



La Crosse Area Planning Committee

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

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Minutes of Technical Advisory Committee Meeting, November 8, 2023

Minutes of the meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee held at 2:30 pm on Wednesday, November 8, 2023, in room 1107 of the La Crosse County Administrative Center and by Microsoft Teams.

Members Present/On Call: Voting: Stephanie Sward for Matt Gallagher, Ken Harwood, Charlie Handy, Jarrod Holter, Paula Silha, Kurt Wayne, Joe Langeberg, Erika Shepherd, Loren Schwier, Andrea Trane, Ian Turner, and Bill Waller. Non-voting: Francis Schelfhout, WisDOT; Matthew Sorenson, WisDOT.

Members Excused: Jim Krueger, Chris Dahl, Voni Vegar, Christina Peterson. **Guests and Staff:** Peter Fletcher, Jackie Eastwood, Erin Duffer, Kathleen Stewart, and Andrew Miller.

Bob Gollnik called the meeting at 2:30pm.

1) Approval of minutes of the September 13, 2023, Meeting:

Charlie Handy motioned to approve the minutes of the July 12, 2023, meeting; Ken Harwood seconded. All were in favor.

2) Recommendation to approve amending the 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP):

Erin Duffer provided an overview of the items being amended:

- Addition of three (3) new City of La Crosse projects to the TIP List:
 - Various Highways Pedestrian Traffic Signal Rehab (243-23-032),
 - Losey Boulevard/Main Street Intersection, Left Turn Lanes/Monotubes (243-23-033), and
 - Losey Boulevard, Mormon Coulee Road to Ward Avenue Reconstruction (243-23-034).
- Addition of one (1) new La Crosse County Project to the TIP List: CTH M, Town of Barre-Town of Bangor, B-32-0239 & B-32-14 Bridge Replacements.
- Changes to funding and state project ID to one (1) State of Wisconsin system preservation project (243-22-018).

Erin Duffer read into the record two public comments received on this proposed amendment:

1. By Bridget Brown on November 7, 2023, at 9:25am:

"I would like to comment that if the changes in 243-23-033 and 243-23-034 are to be similar to the recent signal changes at West Avenue and Jackson Street, something needs to be included in the designs to better protect pedestrians. With driver attention now directed more upward toward the higher signals, it is directed away from pedestrians. The on-the-ground traffic lights kept attention closer to street level, and the one in the median provided an obstacle to avoid by slowing down. Could the median be made wider to slow drivers down? Could bollards be added where the signal was? Could the crosswalk be raised and made another color? Could pedestrians be given an advance signal, so they are not relying on drivers to yield to them? I have been cut-off as a pedestrian at West/Jackson (with the walk light) by turning drivers ignoring or not seeing me, and so avoid crossing there. Not everyone may have that option. Could the intersections with this new treatment already under construction (243-23-032?) also incorporate mitigation for pedestrians?" And "The corner radii are excessively large at Jackson/West and the walk-light request button are reversed at the northwest corner."

2. By Cathy Van Maren on October 27, 2023, at 4:20pm:

"Will we finally get bike infrastructure (preferably a PBL) on Losey? Can this be a 1 lane each way + turn lane plus 2-way bike AND BUS lane? Yes, for about 2.5 hours a day, car traffic may be a bit slow, but

there is no good parallel n-s route here since the RR track crossing was blocked at 27th St. How can I lobby for bike here?"

Jarrold Holter motioned to recommend to the Policy Board to approve amending the 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program; Joe Langeberg seconded. All were in favor.

3) Recommendation to approve the 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP):

Erin Duffer gave a general overview of the document's elements – list of projects, performance monitoring and target setting for federal goals, outline of the distribution of investments towards addressing these federal performance targets, and explained the updated Community Impact Assessment that was expanded upon to align with the Justice40 Initiatives through the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST).

Ken Harwood shared that MRRPC conducted a freight transportation survey and that out of the survey, some concerns freight drivers shared are that highly populated areas need better consideration for truck routes and traffic.

Charlie Handy motioned to recommend to the Policy Board to approve the 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP); Ken Harwood seconded. All were in favor.

4) Village of West Salem 2022-2027 STP-Urban reallocation of funds request:

Peter Fletcher provided an overview of the request by the Village of West Salem. West Salem previously received STP-Urban funds for a project on Leonard Street, beginning at Elm Street and extending to Hamilton Street. Due to unforeseen costs for rail crossing construction, the Village is requesting to reallocate the funds and move the project from Leonard Street to Hamlin Street. STP-Urban Guidelines permit the reallocation of STP-Urban funds provided local approval.

Charlie Handy motioned to recommend to the Policy Board to approve the Village of West Salem's request reallocating 2022-2027 STP-Urban funds; Ken Harwood seconded. All were in favor.

5) Update on STP-Urban 2023 solicitation:

Erin Duffer shared information about the applications that were submitted in the metropolitan planning area that the TAC will be reviewing and ranking. There is approximately \$1.37 million available for these projects. No action taken on this item.

6) Update on NHS maps and functional classification:

Erin Duffer explained WisDOT is requesting changes to the National Highway System (NHS) maps in La Crosse, due to the removal of the planned NHS route through the marsh from Gillette Street to Highway 157. This project was rescoped to follow the existing road networks. In conjunction with this NHS change, WisDOT is requesting a change in the functional classification of the affected roads.

Stephanie Sward motioned to recommend to the Policy Board to approve the updated NHS maps and functional classification; Charlie Handy seconded. All were in favor.

7) January 2024 agenda items:

STP-Urban review and rankings.

8) Other business; adjourn; next meeting to be announced:

Joe Langeberg motioned to adjourn at 2:59pm; Ken Harwood seconded. All were in favor.