



# La Crosse Area Planning Committee

*Metropolitan Planning Organization*  
*Serving the La Crosse/La Crescent Urbanized Area*

Vacant, Director Jackie Eastwood, Transportation Planner  
 La Crosse County Administrative Center  
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**LA CROSSE AREA PLANNING COMMITTEE**  
**Minutes of March 20, 2019**  
**Administrative Center – Room 1107**

<b>MEMBERS PRESENT:</b>	Joe Chilsen, Tara Johnson, Dave Marshall (arr. 4:33 p.m.), Mike Poellinger, Dennis Manthei, Nancy Proctor, Tim Candahl, Rolly Bogert, Mitch Brohmer
<b>MEMBERS EXCUSED:</b>	Mike Weibel
<b>OTHERS PRESENT:</b>	Steve O'Malley, Megan DeVore, Mike Giese, Jerry Monti, Patrick Barlow, Jackie Eastwood, Chuck Zauner, Francis Schelfhout, Adam Lorentz, Steve Flottmeyer, Patrick Barlow, Terri Pavlic

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Joe Chilsen called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** There was no public comment.

**APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 20, 2019 MEETING MINUTES**

**MOTION** by Poellinger/Proctor to approve the February 20, 2019 minutes of the LAPC. **Motion carried unanimously with 2 excused - Kabat and Weibel.**

**LAPC MPO AGREEMENT**

**MOTION** by Candahl/Poellinger to move this item up on the agenda. **Motion carried unanimously with 1 excused – Weibel.**

A draft of the Intermunicipal Agreement for Metropolitan Planning Organization with proposed changes, as well as a revised copy, was sent out electronically to LAPC members asking for input. Copies of two emails were distributed – one from Attorney Brian Weber representing the Village of Holmen; one from Attorney Sean O’Flaherty representing the City of Onalaska. It was noted that the La Crosse County Corporation Counsel is the legal counsel for the LAPC. Megan DeVore, La Crosse County Corporation Counsel, was present to discuss the proposed new Intermunicipal Agreement for the MPO, and the comments from Attorney Weber and Attorney O’Flaherty.

Attorney Weber suggested that in paragraph 6, 3<sup>rd</sup> sentence, the word “communities” should be replaced to “LAPC/MPO”. The sentence would then read, “The County of La Crosse shall be reimbursed by the LAPC/MPO for all costs incurred in providing staff, administrative supplies and physical facilities to the MPO.

In the next sentence of that same paragraph, Attorney Weber suggests that the last sentence be amended as follows: “La Crosse County Corporation Counsel may provide legal advice and counsel to the LAPC as necessary. If any member of the LAPC believes that the La Crosse County Corporation Counsel providing legal advice to the LAPC on a particular issue creates a conflict, independent counsel shall be retained by LAPC with the cost of the independent counsel being covered by the LAPC”. Some members thought that the word “shall” in the preceding sentence be

changed to “may”; and also to strike the words “any member of”. **MOTION** by Poellinger/Proctor to make these changes as noted. **Motion is rescinded.**

In Paragraph 7, Attorney Weber addresses the issue with regard to how much each entity covers with regard to the cost of metropolitan planning. His interpretation is that this would indicate that the County is not included in sharing this cost and that it only applies to the individual communities within the LAPC. He assumes that the intent and practice has been that the County also contributes to the cost of metropolitan planning. If that assumption is correct, this needs to be addressed. The LAPC members thought that this issue could be addressed in the bylaws.

Attorney Sean O’Flaherty, for the City of Onalaska, commented on the 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph referencing the language “to conduct other area-wide planning as it deems necessary”. He suggests that there be an opt-out from certain planning items if a certain municipality is not interested. Committee members were in consensus to leave this language in.

The other concern of Attorney O’Flaherty is the last sentence in the fifth paragraph: “Further the communities agree to ensure that all provision of state and federal laws pertaining to regional transportation planning are implemented and to make a real and concerted effort to place any legislation resulting from this planning process into the laws of their respective community as expediently as possible.” The members were in agreement to make this into two sentences to read as follows: “Further the communities agree to ensure that all provisions of state and federal laws pertaining to regional transportation planning are implemented. Each community agrees to make a real and concerted effort to place any legislation resulting from this planning process before the legislative bodies of their respective communities as expediently as possible.”

The LAPC members agreed to add in the final paragraph of the agreement, the following, “The authority of the LAPC does not supersede the independent authority of each respective member community.”

After much discussion, these suggested edits will be made by Corporation Counsel and then sent to MN DOT and WIS DOT before the LAPC votes on the final agreement. This will be put on a future agenda for finalization.

