



La Crosse Area Planning Committee

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

Bob Gollnik, Executive Director Erin Duffer, Transportation Planner
La Crosse County Administrative Center
212 6th St N ☎ Room 1600 ☎ La Crosse, WI 54601-2300
PH: 608.785.5977 Website: www.lacrossecounty.org/mpo

Minutes of Technical Advisory Committee Meeting, May 8, 2024

Minutes of the meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee held at 2:30 pm on Wednesday, May 8, 2024, in room 1107 of the La Crosse County Administrative Center and by Microsoft Teams.

Members Present/On Call: Voting: Stephanie Sward for Matt Gallagher, Charlie Handy, Jarrod Holter, Paula Silha, Kurt Wayne, Joe Langeberg, Erika Shepherd, Jim Krueger, and Lauren Koss. Non-voting: Francis Schelfhout, WisDOT; Brian McCoy, MnDOT; and Jason Nordberg, FHWA.

Members Excused: Chris Dahl, Ken Harwood, Christina Peterson, Andrea Trane, Loren Schwier, Bill Waller, and Voni Vegar. **Guests and Staff:** Bob Gollnik, Erin Duffer, Nikki Kvam, and Bernie Lenz.

Bob Gollnik called the meeting at 2:30pm.

1) Approval of minutes of the March 13, 2024, Meeting:

Charlie Handy motioned to approve the minutes of the March 13, 2024, meeting; Jim Krueger seconded. All were in favor.

2) Recommendation to approve Supporting the Designation of the Mississippi River Trail (MRT) Within the Limits of LAPC's Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA).

Bob Gollnik introduced the item and Francis Schelfhout provided an overview. All of the municipalities within the bounds of the trail have approved and signed a resolution in support, with the exception of the City of La Crosse that is on the upcoming Common Council consent agenda.

Jarrod Holter motioned to recommend to the Policy Board to approve Supporting the Designation of the Mississippi River Trail (MRT) Within the Limits of LAPC's Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA). Jim Krueger seconded. All were in favor.

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

Erin Duffer provided an overview of the items being amended:

- Addition of one (1) Town of Shelby project to the TIP List: US 14/61 from Fireclay Ct to STH 35, Sidewalk Extension, Design See TIP #243-14-026, Construction Anticipated in 2024. (243-24-016).
- Addition of one (1) Village of West Salem project to the TIP List: East Ave/West Franklin St, Pedestrian Improvements, Design/Construction Not Currently Scheduled or Obligated. (243-24-017).
- Addition of three (3) State of Wisconsin Rail Projects in the Village of West Salem, Railroad Warning Devices, Construction in 2024: 1.) Leonard Street, RR Xing 390920B (243-24-018). 2.) Mill Street, RR Xing 390917T (243-24-019). 3.) CTH B/Oak Avenue, RR Xing 390921H (243-24-020).
- Addition of one (1) State of Wisconsin Rail Project in the Town of Hamilton, Linse Road, RR Xing 390914X, Railroad Warning Device, Construction in 2024 (243-24-021).
- Changes to funding, state project ID, and/or construction/design schedules to two (2) State of Wisconsin System Preservation Projects (243-19-034 and 243-22-034) and one (1) State of Wisconsin Rail Project (243-21-022).

Charlie Handy motioned to recommend to the Policy Board to approve amending the 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program; Stephanie Sward seconded. All were in favor.

4) Update on WisDOT Project Ready Federal Redistribution applications:

Erin Duffer shared that some of the items in the 2024-2027 TIP amendment are due to an eligibility requirement for the Federal Redistribution applications. The applications submitted in this area are:

- A sidewalk extension project along USH 14/61 submitted by the Town of Shelby with a cost-share agreement with the City of La Crosse due to the sidewalk crossing both jurisdictional boundaries. Bernie Lenz with CBS Squared, Inc. provided more context to the project and shared a map.
- The Village of West Salem submitted an application for 3 sidewalk crossing improvements with installation of RRFBs and ADA-compliant curb cuts.
- The City of La Crosse submitted an application for installing 5 new Drift Bike (bike-share) stations throughout the city. This application was submitted after the public comment period for the TIP amendment during this meeting cycle. So, LAPC staff is requesting a June meeting to accommodate quicker inclusion in the TIP.
- Francis Shelfhout shared that the Wisconsin rail projects in this TIP amendment are also because of the Federal Redistribution money available.

5) Update on MnDOT Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) application solicitation for LAPC's MPA (MN-side):

Erin Duffer explained that the Carbon Reduction Program through MnDOT, is open for applications. LAPC's applications is up on the website and due June 14, 2024.

Kurt Wayne clarified that the program is eligible for municipalities that is in the urban area of the MN-side of LAPC, and not the MPA. Erin said she will correct the application.

Erin shared that WisDOT recently released their solicitation for the CRP with expanded project eligibility. Applications are due to WisDOT June 30, 2024. We have not yet received the LAPC allocation amount, but Erin said she will update everyone once she is notified. As well, there will be a WisDOT webinar with more information that has not yet been scheduled. The Technical Advisory Committee will review and provide a ranking recommendation for both the projects submitted in the Wisconsin and Minnesota sides of LAPC during the July 2024 meeting cycle.

6) Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) community survey.

Erin Duffer shared the draft of the community-wide survey to gather feedback from the committees. Charlie Handy commented he is appreciative of the focus on transit and active transportation. Erin said they plan to share with the Committee on Transit and Active Transportation (CTAT) and the Policy Board before releasing end of May/beginning of June. There will be more opportunities for engagement, as this survey will survey as the initial baseline.

7) Update on SS4A application.

Bob Gollnik explained LAPC is moving forward with the application for the Safe Streets 4 All grant to create the Comprehensive Safety Action Plan. The plan is set to begin in 2025 and LAPC will work with a consultant for completion.

8) Update on TCMC (Borealis).

Bob Gollnik shared the Amtrak passenger rail line, Twin Cities-Milwaukee-Chicago (TCMC), now known as Borealis, is set to begin service on May 21, 2024. A celebratory event will be held the early afternoon of that day at the La Crosse Depot for its first trip through La Crosse. LAPC is working with WisDOT and Explore La Crosse to organize the event. There will be speakers, a food truck, and live music. All are encouraged to come out and support.

9) Update on National Planning Conference.

Erin Duffer said she recently attended the National Planning Conference in April that was held in Minneapolis. In the packet she shared some highlights of sessions she attended that would be interesting to the group.

10) July 2024 agenda items:

Bob explained that staff is requesting a June meeting for the TIP amendment. Bob will send out a Doodle Poll of dates and times to ensure a quorum can be met.

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

Charlie Handy requested a future agenda about the importance of transit. He presented an idea to meet with local staff, inviting TAC members, to discuss the future of SMRT Bus and its financial sustainability. LAPC staff said they are willing to help organize this effort.

Paula Silha asked if we know when TAP and STP-Urban awards will be announced. Francis Shelfhout said WisDOT has a deadline of June 1, but he is hoping it will be sooner than that.

Kurt Wayne introduced their new MnDOT District 6 Principal Planner, Brian McCoy. Brian will serve as the LAPC liaison and will replace Kurt as a voting member of the TAC and CTAT.

Jim Krueger motioned to adjourn at 3:20pm; Charlie Handy seconded. All were in favor.