

**Madison Area Transportation Planning Board (an MPO)
December 4, 2019 Meeting Minutes**

Madison Water Utility, 119 E. Olin Ave, Conference Rooms A-B

Chair Opitz called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

1. Roll Call

Members present: Sambah Baldeh, Margaret Bergamini, Paul Esser, Steve Flottmeyer (left during item #8), Grant Foster, Patrick Heck, Tom Lynch, Jerry Mandli, Ed Minihan (left during item #9), Mark Opitz, Bruce Stravinski, Mike Tierney (left during item #7), Doug Wood

Members absent: Kelly Danner

MPO staff present: Bill Schaefer, Colleen Hoesly, Ben Lyman

Others present in an official capacity:

Brandon Lamers, Michael Hoelker, Diane Paoni, and Brian Mitchell (WisDOT); Dane County Sheriff David Mahoney; Acting Chief of City of Madison Police Victor Wahl; Michael Cechvala (Madison Transportation)

2. Approval of November 6, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Minihan moved, Wood seconded, to approve the November 6, 2019 meeting minutes. Motion carried.

3. Communications

Schaefer noted that emailed comments were received regarding items #5 and #6, which were provided to board members.

4. Public Comment (for items *not* on MPO Agenda)

None

5. Resolution TPB No. 160 Approving Amendment #1 to the Regional Transportation Plan 2050 for the Madison Metropolitan Area to Add Beltline DPRTSU [sic] Project

Schaefer presented information from a staff memo prepared responding to issues raised about the Beltline shoulder running project, including concerns about induced demand and the feasibility of making the part-time shoulder open to High Occupancy Vehicles (HOVs). Opitz went over the written comments received. The MPO received nineteen email comments with eleven were in favor of the plan and TIP amendments for the project, including comments from the Dane County Sheriff, Epic, Certco, WPS Health Solutions, Verona Road Business Coalition, and Middleton Chamber of Commerce. They cited travel time reliability and safety benefits. Eight comments from area residents and environmental groups were received in opposition to the amendments to add the project, citing safety and environmental concerns. An email was also received indicating that the City of Madison Transportation Planning and Policy Board opposed the amendments for the same reasons. More than a dozen members of the public were in attendance for the meeting; five attendees registered to speak during the public comment period in opposition to the amendments, similarly citing safety and environmental concerns as listed below with their comments:

Robert Alt, City of Madison resident: Concerns regarding Beltline noise and air pollution; requested that accident rates be studied and publicly reported; and asked for noise mitigation for adjacent neighborhoods and the arboretum;

Mary Anne Reed, City of Monona resident: Against narrowing lanes on the Beltline due to safety concerns, including avoiding debris on the roadway and making space for emergency services vehicles;

Robbie Webber, City of Madison resident: Concerned regarding induced demand, safety impacts of narrowing lanes; said project is out of line with sustainability goals of the City of Madison and Dane County; concerned about spillover traffic effects on local roadways; suggested to wait for the Beltline Study to be completed as she expects study to show that additional routes crossing the Beltline would reduce congestion at crossings/interchanges and would improve traffic flow both on and off the Beltline; stated that all highway expansion/lane addition projects should be for HOV only or HOV and toll in the future; disagreed with environmental justice analysis by staff;

Tom Wilson, City of Madison resident: Disagrees with supposition that reducing idling and increasing vehicle speeds will reduce air pollution; resources should be used to improve transit, not to facilitate SOV travel; concerned that some board members are not willing to make difficult decisions and continuing outdated approaches to transportation; he supports the maintenance portion of the project (resurfacing, drainage, and median wall improvements);

Don Ferber, City of Madison resident: Project is contrary to locally adopted plans to reduce carbon footprints; adding lanes will not move the region in that direction; urges delaying the project until the Beltline study is completed.

Minihan, Tierney, Stravinski, Baldeh, and Wood all spoke in favor of the amendments for the project, citing travel time reliability, safety, and operations improvements. Minihan said that he recently visited southeast Michigan where shoulder running had been implemented, and talked with first responders there and they said it was working well and had improved safety. Wood noted that it was a very cost effective improvement that would provide a short-term fix to the congestion and congestion related crashes on the Beltline. Foster and Bergamini voiced their opposition to the amendments. They expressed their concern about making a decision before a long-term strategy for the Beltline was developed, and concern about the project enabling an increase in the use of single occupant vehicles.

