

Greater Madison Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)

October 2, 2024, Meeting Minutes

Virtual Meeting hosted via [Zoom](#)

Opitz called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

1. Roll Call and Introductions

Members present: Mark Opitz, Thomas Lynch, Art Sommerfield, Kristi Williams, Liz Callin, Derek Field, Paul Esser, Richelle Andrae, Phil Caravello, John Duncan, Doug Wood

Members absent/excused: Clement Abongwa, Barbara Harrington-McKinney, Charles Myadze

MPO staff present: Alex Andros, David Kanning, Ben Lyman

Others present in an official capacity: Kathy Kuntz, Dane County Office of Energy and Climate Change

2. Approval of September 4, 2024, Meeting Minutes

Williams moved, Field seconded to approve the September 4, 2024, meeting minutes. Motion carried.

3. Communications

Andros stated that she does not have any communications to share with the Board. Opitz suggested that at the end of the meeting, if there is time, the Board could discuss the Week Without Driving and Board member's experiences taking the challenge.

4. Public Comment (for items *not* on MPO Agenda)

None.

5. Public Hearing on Amendment to the 2024-2028 Transportation Improvement Program to add a new federally funded Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) project

Opitz opened the public hearing and asked if the MPO received any communications regarding the amendment. Kanning noted that the MPO received one comment in support of the amendment. Opitz closed the public hearing.

6. MPO 2024 Resolution No. 16 Approving Amendment No. 7 to the 2024-2028 Transportation Improvement Program for the Madison Metropolitan Area & Dane County

Kanning presented on the amendment, which adds a \$16.8 million Charging and Infrastructure project to the TIP. The project is sponsored by Dane County and the funding is from USDOT's Charging and Fueling Infrastructure grant, which is a discretionary grant. Funding will enable the County to install 92 level 2 and 3 EV chargers. This will be a 3-year project. Locations of chargers will be determined in the project planning process.

Wood asked where the locations might be or what factors will be looked at when choosing them. Kathy Kuntz of the Dane County Office of Energy and Climate Change said that they will be referencing the MPO's Dane County EV Charging Infrastructure Plan. She continued to say the three priorities they're looking to address are (1) multi-family neighborhoods (2) rural areas of the County, and (3) multimodal areas.

Esser moved to approve the amendment. Wood seconded the motion. Motion carried.

7. MPO 2024 Resolution No. 17 Adopting Annual Public Transit Agency Safety Plan Performance Measure Targets

Lyman presented the amendment concerning the annual adoption of performance measure targets for the Transit Asset Management (TAM) and Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP). Each year, the MPO must either adopt the State's, Metro Transit's, or establish independent targets. Historically, the MPO has adopted Metro's safety performance targets. MPO staff recommends that we adopt Metro's performance measures.

Lyman provided an overview of Metro's 2023 targets compared to actual performance. Notably, Metro exceeded the safety event total for bus transit. This discrepancy may be due to differences between Metro's safety event definitions and those of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). Lyman also noted the introduction of new safety performance targets established by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). These targets require three years of data for full compliance; however, as data collection only began in 2023, these measures will be implemented once the necessary data is available.

Esser moved, Wood seconded, to adopt the resolution. Motion carried.

8. MPO 2024 Resolution No. 18 Adopting the 2025-2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the Madison Metropolitan Area & Dane County

Kanning presented the addition/change sheet that lists proposed changes to the draft TIP. Staff reviewed the proposed changes with the MPO Technical Coordinating Committee at their September meeting, and the committee recommended approval of the TIP with these changes.

Kanning reported that Dane County submitted comments pertaining to their own projects on 8/28/24. No other written comments were received on the draft TIP.

Esser moved, Field seconded, to adopt the 2025-2029 TIP with the changes reflected in the Addition/Change sheet. Motion carried.

9. MPO 2024 Resolution No. 19 Approving Amendment No. 1 to the 2021 Public Participation Plan for the Greater Madison MPO

Andros explained that federal regulations mandate the inclusion of public participation guidelines. The proposed amendment would reduce the public comment period from 30 days to a minimum of 15 days, with flexibility to extend the period if necessary.

Additional changes involve updates to the list of individuals and organizations to be notified, aligning with practices of other MPOs. The amendment also addresses virtual meetings, allowing the Policy Board and Technical Coordinating Committee to continue meeting virtually.

Andrae moved, Field seconded, to adopt the resolution. Motion carried.

10. MPO 2024 Resolution No. 20 Approving the 2020 Urban Area and Metropolitan Planning Area Boundaries for the Madison Urban Area of Dane County, WI

Andros presented on the adoption of updated MPO boundaries following the 2020 Census. In February, the Board approved the updated urban area boundary, and now the planning area boundary requires adjustment as well. This update impacts funding, as projects within the planning area must be included in the TIP.

The MPO also reached out to the Village of Mount Horeb to gauge interest in joining the MPO boundary area, which the Village Board subsequently approved.

Field moves to adopt the resolution, Caravello seconded. Motion carried.

11. Status Report on Capital Area Regional Planning Commission (CARPC) activities

Andros shared an update from Jason Valerius, CARPC's Executive Director. He says that the Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District sought amendment of the Dane County Water Quality Plan to stop sending treated wastewater back to Verona. This has been happening since the 1990s.

The Commission recommended denial of their application back in August, but the DNR approved it in September with conditions for continuing water quality monitoring.

The Director is beginning outreach to counties around Dane County that are not affiliated with a Regional Planning Commission (Sauk, Columbia, Dodge, Jefferson, and Rock), both directly and through the Madison Region Economic Partnership (MadREP). They are offering planning services for a fee-for-service basis.

CARPC is also a co-sponsor of the Midwest Climate Summit, which is coming to Madison in 2025. The call for workshop proposals is now open.

CARPC is continuing to work on efforts to more accurately map residential units County-wide.

12. Announcements and Staff Reports

- ***FHWA Low Carbon Transportation Materials (LCTM) grant opportunity***

FHWA has a low carbon transportation materials grant opportunity. The MPO is interested in applying and there may be a regional application.

There are low-carbon road building materials. It can be used for paying for materials or the difference in cost. It is 100% federally funded. Funding can be used to develop new processes; there is interest in the Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC).

- ***Release of DRAFT 2024-2028 Coordinated Public Transit - Human Services Transportation Plan for Dane County for public review and comment***

The Draft Coordinated Public Transit – Human Services Transportation Plan is available on the MPO's website.

- ***Week Without Driving Reflection***

Opitz inquired if any Board members participated in the challenge. Alder Field shared his experience, highlighting the difficulty of completing a trip by transit on a Sunday. Liz Callin reflected on the challenges faced by parents without cars, especially when making multiple stops, such as dropping off children at school or childcare. Tom Lynch noted the speed of the new Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) service. Andrae shared that she assisted her neighbor in using transit to reach an event, and they appreciated avoiding traffic and parking fees.

13. Adjournment

Lynch made the motion to adjourn. Caravello seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m. The next Policy Board meeting will be held virtually on Wednesday, November 6th, 2024.