

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, April 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, 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, Evan Gross – Federal Transit Administration, Jennifer Meyer - Town of Union, Bob Solberg – Town of Washington, 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, Chris Straight – WCWRPC, 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 January 10th, 2024, MPO TAC meeting were approved by all present following a motion by Mr. Cesafsky, seconded by Mr. Eslinger.
4. Mr. Eric Anderson presented Amendment #2 (TAM Performance Measures) to the 2024-2028 Transportation Improvement Plan for the Chippewa-Eau Claire MPO. He explained that the MPO adopts TAM guidelines to maintain conformance with the State TAM. A motion to recommend this amendment be adopted by the MPO Policy Council was made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Hentschel, all members present voted “Aye.”
5. Mr. Eric Anderson introduced the item to recommend to the Policy Council the distribution of funds for the STP-Urban funds available for distribution in this funding round. Mr. Rothrock presented the rankings of the four submitted funding requests and staff’s recommendation (“Option #1”) for recommended funding. The recommended scenario would leave \$374,168 unallocated which would remain available in future funding rounds. He also discussed that there may be more funding available (to be taken from the unallocated remainder) for one of the projects, Bridgewater Ave. in Chippewa Falls, than was originally requested. A motion to recommend Option #1 to the Policy Council, plus any additional funds that might be allowed after conferring with WisDOT, was made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Cesafsky. All member present voted “Aye.”
6. Mr. Anderson discussed progress on having signage designating Chippewa Valley Bike Routes installed. Various members updated the group on the progress made with installation. Progress has been steady and should be completed within the next year.
7. Mr. Rothrock discussed efforts he has been making with Mr. Hentschel to explore the possibilities to extend the Chippewa Falls Shared Ride Taxi program’s geographical boundaries to allow the service to provide rides to connect to the Eau Claire Transit fixed route bus system. This effort is directly tied to the shutdown of the HSHS and Prevea medical facilities in Chippewa Falls. Adding the ability to connect Chippewa Falls residents to the Eau Claire bus system will allow a path to reach those services in the Eau Claire.

8. Mr. Straight updated the members on the upcoming Sewer Service Area (SSA) Plan update. The WCWRPC has received the agreement from the Wisconsin DNR and the WCWRPC Commission will consider the agreement for approval at their next meeting. Mr. Straight discussed the schedule for the planning process as well as some considerations for the makeup of the SSA Plan Technical Advisory Committee.
9. Other Business – Mr. Abboud discussed the importance of notifying WisDOT of development proposals for areas adjacent to, or relying on transportation access to, highways that are the responsibility of the State, for example: I-94, Highways 37, 93, 12, 29. This coordination can help develop the most coordinated transportation plans around these developments. He assured members that if the information needs to be held in confidence that WisDOT has substantial experience doing so.
10. Establish next tentative meeting date as August 14th, 2024.
11. At 2:31 pm, a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Eslinger, seconded by Mr. Greenwell, and passed by all.