

Minutes of the Technical Advisory Committee
of the Chippewa-Eau Claire Metropolitan Planning Organization
Wednesday, April 29, 2015, 1:30 p.m.
WCWRPC offices, Eau Claire, Wisconsin

Members Present: Jeff Abboud, Wisconsin DOT; Lance Gurney, Eau Claire County; Rick Rubenzer, City of Chippewa Falls; Jayson Smith, City of Chippewa Falls; Bruce Stelzner, Chippewa County; Tom Wagener, City of Eau Claire; Rich Walthers, Eau Claire County
Staff Present: Ann Schell, WCWRPC; Jason Duba, WCWRPC
Others Present: Jim Dunning, Eau Claire County

1. The meeting was called to order at approximately 1:30 p.m.
2. Welcomes and introductions were made.
3. The minutes of the January 21, 2015 meeting were unanimously approved following a motion by Mr. Rubenzer, seconded by Mr. Smith.
4. Ms. Schell and Mr. Abboud led a review and recommendation of Amendment #6 to the 2014-2018 TIP. The main points included:
 - Highway
 - Bridge maintenance on I-94, USH 53, and STH 29; some work is in MPA, some work is outside; presented costs do not reflect that division (NHPP)
 - Pavement replacement on I-94 (NHPP)
 - Pavement replacement on STH 37 (STP-U)
 - Traffic mitigation on I-94 (NHPP)
 - Mr. Abboud explained that FHWA does not need TIP numbers but WisDOT does.
 - Transit: Transit Center location study close to contract (FTA, Section 5304)

The recommendation of Amendment #6 was unanimously approved following a motion by Mr. Stelzner, seconded by Mr. Rubenzer.

5. Ms. Schell led a discussion of the STP-Urban funding level for 2019-2020 projects.
 - She explained the changes and reviewed several documents from WisDOT related to the matter.
 - A meeting to discuss this was held on April 9 with MPO staff, Mr. Abboud, Bob Reed from WisDOT's Transit and Local Roads office, and Bill Zimmer from WisDOT's NW-Region Spooner office. The programmed project list that WisDOT has is close to what the MPO has.
 - In the past, projects had been scheduled for two years at a time. Now, funding needs to get balanced every year. This makes it hard when projects get moved. Therefore, we should try to have other projects shovel ready. Design requirements make it challenging to have projects shovel ready, but Chippewa County is getting certified for design oversight in a pilot program which would exempt them from the full Management Consultant process.
 - The funding level for 2019-2020 is \$1.467 million, and the typical two year funding has been \$1.13 million.

6. Mr. Duba led a review of public input on transportation in the metropolitan planning area and regarding the long range plan.
 - 143 respondents took an online survey regarding their travel patterns, preferences, and suggestions for improvements to the transportation system.
 - 17 attendees of the public input meeting gave written comments regarding aspects of the long range plan and the local transportation system.
7. Ms. Schell led a review and discussion of the highway model output.
 - The calibration has not been very close yet, with the current $R^2 = 0.72$, whereas it should be at least 0.88, according to FHWA.
 - There have been problems with centroid connectors not going to acceptable locations.
 - The TAC members present examined the 2045 projection map and the locations where LOS is low.
 - The timetable for recalibration is unknown, but HNTB is working on it now (the previous consultant was SRF). We will share information as it becomes available.
 - This model is important to the future of our region because investments are made with it in mind.
8. Other business:
 - Ms. Schell discussed the transit center selection study that is nearing a contract with the City of Eau Claire.
 - Mr. Duba showed and explained the regional bike map. The point was made that it could be advantageous to match up with the state bike maps, especially for TAP grants.
 - FHWA has new ADA policies and standards in the Facilities Design Manual regarding pedestrian access and accommodation in construction zones.
 - Regarding the Wisconsin state budget, there will be lots of work on the transportation provisions in the coming days and weeks in the legislature. Talk to your legislators and ask them to support transportation.
9. The next TAC meeting has been tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, August 12, 2015.
10. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:00 p.m.