

**Greater Madison Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
September 7, 2022 Meeting Minutes**

[Virtual Meeting hosted via Zoom](#)

Opitz called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

1. Roll Call and Introductions

Members present: Richelle Andrae, Phil Caravello, Paul Esser (arrived during Item 5), Steve Flottmeyer, Gary Halverson, Barbara Harrington-McKinney, Jerry Mandli, Mark Opitz, Kristi Williams, Doug Wood

Members absent: Grant Foster, Tom Lynch, Nasra Wehelie

MPO staff present: Bill Schaefer, Colleen Hoesly, Ben Lyman (left after item 7)

Others present in an official capacity: Diane Paoni (WisDOT)

2. Approval of August 3, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Williams moved, Esser seconded, to approve August 3, 2022 meeting minutes. Motion carried.

3. Approval of August 3, Joint MPO-CARPC Meeting Minutes

Williams moved, Halverson seconded, to approve August 3, 2022 joint MPO-CARPC meeting minutes. Motion carried.

4. Communications

Schaefer described the communications included in the meeting packet.

- MPO staff comments on two sewer service amendments (SSAs): one for two areas in Verona and the other in Stoughton. Schaefer explained the purpose of the comments and mentioned that CARPC may stop providing land use reviews for SSAs, but instead comment on comprehensive plans. If so, the MPO would provide its transportation reviews at those times too rather than for SSAs.
- Letter from WisDOT approving amendment #6 to the 2022-2026 TIP, which was previously approved by the MPO Board.

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

None

6. Public Hearing on the Draft 2023-2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the Madison Metropolitan Area & Dane County

Opitz opened the hearing at 6:34 p.m. Schaefer reviewed the STBG Urban priority projects table and noted that the proposed schedules have been adjusted for three projects after meetings with local staff and their consultants:

- North Thompson Street-St. Albert the Great Drive, in Sun Prairie, is now scheduled for 2024
- Bird Street, in Sun Prairie, is now scheduled for 2025.

- Nichols Road, in Monona, is now scheduled for 2026.

There were no registrants to speak. The hearing was closed at 6:43 p.m. Further action on the TIP will be taken at the next MPO Board meeting on October 5, 2022.

7. Review of Section 5310 Program (Enhanced Services for Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities) Grant Project Applications for 2023 and Preliminary Approval of Draft Project Funding Recommendations

Lyman provided an overview of the applications received, scoring, and recommended funding levels.

He also identified several minor proposed revisions to the *Section 5310 Program of Projects for the Madison Urbanized Area – 2023* table that was included in the meeting packet. The purpose of the proposed revisions is to ensure that Section 5310 funding is in accordance with all federal rules.

Wood asked whether YWCA's project to hire drivers with their 5310 funds would be able to go forward at the proposed 50% reduced level. Lyman responded that YWCA's request had been for funding for two drivers, and that the proposed funding level will allow them to hire one of those. Lyman noted that he had spoken with all of the sponsors of projects that are recommended for lower levels of funding than requested, and that they are all happy to be receiving any funding through the program.

Wood asked whether the current funding levels for 5310 projects will continue in future levels. Lyman noted that 5310 funding levels are expected to increase by a small percent annually after the larger increase this year, but that higher funding than normal is being distributed this year due to the use of carryover funds from previous years, as well as emergency funding related to COVID-19.

Esser moved, Andrae seconded, to provide preliminary approval to fund the projects at the level recommended by MPO staff reflected in the program of projects table. Motion carried.

8. Appointment of Representative to the Beltline (USH 12/14/18/151) Planning & Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study Policy Advisory Committee

Opitz asked if any board members were interested in serving as the MPO representative on the PEL study advisory committee. Schaefer explained that the study would be ending by mid-2023 and that the commitment would likely be limited, with only perhaps a couple of meetings to attend. He noted that it is not essential that the MPO have a representative on the committee but that it would be good.

Wood noted that he is already a representative on a study committee, having been appointed by the City of Monona.

With no other board members volunteering to serve on the committee, Opitz appointed himself as the MPO representative on the committee.

9. Letter of Support for City of Madison's Grant Application under the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Program

Schaefer explained that the city of Madison is applying for \$20 million for a host of projects, and that the City is eligible for an implementation grant because it has an adopted Vision Zero action plan. Most of the City's proposed projects are pedestrian and bicycle related—protected bike lanes, sidewalks, crossings, etc. The grant would also fund education and planning initiatives, including a new pedestrian plan for the City. The City is seeking a letter of support from the MPO.

Williams moved, Harrington-McKinney seconded, to send the letter in support of the City of Madison's grant application under the SS4A program. Motion carried.

10. Update on Planned Issuance of RFP for Preparation of Regional Comprehensive Safety Action Plan and Assistance in Preparing Implementation Grant Application Under the SS4A Program

Hoesly presented on the MPO's planned issuance of an RFP to complete a regional comprehensive safety action plan that meets the requirements of the SS4A program, and prepare an application for the second round of SS4A implementation funding, which must be submitted in September 2023. Following her presentation she said that a formal recommendation to release the RFP is unnecessary but that MPO staff were interested in any feedback from the board, and if the board would like to review the RFP before it is officially released. She noted that staff would be reviewing the scope of work with the MPO's Technical Committee.

