

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

*Wednesday, October 8, 2014*

*7:30 p.m.*

*Suite 401, Banbury Place*

*800 Wisconsin Street, Eau Claire, Wisconsin*

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

**Others Present:** Jeff Abboud, WisDOT, NW Region

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

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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 August 27, 2014 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 September 17, 2014 TAC meeting were discussed and accepted.
5. Ms. Schell described **Resolution No. 14-05:** Approval of Amendment #4 to the Transportation Improvement Program for the Chippewa-Eau Claire Urbanized Area, 2014-2018. The main points included:
  - The West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission received a \$120,000 grant to do Safe Routes to School (SRTS) plans in the region. There is an additional 20% (\$30,000) local match. One project is in the MPA in Chippewa Falls.
  - Three SRTS projects lost funding because they couldn't meet the requirements of a new state law, which places a sunset on all Transportation Alternatives Projects at four years from award date.
  - The River Prairie NW Trail is now funded for the year 2015. It had been funded for 2014.
  - Melby Street reconstruction from Victor to 115<sup>th</sup> is now funded for 2016. It had been funded for 2015. This is a joint project between the City of Eau Claire and the Village of Lake Hallie. Part of its expense is due to drainage issues and possibly its proximity to the Presto Superfund site.
  - Funding for CTH J/50<sup>th</sup> intersection was removed and transferred to CTH T reconditioning from 10<sup>th</sup> Ave to STH 29. This was discussed and approved at the August MPO meeting.
  - WisDOT has two safety projects:
    - Various signalized intersections on USH 12, STH 93, and STH 312 will receive additional lane signal heads so that each lane will have its own signal head.
    - Various signalized intersections on USH 12 and STH 312 will receive flashing left turn arrows.

Resolution No. 14-05 was unanimously approved following the motion of Mr. Kranig and the second of Mr. Dunning.
6. Ms. Schell described **Resolution No. 14-06:** Adoption of the 2014 Unified Work Program for the Chippewa-Eau Claire MPO & Annual MPO Certification, for the Period: January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015. This Unified Work Program is similar to previous Unified Work Programs. It focuses on the MPO's:
  - Work Elements
    - Short Range – Working with communities
    - Long Range – Developing a new Long Range Plan, working with DOT on planning
    - TIP – Developing a new TIP, ranking STP Urban projects (if funding is available)

- Administration – Working with the TAC and MPO Council, fulfilling federal reporting and accounting requirements, participating in quarterly MPO Directors’ meetings, and serving on WisDOT committees as requested.

- Budget by work elements and funding source, costs
- Work schedule
- Title VI agreement
- Cooperative Agreement for Continuing Transportation Planning in the MPA

Resolution No. 14-06 was unanimously approved following the motion of Mr. Kranig and the second of Mr. Shakal.

7. Ms. Schell presented the Title VI Plan for Chippewa-Eau Claire MPO. The plan is to ensure opportunities for participation for those who may be traditionally underrepresented. It includes a Language Assistance Plan and Public Participation Plan. Discussion was made regarding the various populations who speak languages other than English, including that none of the groups meets the Safe Harbor Threshold for which translation of key documents must be made. Contact has been established, however, with the Hmong Mutual Assistance Association and El Centro, should outreach or translation services be necessary. Verbage in Hmong and Spanish will also be included in public notices to direct non-english speaking persons to a source of assistance.
8. Mr. Duba initiated discussion on **Resolution No. 14-07: In Support of Fair and Balanced Allocation of Wisconsin’s Segregated Transportation Fund**. The Resolution was written by the Move Wisconsin Alliance, members of which include the Sierra Club, 1000 Friends of Washington, and WisPIRG. The Resolution seeks to build support for “a fair allocation of the segregated Transportation Fund that better balances state funding support for local transportation needs and state highways.” This includes sharing more state funds for local roads and increasing state support for transit. An opposition letter from the Wisconsin Counties Association, Wisconsin Towns Association, and the League of Wisconsin Municipalities made the case that it is difficult to shift money to locals and that it is necessary to maintain a broad-based coalition to support transportation. Discussion on this issue helped to clarify the various points being presented, the validity of those points, and the opinions and experiences of members of the MPO relevant to those points. After this discussion, the MPO, by consensus, took no action on the resolution.
9. Other business was brought before the Council by Ms. Schell, on behalf of Jack Blackburn, City of Altoona, regarding the Gateway Extension of Gateway Drive from Eau Claire to Altoona. Mr. Blackburn would like the project included under Other Business on future meeting agendas as a way to monitor progress on the project. It was stated that Altoona had contracted with former Eau Claire Public Works Director, Brian Amundson, recently deceased, on the Tier 1 Environmental Survey. The authority of the MPO to conduct environmental studies with federal funding was discussed. It is thought that it is allowable for the MPO to continue this environmental work by collecting information in the form of a planning document, with a consultant using the information in preparing and completing the Environmental Survey.
10. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, February 4, 2015 at 7:30 p.m.
11. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:45 p.m.