



La Crosse Area Planning Committee

Metropolitan Planning Organization

Serving the La Crosse/La Crescent Urbanized Area

Peter Fletcher, Director Jackie Eastwood, Transportation Planner
Erin Duffer, Transportation Planner

La Crosse County Administrative Center

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Minutes of the Committee on Transit and Active Transportation, September 14, 2023, Meeting

Minutes of the meeting of the CTAT held in-person and as a virtual meeting on Teams on Thursday, September 14, 2023, at 3:00 pm.

Members Present: Jim Krueger, Kurt Wayne, Ken Harwood, Paula Silha, Krista Heinz, Jackie Eastwood, Jenna Dinkel, Cathy Van Maren (late), Francis Schelfhout (non-voting). **Excused:** Jim Longhurst, Bridget Brown, Sam Bachmeier, Rick Diermeier. **Staff and Others Present:** Charlie Handy, Kathleen Stewart, Andrew Ericson, and Erin Duffer.

Erin Duffer called the meeting to order at 3:02 pm.

1) Approval of minutes of the May 11, 2023, CTAT Meeting:

Jim Krueger motioned to approve the minutes of the May 11, 2023, meeting; Ken Harwood seconded. All were in favor.

2) Update on City of La Crosse funding for Route 1 signage:

Erin Duffer stated that \$50,000 is included in the 2024 La Crosse CIP to sign the Regional Route 1 between Riverside Park and CTH GI. Jackie Eastwood and Francis Schelfhout responded to a question about the MRT, stating that the MRT would follow the Regional Route 1 for most of the route, but will likely switch over to the river trail between Livingston St and Onalaska.

3) Update on Wagon Wheel Trail project:

Erin Duffer described the Wagon Wheel Trail project and its status, stating it was awarded a TAP grant and is currently in the design and environmental phases. The TIP reports construction in 2026. Jenna Dinkel added that a new bike/ped bridge would be constructed adjacent to the existing span. La Crosse applied for a RAISE grant to fill in the shortfall but was not awarded. Discussions continue over who will own and maintain the bridge.

4) Update on Census Urban Area (UA) delineations:

Erin Duffer provided an update on the status of the adjusted urban area. Because of changes in the Census-defining criteria, West Salem is now its own urban area and no longer part of the La Crosse urban area. Staff has been working with the DOTs to adjust the Census-defined boundary and in August received agreement on the draft adjusted boundary. The draft adjusted boundary was presented to the TAC, which recommended approval to the Policy Board. The Policy Board will approve the boundary at its September 20 meeting.

5) Update of the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) 2024-2028 cycle:

Erin Duffer stated that applications for this TAP cycle are due October 27 and that the application is incorrect in saying the projects' ranking needs to be submitted before the deadline. We anticipate ranking those projects at the November meeting but may be able to push it to January if necessary. She then went on to describe the known projects so far and the ranking criteria.

6) Other updates and information items:

Cathy Van Maren updated on the Week without Driving event that occurs October 2 through October 8. This year the event is partnered with America Walks. MTU, SMRT, Drift Cycle, AARP, and LATA will be involved. A bingo card challenge will award prizes from local businesses.

Erin Duffer suggested changing the meeting time to 4:00 pm instead of 3:00 pm to accommodate members who cannot make the 3:00 start time. She will send out a Doodle poll.

Erin Duffer invited everyone to attend the first Northern Grain Belt Port annual meeting, which is being organized by the MRRPC and sponsored by Brennan Marine. Ken Harwood added that they are looking to create the first state-sanctioned commission. The meeting will take place 9:00 am – 3:30 pm on October 5, 2023, at the Radisson Hotel in La Crosse. Please register at www.northerngrainbeltports.com/events by [September 29](#).

Jenna Dinkel stated that the La Crosse bicycle and pedestrian plan update will begin its public engagement activities so stay tuned.

7) Future agenda items:

Future agenda items will include the CTAT ranking of the 2024 WisDOT TAP grant applications.

8) Adjourn; Next meeting TBA:

Jim Krueger motioned to adjourn at 3:46 pm; Ken Harwood seconded. All were in favor.