#### **RESOLUTION 2-2019 SUPPORTING MN IT INFRASTRUCTURE**

The Minnesota Department of Transportation adopted a national intelligent transportation systems (ITS) architecture. The development of a Regional ITS Architecture has been mandated in national transportation legislation. The MN DOT has updated the Minnesota Statewide Regional ITS Architecture to address changes statewide relating to ITS Systems. ITS projects in an MPO area must be consistent with a Regional ITS Architecture to be eligible to receive federal funds for implementation. The La Crosse Area Planning Committee hereby recognizes the Updated Minnesota Department of Transportation’s Statewide Regional ITS Architecture and any subsequent minor updates will be incorporated as the regional ITS architecture that shall identify and guide all ITS improvements within its metropolitan transportation planning area. **MOTION** by Poellinger/Candahl to approve. **Motion carried unanimously with 1 excused – Weibel.**

#### **RESOLUTION 3-2019 SUPPORTING WISDOT TRANSIT SGR TARGETS**

The U.S. Department of Transportation established performance measures for Transit Asset Management (TAM) to include four State of Good Repair (SGR) performance measures for equipment, rolling stock, infrastructure and facilities. Each transit provider must develop its own TAM plan or participate in a group TAM plan. The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) has developed a group TAM Plan. The La Crosse Municipal Transit Utility (MTU) and Onalaska/Holmen/West Salem Public Transit (OHWSPT) have agreed to participate in the WisDOT group TAM Plan. The LAPC agrees to coordinate with WisDOT, MTU, and OHWSPT to annually set

targets and to plan and program projects so that they contribute toward the accomplishment of those targets. **MOTION** by Poellinger/Proctor to approve. **Motion carried unanimously with 1 excused – Weibel.**

#### **RESOLUTION 4-2019 APPROVING TIP AMENDMENT**

The U.S. Department of Transportation regulations require the development and approval of a Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the metropolitan planning area by the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). The La Crosse Area Planning Committee approved the 2019-2022 Transportation Improvement Program in November 2018. Since the adoption of the TIP, funding has become available for the following new projects, and modifications are necessary on several other projects. There were 13 new projects added: 4 from the State of WI; 8 from the City of La Crosse; and 1 from the City of Onalaska. One State Project has been rendered closed/inactive. There was also a correction in transit project 243-19-019 changing the funding obligation year to 2019 instead of 2020. The LAPC hereby approves an amendment to the 2019-2022 TIP. **MOTION** by Poellinger/Manthei to approve. **Motion carried unanimously with 1 excused – Weibel.**

#### **RESOLUTION 5-2019 APPROVING THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN**

The Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act signed into law in 2015 requires MPOs to develop a participation plan in consultation with all interested parties. There are a couple of minor updates to our Public Participation Plan (PPP): provide better data analysis or more reliable information; updates in contacts; and also comments on the TIP list. The FTA requires an amendment not an administrative modification (as we had previously been doing). Jackie Eastwood has made these changes in the Public Participation Plan. Jackie has posted a summary page online, and sent out the public notice on January 15<sup>th</sup> and received no formal comments. There was some question on the title of this resolution since it is actually an amendment to the Public Participation Plan. **MOTION** by Poellinger/Candahl to approve. **Motion carried unanimously with 1 excused – Weibel.**

#### **APPOINTMENT OF LAPC MEMBER TO BLUFFLAND COALITION - MPO STAFF PERSON AS REPRESENTATIVE OF LAPC OR ALTERNATE TO LAPC BOARD MEMBER**

Chuck Zauner, Bluffland Coordinator, was present to discuss the appointment of an LAPC member to the Bluffland Coalition. Chair Joe Chilsen is a member of the Bluffland Coalition representing the City of Onalaska. **MOTION** by Chilsen/Poellinger to appoint the Vice Chair of the LAPC as a delegate to the Bluffland Coalition and the Executive Director of the MPO as an alternate. **Motion carried unanimously with 1 excused – Weibel.**

#### **LOCAL STUDIES RECOMMENDATION FROM TAC**

This agenda item was moved to next month's meeting.

#### **UPDATE ON HIRING PROCESS FOR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

The Human Resources Department has been advertising for the position of Executive Director, with the deadline for applying for the position being April 8<sup>th</sup>. There will be another update at next month's meeting.

#### **DISCUSSION OF FUTURE AGENDA PACKETS**

The County practice for all committees is to distribute the packets electronically. **MOTION** by Poellinger/Proctor to distribute the LAPC agenda packets electronically. **Motion carried unanimously with 1 excused – Weibel.**

#### **OTHER BUSINESS:**

- Francis Schelfhout informed the committee that Wisconsin has 2 counties that contribute financially to MPO's. He will get these links to Jackie who will distribute to the committee.

- There was a suggestion that the dues issue should be a part of the bylaws and not in the MPO Agreement.
- Jackie acknowledged and honored Steve Johnson who recently passed away. He was on the Transit Coordinating Council, Committee on Transit and Active Transportation, the Counties Transportation Coordinating Committee as well as many others. Steve was very involved with so many great organizations and advocated for people with disabilities. This will be a huge loss for the community.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:**

- Housing study
- Vulnerability assessment
- Local studies
- Intermunicipal Agreement for MPO
- Bylaws

**FUTURE MEETING DATE: April 17, 2019**

**ADJOURN**

**MOTION** by Poellinger/Manthei to adjourn the meeting at 5:43 p.m. **Motion carried unanimously with 1 excused – Weibel.**

**APPROVED April 17, 2019 - Recorded by Terri Pavlic**