



**LA CROSSE AREA PLANNING COMMITTEE**  
**METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**  
SERVING THE LA CROSSE (WI)/LA CRESCENT (MN) URBANIZED AREA

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**Minutes of the Committee on Transit and Active Transportation, July 11, 2024, Meeting**

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**Minutes of the meeting of the CTAT** held in-person and as a virtual meeting on Teams on Thursday, July 11, 2024, at 3:30 pm.

**Members Present:** Bridget Brown, Jim Longhurst, Jenna Dinkel, Ken Harwood, Krista Heinz, Jim Krueger, Jason Ludwigson, Jenny Morris, Cathy Van Maren, Brian McCoy. **Staff and Others Present:** Erin Duffer, Bob Gollnik, Andrew Erickson, Charlie Handy, Ruth Rosas.

Erin Duffer called the meeting to order at 3:30pm.

**1) Approval of the minutes of the May 9, 2024, CTAT meeting.**

*Jim Krueger motioned to approve the minutes of the May 9, 2024, meeting; Jenna Dinkel seconded. All were in favor.*

**2) Discussion and presentation on Week Without Driving with America Walks.**

Ruth provided an overview of Week Without Driving and fielded questions from the group. Erin discussed the WisDOT non-driver map and its implications for local residents. Cathy discussed planned events and LAPC participation in Week without Driving.

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

**a. Update: Carbon Reduction Program Applications.**

Erin provided an update on MnDOT CRP, and status of La Crescent's electric vehicle proposal. WisDOT CRP discussion included:

Jenna Dinkel shared the City of La Crosse applied for funds to upgrade the existing 2nd Street Cycle Track. Erin shared the City of Onalaska applied to install sidewalks on East Avenue. Erin noted that of the approximate \$1 million allocated for our region, there is nearly \$300k left.

**b. Update: TAP Applications and WisDOT Project Ready Federal Redistribution Applications.**

Erin reiterated that TAP awards had recently been announced and she shared results via email. Successful applications for the region included: Avon Street Greenway, La Crosse County Health Department Safe Routes to School, Holland County MH Trail phase 1, and Phase 2 Holland Bluff Multiuse Trail Paving (4 of 8 applications awarded).

Federal redistribution projects for the region included Lacrosse/Shelby 14/61 sidewalk extension and La Crosse Driftbike Cycle Stations (5 locations).

**c. Update: 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan Engagement RFP.**

Bob and Erin provided an update the outreach and engagement RFP and how the CTAT will be incorporated.

**d. Events recap: Inaugural Borealis service, Making Connections in La Crosse, and West Salem bicycle and pedestrian bridge opening.**

Bob provided an update of Borealis inaugural events. Cathy inquired about petition and letters to support roll-on bicycle racks on the Borealis service and who the correct contacts would be. James

**Committee on Transit and Active Transportation**

Bridget Brown, Rick Diermeier, Jenna Dinkel, Jackie Eastwood, Ken Harwood  
Krista Heinz, Jim Krueger, Jim Longhurst, Jason Ludwigson, Jennifer Morris  
Francis Schelfhout, Sandy Sechrest, Paula Silha, Cathy Van Maren, Kurt Wayne



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Longhurst commented on American League of Cyclists advocacy work and that a number of cars can be refurbished for the service and asked the LAPC to reiterate support through its various channels.

Bob provided update on the STH 16 bike/ped bridge opening in West Salem and Charlie reiterated support of the project and observed that the infrastructure is already well-used.

**e. Committee member updates.**

Jenna provided an update on the approval and adoption of the City of La Crosse bike/ped plan, planned for August 6, 2024. Jenna also shared updates on upcoming Wisconsin Bike Fed Wisconsin events the following week, including a citywide bike rodeo.

Charlie Handy discussed the expected cost increases for SMRT, nearly 50%. The rise is attributed to challenges in purchasing and delivery, with contracts and RFPs increasing by more than 20%. Another projected deficit of \$100,000 is expected in 2025. Charlie highlighted that the state of Wisconsin does not allow a regional transit authority (RTA), forcing the county to seek matching funds from individual communities, which is challenging to enforce. County leadership is aware and supportive of SMRT, actively advocating for increased contributions. It is estimated that finding solutions will take 18-24 months.

Jim Krueger mentioned the purchase of smaller buses and recent coordination with La Crescent. He noted that large fixed-route buses could be delivered faster, but there is an extensive wait time for smaller vehicles.

James Longhurst reiterated that the establishment of an RTA is unlikely for several years.

Cathy Van Maren mentioned a website featuring Gundersen and UWL and questioned whether it would be helpful to reach out to employers and shops. CH responded that Gundersen Lutheran is the largest contributor, but marketing is difficult and requires a cultural change in households.

The group discussed what role CTAT could play in advocacy, including holding events or generating ideas.

Ken Harwood and Cathy expressed interest in promoting SMRT and combining advocacy with technology.

*Cathy motioned for CTAT to support SMRT as an essential part of a regional transportation network and to seek ways to promote and advocate for SMRT and better regional transit coordination; Ken Harwood seconded. All were in favor.*

**4) Future agenda items.**

Discuss LAPC Bicycle – Pedestrian Plan Update.

**5) Adjourn, next meeting TBA.**

The group agreed to an all-virtual September 12<sup>th</sup> CTAT meeting due to calendar conflicts.

*Jim Krueger motioned to adjourn at 4:57pm; Ken Harwood seconded. All were in favor.*

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