Esser said that he would be comfortable with MPO staff moving ahead with the RFP without bringing it back before the Board. Andrae, Opitz, and Williams voiced their agreement with Esser. No one disagreed.

11. Review and Discussion on Potential Uses for Additional Future Federal Planning Funding

Schaefer explained that the MPO will be receiving more federal planning funding going forward than it has in the past and needs to decide develop a long-term plan on how to use it. He described some of the potential priorities that have been identified by MPO staff. He noted that staff prioritized planning initiatives addressing critical issues identified in the RTP and that will put the region in position to secure federal funding under the new programs in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill (BIL).

Opitz said that Schaefer had explained that the MPO's funding would increase as a result of the Madison urban area growing larger relative to other urban areas in the state, and asked how much additional funding the MPO is likely to receive as a result of that. Schaefer noted that it was hard to say because the final designations of urban areas will not be available until the end of the year, but said that it may result in the MPO's share of Wisconsin's funding increasing 5%-10%. The state, overall, will receive a smaller share of total federal funding, as states in the south and west have been growing more rapidly since 2010, but the Madison area is still likely to see a small increase in its own funding.

Andrae noted that the City of Madison's recently released capital budget includes funding for planning for Amtrak service, and asked whether the MPO should be involved in planning for passenger rail service as well.

Schaefer responded that the BIL included quite a bit of funding for the extension of passenger rail service, and that Madison is studying station locations as a first step towards potentially the state applying for funding to extend rail service to the city. He said that he would expect the MPO to play a role in that but that it made sense for the City of Madison to take the lead. He also said that the proposed Amtrak service would be with conventional trains rather than the high-speed service that was previously planned. He also mentioned that there have been discussions of extending Metra commuter rail service from Chicago to Madison via Beloit and Janesville. He then asked Paoni to provide the WisDOT perspective on these projects. Paoni described how in her role at WisDOT managing the State Rail Plan she had reviewed studies from the Janesville and Beloit MPOs focused on connecting to Metra service, and potentially extending service all the way up to Madison. With newly available federal funding for rail, these studies may resume. However, she expects that it will be 5-10 years before there are any tangible results from those. Schaefer noted that the Amtrak extension is a much more likely possibility in the near term.

Paoni continued that there will be higher levels of train service starting next year—1 additional trip per day on the Empire Builder route from Chicago to Milwaukee to the Twin Cities. Higher frequencies on that route could make it easier to extend service to Madison or Green Bay. Amtrak has put out a plan,

Connect Us, which includes extending service to Madison, but it wasn't financially constrained.

Andrae said she would like the MPO to do what it can to help bring rail service to Madison. Paoni added that the cost share for states interested in working with Amtrak to provide state-supported service was recently changed, making it much more cost effective for states interested in extending service.

Opitz said he thinks the list of potential planning initiatives looks good and that there are no surprises. Wood said that he thought it was a good list. Andrae said that she liked the equity aspect of the EV strategic plan.

12. Brief Updates On:

- Request for Financial Support to Leverage Increased Planning Funding under IIJA

Schaefer said that MPO staff will be presenting at the Dane County Towns Association meeting to showcase the benefits to towns of the MPO. He said that MPO staff had also reached out to the Dane County Cities and Villages Association but has not heard back yet. He noted that the MPO presented to both groups last year. He said that he wants to highlight the opportunities associated with new federal funding sources and show municipalities how the MPO can help them. He said the MPO has recently received more commitments from municipalities.

- Effort to Create MOU Between WisDOT, FHWA, and Large MPOs Regarding Suballocated Federal Funding to MPOs

Schaefer said that he and directors of other large MPOs in the state have been meeting with the WisDOT Secretary and his staff as well as FHWA staff to come to an agreement regarding the MPOs' suballocated funding and how it gets distributed from WisDOT to MPOs. He noted that part of the problem has been related to the state legislature. He said that, under federal law, the MPO is entitled to its designated share of federal funding and that the current WisDOT secretary is sympathetic to the MPOs, so they are all working to come to an agreement that will provide some protection in case a new WisDOT secretary is less inclined to pass the designated funds through to MPOs in the future.

- Schedule for Release of 2020 Urbanized Area Boundaries by U.S. Census Bureau

New urbanized area boundaries were scheduled for release in September but that has been delayed until December. Once the MPO receives that information, it will adjust the boundaries of the urban area (which will not affect federal funds received by the MPO) and then revise the boundaries of the MPO planning area.

13. Announcements and Schedule of Future Meetings

MPO/CARPC Open House at our office: Thursday, October 20, 2022, 4-6 p.m.

Next MPO Board Meeting: Wednesday, October 5, 2022, 6:30 p.m.

14. Adjournment

Esser moved, Williams seconded, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.