

**Minutes of the
Chippewa-Eau Claire Metropolitan Planning Organization**

Wednesday, February 12, 2014

7:30 p.m.

Suite 401, Banbury Place

800 Wisconsin Street, Eau Claire, Wisconsin

Members Present: Kerry Kincaid, City of Eau Claire (chair); Douglas Kranig, Town of Seymour; Henry Shakal, Chippewa County

Others Present: Jeff Abboud, WisDOT, NW Region;

Staff Present: Ann Z. Schell, WCWRPC

1. The meeting was called to order by Ms. Kincaid at approximately 7:35 p.m.
2. Ms. Kincaid welcomed those present, and introductions were made.
3. The minutes of the October 30, 2013 meeting were approved as presented. Motion by Mr. Shakal, seconded by Mr. Kranig. The motion carried on a unanimous vote.
4. The minutes of the January 24, 2014 TAC meeting were discussed and accepted.
5. Ms. Schell described the amendment to include an intersection safety improvement project at the intersection of USH 12 and McCann Drive, in Altoona. Mr. Abboud explained that the intersection was being made into a 4-way intersection due to the Hillcrest development on the south side of the highway. This project will eliminate left turns onto USH 12 from both the north and the south. Ms. Schell added that the other projects shown were administrative amendments, not requiring action by the MPO. One corrects a number that was listed incorrectly in the original TIP. The other adds a very small amount of money to an existing project for traffic mitigation. A motion was made by Mr. Shakal, seconded by Mr. Kranig, to approve the amendment to the 2014-2918 TIP. The motion passed without opposition.
6. Ms. Schell explained that when a work element is overspent by more than 10% of the total MPO budget, an amendment to the work program is required. This occurred in the 2013 work program when efforts to understand and correct the loss of STP-Urban funds caused a significant increase in spending under the TIP work element. Resolution 14-02 transfers funds from the Long Range Planning element to the TIP element to account for the shift in work effort. Mr. Kranig moved to approve the amendment to the 2013 MPO work program. The motion was seconded by Mr. Shakal, and passed unanimously.
7. Ms. Schell recapped the discussion that occurred at the TAC meeting on January 24th, concerning actions that should be taken to avoid the loss of STP-Urban funds, as occurred last year. Mr. Beekman addressed the TAC and suggested ways that projects could be ready for construction well in advance of their anticipated let dates, so that they could be slotted in earlier if funds became available due to delays in other projects. Construction ready projects could garner funds from projects that are delayed within our own TIP, or funds made available due to project slippage at other MPOs. Some municipalities would face difficulties with this type of substitution, as local share might not be available for the unexpected early construction. Mr. Shakal noted that Chippewa County typically has enough flexibility in their budget to handle such events. Ms. Schell noted that the TIP process would need to change slightly to allow for engineering to be scheduled and funded more than a year in advance of the anticipated construction of the selected projects. There was some discussion of the need for the MPO to be notified of available funds, should another MPO's project(s) be delayed or dropped.

8. Ms. Schell began reviewing the performance indicator report that was sent out in the packets. She then realized that only the odd paged had been mailed, and said that she would be sure to send out the full report. The group reviewed the indicators that were included in the mailing. There was some discussion concerning the unemployment data. It was noted that there seemed to be a mismatch between jobs available and skills that are required for those jobs. Mr. Shakal talked about the difficulty in keeping gravel crushing crews and drivers on the county jobs, as they can't compete with the demand from the frac sand industry. He noted that several recently advertised county jobs attracted few or no applicants. There was also some discussion regarding the increase in building permits in 2012.

Ms. Schell will email the full performance indicators report shortly.

9. There was no "Other Business" to come before the MPO Council
10. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for May 7th, 2014.
11. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:30 p.m.