

CHIPPEWA-EAU CLAIRE

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION



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Minutes of the Chippewa-Eau Claire Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical Advisory Committee

Meeting held virtually using Zoom, Wednesday, January 10th, 2024, 1:30 p.m.

Members present: Fred Anderson – Chippewa County Highway Department, Taylor Greenwell – City of Altoona Planning, Brandon Cesafsky – City of Chippewa Falls Public Works, Brad Hentschel – City of Chippewa Falls Planning, Ned Noel- City of Eau Claire Community Development, Katrina Berg – City of Eau Claire Planning, Jon Johnson – Eau Claire County Highway Department, Rod Eslinger – Eau Claire County Planning & Development, Ty Fadness – Eau Claire Transit, Karl Buck – Federal Highway Administration, Wesley Vlcek - Town of Brunswick, Jennifer Meyer - Town of Union, Alice Droski – Town of Wheaton, Jeff Aboud – WisDOT NW Region

Staff present: Eric Anderson – Director Chippewa-Eau Claire Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), Edwin Rothrock - Chippewa-Eau Claire MPO, Scott Allen – WCWRPC Director

Minutes

1. Mr. Eric Anderson called the meeting to order at 1:31 pm.
2. Introductions were made.
3. The minutes of September 13th, 2023, MPO TAC meeting were approved by all present following a motion by Mr. Eslinger, seconded by Mr. Cesafsky.
4. Mr. Eric Anderson presented Amendment #1 (Projects) to the 2024-2028 Transportation Improvement Plan for the Chippewa-Eau Claire MPO. A motion to recommend this amendment be adopted by the MPO Policy Council was made by Mr. Hentschel, seconded by Mr. Anderson, all members present voted “Aye.”
5. Mr. Eric Anderson presented three changes that had been suggested by MPO members to the draft Chippewa-Eau Claire Metropolitan Planning Organization Area Boundary map. The draft had been distributed earlier to the MPO TAC members for their consideration and feedback. Three suggestions for changes were received:
 - 1) Remove a section area southwest of the intersection of CTH II and Balsam Road from the MPO area.
 - 2) Add an area northwest of the intersection of Count Line Road (10th Avenue) and 40th Street, extending the boundary to 20th Street.
 - 3) Add an area northeast of the intersection of Deerfield Road and Hillview Road, east along the line of Deerfield Road to Otter Creek, then north along Otter Creek to Otter Creek Road.

It was agreed that each suggested change would be discussed and voted on separately.

- Area 1 – The area suggested for removal has sections defined as being reserved for agricultural uses. The area also includes a successful agritourism site. There were concerns about whether the roadway (CTH II) would be included within the Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA) if the road was upgraded due to traffic pressure from future residential growth along the corridor. It was agreed that the road in this area would continue to be included in the MPA. Area 1 was recommended for removal from the MPO Area Boundary on a vote of 7 in favor of removal, 5 against removal, with 2 abstentions.
- Area 2 – Concerns were shared that inclusion of the suggested additional area would enhance the possibility that the area would be annexed by the City of Eau Claire. Concerns were also shared that the Town of

Union, within which the area lies, had not had a chance for their Board to consider this change. There was a discussion about how 20th Street was already being considered for future upgrades due to increased traffic pressure from the Eau Claire Events District (aka Country Jam Grounds) and how inclusion within the MPA might facilitate planning for the upgrade. It was also discussed that this vote was only a recommendation to the MPO Policy and there would be opportunities to discuss with interested people prior to consideration by the MPO Policy Council. Area 2 was recommended for addition to the MPO Area Boundary on a vote of 10 for inclusion, 2 against inclusion, with 2 abstentions.

- Area 3 – It was discussed that development along US 53 was already extending towards the area recommended for addition to the MPO Area Boundary. Otter Creek was discussed as a natural boundary to eastward development. Area 3 was recommended for addition to the MPO Area Boundary on a vote of 11 in favor of inclusions, with 3 abstentions.
6. Review 2023 MPO Annual Summary Report – Mr. Eric Anderson gave a brief description of the report, but in the interest of not extending an already overly long meeting, asked members to review the report and provided him with any feedback.
 7. Other Business – Mr. Abboud mentioned that new Bike/Ped guidelines in the Public Right-of-Way Accessibility Guidelines (PROWAG) will be incorporated into the updated WisDOT Department Facilities Development Manual over the next 18 months. He encouraged TAC members to familiarize themselves with the upcoming changes and to begin to incorporate those changes into upcoming local projects. He stated that he will send links to the upcoming changes to MPO staff that can then be distributed to TAC members.
 8. Establish next tentative meeting date as April 10th, 2024.
 9. At 3:13 pm, a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Cesafsky, seconded by Ms. Meyer, and passed by all.