

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

February 23, 2022

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

2:00 p.m.

1. Roll Call

Members present: Brown, Clark, Dunphy, Hessling, Holt, Koprowski, Larson, Paoni, Petykowski (for Phillips), Semmann, Stauske, B. Bruun (for Stephany), Tao, Violante,

Members absent: Balke, Cruz, Hall, Hedgepeth, Scheel, Stouder, Batuzich, Wheeler

MPO Staff present: Schaefer, Lyman, Hoesly

Other staff present: A. Rahman (WisDOT Traffic Forecasting)

2. Approval of January 26, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Brown moved, Larson, seconded, to approve the January 26, 2022 meeting minutes. Motion carried.

3. Review of Draft Scoring and Preliminary Funding Recommendations for Transportation Alternatives Program Grant Applications for FY 2022-2026

Schaefer indicated that staff had reviewed and scored projects based on the MPO's scoring criteria. Based on that, staff identified a draft set of projects proposed to be funded with the MPO's "base" Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) funding, as well as projects that could be funded with additional funding to be received from the Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act (IIJA), also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). Staff has estimated the allocation amount under the BIL, but the precise total is unknown at this time.

Lyman reviewed the draft scoring and preliminary funding recommendations. The MPO has \$1.4 million in "base" funding to allocate for this cycle and is recommending that the following projects be funded: WI Bike Fed – Safe Routes to School (2023-2024 and 2025-2026), City of Madison – BCycle Bike Share Expansion, City of Fitchburg – BCycle Phase 2 Expansion, and City of Sun Prairie – N. Bird Street Multiuse Path and RRFBs. The MPO anticipates receiving \$2.55 million in additional funding under the BIL. With those funds, staff is proposing to fund the City of Madison- Badger Rusk Shared-Use Path, the City of Madison -- North Madison Safe Routes to School Improvements Program, and the City of Madison -- Reindahl Park to East spring Bike Connection. However, these are just preliminary recommendations pending receipt of additional applications through a supplemental solicitation later this year.

After describing the project recommendations, Lyman presented a map showing their locations. Tao provided additional information on the North Madison Safe Routes to School Improvements project. He indicated that Metro Transit is proposing a route change at the intersection of School Road and Northport Road. With this change, buses would no longer be reliant on a new left-turn traffic signal. Tao indicated that Traffic Engineering is still recommending a traffic signal at this intersection. The Madison Transportation Commission will review this recommendation at their meeting tonight. Schaefer said staff welcomed any comments on the preliminary funding recommendations. The final project funding recommendations will be presented at the next meeting before staff seeks approval from the board in early April. Schaefer reiterated that the amount of additional funding available

through BIL for 2022 and 2023-2026 is not yet known. He added that the federal government is still operating under a continuing resolution that extends fiscal year 2021 funding authority and levels. Stauske said it is good to have these project recommendations for both lists should the funding come through.

4. Update on *Connect Greater Madison: Regional Transportation Plan 2050 – Review of Roadway Maps and Other Recommendations*

Schaefer provided an update on the schedule to complete the RTP Update and reviewed draft plan recommendations. He explained that the update had been completed in coordination with CARPC's Regional Development Framework and the plan is designed to serve the growth scenario from the Framework. Next, he reviewed the Major Projects and Studies and Future Roadway Functional Classification maps. He noted, among other comments, that the Major Projects map shows programmed and planned BRT routes, along with potential future inter-regional rail service between Milwaukee and Madison. Following that, Schaefer presented other recommendations. Schaefer described the map showing the future Regional Transit Network, which builds upon the current BRT project and Metro Transit's network redesign. Schaefer presented the Planned Regional Bikeway System and Key Missing Links in Bikeway Network maps and planned Park and Ride system map.

Violante asked for additional information about potential passenger rail service. Schaefer stated that the City of Madison has put funds in its budget to start evaluating potential passenger rail station locations. He mentioned Mayor Rhodes-Conway recently testified on the topic of rail usage priority for freight rail and passenger rail, advocating for passenger rail. He added that there are significant new funds in the infrastructure bill for passenger rail. At this time, the planning is for service with maximum 85 mph speeds, not high speed service. Tao added that the Mayor is very interested in bringing passenger rail to Madison and noted the funds in the budget for a study. He indicated that he would keep committee members updated. Paoni stated that she is the project manager for the state rail plan. The plan is being updated now; it's first update in ten years. The current plan shows potential connections between Madison, Milwaukee, Chicago, and the Twin Cities. The infrastructure bill is providing funds for regional corridor service with a different state match requirement than in the past. Paoni said that the plan update will focus on conventional speed rail with good frequency, not high speed rail. plan. The draft will be out in late spring or early summer.

