

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

*Wednesday, December 9, 2015, 7:30 p.m.
Suite 401, Banbury Place,
800 Wisconsin Street, Eau Claire, Wisconsin*

Members Present: Jack Blackburn, City of Altoona; Jeff Bechard, Town of Union; Fred Belay, Town of Union; Craig Bowe, Village of Lake Hallie; Jim Dunning, Eau Claire County; 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; Nancy Nevinski, resident of Chippewa County

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 October 14, 2015 MPO meeting were approved as presented by unanimous consent, following a motion by Mr. Belay and second by Mr. Bowe.
4. The minutes of the November 30, 2015 TAC meeting were presented for information and accepted.
5. Ms. Schell led a discussion updating members on the Long Range Transportation Plan update, including:
 - Review of the tentative schedule for completing the rest of the plan – March 2 is new approval date
 - Being late with the plan submission freezes the TIP, prohibiting the approval of the new 2016-2020 TIP, but this does not affect projects that appear in the 2014-2018 TIP, and so it does not appear to affect our current projects in the MPA.
 - Part of the delay is that we're only recently receiving output from our travel demand model from WisDOT. We're now verifying it, analyzing it, and adding it to the plan.
 - Areas left to complete: the financial chapter and environmental review chapter – environmental consultation agencies are reviewing the plan
 - We still need to hold a public information meeting
6. Ms. Schell discussed **Resolution No. 15-07: Amendment to the 2015 Unified Work Program for the Chippewa-Eau Claire MPO**. This resolution outlines the need to amend the 2015 Work Program to extend the period of eligibility for funds to work on the Long Range Plan and accommodate carryover of such funds – about \$13,000 – to May 31, 2016 for the completion of the Long Range Plan. The motion to approve the resolution was made by Mr. Kranig, seconded by Mr. Blackburn, and passed unanimously.
7. Ms. Schell and Mr. Duba led a review and discussion of the draft Long Range Transportation Plan chapters.
 - Chapters 1 – 4 have been reviewed previously so other chapters received the focus
 - Chapter 5 – Deficiencies
 - Some information related to the model still needs to be included
 - Level of Service was addressed in the three maps: Base, Future No-Build, Future Build
 - Question of how to handle areas with low LOS – At this point, just keep an eye on it and see how development actually proceeds.
 - Crashes were discussed
 - Future projects were clarified
 - Chapter 7 – Recommendations
 - Projects and Deficiencies
 - Strategies: Transportation System Management, Transportation Demand Management, Regional Transportation Authority
 - Chapter 8 – Environmental

- Explained table showing environmental/historical/archaeological impacts of future projects and accompanying maps
 - Environmental Consultation list will be contacted
 - Chapter 9 – Performance Measures
 - State has one year to adopt performance measures after federal government, then MPOs have 180 days after state
8. Ms. Schell led a review of request to remove several principle arterials within the Chippewa-Eau Claire metropolitan planning area from the National Highway System. Packets were distributed that included the materials submitted to WisDOT with the request: a letter, a table explaining the routes, and a map showing the routes. If the proposal is accepted and the routes are removed, they would no longer have to meet NHS standards but also would be ineligible for NHS funds, though it's unlikely these routes would have received NHS funds in the competitive selection process.
9. Other Business:
- Eau Claire Transit transit center site selection study
 - Third meeting is next week
 - Will have a public input session
 - Anticipated completion in February
 - Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) applications are underway
 - Safe Routes to School planning
 - Infrastructure, including closing the gap in the bike trail between Chippewa Falls and Lake Hallie
 - Mr. Blackburn shared information on the following:
 - League of Municipalities' "Just Fix It Wisconsin" effort to improve sustainability of transportation funding in the state, including a lobby day in Madison
 - Open question about "What's after River Prairie Drive?" Discussion of Gateway Drive extension, how to move that forward, and recommendation of putting a position paper together to share with Altoona's recently re-formed Economic Development Working Group, who currently see it as a low priority. Ann and Jeff clarified that it would not be considered a "high cost bridge" and so is classified under statute 8411. Cost would be split three ways: state, county, and cities – Altoona and Eau Claire
 - Mr. Shakal expressed gratitude to Ms. Schell for presenting about the MPO at the Chippewa County Board Meeting the previous night.
10. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, January 27, 2016 at 7:30 p.m.
11. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:50 p.m. following a motion by Mr. Dunning, seconded by Mr. Blackburn.