

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

*Wednesday, October 14, 2015, 7:30 p.m.
Suite 401, Banbury Place,
800 Wisconsin Street, Eau Claire, Wisconsin*

Members Present: Jack Blackburn, City of Altoona; Craig Bowe, Village of Lake Hallie; Jim Dunning, Eau Claire County; Greg Hoffman, City of Chippewa Falls; Kerry Kincaid, City of Eau Claire; Doug Kranig, Town of Seymour; Henry Shakal, Chippewa County, Chair

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

Others Present: Jeff Abboud, WisDOT, NW Region

1. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Shakal at approximately 7:30 p.m.
2. Welcomes and introductions were made, with each member stating his or her name and affiliation.
3. The minutes of the August 26, 2015 MPO meeting were approved as presented by unanimous consent, following a motion by Mr. Dunning and second by Mr. Bowe.
4. The minutes of the September 30, 2015 TAC meeting were presented for information and accepted.
5. Ms. Schell led a review and discussion of the 2016 – 2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the purpose of approval. This began with a review of the meaning and purpose of the TIP. Following this was a review of the STP-Urban allocation, project submission, and project ranking and selection process. Ms. Schell then briefly discussed current project status, transit projects, and the list of federal funding projects. Ms. Schell then described the new challenge of completing the funding table, given WisDOT's new requirements for calculating inflation with different rates for expenses and funding. As this table has not been reconciled, approval of the TIP is contingent upon its completion. A review was made of Table 3: TIP Project Listing and the associated map of projects. Environmental Justice considerations were reviewed along with four Environmental Justice maps that showed the geographic distribution of low-income and minority residents in relation to the TIP projects and the Eau Claire Transit bus system. A motion to pass **Resolution No. 15-05: Approval of Transportation Improvement Program for the Chippewa-Eau Claire Urbanized Area, 2016-2020** was made by Mr. Hoffman, seconded by Mr. Blackburn, and passed unanimously.
6. Ms. Schell led a review and discussion of the 2016 Urban Transportation Work Program for the purpose of adoption. The categorical elements of the new Work Program are the same as past years'. In 2016, it is anticipated that the MPO staff will devote less time to long range planning functions and more time to short range planning functions due to the projected completion of the Long Range Plan in December. A review of several tasks in the Work Program included:
 - I-94 overpass west of USH 53 for pedestrians, bicyclists, and drivers
 - TAP application(s)
 - Galloway St. railroad overpass paired with Putnam St. closure

The budget total is the same as last year, with shares from federal, state, and local governments remaining the same. A motion to pass **Resolution No. 15-06: Adoption of the 2016 Unified Work Program for the Chippewa-Eau Claire MPO & Annual MPO Certification, for the Period: January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016** was made by Mr. Kranig, seconded by Ms. Kincaid, and passed unanimously.

7. Mr. Duba led a review of recent updates to the Long Range Plan. This included several sections from the Plan's Chapter IV: The Chippewa-Eau Claire Transportation System:

- Street and Highway System
 - Average annual daily traffic volumes
 - Bridges
- Bicycle Facilities
- Freight Rail Transportation

The review also included several maps related to freight and bicycle transportation.

8. Mr. Abboud showed a map of the MAP-21 National Highway System (NHS) routes for the members to review. He explained that the MAP-21 legislation added principal arterials to the NHS, primarily for freight truck transportation purposes. The NHS designation carries with it federal guidelines that could prove unnecessary and burdensome, so there is now an opportunity to petition the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to remove these recently added routes from the NHS. At their last meeting in September, members of the TAC recommended their removal. A motion to direct MPO staff to request removal of these routes was made by Mr. Hoffman, seconded by Mr. Bowe, and passed unanimously.

9. Other Business:

- The West Central Wisconsin Rail Coalition is having a public meeting at JAMF Software on Thursday, October 15, 2015. Members are encouraged to attend to learn about efforts to establish passenger rail travel in Eau Claire.
- Ms. Schell is continuing to work on Eau Claire Transit's site selection study for the new transfer center. Various potential sites have been considered and paired down. The Advisory Committee will have their second meeting on October 20.
- Ms. Schell plans to present to the Chippewa County Board in December about the purpose and role of the MPO.

10. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, December 2, 2015 at 7:30 p.m.

11. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:50 p.m. following a motion by Mr. Kranig, seconded by Mr. Hoffman.