Schaefer said that he will review recommendations with the board at their meeting next week. MPO staff will post recommendations and maps on our website. A map commenting tool will be available. Staff are working to complete the full draft report by end of March, release it to the public in early April, and request board adoption in May. Schaefer indicated that he would send the presentation to everyone after the meeting, and that additional comments could be sent later if needed.

5. Committee Member Reports

Stauske: Several significant projects are underway or will be underway soon in Middleton: redevelopment of the Bruce Company on Parmenter Street, near Donna Drive; the New Belle Farm development along the planned Belle Fontaine Parkway; and the Acre farm just east of High Road.

Tao: The Vision Zero Action Plan effort is changing how the city and the larger community approaches traffic safety. It is making a positive impact on the community. More communities are starting this effort, including the City of Milwaukee. At the national level, the US DOT recently launched own initiative called the national roadway safety strategy, which is similar to Vision Zero.

The USDOT Deputy Secretary recognized the City of Madison's good work at the launch event. Endorsement from USDOT has been helpful; this tells us we are taking the right approach. Staff has developed a comprehensive Vision Zero action plan, which is nearly ready for official adoption by the City Council before the end of March. Staff have started work on an initiative to reduce speeds on residential streets from 25 mph to 20 mph.

Tao said staff have been working on combining different city programs into one large program called Safe Streets Madison. This will address safety improvement requests the city receives; currently, there are over 300 requests and not enough funds to cover all problems. This system will equitably assign resources and meet some major goals identified by the Transportation Commission (TC). Approval of the first phase of projects totaling \$1 million is being sought from the TC tonight. Some projects will require public engagement. One such project is the capacity reduction on Gammon Road.

Dunphy: A public hearing for the CTH M project is scheduled for March 15 and March 16. March 15 is the virtual public hearing; March 16 is the in-person public meeting. Dunphy said that committee members could contact her if they have any requests for or questions about potential joint projects.

Petykowski: The University Avenue reconstruction project is out for bid. The bids will be opened on March 8. This is a joint project with the Village of Shorewood. PS&E for Pleasant View Road has been turned in. Bids will be opened May 10. This is a joint project with the City of Middleton. We are still working on the John Nolen Drive project design alternatives. A public information meeting will be scheduled this spring. Atwood Avenue design is mostly complete. The Autumn Ridge path and overpass is at the 60% design level; we are looking to get approvals on the environmental document. The West Towne Phase 3 and West Main Street Bike Blvd TAP projects are progressing along; we are looking at a combined let for both projects sometime around December 2022 or possibly January 2023 with construction in 2023.

Koprowski: Work on the Beltline resurfacing and flex lane project will start again in March. Resurfacing will last most of the summer. The majority of flex lane construction occurred last year. The eastbound flex lane segment from Whitney Way to Fish Hatchery Road will open late summer. The westbound section (Whitney Way to Fish Hatchery Road), and the eastbound section from Fish Hatchery Road to I-39/90 could open sooner. We expect the WB portion from Fish Hatchery Road to I-39/90 to open in early summer. Schaefer asked if WisDOT will hold educational outreach activities in regard to the flex lane. Koprowski said that there will be educational outreach, but hopefully the flex lane is intuitive when it opens.

6. Staff Report

Schaefer reported on the following:

- Federal certification review of the MPO was held last week -- we were informed the MPO will be recertified.
- Current and upcoming supplemental local program application cycles (STBG, Bridge, TAP) for use of BIL funding
- WisDOT Secretary meeting with large MPO Directors to discuss issues with MPO suballocated funding
- Impending vacancy on MPO board - Dorothy Krause is not seeking another term on the Dane County Board of Supervisors.

7. Next Meeting Dates

The next scheduled meetings are March 23, 2022 and April 27, 2022.

8. Adjournment

Violante moved, Tao seconded, to adjourn. Motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Kanning and Schaefer.