

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

*Wednesday, May 6, 2015, 7:30 p.m.
Suite 401, Banbury Place,
800 Wisconsin Street, Eau Claire, Wisconsin*

Members Present: Jack Blackburn, City of Altoona; Kerry Kincaid, City of Eau Claire (now Vice Chair); Henry Shakal, Chippewa County (now Chair); Jim Dunning, Eau Claire County

Others Present: Jeff Abboud, WisDOT, NW Region

Staff Present: Ann Z. Schell, WCWRPC; Jason Duba, WCWRPC

1. The meeting was called to order by Ms. Kincaid at approximately 7:30 p.m.
2. Welcomes and introductions were made, with each member stating his or her name and representation.
3. The minutes of the February 4, 2015 meeting were approved as presented by unanimous consent.
4. The minutes of the April 29, 2015 TAC meeting were discussed and accepted.
5. Nominations were made and elections were held for the offices of Chair and Vice Chair. For Chair, Mr. Shakal was nominated by Mr. Blackburn and unanimously elected. For Vice Chair, Ms. Kincaid was nominated by Mr. Dunning and unanimously elected.
6. Ms. Schell and Mr. Abboud led a review of **Resolution No. 15-03: Amendment Number Six (6) to the Transportation Improvement Program for the Chippewa-Eau Claire Urbanized Area (2014-2018)**. 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)
 - Transit: Transit Center location study close to contract (FTA, Section 5304)The motion to approve this amendment was made by Ms. Kincaid, seconded by Mr. Blackburn, and passed unanimously.
7. 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.
 - The funding level for 2019-2020 is \$1.467 million, and the typical two year funding has been \$1.13 million.
 - 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. The MPO has lost money in the past due to delay.
 - The basic process for selecting projects is TAC members propose projects, a ranking process is applied, and the MPO votes on projects.
8. Ms. Schell and Mr. Duba gave a progress report on the Long Range Plan update:

- 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.
- 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.
 - The MPO members present examined the 2045 projection map and the locations where LOS is low.
 - The timetable for recalibration is unknown, but apparently neither of the previous consultants (HNTB or SRF) are working on it now. 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.
- Given the unreliability of the model, it was wondered whether we are doing enough at River Prairie Dr. Mr. Abboud explained an operation study that will be examining conditions and solutions on USH 53 between River Prairie Dr and STH 312.

9. Several remaining points of business were discussed:

- The transit center selection study contract will commence shortly.
- Mr. Shakal explained that plans to repair the Lake Wissota CTH X bridge have been put on hold, probably to 2016, as the bids for the work came back higher than budgeted. It may be closed during construction for cost savings.
- Members viewed the preliminary bike map that will soon be printed for distribution throughout the area. Mr. Abboud brought up the idea of the MPO hosting a bike committee.

10. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, August 26, 2015 at 7:30 p.m.

11. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:45 p.m.