

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

Wednesday, July 16, 2014

7:30 p.m.

Suite 401, Banbury Place

800 Wisconsin Street, Eau Claire, Wisconsin

Members Present: Kerry Kincaid, City of Eau Claire (chair); Henry Shakal, Chippewa County (vice chair); Jack Blackburn, City of Altoona

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 7:35 p.m.
2. Ms. Kincaid welcomed those present, and introductions were made. Mr. Duba introduced himself as the new Assistant Transportation Planner for the MPO. He noted that he and his wife just moved from Chicago where he completed his Masters' degree and was working with the Illinois Department of Transportation in an internship capacity. Mr. Duba expressed his enthusiasm for living in the area and said that he is really looking forward to getting into the work of the MPO.
3. The minutes of the April 9, 2014 meeting were approved as presented. Motion by Mr. Shakal, seconded by Ms. Kincaid. The motion carried on a unanimous vote.
4. The minutes of the June 18, 2014 TAC meeting were discussed and accepted.
5. The floor was opened for nominations for the offices of Chair and Vice Chair of the MPO. Mr. Shakal moved for a unanimous ballot, continuing the existing officers: Ms. Kincaid, as Chair, and Mr. Shakal, as Vice Chair. With no opposition the motion passed by unanimous consent.
6. Ms. Schell described Amendment #3 to the 2014-18 TIP, starting with two transit projects that were just approved for funding – Center for Independent Living of Western Wisconsin's (CILWW) Veterans Transportation Community Living Initiative (VTCLI) grant – a continuation of their existing program to better coordinate services and make information better available to the area's veterans and other users; and a new hybrid replacement bus for Eau Claire Transit. She then stated that the four (4) highway projects included were all bridge projects, two maintenance and two replacements. Mr. Abboud gave more specific information on the projects, explaining that the USH 53 project includes maintenance on eleven bridges between I-94 and 40th Avenue. The second bridge project is maintenance on the USH 53 bridge over the CN tracks in Chippewa County. The third project is amended to include engineering for the replacement of the Lowes Creek Bridge on I-94, to be constructed later. The last project was amended to add right-of-way acquisition for the replacement of the Water Street Bridge over the Chippewa River, a project scheduled for construction in 2015. There was some discussion about the projects.

Mr. Shakal asked about the VTCLI grant received by CILWW. Ms. Schell explained that she had worked with the CILWW on a workshop to address the transportation needs, mainly medical, of the veteran population in the 18-county area that CILWW serves. The RPC developed a map that showed the number of trips between the 18 counties in west central and northwestern Wisconsin to the Minneapolis-based VA medical facilities. She noted that there are a startling number of trips, many made by car, every day. The focus of the VTCLI grant is to better coordinate and serve those trips, as well as other transportation needs of vets, and to develop a one-call information center to learn about available services and schedule trips.

Mr. Shakal moved to approve Amendment #3 to the 2014-2018 TIP. The motion was seconded by Mr. Blackburn, and passed unanimously.

7. Ms. Schell told the Council that, with Jason on board, the MPO is able to do more project work with and for the communities and WisDOT, as needed. She noted that there were several projects in the 2014 work program, some of which are underway. The TAC had given some suggestions for projects in 2015, and Ms. Schell asked the Council if they had other suggestions. She reviewed the items brought up at the TAC meeting. A couple of additional potential projects suggested include: work on a Tier 1 environmental study for the Gateway extension bridge crossing of Otter Creek. The Gateway extension would provide access between the southeastern Eau Claire commercial area which includes Target, Menards, Kohls, WalMart, etc., north to STH 12 through the Hillcrest Development, in Altoona. Ms. Kincaid suggested a look at a bicycle/pedestrian crossing of I-94 in the vicinity of the USH 53 interchange, to serve the development south of I-94. Ms. Schell said that was mentioned in the 2014 work program, but the City had indicated that they were not quite ready to be looking at that right now. Ms. Schell indicated that she would be reviewing the suggested projects relative to staff hours available for 2015, and including projects that could be addressed in the 2015 work program.
8. There was no other business.
9. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for August 27, 2014.
10. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:35 p.m.