

**Greater Madison Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
March 1, 2023 Meeting Minutes**

[Virtual Meeting hosted via Zoom](#)

Opitz called the meeting to order at 6:48 PM.

1. Roll Call and Introductions

Members present: Richelle Andrae, Phil Caravello, Paul Esser, Steve Flottmeyer, Tom Lynch, Jerry Mandli, Mark Opitz, Kristi Williams

Members absent: Grant Foster, Barbara Harrington-McKinney, Nasra Wehelie, Doug Wood

MPO staff present: Colleen Hoesly, Bill Holloway, Ben Lyman

Others present in an official capacity: None

2. Approval of February 1, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Williams moved, Esser seconded, to approve February 1, 2023 meeting minutes. Motion carried.

3. Communications

Hoesly

- Comments on Middleton Redtail Ridge Sewer Service Area Amendment
- WisDOT Letter of Approval for Amendment 1 to the 2023-2027 TIP
- MPO letter of support for Madison Metro's Areas of Persistent Poverty grant application for North-South BRT

Opitz remarked that he and his colleague appreciated the comments on the Middleton SSA, and asked if this is something that the MPO plans offer communities in the future. Hoesly explained that this process is changing, and that the MPO has historically done this at the request of CARPC and has submitted comments through CARPC. In the future, CARPC will be focusing their comments on water quality issues, and the MPO will submit separate comments directly to the community as long as this input is appreciated by the community. Opitz reiterated that he appreciated the comments, and wondered if other communities are aware that the MPO can provide this type of feedback.

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

None.

5. Approval of Scoring and Proposed Funding of Transportation Alternatives Program Projects

Hoesly explained that there have been changes to how the MPO will handle its sub-allocated funding, and the timing of projects. Staff will present more on this at a future meeting when more is known about the changes.

Lyman provided a brief overview of the five projects for which applications were received, and then presented on the anticipated timing of the projects. As Hoesly mentioned previously, there has been a change to how FHWA and WisDOT require funding to be obligated on a year-by-year basis instead of across multi-year funding cycles. This poses issues for very large projects such as John Nolen Dr., which is funded in part with STBG-U funds awarded by the MPO, and for which the awarded funding exceeds a single year's apportionment. MPOs across the state are still working with WisDOT and FHWA to understand how to accommodate larger projects that require funding from multiple years' apportionments and will update the Policy Board when more is known. Hoesly noted that the MPO Technical Coordinating Committee met a week earlier and recommended that all projects be funded consistent with staff's recommendation.

Esser moved, Williams seconded, to approve Transportation Alternatives Program Projects as recommended by staff.

Williams stated that she was disappointed that the Capital City path extension project, which has been supported since the 1990's, is being put off until the 2026 funding cycle. Lyman stated that although everyone would like to see this project move forward more quickly, it will take time for Dane County to be ready to complete the portion of the trail east of the project. Now that the construction permit has been issued for the underpass portion, it will enable Dane County to prioritize completion of their portion of the trail. Lynch confirmed that the Dane County portion of the project will not be ready for construction for several years, as design must be completed and \$14 million in construction funding secured before the trail can be completed.

The motion carried.

6. Approval of Comments to be Submitted on the Wisconsin Rail Plan 2050

Lyman provided a high-level overview of staff's recommended comments on the Wisconsin Rail Plan 2050, including missing or incorrect references to MPO-adopted plans, encouraging the use of public railroad right-of-way for multiple modes, protecting existing crossings, and questioning the buffers used in various analyses in the plan.

Williams moved, Esser seconded, to approve the comments to be submitted to WisDOT on the Wisconsin Rail Plan 2050.

The motion carried. (Flottmeyer abstained)

Opitz asked Mandli if he needed to leave the meeting or if he was able to remain in the meeting; Mandli responded that he needed to drop off to return to a different meeting. Opitz recognized that Mandli is retiring soon and expressed his gratitude for his years of service. Mandli expressed appreciation for all of the talented staff he has worked with over the last 30 years, and that he appreciates the way that the MPO considers the needs of the region.

As there would not be a quorum to continue the meeting after Mandli left, Opitz asked Mandli for a motion to adjourn.

7. Adjournment

Mandli moved, Esser seconded, to adjourn. The motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:14 p.m.