Board member discussion included questions regarding operations and cost/funding for the active management of the shoulder, emergency response, and incident management, directed to Lamers, Hoelker, Mahoney, and Wahl; Wahl deferred to Mahoney's response. Mahoney stated that the experience of first responders/EMS in other jurisdictions was favorable to DPTSU and that he supported it. He said it would reduce the more severe rear end crashes, which was what they were most concerned about.

Esser moved, Minihan seconded, to approve Resolution TPB No. 160 Approving Amendment #1 to the Regional Transportation Plan 2050 for the Madison Metropolitan Area to Add Beltline DPTSU Project was passed, with Foster, Bergamini, and Heck dissenting.

6. **Resolution TPB No. 161 Approving Amendment #1 to the 2020-2024 Transportation Improvement Program for the Madison Metropolitan Area & Dane County**
 - **Beltline (Whitney Way to I-39/90), Resurfacing, Drainage Upgrades, Reconstruction of Median Barrier Wall [Modify scope and cost/funding, adding ITS infrastructure and software to implement dynamic part-time shoulder use, Const. in 2021].**

Minihan moved, Stravinski seconded, to approve Resolution TPB No. 161 Approving Amendment #1 to the 2020-2024 Transportation Improvement Program for the Madison Metropolitan Area & Dane County. Motion carried, with Foster, Bergamini, and Heck dissenting.

[Note: Per staff suggestion, item #9 was taken up out of order after item #6.]

7. Review of Round Two Section 5310 Program (Enhanced Services for Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities) Grant Project Applications for 2020 and Preliminary Approval of Draft Recommendations for Project Funding

Lyman described the applications for funding, the application review and scoring process, and the two applications to be funded. Baldeh requested that applicants be invited to present on their applications to the policy board in future funding cycles, noting this was done for CDBG projects.

Foster moved, Baldeh seconded, to give preliminary approval of the draft recommendations for project funding for the second round of Section 5310 Program (Enhanced Services for Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities) grant project applications for 2020. Motion carried.

8. Review and Approval of Proposed Revisions to Policies and Scoring Criteria for STBG Urban Transportation Alternatives Set Aside Program Projects

Lyman discussed the process used to evaluate the scoring criteria, including how jurisdictions were selected for comparison and that JUST Bikes Coalition member agencies were invited to submit suggestions on criteria revision as representatives of groups that conduct outreach and involvement programs with disadvantaged populations. He gave an overview of the proposed changes to the application screening criteria and scoring criteria. Foster expressed concern about removing the scoring criteria related to facility maintenance. Lyman responded that it has more weight now as a screening criteria with a requirement that the facility will be maintained year-round versus just accounting for one point in the scoring.

Foster moved, Wood seconded, to approve the proposed revisions to the Policies and Scoring Criteria for STBG Urban Transportation Alternatives Set Aside Program Projects. Motion carried.

9. Update on East-West Bus Rapid Transit Planning Study and Downtown Routing Options Being Considered

Cechvala, City of Madison Transportation, presented on the routing options currently being considered for BRT through the downtown Madison area. Discussion followed, including Lynch introducing new factors that are being considered, including use of the Racial Equity and Social Justice Initiative toolkit and an accessibility analysis. Cechvala then presented on the routing options being considered at the west end of the route, and discussion turned to the possibility of relocating the West Transfer Point. Schaefer complimented city staff on the work done to lead the project and in particular the analysis completed of the routing options, which was very much staff versus consultant led.

10. Brief Update on Rebranding Project for MATPB and the Rideshare Etc. Program

Schaefer said that Distillery had been selected as the consultant for the rebranding project, and that they would be at the January meeting to discuss the project with the board. Hoesly added that developing the MATPB mission and vision would be part of the project discussion.

11. Status Report on Capital Area RPC Activities

Stravinski said the Capital Area RPC is working on its mission statement, and developing an abbreviated process for minor changes or adjustments to urban service areas.

12. Announcements and Schedule of Future Meetings

The next meeting is on Wednesday, January 8, 2020 at 6:30 PM at Madison Water Utility, 119 E. Olin Avenue, Room A-B.

13. Adjournment

Esser moved, Baldeh seconded, to adjourn. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM.