

Minutes of the Technical Advisory Committee
of the Chippewa-Eau Claire Metropolitan Planning Organization
Wednesday, September 30, 2015, 1:30 p.m.
WCWRPC offices, Eau Claire, Wisconsin

Members Present: Jeff Abboud, Wisconsin DOT; Lori Engen, Eau Claire County Highway; Lance Gurney, Eau Claire County; Rick Rubenzer, City of Chippewa Falls; Jayson Smith, City of Chippewa Falls; David Solberg, City of Eau Claire; Bruce Stelzner, Chippewa County; Tom Wagener, City of Eau Claire; Dave Walter, City of Altoona
Staff Present: Ann Schell, WCWRPC; Jason Duba, WCWRPC

1. The meeting was called to order at approximately 1:30 p.m.
2. Welcomes and introductions were made.
3. The minutes of the August 12, 2015 meeting were unanimously approved following a motion by Mr. Stelzner, seconded by Mr. Rubenzer.
4. Ms. Schell led a review and discussion of the 2016 Urban Transportation Work Program. This included a review of the Environmental Justice report. 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. This is because the Long Range Plan update is due in December, 2015 and so will be done before 2016. A review of several short range activities in the plan included:
 - Official mapping between Altoona and the Town of Washington
 - Transit Center site selection study
 - TAP application(s)
 - Bike & Pedestrian plan for the MPA and/or Eau Claire and Chippewa CountiesLong Range activities will include ongoing involvement with the West Central Wisconsin Rail Coalition and use of the Model. A motion was made to recommend the Work Program pending the inclusion of a statement from WisDOT relating to the state policy. This motion expired without a second. A subsequent motion to recommend the Work Program to the MPO which did not include the stipulation was made by Mr. Stelzner, seconded by Mr. Gurney, and passed unanimously.
5. Ms. Schell led a review and discussion of the 2016 – 2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). This began with a review of project implementation status. 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. The challenge includes the requirement that the TIP be fiscally constrained, though a suggestion was made to add a supplemental table that is not fiscally constrained or to show the funding table as unbalanced. A review was made of Table 3: TIP Project Listing. The prioritization process for STP-Urban funding was also reviewed. Four Environmental Justice maps were reviewed 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 recommend the TIP to the MPO was made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Walter, and passed unanimously following Mr. Stelzner's comment that the TAC needed more time to review the document.

6. 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. Several comments regarding the bicycle facilities map were made and will be incorporated. Questions about the freight truck information need to be answered.

7. Other Business

- Mr. Abboud brought a copy of the map of MAP-21 National Highway System (NHS) routes for the members to review. Representatives from the Cities of Chippewa Falls and Eau Claire would both like to remove routes from the network in order to avoid burdensome federal regulation. It was agreed that MPO staff would put together a recommendation for the removal of said routes from the NHS and include letters of support from the affected municipalities.
8. The next TAC meeting has been tentatively scheduled for Monday, November 30, 2015.
 9. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:45 p.m.