



La Crosse Area Planning Committee

Metropolitan Planning Organization

Serving the La Crosse/La Crescent Urbanized Area

Peter Fletcher, Director Jackie Eastwood, Transportation Planner
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Minutes of Committee on Transit and Active Transportation Meeting, November 12, 2020

Minutes of the meeting of the CTAT held as a virtual meeting on Teams on Thursday, March 12, 2020 at 3:00 pm.

Members Present: Francis Schelfhout, Charlie Handy, Cathy Van Maren, Krista Heinz, Adam Lorentz, Carolyn Dvorak, Kurt Wayne, Rick Diermeier, Bob Gollnik, Jack Zabrowski. **Excused:** Ginny Loehr. **Staff and Others Present:** Peter Fletcher, Jackie Eastwood.

Peter Fletcher called the meeting to order at 3:03 pm. Jackie Eastwood reported the persons on the call.

1) Approval of minutes of the March 12, 2020 CTAT Meeting:

Charlie Handy motioned to approve the minutes of the March 12, 2020 meeting; Adam Lorentz seconded. All were in favor.

2) Update of the Transportation Alternatives Program project ranking process and criteria:

Jackie Eastwood provided some history on the existing criteria and reasoning behind the update. LAPC staff wanted to 1) make the criteria less onerous; 2) adopt a process similar to what is used by the MnDOT ATP which allows for more discussion and fleshing out of projects; 3) consider WisDOT criteria since the Statewide committee makes the final decision. Peter Fletcher then proceeded to provide a summary of the new process and criteria.

Cathy Van Maren voiced her appreciation for the update. Francis Schelfhout stated that many groups are involved in the ranking at the State level and that applicants should cover all pieces of the application and sell the project and its assets. Projects are ranked by what is included in the application.

Kurt Wayne stated that even though the ATP process takes longer it helps flesh out as a committee how prepared an applicant is. He questioned why the process didn't include criteria on preparation to which Jackie Eastwood responded that the omission was intentional because eligibility is determined by WisDOT.

Charlie Handy said that he was impressed with the proposed process and suggested we give it a try and tweak as needed.

Charlie Handy motioned to approve the proposed TAP ranking process and criteria as presented; Cathy Van Maren seconded.

Carolyn Dvorak stated that it is helpful to see the elements considered by other agencies on the State committee and asked if the elements are in the application. Rick Diermeier answered accurately by stating that applicants will have all the information needed for the application in front of them.

With a motion on the table, Peter Fletcher called for a final vote and all were in favor.

3) Other updates and information items:

Adam Lorentz stated that MTU will be obtaining barriers for the drivers, UV filters, and a touch-free payment system. Ridership has rebounded some, up 60% from May.

Carolyn Dvorak announced that the bike share program would be launched at the end of April.

Charlie Handy stated that the County was awarded for two new SMRT buses, but with the lack of local support for the local share the SMRT Committee recommended the County not purchase the buses and instead use funds to make

up the deficit in the local share. Adam Lorentz suggested that it would be informative for communities to know the overall cost and the percentage of usage and contributions.

Jack Zabrowski stated that a final draft of the SRTS Plan will be posted to a webpage for public review and comment; the City BPAC is working on conceptual plans for 2nd St, 3rd St, and 4th St; and City acquisition of an easement through the Rivercrest MHP for the Regional Route 1 and MRT routing is nearly complete.

Peter Fletcher stated that Amtrak Empire Builder service was reduced from 7 days per week to 3 days per week. The TCMC project received federal grants to implement a second train between Chicago and the Twin Cities, but the Minnesota legislature did not approve the local match. This will postpone implementation.

4) Future agenda items:

- Solutionary Rail
- Sign locations and estimated costs for Route 1 extension.

5) Adjourn; Next meeting TBA:

Charlie Handy motioned to adjourn at 3:41 pm; Jack Zabrowski seconded. All were in favor.