

**Greater Madison MPO
Technical Coordinating Committee
Meeting Minutes**

January 22, 2025

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

2:00 p.m.

1. Roll Call

Members present: Blau, Bruun, Clark, Grady, Husen, Igl, Kahler, Mountford, Schmid, Schreiber, Sivertson, Stauske, Tao, Vieth, Violante

Members absent: Combes, Cruz, Dietz, Forlenza, Munz-Pritchard, O’Laughlin, Petykowski

MPO Staff present: Andros, Holloway, Packirisamy

Other present in official capacity: Greg Hall, DeForest; Katherine Holt, Verona; David Salmon, Sun Prairie; Joel Otterbacher, Dane County Highways

2. Approval of September 25, 2024, Meeting Minutes

Blau moved, Stauske seconded, to approve the September 25, 2024, meeting minutes. Motion carried.

3. Committee Member Reports

- City of Middleton (Stauske): Sean Stauske will be retiring in the spring, targeting the end of April. Following his retirement, his position will be divided between two new positions, a Director of Engineering and an Engineer.
- City of Fitchburg (Kahler): Fitchburg is gearing up for two major construction projects this year on Fitchrona Road and South Syene Road. The City has HSIP money for part of the Syene Road project. That will be a big intersection reconstruction and reconfiguration project. We’ll be adding a roundabout at Fitchrona and Lacey where there is currently a T-intersection. We’ll also be experimenting with some temporary infrastructure at some of our intersections for three- and six-month trial projects. After that we’ll be deciding whether to take them out or replace them with something more durable. If those temporary installations work well, we will continue with the program to test improvements at other intersections.

4. Review and Recommendation on Draft TCC Operating Rules and Procedures Update

Holloway presented on the proposed revisions to the TCC’s operating rules and procedures.

Following Holloway’s presentation, Igl said that having meetings earlier than the TCC’s regular 2:00 p.m. meeting time would be helpful. Andros, asked whether 1:00 p.m. would be convenient. Lee said that 1:00 p.m. would work. Andros noted that the MPO is trying to keep TCC meetings significantly shorter than the scheduled two-hour timeframe.

Stauske, suggested including a mechanism to generate greater attendance, such as contacting communities when their representative(s) have missed three meetings to let them know that their representative will be removed from the committee.

Andros said that she thought that Stauske’s idea was a good one. She added that the proposal to allow communities to choose their own representatives, would also result in greater attendance.

Schmid said that she expected to be designated as the Dane County Highways representative to the TCC but she noted that she would need to run voting items by the Commissioner and asked whether members would have information about upcoming votes prior to TCC meetings. Andros replied that agendas and meeting information would continue to be released a week prior to meetings.

Kahler said that he staffs some city commissions and that they track attendance and if a member misses three or four meetings in a row, they are removed by the clerk.

Violante said that he supported the changes as outlined in the presentation and that he was open to shifting the TCC meeting time to 1:00 p.m.

Bruun said he was open to an earlier time, 1:00 p.m. or even 10:00 or 11:00 a.m.

Stauske said that afternoons were much easier for his schedule.

Bruun said he thought that moving the meeting earlier by an hour or a half hour would probably be best.

Blau moved, Stauske seconded, to recommend approval of the Draft TCC Operating Rules and Procedures update, with the additional provision that members, and their communities, will be notified by MPO staff after missing three consecutive meetings that another absence will result in their removal from the committee. Motion carried.

5. Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grant Update

Andros provided an update on the status of the MPO's SS4A grant, which will be providing support for five MPO communities' projects:

1. The Village of Cottage Grove's Active Transportation Plan
2. The City of Verona's Safe Routes to School Plan
3. The City of Fitchburg's Comprehensive Safety Action Plan
4. The Village of Shorewood Hills' Comprehensive Safety Action Plan
5. Dane County's County Highway Comprehensive Safety Action Plan

Andros noted that the City of Madison is the MPO's fiscal agent and that the MPO's primary role in the SS4A projects going forward would be grant administration. She said the MPO would act as a resource for communities pursuing SS4A grant projects and would convene meetings to bring the communities together to compare notes and learn from one another.

Andros said that the grant agreement has not been signed by FHWA in Washington, D.C. but that she expected it to move forward.

6. Additional STBG and TAP funding

Andros said that additional Surface Transportation Block Grant-Urban (STBG-U) and Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) funding for the MPO is expected as a result of unspent money from the Water Resources Development Act being reallocated. However, the MPO currently has no details about how much additional funding to expect or when more information will be available. Andros noted that the MPO's guess was that this could result in an additional \$1 million of TAP funding being available for our area, compared to the standard \$150,000, and additional STBG-U funding as well. How much additional money we will receive and the deadline for spending it are unknown. She noted that the more ready projects are, the more likely they will be able to receive some of this additional funding.

Bruun asked whether it would be possible for the MPO to just spread the money around to projects that are already listed for funding in the TIP. Andros said that the MPO currently doesn't have enough information to know if that would be a possibility at this point.

Andros added that previously, when this type of redistributed funding has become available, the state has used most of it on state projects but that the state has largely depleted its list of backlogged projects. This makes it more likely that any additional funding would be directed to local community projects.

7. Staff Report

- **MPO New Hire**

Andros introduced the MPO's new hire, Prasad Packirisamy, noting that he will be working on the SS4A grant effort and helping with the MPO's safety and transit work. Packirisamy provided the committee with a short summary of his background and experience.

8. Next Scheduled Meeting Date

- The next meeting is scheduled for February 26th.

Bruun reminded the group that future meetings would take place at 1:00 p.m. and noted that if any members had any specific topics that they would like added to a future agenda, that they should reach out to Andros or Holloway to get those on the agenda. He mentioned that he had suggested last year that the TCC discuss the Carbon Reduction Program application process and potential stumbling blocks, and that it may be time to revisit that topic soon before communities start applying to that program again.

9. Adjournment

Stauske moved, Blau seconded, to adjourn the meeting. Motion caried. Meeting adjourned at 2:48 p. m.