



# La Crosse Area Planning Committee

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

Peter Fletcher, Director Jackie Eastwood, Transportation Planner  
La Crosse County Administrative Center  
212 6<sup>th</sup> Street North ☐ Room 2300 ☐ La Crosse, WI 54601  
PH: 608.785.5977 Website: [www.lacrossecounty.org/mpo](http://www.lacrossecounty.org/mpo)

**LA CROSSE AREA PLANNING COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF MARCH 15, 2023  
Held in person and via Microsoft Teams**

<b>MEMBERS PRESENT:</b>	Patrick Barlow, Linda Seidel, Mike Poellinger, Stan Hauser, Bob Stupi, Josh Johnson, Mitch Reynolds, Monica Kruse, Tim Candahl, Scott Schumacher, Kim Smith
<b>MEMBERS EXCUSED:</b>	
<b>OTHERS PRESENT:</b>	Peter Fletcher, Jackie Eastwood, Erin Klar (Recorder), Jane Klekamp, Kathleen Stewart, Sam Bachmeier, Dillon Constant, Larry Kirch, Ken Harwood, Matthew Sorensen

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Linda Seidel 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 JANUARY 18, 2023 LAPC MEETING**

**MOTION** by Poellinger/Hauser to approve the minutes of the January 18, 2023 La Crosse Area Planning Committee meeting. **Motion carried unanimously.**

**APPROVE AMENDING THE 2023-2026 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (RESOLUTION 3-2023)**

The U. S. Department of Transportation regulations require the development and approval of a Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the metropolitan planning area by the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). The La Crosse Area Planning Committee approved the 2023-2026 TIP on November 16, 2022. Since adoption of the TIP, five (5) projects have been added to the TIP project list: La Crosse County: CTH O, CTH OA - CTH M, Bridge Replacement of B-32-020. Design Anticipated in 2023. Construction not Currently Scheduled/Obligated; Town of Shelby: Safe Public Rail Access (EFL App# WI 98), New access road, parking lot and railroad crossing signals to Upper Mississippi National Wildlife Refuge (0.1 miles north of B-32- 0163 on WIS 35) USF&W providing match funding; Aptiv, Inc.: One (1) Bariatric Van, Side-load. Vehicle Replacement. Serves La Crosse, Monroe, Jackson, and Walworth Counties; Center for Independent Living: Call Center, Mobility Management and Operating Assistance. Serves La Crosse County and 41 Other Wisconsin Counties; Tri-State Ambulance: One (1) Rear-Entry Minivan. Vehicle Replacement. Serves Vernon and La Crosse Counties. The amendment also includes adding the Wisconsin Department of Transportation targets for pavement and bridge condition (PM2) and travel time performance (PM3) into the document.

**MOTION** by Poellinger/Candahl to approve. **Motion carried unanimously.**

**APPROVE MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION CARBON REDUCTION PROGRAM PROJECT APPLICATION – LA CRESCENT**

The City of La Crescent proposes to replace a current police cruiser using Carbon Reduction Program funds. The existing police cruiser is used approximately 365 days a year and travels on average 50 miles per day with a gas mileage of 17 mpg, thereby utilizing 1,060 gallons of gas a year. The vehicle is used for patrol at all hours of the day. Gas savings do not consider



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idle time that will be saved. Utilizing the La Crescent fleet study, completed by Sawatch Labs, replacing the existing police cruiser with a fully electric powered police cruiser would result in a 93% GHG emission reduction. The city will install electric vehicle charging infrastructure at City Hall for charging the electric vehicle. This charging infrastructure will be funded using city funds. The city will use the \$12,000 CRP allocation and match that with \$2,400 from city funds for 2023. The city intends on using future CRP funds (2024-2026) for similar purposes.

**MOTION** by Kruse/Candahl to approve. **Motion carried unanimously.**

## **INTRODUCTION OF LA CROSSE COUNTY PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STAFF**

Kathleen Stewart, Director of Zoning, introduced herself and staff. Sam Bachmeier is the new Community Development Specialist. Dillon Constant is the new County Planner. Feel free to reach out to them with any questions.

## **MPO URBANIZED AREA UPDATE**

The new boundary has been released and a map is available on the MPO website. Because the criteria for defining urban areas changed, the La Crosse-La Crescent Urban Area decreased in size and population. The biggest impact is that the Village of West Salem is no longer in the La Crosse/La Crescent urbanized area but is now its own urban area. In 2024 the Village will no longer be eligible for funding from the STP-Urban program or other urban programs such as the 5307 for urban transit. This change will impact the shared ride program. The Village of West Salem is still in the MPO planning area and can remain a dues-paying member of the LAPC if they so choose.

## **MPO STAFFING DISCUSSION**

Peter presented information on hiring an additional staff person for the MPO office. The MPO projected budget for 2024 could support an additional staff member, but it would impact funding for the local studies program. Staff will continue gathering information on establishing the new position.

## **2024 MEMBER DUES**

Peter presented an overview of what 2024 dues would be for each municipality. Dues are based on equalized value of members. **MOTION** by Poellinger/Reynolds to approve dues. **Motion carried unanimously.**

## **OTHER BUSINESS –**

Wisconsin Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) applications are due April 7, 2023. The Title VI Plan draft plan is available for viewing on the MPO website. It is an administrative plan and we will be seeking approval at the May meeting. A June meeting may be needed to get Wisconsin CRP projects into the TIP.

## **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- Election of officers
- Title VI Plan
- TIP amendment
- MPO Staffing Discussion



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**NEXT MEETING DATE: Wednesday, May 17, 2023 at 4:30 p.m.**

**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 Erin Klar