz motioned to adjourn at 3:16 pm; Bob Fisher seconded. All were in favor.*