



La Crosse Area Planning Committee

Metropolitan Planning Organization
Serving the La Crosse/La Crescent Urbanized Area

Bob Gollnik, Director

Erin Duffer, Transportation Planner

Travis Key, Transportation Planner

La Crosse County Administrative Center

212 6th Street North ☎ Room 1600 ☎ La Crosse, WI 54601

PH: 608.785.5977

Website: www.lacrossecounty.org/mpo

**LA CROSSE AREA
 PLANNING COMMITTEE
 MINUTES OF July 17, 2024
 Held in person and via Microsoft Teams**

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Patrick Barlow, Stan Hauser, Mike Poellinger, Mitch Reynolds, Scott Schumacher, Bob Stupi, Tina Tryggstad
MEMBERS EXCUSED:	Tim Candahl, Steve Elsen, Dan Kapanke, and Kim Smith
OTHERS PRESENT:	Charlie Handy, Francis Schelfhout, Barb Janssen, Paula Silha, Jane Klekamp

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Patrick Barlow called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. Roll call was taken, and a quorum was called.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE JUNE 25, 2024 LAPC MEETING

MOTION by Poellinger/Hauser to approve the minutes of the June 25, 2024, La Crosse Area Planning Committee meeting. **Motion carried unanimously; one excused (Stupi).**

RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE AMENDING THE 2024-2027 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) – RESOLUTION 7-2024

The La Crosse Area Planning Committee approved the 2024-2027 TIP on November 15, 2023. Since adoption of the TIP, two (2) projects have been added to the TIP List: Addition of one (1) City of La Crosse project to the TIP List: Various Highways, SW Region Pavement Marking, Construction Anticipated in 2024-2025 (243-24-024) and Addition of one (1) City of La Crescent project to the TIP List: Carbon Reduction Program (CRP), Lease 2 Electric Vehicles for Municipal Use (243-24-025).

MOTION by Poellinger/Hauser to approve. **Motion carried unanimously; four excused (Candahl, Elsen, Kapanke, and Smith).**

SMRT BUS UPDATE

Charlie Handy presented the state of affairs of SMRT bus and explore LAPC involvement. SMRT started in 2012 with three routes. 2018 Administration of SMRT transferred to LAX County, and they added an additional route. Deviated fixed route regional transit service is special to LAX County. Riders have developed relationship with SMRT bus drivers, and this allows for 'flag spots' for the routes to deviate to better fit needs of riders.

97% satisfaction rate of SMRT bus service; Historical sources of funding have dwindled, and SMRT is seeking new funding source to continue service. SMRT is seeking to expand service with an additional bus procurement. Expense for said procurement has increased drastically in recent years due to lack of supply. SMRT Bus rates have increased.

SMRT has good rapport with local governments; reduce parking needs, increases regional workforce availability, significant good fiscal impact on local communities, carbon reduction, more equitable access to transit. SMRT cut from many budgets because of lack of transit authority. 20,000 one-way rides/year. 17 municipalities served by SMRT and SMRT offers a recommended local share to served communities.



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LAPC's Committee on Transit and Active Transportation (CTAT) motioned to support SMRT unanimously, seeking ways to promote SMRT bus, hold public meeting.

Patrick Barlow clarified that the motion is not a financial obligation to SMRT.

Patrick Barlow tabled the motion from CTAT, and recommended the item be added as an action item to the Policy Board agenda in September.

DIRECTORS REPORT

- **Staffing Update** – Travis Key introduced himself as the new LAPC staff member.
- **Metropolitan Transportation Plan RFP Update** – LAPC received six proposals for outreach and public participation. Review team is reviewing proposals and top three will be interviewed before final selection. Notice of proceed will be produced shortly.
- **Borealis May Ridership** – Exceeded expectations with 18,500 riders. GRRC discusses with communities along the route to emphasis ridership opportunities.
- **Federal Railroad Administration NOFO – Rail Crossing Elimination Grant** – 1.1 billion dollars available for track relocation, new signals, etc.
- **Harbor Commission Updates** – LAPC has no official connection with the Harbor Commission but will provide support.
- **Rail Safety Week/Operation Lifesaver Event Updates – September 2024** – 8 to 10 school/library events in the month of September during rail safety week. Next meeting will have a clear agenda to be shared.

STAFF REPORT

- **Carbon Reduction Program (CRP)** – LAPC Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) reviewed two CRP applications submitted in our area: 1. City of La Crosse 2nd Street Cycle Track spot improvements including permanent separation. 2. City of Onalaska East Avenue Sidewalk installation to fill a network gap between Holmen and Onalaska. Both projects could be funded under the \$1,047,000 LAPC allocation for 2025-2028 and the unused funds will be returned. The TAC recommended to fund both projects and list the City of La Crosse project as first priority. Patrick Barlow brought this item to the floor for action.

MOTION by Poellinger/Stupi to approve recommendation to fund both CRP applications and list City of La Crosse project as first priority and City of Onalaska as 2nd priority. **Motion carried unanimously; four excused (Candahl, Elsen, Kapanke, and Smith).**

- **Bike Federation Events – La Crosse Area** – July 19th through 22nd events.
- **Week Without Driving Update** – September 30th through October 6th events to be organized. LAPC members are encouraged to reach out if they would like to schedule any events or promote.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- MTP Update – Outreach consultant update
- TIP Amendments
- Revisit SMRT Bus support from Policy Board
- MN 2025-2028 TIP List and MN Performance Targets

MEMBER UPDATES OR REQUESTS– No updates.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Wednesday, September 18, 2024, at 4:30 p.m.



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MOTION by Poellinger/Hauser to adjourn the meeting at 5:10 p.m. **Motion carried unanimously.**

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

Recorded by Travis Key